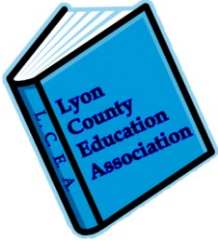


# LYON COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



## The Tutorial Enterprise

An Affiliate of  
NSEA & NEA

Steve Fargan, President  
Leanna Ogle, Vice President  
Jane Claar, Secretary  
Noreen Albers, Treasurer

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### 2006 Mini -Grant Winner

By Brad Rowe

This is a thank you to the Lyon County Education Association (LCEA) for selecting me as a mini-grant recipient for 2006. I was able to purchase thematic board games for my American History class. Ticket to Ride (2x); TransAmerica, Empire Builder; 10 Days in Europe and 10 days in Africa were the games purchased. My goal is to use these board games for a thematic unit for the period of history when railroads, monopolies, and industry were dictating American life. I integrated the games into a unit so that students could experience the importance of acquisition and rail expansion in a new way, other than just through textbook materials. I chose games ranging from simple to advanced thinking skills in order to meet the different attention spans and abilities of my students

I was very excited to be able to do something different with my curriculum this year and am very appreciative to the LCEA for giving me this opportunity. Thanks!

### Websites to Keep you Connected

There are several websites listed below to help keep members informed about issues of importance.

<http://www.lcea-nv.org> - Lists upcoming events and information of importance to LCEA members.

<http://www.ucn-nv.org/> - Our President Steve Fargan is the Vice President for Communications for Uniserve Council of Nevada (UCN). He posts the newsletter, an events calendar and special links. Be sure to read the latest newsletter which tells members how to write effective emails and letters to their legislators.

At <http://www.nsea-nv.org> you can sign up for the email newsletter and be put on the email list for call to action items for members.

The National Education Association Website offers a myriad of information. You can visit pages about Read Across America, Legislative Action Center, Issues in Education, Press Center and Special Events. <http://www.nea.org>

AT the NEA members benefit website you can get information on finances, travel and many topics. <http://neamb.com>

I hope these websites will prove to be helpful and informative.



Editor, Noreen Albers; send stories, ideas and comments to me at Silver Springs Elementary School or [nalbers775@hotmail.com](mailto:nalbers775@hotmail.com)

**F.E.S Teacher Selected as a 2006  
Presidential Award  
State Finalist  
Congratulations and Good Luck**

Vivian Olds a teacher from Fernley Elementary School has been named a state finalist for the 2006 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the nation's highest honor for K-12 teaching in these fields.

Established by Congress in 1983, and administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation, the PAESMT program identifies outstanding mathematics and science teachers from each of the 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions. The jurisdictions are Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Department of Defense Schools, and the U.S. Territories as a group (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each state and jurisdiction can select up to three mathematics and three science teachers as state finalists. From this field of state finalists, a maximum of 108 Presidential Awardees are selected. Recipients of the 2006 Presidential Awards will be announced during a week of celebratory events this spring in Washington, D.C.

"Being nominated by Dr. Richard Vineyard is an honor in itself. Science is a vital part of my teaching. High interest is a given, and the students have the opportunity to incorporate art, writing, reading, social studies and math into their science study," said Olds when she was named a state finalist. Olds is one of the three Nevada finalists for science.

"My teaching is always focused on the needs of the students, as well as their interests. Our study of Spirit Cave Man, which was instrumental in my nomination, not only is a study of Nevada's prehistory, but also has the power to connect education with the question "what does it mean to be human?" I share this honor with all my wonderful students.

"The Presidential Award is one way of honoring outstanding teachers for the excellent

work they do each year in helping to keep the United States competitive globally in mathematics and science," said Celestine H. Pea, Ph.D., Program Director of Elementary, Secondary, and Informal Education programs at the National Science Foundation. "They have the knowledge, skills, commitment, and determination to bring out the best in their students."

Evaluation results show that teachers who receive the Presidential Award use that recognition, honor and award funds to grow professionally and to help improve teaching and learning of mathematics and science in their schools, districts, and states by taking on the roles of leaders, mentors, and scholars in their communities.

**Science Exam Answers**

**Q: Name the four seasons**

**A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar**

**Q: How is dew formed?**

**A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.**

**Q: What are steroids?**

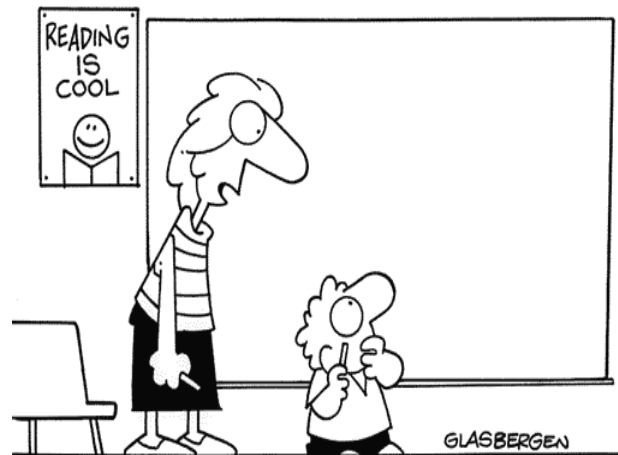
**A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.**

