

Member Opportunities & Resources

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Member Opportunities & Resources

DISCIPLINE & THE DIFFICULT CHILD WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIPS

Nationally renowned educator Gene Bedley is generously partnering with NWPE to provide scholarships for his workshop, "Practical Discipline Strategies for the Difficult Young Child." Three NWPE members may obtain this scholarship, one each for Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Please contact NWPE at info@nwpe.org if you would like to attend one of the workshops below.

- January 23, Eugene, Oregon
- January 24, Portland, Oregon
- January 25, Seattle, Washington
- January 26, Spokane, Washington
- January 27, Boise, Idaho

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Workshop Scholarships (continued from page 1)

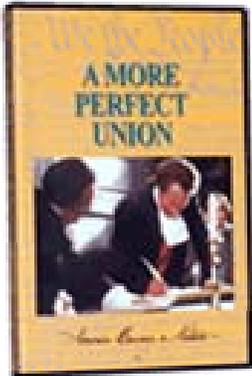
NWPE member, **Katie Bailey**, who teaches in Endicott, WA, had this to say after attending Mr. Bedley's seminar:



"Thank you for the chance to attend Gene Bedley's seminar, "Practical Discipline Strategies for the Difficult Young Child." I learned so many practical strategies to preserve teacher sanity! Gene understands that educators have a tough job. We are more than teachers of intellect – we are mentors, coaches, and role models as we teach our students about kindness, caring, and respect. It is with sincere gratitude that I thank NWPE for this opportunity and the many other ways you support this great profession and its outstanding educators!"

--Katie Bailey, Endicott School District

CONSTITUTION TEACHING AIDS



Federal law now requires schools to hold educational programs about the US Constitution. NWPE was gifted a DVD of the educational version of the movie, "A More Perfect Union: America Becomes a Nation" by Arizona Professional Educators, a sister affiliate of AAE.

The movie includes special instructional inserts to help students better understand the Constitutional Convention of 1787. It was filmed on location at Independence Hall and other historical sites. It is the most

ambitious film ever made covering the happenings at that important event. You may download a Teacher's Guide Book by going online to www.nccs.net and click on "Use A More Perfect Union in your Constitution Week celebration" in the list on the right side of the page. Then click on "Teacher's Guide Book" in the left menu. A Teacher Resource Packet for Schools contains the movie, Teacher's Guide, and 1 pocket Constitution, and five teaching segments. It is available for purchase at www.nccs.net/constitution-week.

If you would like to review/borrow NWPE's DVD of "A More Perfect Union: America Becomes a Nation," just email Executive Director, Cindy Omlin, at info@nwpe.org.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM RESOURCES

(a) TRANSCRIPT: FROM SCOPES TO DOVER: SHOULD THE COURTS PERMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TEACH INTELLIGENT DESIGN?

A trial is currently underway to hear a challenge to the decision of the Dover School Board requiring that public schools teach that intelligent design is an alternative theory to evolution. The plaintiffs alleged that such a rule constituted the teaching of religion in public schools and therefore violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Continued, Academic Freedom, page 3

Academic Freedom, (continued from page 2)

Shortly before the trial, the Pew Forum, together with the Federalist Society and the Constitution Project, held an event to discuss the current state of the law under the Establishment Clause and panelists' predictions for a ruling in the case.

David DeWolf, Law Professor at Gonzaga University who presented at the NWPE Summer Conference on "Academic Freedom," was one of the distinguished panelists. The transcript of the event is posted at: <http://pewforum.org/events/print.php?EventID=84>.

(b) ACADEMIC FREEDOM PRESENTATION, NWPE CONFERENCE RESOURCE

Members may obtain a copy of Dr. DeWolf's NWPE conference presentation on Academic Freedom by emailing info@nwpe.org. An electronic or print version of his PowerPoint presentation is available from NWPE.

\$200-\$500 TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP & CLASSROOM MINI-GRANTS

Don't forget NWPE's teacher scholarships and classroom mini-grants. NWPE members receive first preference in the granting of these \$200 - \$500 awards.

Last spring, the following NWPE members received awards:

Laron Johnson, Rigby, ID;
Jodi Thompson, Puyallup, WA;
Jim Adams, Clarkston, WA.

For more information see, <http://www.nwpe.org/scholarships.htm>.

Email info@nwpe.org for an application. The fall application deadline is October 31.



Jodi Thompson



Jim Adams



Laron Johnson with Cindy Omlin, NWPE

A+PEL REQUESTS HURRICANE ASSISTANCE FOR TEACHERS OF EVACUEES



The economic and human devastation of Hurricane Katrina is unfathomable to most of us. Teachers are on the front lines trying to restore some sense of structure and normalcy to the lives of students affected by the hurricanes.

Would you like to give practical help to a colleague and a student impacted by the hurricane?

