

WESTERN REGION

UNISERV DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2018

CAMPAIGNS WORK!

As I'm writing this report, several locals are in the midst of strong campaigns to pass local contracts and school districts budgets. Specifically, Fall Mountain Teachers' Association, Newport Teachers' Association, and the Sugar River Education Association are engaged in full scale postcard campaigns for their newly negotiated contracts. The Sugar River Education Association (SREA) took their efforts a step further and worked with NEA-NH and America Votes to create a comprehensive Get Out The Vote (GOTV) strategy that included making phone calls prior to the Deliberative Session, making phone calls in advance of the March 13th vote, and sending postcards. The SREA, led by President, Tammy Yates, saw great success through their efforts to encourage voters to attend the Deliberative Session. Members Larissa Cahill and Bob Young successfully wrote a motion to amend the school district budget, which was proposed by a pro-education community member, and it PASSED thanks to those who came out to support the schools and staff.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING GAINS!

Two groups in the region may see especially large gains thanks to newly negotiated agreements. The Cornish Education Association (CEA) had a group of strong, passionate, and young negotiators, who fiercely advocated for their members and their school. The team was led by President, Jen Udelhofen and included Kelsey D'Angelo, Kait Jones, and Stacey Snyder. Over the course of the three-year contract, the base Bachelor's salary will increase from \$30,831 this year to \$35,500 in year three. Expect to see and hear more from this group of leaders!

The Newport Teachers' Association, after a full day of mediation and continued discussions that lasted until budget deadlines, reached a one-year agreement that could see nearly half of their membership make up lost steps, some will gain back up to 5 steps! The team, lead by President Sarah Fisher, included Audrey Carparelli, Lisa Ferrigno, Melissa Mitchler, Mitzi Sinclair, Deb Stevens, and Bob Sullivan. This seasoned group of negotiators came up with creative solutions to long standing issues, which will help reward and retain current staff and allow the District to better recruit new staff. Their dedication to the Newport community is inspiring!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

The Mascoma Valley Regional Education Association, led by President, Skip Chalker, saw gains in their membership, despite several retirements in 2016-2017. Way to go, MVREA!

The Fall Mountain Educational Support Staff Association (FMESSA) sponsored multiple workshops to help train their leadership and educate staff on resources available to them through membership. FMESSA Membership Committeeperson, Maggie Kyle, along with President, Peggy Blaine, were instrumental in organizing the trainings. Contact your UniServ Director if you're interested in trainings like this for your local!



The Western Region has a new website! Check it out! You must be signed in to view the contents.

Go to www.neanh.org

About NEA-NH > Local NEA-NH Associations > Western Regional Council

Visit often for Council agendas and minutes, as well as handouts to use in your local!

STUDENTS AND MEMBERS CARE!

Kevin Hicks, President of Fall Mountain Teachers' Association reports that the North Walpole School prepped and delivered meals to the homeless shelter in town, a club at Vilas School made and donated scarves for the homeless, and a food drive was held for the local food shelf. Commissioner Edelblut visited Vilas School to watch and deliver feedback to the students in Greg Amend's UDL Literature class. Mitch Harrison (Vilas) and Shawn Brodeur-Stevens (Charlestown) are raising brook trout to be released by the students in the spring.

REPRESENTATION WINS!

Presidents, grievance chairs, and building representatives are always hard at work advocating for members in disputes with administration. In particular, the leaders of the Kearsarge Regional Education Association, Lebanon Education Association, Lebanon Support Staff, and Mascoma Valley Regional Education Association, have worked tirelessly throughout this school year supporting members in a variety of issues. They have been successful in holding administration accountable and improving the lives of members.

STRENGTHENING THE COUNCIL!

This year, the Western Regional Council has adopted a new Constitution and Bylaws, elected officers, rotated locations around the region, and met more frequently than in recent years. We hope you will join us at our next council meeting on April 9th, at Lui Lui's in West Lebanon. The more the merrier!

WESTERN LOCALS

Claremont Assoc. of Maintenance and Transportation Employees
Claremont Assoc. of Secretaries
Cornish Education Assoc.
Fall Mountain Education Support Staff Assoc.
Fall Mountain Teachers' Assoc.
Franklin Education Assoc.
Grantham Education Assoc.
Hanover Education Assoc.
Hanover Support Staff Assoc.
Kearsarge Regional Education Assoc.
Para Educators at **Kearsarge**
Lebanon Education Assoc.
Lebanon Education Support Personnel Assoc.
Lempster Education Assoc.
Lempster Support Staff Assoc.
Lyme Education Assoc.
Mascoma Valley Regional Education Assoc.
Mascoma Valley Regional Support Staff Assoc.
Newport Teachers' Assoc.
Newport Support Staff Assoc.
Plainfield Education Assoc.
Plainfield Support Staff Assoc.
Sunapee Teachers' Assoc.
Sugar River Education Assoc.
Unity Education Assoc.

Western Regional Council:

Chair: Jen Bewersdorf, Kearsarge REA

Secretary: Cathy Stephens, Fall Mountain TA

Vice Chair: Skip Chalker, Mascoma VREA

Treasurer: Karen Brown, Fall Mountain TA

NEA-NH Executive Board Members:

Jen Bewersdorf, Kearsarge REA and Dave Shinnlinger, Mascoma VREA

NEA-NH Staff:

UniServ Director: Karen Ladd (kladd@nhnea.org)

UniServ Assistant: Kris Fessenden (kfessenden@nhnea.org)