## NSEA Legislative Hot Topics

- The 1/5 service credit allows teachers working in at-risk schools, in schools not making adequate yearly progress, or in hard-to-fill subject areas to earn 1.2 years of retirement credit for each year worked. More than 6,000 of Nevada's teachers received the 1/5 service credit last year.
- Education Budget – The Nevada State Education Association has many concerns with Governor Gibbons' proposed Distributive School Account (DSA) – the school budget and NSEA does not intend to accept the recommendations as they now stand.
- Full-Day Kindergarten - NSEA supports full-day kindergarten for all of Nevada's children; it is a strong and effective foundation upon which a quality education should be built.
- Public Employees Retirement System – PERS is currently a defined benefit program – a retired public employee is guaranteed a monthly retirement based upon the number of years of service and the highest three years of salary. There are proposals to change PERS from a defined benefit system to a defined contribution system.
- ACR 10 – Adequacy Study – The Nevada State Education Association supports the Adequacy study and its results. The goal of the study was to determine the level of funding that was needed for Nevada's children to reach specific performance expectations by the 2013-2014 school year.
- Empowerment Schools- Governor Gibbons has proposed eliminating the 1/5 service credit incentive and putting the money into an empowerment school pilot program. The program would cost \$60 million -- \$45 million for implementation and \$15 million for merit pay – and would empower only 100 schools statewide.

For more information on these topics go to <http://www.nsea-nv.org> Legislative Positions and Talking Points. You can also find information at the website for contacting your representatives in the Nevada Senate and Assembly.

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**“There aren't any icons to click. It's a chalk board.”**



**Don't Forget Read Across America  
March 2, 2007**

## Renewal of ESEA/NCLB This Year

National Education Association (NEA) President, Reg Weaver, says that Team NEA has an opportunity to help overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act currently known as the No Child Left Behind Act, this year. The renewal process offers the opportunity to help this legislation achieve its original worthy objectives: closing the gap in student achievement, raising overall student performance, and giving every child a qualified teacher.

Thousands of members have shared their concerns, frustrations, and suggestions to help NEA develop our policy and priorities for the reauthorization. The result of this input is NEA's Positive Agenda for the ESEA Reauthorization, a comprehensive blueprint for meeting the needs of students and those working in America's public schools.

Early on, members recognized that NCLB was fundamentally flawed and severely underfunded. Our members told us how the law falls short in providing the promised tools and assistance that educators and students need. NEA listened carefully, and our agenda addresses these issues in several ways.

It shifts the focus from a punitive one-size-fits-all testing system to an approach that includes more common-sense and valid ways of gauging school quality and student achievement. Rather than measuring accountability in terms of test scores and sanctions, the NEA plan calls for giving schools credit for progress in student achievement over time and supporting educators who help students learn and succeed.

Five years after its enactment, the reality is that NCLB has failed to live up to its laudable goals. According to the Harvard Civil Rights Project, "NCLB has not helped the nation and states significantly narrow the achievement gap," and "NCLB has shortchanged those schools" that serve

predominantly disadvantaged minority students.

To address this inequity, NEA's Positive Agenda embraces proven programs, like smaller classes, and advocates for additional target resources to help low-income and minority students achieve their basic right to a quality education. The plan's principles emphasize factors crucial to ensuring a great public school for every child—elements such as parental, family, and community involvement and engagement; adequate, equitable, and sustainable school funding; and a qualified, caring, diverse, and stable workforce.

The Positive Agenda is NEA's clarion call to make NCLB more responsive to the real needs of students from their first day of school to their graduation day. It promotes a comprehensive curriculum for all students with a proposed new grant program to help schools enrich and expand music, arts, foreign language, and other non-tested subjects. And it supports funding for adolescent literacy, dropout prevention, counseling, and an expansion of AP courses to satisfy the diverse needs of all students as they progress through their academic careers.

With reauthorization drawing near, we have all the ingredients we need to influence NCLB's future. We have a new Congress. We have a strategic agenda to improve ESEA. And most important of all, we have 3.2 million members who share a commitment to the vision of a great public school for every child and student.

It is imperative that we let Congress know where educators stand as lawmakers consider changes to this sweeping federal education law. If two is a trend and three is a movement, then Team NEA, you are an unstoppable force that can make a truly extraordinary difference for children, students, and public schools all across America! **Let your Senators and Representatives hear from you!**

Reprinted from [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) Presidents viewpoint