



SKI COUNTRY EDUCATOR

November – December 2007

You are the NEA and the CEA

Quite often I hear school employees, parents, school boards, and administrators make statements like: “The NEA is doing this, or the CEA has done that”, often in a negative light. Sometimes inferring that the Association is some being out there that tells our locals and our members what to do and what to think. The truth is that the NEA and CEA are you, the members. Decisions are not made behind closed doors, buy executives who are totally removed from our members. The NEA and CEA are probably the most democratic organization in existence. Difficult decisions are made through CEA committees, Unit Councils, the CEA Board of Directors, and local executive committees. These groups are made up of members of the Association and are usually voted into these positions by members. Major decisions that guide the function of the Association are made at CEA Delegate Assembly and the NEA Representative Assembly. These events are held annually every year. And, every member has the right to participate. Therefore, if you are unhappy with the direction of NEA, CEA, or your local, get involved and speak up. Your voice will be heard. ... Dennis Carlson, Ski Country Unit Director

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Ski Country UniServ “Membership Summit” in Summit County

On September 28th and 29th several members from Ski Country met in Silverthorne to learn and discuss ways of increasing membership in our locals in Ski Country Colorado.

Represented were members from the Steamboat Springs Education Association, the Moffat County Education Association, the Summit County Education Association, the Eagle County Education Association, the Mountain Education Association (Colorado Mountain College), the Lake County Education Association, and the Aspen Education Association.

David Mussetter and Jeanne Beyer from CEA were there to train and help facilitate the discussion. Carol Walsh, a former member of the East Grand Education Association, now a BOCES member and also a representative of the CEA Review Board also attended.

The training and discussion were very informative. Everyone left with a renewed spirit for getting out there and recruiting new members. Following the “Summit” the Ski Country Unit Council met and set a goal of at least a 7% membership growth in Ski Country this year. This would mean an increase of 80 members throughout Ski Country UniServ. Some of our locals have already individually met that goal.

Our strength is in our numbers. Our ability to effect change and advocate for public education and education employees is directly related to our percentage of membership. Lets all get out there and ask all potential members to join. Remember, the number one reason potential members give for not joining is “I was never asked”.

Ski Country UniServ has budgeted a certain amount to assist locals with membership promotion. If you would like to schedule a membership recruitment event in your local or school, give us a call at 1-800-545-4916 or send us an email at scuu@nea.org, we would be happy to assist.

“If you build it, he will come”... Field of Dreams...1989

Sign the Social Security Fairness Act Petition! PASS THIS ON TO CEA MEMBERS.

Our Association wants to repeal two anti-public employee Social Security provisions: Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

With record numbers of co-sponsors on both the House and Senate versions of a new bill called the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82/S. 206), it is time to push Congress to move this important legislation to a vote.

The bills will completely repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), little known but harmful amendments to the Social Security Act. These two provisions unjustifiably reduce or eliminate Social Security benefits for public employees in states like ours where public employees are covered by a pension plan (PERA and Denver PSRS), but do not pay into Social Security.

These two provisions are not easy to explain or understand. Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) reduce or eliminate benefits that public employees or their spouses have earned and are expecting in retirement. They impact anyone who works in a public sector job and does not pay into Social Security for that job, but anticipates the Social Security benefits from another job they or their spouse held.

The GPO reduces public employees' Social Security spousal or survivor benefits by two-thirds of their public pension. The WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefits of an individual who also receives a public pension from a job not covered by Social Security.

These provisions are anti-public employee and we must get them repealed.

Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-New York), House Ways and Means Committee Chair, has announced plans to hold a hearing on the bill, possibly this fall. To show this committee and all of Congress why they must repeal these two Social Security provisions, **WE MUST SHOW THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT FROM COLORADO.**

Make your voice heard today! It's easy – simply go the CEA Website (open the link on our links page and resources page for CEA) click on “Sign the Social Security Act Petition” in the upper left hand corner, and follow the directions.