

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|---------|--|
| 4/27 | Admin Prof Day |
| 4/29-30 | AEA Delegate Assembly Mesa Conv Center |
| 5/1 | May 1st Coalition March & Rally Greyhound Park 9:00 AM |
| 5/1-7 | National Teacher Appreciation Week |
| 5/2 | TEA Board TEA Office 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM |
| 5/3 | National Teacher Day |
| 5/7 | Laurels Luncheon Lodge on the Desert |
| 5/11 | AR Meeting Mansfield MS Caf 4:30-6:30 PM |
| 5/11 | TEAPAC Steering Committee Election Ballots Due |

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Impact of State Budget on Public Education

Public education takes another hit at the hands of the State Legislature. Governor Brewer signed a budget that includes cuts of \$180 million to K-12 education. This constitutes approximately \$13 million for TUSD alone. Where will the money come from? This is the third year in a row where public education has been the victim of the mean-spirited Legislature.

- FY2011 \$101 million reduction to basic state aid payments to schools.
- FY2012 \$35 million reduction to Capital Outlay Revenue Limit (CORL).
- FY2012 \$23 million additional reduction to soft capital funding over last year's reduction.
- No building renewal funding or new school construction funding.
- No inflationary increase provided to the base support level for school districts though charter schools will get a 0.9% inflationary increase to their additional assistance formula.
- The employee will now be responsible for 53% of their retirement contribution and the employer 47%. Therefore, the employee contribution to ASRS will increase from the current 9.85% to 11.4%.

The 2012 election is more important than ever. We must get pro public education candidates elected and stop this madness.



On Point... From Your President, Luci Messing



The Truth about State Option

There are two primary reasons for the need to move to a State Option local association. One is to remain fiscally solvent as an organization. The second is to ensure that we provide maximum service to the membership. The TEA Board of Directors considered this matter for almost a year. There were numerous conversations and presentations to assist with this issue. The decision was made with the welfare of all members in mind. To remain a local option we would need to continue to use one of our UniServ Director (UD) allotments to split her/his time as an Executive Director. As a state option, the UD's would

do their work full-time and not be responsible for any supervisory duties. The reason for the lack of funding is due to a loss in membership, both locally and statewide. NEA UD grant allocation for staff is predicated on the actual number of members. AEA is entitled to one UD grant for every 1200 members. As a local within AEA, we've received those grant funds along with funding from AEA for our staff, but at a greatly pro-rated amount due to a lack of membership. We are now below 2400 members and now is the time to act to maintain the best service for the membership.

It's important to know that you as a member will not be negatively impacted by this decision. We will maintain all rights under our agreements. We will continue to negotiate with the District as before. We will maintain our office. We will maintain local control of our Association. The only difference will be that instead of TEA being responsible for our hired staff, they will be under the management of AEA. They will still work out of our office and serve TEA members, provided we maintain or increase membership. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions regarding this matter.

Membership Matters

by Marivel Roybal, TEA Vice President

“...we are stronger with a united voice...”

The spring membership drive went into full swing April 1st and will run until May 26th. Begin talking with all those potential members in your building and talk to them about why it's important to join. For example, we are stronger with a united voice during negotiations and while defending our profession against those who want to quiet our voice. For every member you recruit you will receive a \$10 Target gift card and you are entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card. Every member's voice is what makes the Association stronger.

If we have not visited your site this year, please contact me at marivel.roybal@arizonaea.org to set up a site visit.



Luci at Race for the Cure starting line.



Howenstine Area Director Cecilia Castillo joined VP Marivel Roybal at the César Chávez March and Rally.

Elections for 2011-2012 site Association Representatives will be conducted in April.

PD Questions?

For more information about TEA's and/or TUSD's PD programs, please contact marivel.roybal@arizonaea.org (subject: PD question) or call her at 795-8870.

TEA Blueprint*

- TEA has been represented in various recent community events: premiere of Precious Knowledge on March 24th; César Chávez March and Rally on March 26th; Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on April 10th; book-making table at Earth Day on April 16th.
- TEA sponsored a writing and poster contest to recognize the contributions that César Chávez made to the labor and civil rights movements. The winners were announced at the April 13th AR meeting. (See p. 4.)

**The TEA Blue Print feature will focus on current TEA successes, achievement updates, and/or short reports on TEA.*

Heartbeat of Public Education

Congratulations TEA member!

Jerrilyn “Jerri” Blackman, Librarian at Utterback Magnet Middle School, was honored on Thursday, April 14th to receive a special guest in recognition of Utterback school library program being chosen as “outstanding” by the Teacher-Librarian Division of Arizona Library Association (AzLA), www.azla.org. Nancy Everhart, president of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), visited the school as part of her Vision Tour, which she is conducting as a means of showcasing exemplary school libraries across the nation. [For information about the Vision Tour, go to the American Library Association (ALA) website, www.ala.org, and write in Vision Tour in the site’s search bar.]