Our fellow independent association, the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL), has requested contributions to its KATE fund, **K**atrina **A**ssistance for **T**eachers of **E**vacuees. The funds provide A+PEL members with \$50 stipends to purchase necessary workbooks, book

bags, and other school supplies for evacuees that the teachers might have to purchase themselves or see their students do without.

The full amount of any contribution goes to teachers of evacuees without any administrative cost attached. Contributions are tax deductible. Please consider making a generous contribution.

Donations to the KATE fund may be made online at:

<https://www.paymyassociation.com/displayemailforms.cfm?SessionId=AEDDA5CA-08FD-4A72-A872DD32F4E84D5E&emailformnbr=42107>.

Donations may also be mailed to A+PEL, 7912 Summa Ave.- Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Thank you!

\$100,000 CASH AWARD FOR TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE



A doctor, lawyer or businessperson can earn more than \$100,000 in one year. Why not a teacher? Here is an unparalleled opportunity for teachers: the launch of the Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award.

A \$100,000 cash prize, the largest unrestricted K-12 teacher award in U.S. history, will be awarded to an extraordinary teacher in an underserved community. The award seeks to recognize innovative and results-oriented teaching and to raise public awareness of the importance of effective and committed teachers.

Nancy and Rich Kinder of Houston, TX, established this award so an outstanding educator servicing low-income children could be rewarded financially for his or her work. The award was created to honor Rich Kinder's mother, Edna C. Kinder, a former teacher.

Teachers must be nominated to be selected for the Kinder Excellence in Teacher Award. Nominees must be currently employed in a K-12 school, public or private, in the U.S. where at least 50 percent of students qualify for the free-and-reduced-price meal program. Nominations should be submitted online by December 31, 2005 at www.kinderaward.org. In the spring of 2006, a Blue Ribbon Panel of distinguished educational leaders will review the finalists and select the winner, who will be announced next summer.

The Kinders have partnered with KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) to administer the award's nomination and selection process. Our nation's committed teachers deserve to be recognized for their devotion, and you can help in this effort to celebrate them by nominating a deserving colleague.

NWPE Member News

SPRAGUE-LAMONT TEACHERS DECERTIFY NEA-WEA AFFILIATE TO ESTABLISH LOCAL ONLY BARGAINING UNIT

The teachers of the Sprague-Lamont School District recently voted to decertify the NEA, WEA and its local affiliate as their bargaining unit. To NWPE's knowledge, this is the first school staff in Washington to have declared its independence from union control. The effort was led by Sprague-Lamont science teacher and NWPE Member, **Jim Dishon**.



The Washington State Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) conducted the election at the teachers' request. On September 29, PERC certified the Sprague-Lamont Professional Educators Association (SLPEA) to replace the WEA affiliate. As a result, the teachers are no longer forced to financially support any organization except those that they choose.

For a fraction of the cost of WEA-unified dues, SLPEA will take care of local negotiations and collective bargaining. Jim stated, "It is liberating to declare our independence from the NEA and WEA. Many teachers balked at paying \$700 to the union, much of which went to fund WEA and NEA agendas, which were often personally offensive. Teachers no longer have a moral dilemma or a financial burden when paying for representation."

Prior to the decertification vote, the teachers invited NWPE Executive Director Cindy Omlin and AAE Executive Director Gary Beckner to address the teachers' concerns about negotiations, legal issues, liability protection, insurance options, etc. Debbie Collins, an insurance broker with Employee Benefits Services, also attended the meeting as a resource.

Omlin and Beckner explained that SLPEA can successfully negotiate with the assistance of legal experts to whom NWPE can refer them and partner with Northwest Professional Educators for nonbargaining support services such as legal assistance and professional liability insurance.

Teachers tried to decertify the WEA from Sprague-Lamont eight years ago without success. Jim remarked, "I really appreciate NWPE and AAE's thoughtful support throughout the process this time. We wouldn't have succeeded without their helpful expertise."

"After our meeting, teachers were very positive about the information that NWPE and AAE provided. We were encouraged that we can provide for our local needs without the WEA and NEA. It is great to work with like-minded people sharing a common vision."

NWPE is currently working with other groups of teachers in Washington and Idaho who have expressed interest in learning about their rights and the process to decertify or disaffiliate from the NEA in favor of a more locally responsive and accountable bargaining unit. NWPE can refer local bargaining units to insurance and legal experts to assist with bargaining unit needs. Contact NWPE for more information.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER PUBLISHES COMMENTARY ON NWPE & TEACHER UNION

National Catholic Register published a commentary and opinion piece, "Alternatives to Teacher Union," in its August 28, 2005, issue.

This is a good article to share with people of faith who struggle with paying for the politics that their union dues fund and who would like to know about alternatives for professionalism and protection.

See www.nwpe.org/PDF_Files/National_Catholic_Register_082805.pdf.

