

NEA-NH
Western Region Council Meeting
Fireside Inn & Suites – West Lebanon
Monday, October 28, 2019

Future dates: November 18, 2019 – Lui Lui’s, January 13, 2020 – Budget Meeting, (March 20, 2020 = Assembly of Delegates), March 23, 2020, May 11, 2020

The following members were in attendance:

Rosemary Ayres – Hanover SS, Jennifer Bewersdorf – KREA – Kearsarge, Peggy Blaine – Fall Mountain SS, Karen Brown – Fall Mountain TA, Margaret Cyphers – Lebanon SS, Steven Dayno – LEA, Kris Fessenden – NEA/NH Staff, Andrew Gamble – Lebanon TA, Karen Ladd -NEA Uniserv Director, Shannon O’Connor – Newport SS, Kathy Scott – Sunapee TA, Cathy Stephens - Fall Mountain TA, Mary Wright – KREA, Kearsarge, Tammy Yates – SREA, Claremont, Bernadette Virgins – Mascoma EA

- The session began with a Legislative Update & Executive Board Report:
 - Karen Brown
 - Discussed the student loan forgiveness program
 - Terry Burlingame → NEA Director
 - Learn Everywhere is still being delayed
 - FMLA hour eligibility decreased from 1200 to 900 hours thanks to new NH legislation.
 - Still discussion about moving Beginner Educators back to three years from five → Chances appear “slim” at this point
 - There is a study committee to look at violence against educators: still a huge concern. LOTS of cases in Keene, NH.
 - There is a study committee to look at air quality in schools: there is a bill being proposed to establish a public employee OSHA law.
 - Pension calculation from 2012 – 2%-there is a goal to get back the 2%, because educators have paid 2% more without the benefit.
 - “*My School, My Voice*” Grant money surveys being created and conducted
 - Karen Ladd
 - Dues prorated chart – Proration begins this Friday 11/1/19
 - CY = Current Year, PY = Previous Year. Review of membership count by local
 - Negotiations is right in the “throw of things” at the moment
 - Health Trust rates are lower for everyone with the exception of Sunapee, a small increase
 - Charlestown withdrawal causing much anxiety, worry and confusion
 - Council membership has flipped 2 seats
 - CBA language = Be sure that you have clear, concise, and easy to interpret language in your contract in order to avoid difficult situations
- Jen Bewersdorf:
 - Jen did not share much this evening as both Karen Brown and Karen Ladd were able to provide updates, and there was a presentation by NEA staff member Casey Anthony: “Train the Trainer, How to Address the Hard Questions”
- 6:05 Rosemary, Motion to adjourn, seconded by Margaret → Passed! 😊