



NEA-Dallas Times

Monday, August 14, 2006

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District 8: James Roye

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Wilma King

Paraprofessional At-Large:

Beatrice Bostic

ESP At-Large:

Elnora Brantley

Message from the President

Teaching is the only profession with a "New Year's Eve" and a "first day" each and every school year. It is with great pleasure to welcome you back to school! We look forward to serving you!

Legislative Update

Update on Congressional Actions

On August 3, the U.S. Senate did the following:

- Passed the NEA-opposed Pension Protection Act (HR4), which changes dramatically, the rules governing private sector defined benefit pension plans. Despite our opposition to the underlying bill, NEA successfully lobbied for inclusion of provisions that provide favorable tax treatment for teachers in voluntary early retirement incentive programs.
- Defeated efforts to move a so-called "Trifecta" bill that included changes to the estate tax, an increase in the minimum wage, and extensions of educator tax relief and the Qualified Zone Academy Bond program. Despite the inclusion of the minimum wage and educator tax relief provisions, NEA opposed this bill because of the potentially devastating effect of the estate tax changes on education funding.



**Teacher Retirement
System of Texas**

Good News for TRS and Texas Educators

Because of the daily fluctuations in the stock market, the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) total portfolio has flirted with the \$100 billion level for several weeks. TRS just issued a news release that the pension fund has officially topped \$100 billion! The TRS fund has more than doubled in worth since 1995 when its market value was about \$46 billion. For more information, go to:

<http://www.tsta.org/news/current/>

***Quote of the Week:** A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . . but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child. ~ Kathy Davis*



"NCLB does not recognize that children are human beings," NEA President Reg Weaver tells a Congressional committee. "We cannot ignore the experiences of those working in our classrooms every day."



Together we can make a difference!



Legislative Update, (con't...)

Flexibility in Measuring Student Progress

WASHINGTON -- NEA President Reg Weaver testified today before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, urging the committee to include growth models in the upcoming reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, the current version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to more effectively measure student progress.

"We believe that accountability systems should reward success and support educators to help students learn," Weaver said. "And measuring student growth over time will be more helpful than the current snapshot approach, which measures student achievement on one day out of the year."

Recalling his own teaching experience, Weaver noted, "As a veteran classroom teacher, I would welcome the opportunity to use my students' test results to guide my instructional practices. But I seriously question the logic of any system that mandates tests, but does not also mandate that the results of those tests be given in time to make any instructional adjustments."

"Growth models hold greater promise to demonstrate whether a student is learning and provide data to educators in order to inform their instruction."

For the full article, go to:

<http://www.nea.org/newsreleases/2006/nr060727.html>

Texas Education Agency (TEA)

Information from TEA Available in Spanish

Find information in Spanish on No Child Left Behind, graduation, special education, and student assessment on Texas Education Agency's website. <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/tea/spanishcontent.html>

Free Stuff For Educators

MyTeacherSoftware.com: Get Complimentary Software - including up to 50 Educational Programs. Pay only for the cost of shipping to your home or school. For more information, visit:

<http://www.myteachersoftware.com/>

Great website for back to school! www.teacervision.com.

TeacherVision has all the tools you need to make this school year spectacular! Find lessons and activities about [Labor Day](#), [Hispanic Heritage Month](#), and [Constitution Week](#). In addition, get ideas on [Behavior and Classroom Management](#), [Getting to Know Your Students](#), and [much more!](#) You should try it out the free seven day trial; it's worth it!



DFW EXPO for Educators



August 19 ~ 20, 2006 | Dallas Market Hall | Dallas, Texas

SHOW HOURS: 9:00 AM ~ 6:00 PM AND 11:00 AM ~ 5:00 PM

FEATURES

- Education Pavilion
- Consumer Pavilion
- Health Pavilion
- Interactive Health Stage
- **Education Workshops**
- Consumer Information Sessions
- **Free Parking**
- Fitness Demonstrations
- Free Massages
- Free Health Screening
- Healthy Cooking Demonstrations
- **CPE Credits On-site**

- **Complimentary Grant Writing Consultations**
- **MAIN STAGE (SATURDAY)**
Texas State Comptroller Carol Keeton Strayhorn
- **MAIN STAGE (SUNDAY)**
Motivational Speaker Michael Waldon
- **Product Giveaways and More!**
Someone will win a 4 day/3 night cruise! Could it be you!
- **Volunteer opportunities available!**
- **General Admission - \$5** (*Discount coupon available online*)
- **Children 18 and younger free when accompanied by an adult**
- **For more information or to volunteer:**
Visit www.4starevents.com/expoforeducators.htm
Other questions – call 972-293-9719

Produced by 4Star Events, LLC.



Free Stuff for Educators, con't...

Teacher Freebies!

Sometimes we (educators) are often frustrated by a lack of funds to help our students learn. Check out this website for free materials, resources and services for educators.

<http://freebies.about.com/od/teacherfreebies/>

Great sites for Teachers!

- [abcteach](#)
6000+FREE printables,Holidays, Classroom Signs, Word Walls, Portfolios,Theme units, Seasonal Units, Basics, Shapebooks, and Teaching Extras! Great for teachers and homeschoolers. JOIN the popular membership section with NEW WEB TOOLS to generate Sudoku, Math and Puzzles, and 20,000+ pages.
- [SchoolExpress](#)
FREE - 9000+ worksheets, activity pages weekly, download 4 free untis and 4 free eWorkbooks,130 software programs, online math, funtime games, make awards, and more. Join our popular membership with 165 Thematic Units and 444+ eWorkbooks.
- [LearningPage.com](#)
The home of FREE downloadable TOMMY TALES adventure books. New weather worksheets! Learningpage.com provides thousands of professionally produced, learning materials for the elementary classroom. Printable worksheets, books, clip art, activities and lesson plans for preschool through third grade can be downloaded. Everything on Learning Page is FREE!
- [TeacherPlanet.com](#)
Now Featuring FREE Teaching Resources for Aug/Sept including 330 Theme Pages, featuring Summer Season, Women's Equity Day, Back to School and much more - complete with Lesson Plans, Worksheets, Theme Units, Free Software, Certificates, Teacher Tools and a Whole lot more
- [Free Clipart Pictures](#)
Offers free clip art downloads in dozens of categories and some animated gifs that may be helpful for the teachers, educators, students and the children.
- [TEACHER FREEBIES!](#)
Huge collection of freestuff for teachers and educators. Free printables, samples and more...
- [RESOURCES TO LEARN/TEACH ENGLISH !!](#)
*** For ESL/EFL/English learners/teachers: Courses, documents, games, exercises, tests, interactive pages, plays, fonts, cliparts, photos, jokes, cartoons, chat rooms, forums... Recommended by dozens of famous sites.

Upcoming Events

NEA-Dallas Membership Meeting.....Aug 15

DFW EXPO for Educator.....Aug 19/20

New Teacher's Academy.....Aug 26

(Open to all, RSVP soon!)

Featuring:

- (1) First year Survival- Ideas & Information to help make your first year in teaching a success,
- (2) Teacher Evaluations-What to expect during the first few years,
- (3) Dealing with Difficult Behaviors-How to Legally remove problem children,
- (4) Classroom Management – 5 Steps in managing a classroom

Staff Development/Student Holiday...Sept 22

August 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
Phases of the moon: 2:☾ 9:☉ 15:☾ 23:☿ 31:☾						

September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Phases of the moon: 7:☉ 14:☾ 22:☿ 30:☾						