

WESTERN REGION REPORT 2019

UNISERV DIRECTOR: KAREN LADD | UNISERV ASSISTANT: KRIS FESSENDEN

ORGANIZING MEMBERS AROUND CAMPAIGNS! ENGAGE YOUR MEMBERS!

- **Fall Mountain ESSA's** food service members gathered over 500 signatures in their campaign to stop privatization. The campaign had a Facebook page and an online petition, talking points and facts; members rallied supporters to attend school board meetings and share their message. Unfortunately, the school board refused to reverse their decision, but the food service members certainly exercised their voice and stood strong for their rights! Food service members on the bargaining team helped to negotiate a severance package as part of their successor CBA for food service workers. The Association conducted a postcard campaign for the new CBA, which was approved by the voters on March 12th!
- **Grantham EA** made phone calls to garner community support for their contract. The community recently saw an increase in taxes and the local knew it was crucial to get supporters to town meeting. It worked! Their contract was approved on March 5th! Kudos to co-presidents Casey Sylvain and Jen Wallstrom!
- **Hanover SSA** had an INCREDIBLE increase in members this year. They made a 43% gain in membership, all while working extremely hard in a long and arduous bargaining process. It all paid off! Their contract was approved on March 5th! A big congratulations to Co-Presidents Carol Ahern and Rosemary Ayres, as well as bargaining team members Gwyn Dessert and Kristin Miller.
- **Kearsarge REA** held a membership blitz in their local in October. With the guidance, planning, and expertise of our then organizer, Caitlin Rollo, various staff and management of NEA-NH spent a day in each school in the District talking with not-yet members and current members. The event yielded membership increases for both the Professional Staff and the Support Staff and provided the association with valuable information. The local association was critical in providing information to make everything a success. Thanks to Board Member and Membership Chair for the local, Jen Bewersdorf, Co-Presidents Linda Tuttle and Donna Beth Murphy, as well as all the building representatives who welcomed us, gave tours, and provided information. Furthermore, the Association conducted a postcard campaign to pass their newly negotiated CBA, which was approved by the voters on March 12th!
- **Newport TA** held a workshop for members with presentations by Zach Jonas from America Votes and George Strout, NEA-NH Communications Coordinator, who worked in conjunction with the UniServ Director to design a campaign strategy as they worked to pass a contract and fight back budget cuts. They successfully defeated devastating cuts at the deliberative session and successfully organized and ran an aggressive 'Get Out The Vote' campaign for their new CBA, which included postcards, lawn signs, signs in cars, door knocking, phone-banking, radio programs, speeches at board and budget meetings, and community organizing!! Their three-year contract was approved by the voters by only 17 votes!! This is the first three-year contract the NTA has achieved since 2006!! Co-Presidents Lisa Ferrigno and Melissa Mitchler have been rock stars for their local and for the students of Newport!
- **Sugar River EA** leaders at the encouragement of then organizer, Caitlin Rollo, and accompanied by their UniServ Director, attended the Northeast Organizing Institute in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania in August. For three days, they did the incredibly hard work of assessing their local, engaging in tough conversations, and crafting goals and plans for the year. They learned valuable organizing tools and participated in a rally to help a local union!
- **Sunapee TA** designed and implemented a community engagement campaign that started by marching in the Sunapee Sestercentennial parade in August of 2018 with a banner and wearing new association t-shirts with the slogan: "Teachers Go Above, Students Go Beyond!" They continued their campaign by writing a monthly newsletter to keep members informed and involved, especially as they completed negotiations and worked to pass the contract by having clearly articulated talking points, putting up signs, sending postcards, and rallying supportive community members. On top of all of this, Sunapee TA saw a 21% increase in membership! President, Katie Flint, and Vice President, Amanda Hughlock have led the charge and on March 12th their newly negotiated contract was approved by the town!



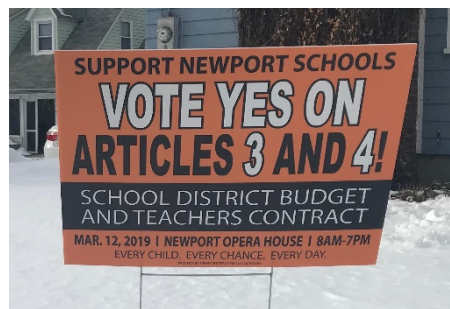
Sugar River EA President, Tammy Yates, and member Alicia Simino working hard at the Northeast Organizing Institute



Food service employees and members of Fall Mountain ESSA rally to get signatures for their petition to stop privatization.



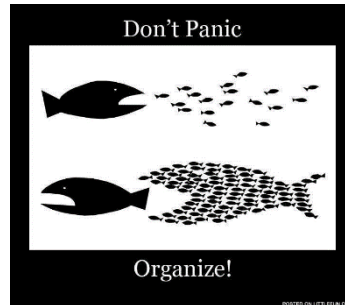
Sunapee Teachers marching with pride!



Newport TA signs for the budget and contract



Franklin teachers, parents, students, school board and community members rally to stop drastic budget cuts and teacher layoffs in July.



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.

Upcoming Events!

- April 4, 2019:** Retirement Planning Seminar at the Lebanon SAU
- April 6, 2019:** ESP Conference at the Concord Offices
- April 8, 2019:** Membership Dinner and Regional Council Meeting
- May 13, 2019:** Regional Council Meeting

Western Regional Council:

Chair: Jen Bewersdorf, Kearsarge REA
Vice Chair: Skip Chalker, Mascoma VREA

Secretary: Cathy Stephens, Fall Mountain TA
Treasurer: Peggy Blaine, Fall Mountain ESSA

NEA-NH Executive Board Members:

Jen Bewersdorf, Kearsarge REA and Karen Brown, Fall Mountain TA

NEA-NH Staff:

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

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