



# The Tutorial Enterprise

An affiliate of NSEA and NEA

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## Take the Legislative Priorities and Program Survey

Log on to the NSEA Web site to have your voice heard about Legislative issues! By following the link below you will be able to review the current Legislative program from NSEA and take a brief survey to provide input about the issues you want to see addressed during the next Legislative session. It's a fantastic opportunity to provide information to NSEA about issues that are important to you. Plus, you'll be entered into a drawing for fabulous electronics and gift card prizes just for participating in the survey!

Follow the link below to log on and complete the survey.

<http://www.nsea-nv.org/legsurvey.htm>

**Don't forget to  
participate in the  
Nevada state caucus  
on Saturday, January 19th!**

## NSEA Begins the Save Our Schools Initiative

The Nevada State Education Association announced that the initiative petition titled '**Save Our Schools with Additional Funding**' to increase funding for K-12 public schools has been filed in Carson City. NSEA firmly believes this funding would address many of the issues that are plaguing Nevada's schools today.

"Nevada ranks at the bottom in per-pupil spending and our educators are tired of the burden they've been forced to bear for years. The future is bleak with a budget crisis looming over Nevada and a budget spending cap. After assessing the political climate in Nevada, we have determined the only way to get additional support for our kids is by asking the people of Nevada to help save our schools," said NSEA President Lynn Warne. "We are proud of our efforts to increase funding for our public schools and are ready to move on to the next phase of the campaign, and that is to gather all the signatures we need to get this petition qualified and on the ballot in November 2008."

The public has also been very supportive of our efforts and of the proposed three percent increase in the gaming tax—an increase expected to generate approximately \$250 million for Nevada's public schools.

"NSEA believes a three percent assessment for education on the largest casinos, which gross \$1 million or more a month, is more than fair," added Warne. "Gaming taxes in Nevada are the lowest in the world. The average tax rate around the U.S. is in excess of 15 percent. Is three percent fair? It's not only fair...it's the right thing to do!"

May 20, 2008 is the deadline to submit to the Secretary of State's office the nearly 60,000 signatures required to qualify the petition. Once verified, the petition will appear as a question on the ballot in November 2008. If it is approved by the voters it will appear before the voters again on the ballot in 2010.

"We will begin collecting the nearly 60,000 signatures needed statewide to qualify the petition right away," concluded Warne. "Our members are ready and waiting to jump into action and we are ready to hit the ground running."

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Lyon County Education Association  
www.lcea-nv.org

Uniserv Council of Nevada  
www.ucn-nv.org

Nevada State Education Association  
www.nsea-nv.org

National Education Association  
www.nea.org

**Next LCEA  
Meeting:  
Thurs., Feb. 21,  
4:15 p.m., SSES**

**All are welcome to  
attend.**

The Lyon County Education Association newsletter is published monthly during the school year.

Newsletter submissions are due by the 10th of each month. Articles, questions, and comments can be directed to:

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## What Can We Do Together?

*By Steve Fargan*

“What Can We Do Together?” was the question that the team from Nevada came up with at the NEA Creating Strong Affiliates conference, held in Austin, Texas from November 1-4, 2007. I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to attend a conference that had a different approach from others I have attended in the past. Instead of providing answers and materials, this conference had a creative, supportive, atmosphere for coming up with questions and sharing a vision of what we would like to see. Some of the highlights for me were the World Café, the ClancyWorks Dance Company, and the Using Appreciative Inquiry to Create Strong Affiliates session.

The World Café approach was an enjoyable experience. Throughout the conference we sat in groups of four, much like having a discussion at a café. However, each time we went on to a new question to discuss, we changed groups. This allowed for more sharing, progressive depth to discussions, and more opportunities to meet amazing people from all over the country.

The two performances by the ClancyWorks Dance Company, *Shifting Perspectives* and *On Taking Steps To Climbing Mountains*, were inspirational. Seeing how the dancers used many different sized ladders in the *On Taking Steps To Climbing Mountains* performance was uplifting. I spoke with Adrienne Clancy, the Artistic Director, after the performances to show my appreciation. If you ever get a chance to see a performance by the ClancyWorks Dance Company, I highly recommend that you attend. Visit <http://www.clancyworks.org> for more details on the company and other upcoming events.

I felt that I got a lot out of the Using Appreciative Inquiry to Create Strong Affiliates session facilitated by Linda Manny and Rose Ann Hubbard. Here is a brief overview:

The questions we ask are fateful. They set the course for our conversation, which then becomes our agenda for action. The questions which produce the best and longest lasting change are the ones that are fundamentally affirmative. This session definitely made me think and gave me hope for the possibilities we have before us.

The evidence of how this conference was different was in what I brought home with me. Instead of a bag full of the typical materials, paper hand-outs, and brochures, I returned with an expanded mind that contained questions and ideas about possibilities for the future. I look forward to sharing these questions and experiences with others in order to create stronger affiliates that work together to create a positive change.