



SKI COUNTRY EDUCATOR

September – October 2010

Participation in Your Professional Association is Equally as Important

As you return for another school year, or possibly your first year in education, you have no doubt spent several hours before the students return learning the expectations of you as a school employee. You have probably filled out numerous forms, studied the rules and regulations of school safety, and been given schedules for where and when you or your students need to be in specific places. You have also no doubt participated in professional development intended to make you better at what you do and to help the students in your school succeed at their fullest potential. This is all very important and hopefully beneficial to you as a professional.

Keep in mind that involvement in your professional organizations is equally as important. CEA, NEA, and your local association are here to give you a voice and an opportunity to participate in programs and activities that advance the cause of public education. The association provides a voice for education professionals in areas that affect their careers; through bargaining, legislative action, professional development, leadership opportunities, and much more.

Please take time at the beginning of this new school year to ask your local association leaders how you can be involved and assist them in making your local as strong and as relevant as it can possibly be; for your future and the future of public education.

...Dennis Carlson, Unit Director

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Amazing Ski Country Members

Please Welcome the Following New Leaders in Ski Country

Karen Green has been elected President of the **Aspen Education Association**. **David Grabowski** is the new President of the **Moffat County Education Association**. **Allan Ward** is now President of the **Jackson County Education Association**. Our greatest appreciation goes to the outgoing President of the **AEA**, **Kirk Gregory**, **Sarah Carlstrom** of the **JCEA**, and **Craig Smith** and **Michele Conroy** of the **MCEA**. Thank you all for your outstanding leadership in your respective locals and Ski Country UniServ.

Christine Epp of the **Hayden Education Association** is featured in the CEA August-September 2010 edition of **The Colorado School Journal**. Christine tried three years ago to get supplies to tsunami-destroyed schools on the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. Her idea evolved into World Class Connections, in which she helps students in her small district, experience other cultures. Epp recently traveled to the Solomon and Fiji Islands to mentor teachers. Now the Hayden EA member will help local students connect with students of the island nations, using Skype and email. ...Colorado School Journal Vol. 125, No. 1 – August-September 2010.

Amazing Ski Country Staff

Barb Hodson, Associate Director of Ski Country UniServ, celebrated her 20th year anniversary with Ski Country on August 1st, 2010.

Barb has worked for 6 directors during her tenure. Among many other things she manages our finances, our office, and keeps track of finances and membership in the 14 locals that make up Ski Country UniServ. In the 20 years Barb has been with us membership has grown from 796 in 1989 to over 1200 in 2010.

I have always said that Barb Hodson is the glue that holds the Unit Together. Her friendly voice on the other end of the telephone is the first experience our members and leaders have when contacting Ski Country UniServ. Her professionalism and expertise is one of our greatest assets.

....Dennis Carlson, Director – Ski Country UniServ

NEA and CEA successfully lobby for Federal Education Jobs Fund Program

On August 10th, 2010 President Obama signed into law Public Law Number 111-226 (Act), a new Federal program that provides \$10 billion in assistance to States to save or create education jobs for the 2010-2011 school year.

CEA and NEA lobbied heavily for the passage of this bill to help States struggling with massing layoffs of educational employees as a result of budget shortfalls created by the current economic recession.

The amount allocated for Colorado is \$159,331,551. Of the amount allocated, up to 2% may be used for State level administration of the program. Therefore, a minimum of \$156,331,551 will be available for distribution to Colorado school districts.

The “Ed Jobs” program supports educational services during the 2010-2011 school year. A district that has funds remaining after the 2010-2011 year may use those remaining funds through September 30, 2013.

The additional dollars are one time funding to help retain and rehire positions that may have been eliminated or were to be eliminated because of budget cuts do to the current recession.

Below is a table that shows what our local school districts in Ski Country are scheduled to receive. Each amount reflects 2.9% of each school districts total program budget.