Jerri felt a little bittersweet, as the librarian position has been cut next year due to budgetary reasons. That didn’t keep her from encouraging invitees “to celebrate this great magnet school that helped make the library program what it is and all the wonderful faculty and staff who have collaborated to make our students successful in their quest to be lifelong learners.”

*Editor’s note: The **Heart Beat of Public Education** will be a regular feature of the TEA Matters newsletter to recognize the accomplishments of individual members. If you know of a TEA member who has won an award or has otherwise been recognized, please email the information to Pernela.Jones@arizonaaea.org with the **subject line: Heartbeat of Public Education**.*

AZ Legislature Attacks Unions TEAPAC Elections – Members Only

by *Pernela Jones, TEA Executive Director*

Are we surprised? As has been attempted several times, but will most likely pass this year, the Arizona Legislature is considering a bill to limit the use of payroll deductions for union dues. The most recent AEA Advocate published an article entitled “Anti-Union Bill Targets AEA,” which provides an explanation of some of the effects such a restriction will have on us – and several other unions – statewide. (Access the article online at the AEA Members Only website at <http://az.nea.org/membersonly/advocate.html>. Click on the summer 2011 issue and go to p. 8.)

The article explains that the law, if passed, would prohibit “any employer from deducting any payment from an employee’s paycheck for political purposes without annual written consent.” Because of a broad definition of political

purposes, something so simple as paid officers discussing the effect of a particular bill on the classroom setting would be considered using part of an employee’s paycheck for political purposes. If a union, such as TEA, were to go over the stated percentage in the written consent, TEA, AEA and TUSD would be fined \$10,000 each for every member.

We have been discussing some of our options in dealing with this mean-spirited, anti-American maneuver on the part of the State Legislature, the most likely of which will be to move as much as possible to a system of electronic funds transfer, or EFT, for membership payments. While EFT isn’t ideal for everyone, we can’t let the Legislature have their way with us; **now more than ever**, we need to be a part of the Association.

The TEA Political Action Committee, aka, TEAPAC, is a sister organization of TEA. Only TEA members may belong to TEAPAC, but unfortunately, less than 400 members do. TEAPAC is responsible for determining whether or not to endorse certain candidates and/or ballot issues. As a PAC, it can also contribute money to election campaigns based on the endorsements made by the body. TEAPAC is governed by a Steering Committee – the TEA president and six other elected TEAPAC members. Four seats will be vacant at the end of May. Ballots for this election will be **due on Wednesday, May 11th**.

Only TEAPAC members will receive notices for the election and for meetings. If you’re not already a TEAPAC contribu-

tor, and are interested in joining, please call the TEA office for a form, 795-8870. You can join for as little as \$5, but we encourage people to join at \$10 or more, which can help us achieve super PAC status, allowing us to make larger contributions to endorsed candidates/issues.





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Laurie Damiani
Liz Navarro
Palmer Richey



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Great Public Schools for Every Child

Laurels Luncheon for Retiring Members

TEA will be honoring its retiring members on May 7th at its annual Laurels Luncheon to be held at the remodeled Lodge on the Desert. Members who submitted paperwork to TUSD should have received an invitation in the U.S. mail at their home address. If you're retiring, please submit your confirmation as soon as possible, but no later than May 2nd. For questions, please call Liz at 795-8870. If you know someone who is retiring and want to help celebrate, please contact the retiree to make arrangements with him/her before submitting their confirmations to the TEA office.

César Chávez Essay and Drawing Contests Drew Positive Response

For TEA's monthly contest in March, we conducted essay and drawing contests to honor the contributions that César Chávez made to the labor and civil rights movements. Thank you to all who participated!!! Students from the following members' classes won in the following categories:

Essays

Aida Aguilar, Robison, Kinder - 2nd

Daniel Forrest, Pistor, 6th - 8th

Beth Slaine, Tucson High, 9th - 12th

Drawings

Daisy Carrillo, Hollinger, Kinder - 2nd

Angela Bennett, Warren, 3rd - 5th

Daniel Forrest, Pistor, 6th - 8th

Beth Slaine, Tucson High, 9th - 12th

Did You Know?

- Membership for 2011-12 is more important than ever before?
- Wiktionary defines "union" as "That which is united, or made one; something formed by a combination or coalition of parts or members..."
- In order to withdraw for the 2011-12 school year, a member must submit a signed letter of resignation to the TEA office by August 1, 2011?



Member suggestions or comments.

Ideas or comments about the newsletter.

Email: tsneduc@aol.com

Subject: TEA Matters