Eagle County	\$1,249,438.92
Roaring Fork	\$1,098,960.15
Moffat County	\$450,689.41
Steamboat Springs	\$425,999.82
East Grand	\$268,564.67
Lake County	\$232,652.45
Hayden	\$101,642.38
South Routt	\$97,915.73
North Park	\$64,544.49

Unfortunately, because Aspen, West Grand, and Summit County are three of six districts in Colorado that receive little to no funding from the State of Colorado, they will receive zero dollars from the program. You can be assured that CEA will be working with the Governor’s office to make sure these districts receive the much needed help that other districts in Colorado will receive under the “Ed Jobs” program.

NO on 60, 61, and 101!

Colorado is nearly \$1400 below the national average in K-12 per-student spending, 42nd in the nation, and in the bottom 10 states in most other important measures of “how we’re doing as a state,” such as primary grade student-teacher ratio and per capita spending on higher education. The Legislature has cut \$354 million from K-12 in the last two years and staved off higher education cuts with federal stimulus money that will soon be gone. We expect deeper cuts for 2011-12.

You know what has happened in your district and on your campus. Now it could get even worse because there’s the potential for devastating reductions in state revenue that will simply stop Colorado from moving forward.

CEA officially opposes Amendment 60 and 61 and Proposition 101. Many local and state elected officials, business people, and community leaders are also outspoken in their opposition to the three issues. We will be actively working to defeat them this fall through a member-to-member canvass and October community outreach activities on these issues and our Association’s recommended candidates.

Amendment 60: Local Budget Constraints would amend the State Constitution and make drastic changes to Colorado’s property tax laws that would significantly impact K-12 funding. The measure cuts local support for schools in half over four years and required the state to make up the difference from its General Fund – which Proposition 101 will have cut by 20%. By requiring the state to backfill lost local revenue, #60 shifts even more of the K-12 funding obligation to the state, severely impacting other programs funded by the state.

The amendment sunsets all local “De-Brucing” elections affecting property taxes, meaning that the voters’ earlier decisions to let their cities and counties collect and spend specific revenues would be overturned. There have been hundred of such votes since TABOR passed in 1992 levels. The Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute has estimated that the negative fiscal impact of re-imposing original TABOR limits will be \$550 million.

The measure would limit future revenue retention votes under TABOR to four years and future tax increase votes to 10 years. #60 also appears to reverse the 2007 state mill levy freeze that helps K-12 by keeping property tax rates from falling in districts where citizens have voted to retain the revenues. It would essentially re-impose a state mandate that districts automatically lower mill levy rates when they collect revenue above TABOR limits.

Amendment 61: Public Financing Ban also amends the Constitution, eliminating any kind of debt financing by the state and making sweeping changes in how state and local governments can use and issue debt.

It bans the use of any debt by the state (general obligation bonds, certificates of participation, revenue bonds, other notes). Colorado would be the only state in the entire nation without the

authority to issue debt. The proponents say lawmakers could not even borrow cash funds for the General Fund to balance the state budget or solve temporary cash flow problems. #61 also limits debt financing by local governments, requires all local debt to be approved by voters, and forces local governments to cut back their tax rates as the debts are repaid.

Proposition 101: Public Service cuts would amend state law, drastically reducing many state and local taxes and fees. Prop 101 repeals Referendum C, passed by voters in 2005, and imposes new, much lower limits on state and local spending by reinstating the TABOR ratchet effect that pushes state spending down after recessions.

Prop 101 will slash State General Fund revenues by 20% (about \$1.2 billion in current dollars when fully implemented over 10 years) by reducing the state income tax rate from 4.63% to 3.5%. It cuts future transportation funding by more than 33% (\$465 million in current dollars). The measure eliminates funding for rural, disabled, and low-income telecommunications programs. It guts city and county revenues by more than \$600 million a year, including \$500 million in specific ownership taxes – cutting them to \$2 per new vehicle and \$1 per used vehicle, plus cutting \$122 million in sales tax revenue on rental vehicles and exemptions of vehicle values.

The statewide campaign working to defeat 60, 61, and 101 is
Coloradans for Responsible Reform at
www.donthurtcolorado.com

Colorado Education Association – NEA
August 2010



Too Extreme for Colorado

Facts about PACE



PACE, a so-called “professional organization,” is distributing its marketing materials in some Colorado school districts. This compels us to point out the undeniable differences between our Association and this organization.

PACE, the Professional Association of Colorado Educators, and its parent organization, the American Association of Educators (AAE), are partners in an agenda to weaken public education, secure school vouchers with taxpayer dollars, and stop our Association. Why? Because we are the strongest public education advocate – not only in our school district and Colorado, but in the nation with our 3.2 million members in NEA.

3. PACE and AAE are anti-labor union and directly connected to Colorado’s biggest school voucher proponents: Alex Cranberg, Steve Schuck, Ed McVaney, John Saeman and Bob Schaffer, former Congressman (CD-4) and current chair of the Colorado State Board of Education.

PACE is promoted by the Independence Institute in Golden, a “think tank” that opposes everything our Association does. The II is pro-voucher, anti-union, and anti-CEA/NEA – and it is funded by the same people and groups that support AAE and PACE.*

PACE wants our members. PACE is NOT the organization ours is – not in any way. It is a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

- **We are a huge local-state-national organization with comprehensive services and highly trained staff**, such as Local Presidents and UniServ Directors and all the leaders and staff who help us at the CEA-NEA levels of our Association.
- **We are proud of our successful lobbying program at the State Capitol and in Congress.** Without our CEA-NEA voice, no one would speak up for us, our students, and public schools. We are proud of our success in electing Friends of Public Education who advocate for public education at the Capitol, in Congress, and on school boards.

PACE and AAE, on the other hand, try to hide their politics. Their funding and support come from very political groups that spend time and money trying to get school vouchers and working against labor unions like our Association. They are connected to very political organizations like the Independence Institute. Not political, eh?

- **One of the top benefits of belonging to our Association is access to a full array of job protection services**, including our UniServ Directors and CEA attorneys experienced in education and labor law. Most of our members never use the liability insurance they have as an automatic benefit of membership. But many members get help through our Legal Services Program: immediate, expert help from local leaders and from UniServ staff who

are full time, on the job, trained, and experienced. PACE says it can offer cheap liability insurance. That's exactly what it is.

Our members don't have to find their own attorney, spend their own money, and wait for a reimbursement that might never come (that's what PACE members must do if they want help).

- **PACE members can get scholarships and access to courses. That's not anything compared to the professional development AND advocacy training our members can get through their local associations, CEA, and NEA.** From the popular "I Can Do It" classroom management training for new teachers to the NEA Academy, courses our locals offer, the NEA Professional Library and NEA Foundation, and CEA and NEA conferences, our members have a wide array of opportunities to improve their professional practice.

Not only does belonging give each member a strong, unified voice with education policymakers AND give you peace of mind through quality representation and support where it matters most (on the job, in your work place), but you get resources to help you succeed personally and professionally when you belong to our Association.

What else sets us apart from PACE-AAE? Our Core Values. We believe public education is the cornerstone of American democracy, providing children with the skills to be informed and engaged in that democracy. We believe public education is the gateway to opportunity for every citizen. We advocate not only for public education, but for education employees' interests. We know that is our job and that we, as individual members, are strengthened by our collective action and our advocacy, whether at the bargaining table, in a school board meeting, or in the Legislature.

This is not what PACE is about. PACE is very clear: it does not engage in advocacy nor support collective bargaining, one of the foundation programs of our organization for the last 40 years.

When you belong to our Association, you join with millions of fellow members who believe in public education and strive to provide a quality public school for every child. When you belong, you work with other members to make important gains for yourself and for all of us.

**Like the wolf in sheep's clothing, PACE and AAE, its parent, try to deceive educators into thinking they are something other than what they are.
Don't be fooled.**

** Documented by public/IRS records*

**Colorado Education Association
August 2010**