MERLE SAUNDERS RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR



Merle Saunders, a 5-year member of NWPE-AAE, has been inducted into the National Teacher Hall of Fame. Only five teachers each year are chosen for this prestigious recognition. Mr. Saunders traveled to Emporia, KS, and to Washington, DC, in June for a two-part ceremony. A teacher at Vale High School in Vale, OR, Saunders has been teaching automotive technology for over 25 years. He is a resident of Nyssa, OR.

If that weren't enough, Saunders' students also won the National Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Contest winning nearly \$124,000 in scholarships and prizes for their school! The competition was held in Washington D.C. the week after the National Teachers Hall of Fame ceremony. This is the 4th time Merle has had a team win the National contest, a record! NWPE is proud of Merle's many educational accomplishments and congratulates him on his many successes!

"I am honored and appreciate the recognition from the National Teacher Hall of Fame and from the Northwest Professional Educators," said Mr. Saunders.

Some of Mr. Saunders other awards include 2002 Radio Shack National Teacher of the Year, 2001 Milken Family Foundation National Educator, and 1994 & 1995 Ford National Instructor of the Year.

GRANT PELESKY APPOINTED TO PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS STANDARDS BOARD

Mr. Grant Pelesky, NWPE member and teacher in Puyallup, WA, has been appointed to Washington state's Professional Educators Standards Board (PESB).

PESB has statutory authority for alternative routes to certification and educator assessments. It adopts policies and practices for teacher, administrator, and educational staff associate preparation and certification. Certification responsibilities include approval of traditional and nontraditional preparation programs, preparation of a list of approved preparation programs, supervision of the issuance of educator certificates, and a review at least every five years of program approval standards.



Grant is a former Bonney Lake City Councilman and state representative. Congratulations to Grant and thank you for serving the interests of professional educators!

NWPE REPRESENTS MEMBERS IN WASHINGTON, DC

NWPE Executive Director, **Cindy Omlin**, met with the US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, along with other state leaders of non-union professional teacher associations, to discuss key education issues facing the nation during a week-long national leadership conference in Washington, DC.

In the meeting, Secretary Spellings addressed special education provisions in No Child Left Behind.

She also addressed a \$100 million Bush Administration proposal which would allow funds to be made available to the states to develop and implement innovative ways to provide incentives for educators who raise student achievement in

some of America's highest-need schools. Congress is currently considering the initiative.



"Secretary Spellings listened to our concerns and rendered invaluable, first-hand information about the priorities of the Department," said Cindy Omlin, NWPE Executive Director. "She was clear that she intended to work with states to improve their education systems."

"NWPE has a voice in Washington, DC, and it is important to have our voices heard, even at the highest level," said Omlin. "Secretary Spellings

was pleased to meet with us and wants to work with NWPE to help achieve our mutual goal of improving education in America."

MICHAEL BRADLEY TAKES TUTOR CASE TO SUPREME COURT

In April 2003, Spokane Schools reclassified eight tutors as leave replacement teachers. Shortly thereafter, the reclassified tutors were terminated. The Washington Education Association refused to provide them with legal representation.

In July 2003, a lawsuit in Spokane County Superior Court was filed by four of the reclassified tutors seeking a declaratory judgment. The school district filed a separate Motion for Dismissal on the basis that the reclassified tutors did not file their appeal of the reclassification in a timely manner. The district's Motion for Dismissal was granted and an appeal of the trial court's decision was filed. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision, but did not publish its opinion.

Mike Bradley, NWPE member, and Stuart Dagg, two of the reclassified tutors, filed a Petition for Review to the Washington Supreme Court, following the Appellate Court's decision. In August 2005, the Court of Appeals forwarded Bradley and Dagg's Petition to the Supreme Court.

The reclassified tutors' grievances were not addressed due to a statutory 30-day rule. This statute requires aggrieved educators to file an appeal within 30 days of an adverse employment decision, whereas, most employees have three years to commence litigation following an adverse employment decision.

Only if the Supreme Court reverses the Appellate Court's decision, will the reclassified tutors be allowed to "have their day in court."

MEMBER RECRUITMENT UPDATE:**CONGRATULATIONS TO NWPE MEMBERS EARNING FREE MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Congratulations to NWPE members who have earned a free year's membership dues (value \$169) for recruiting two new members to Northwest Professional Educators! These include: **David Jones**, Lakeland, ID; **Kris Carte**, Nampa, ID; **Tim Sperber**, Colton, WA; **Ron Hanson**, Lynden, WA; **Joan Schmitt**, Sprague, WA; **John Anderson**, Preston, ID; **Mark Edwards**, Pocatello, ID; **Verlyn Smith**, Lyle, WA; and **Sarah Van Dyken**, Lynden, WA.

Many members are just one new member away from earning their next year's dues! There is also a \$100 cash award for the member who recruits the most new members. (**Tim Sperber** is currently in the lead with three new members.)

If you have given your colleagues the personalized member opportunity letters we sent you, please follow-up with each of your contacts and ask if they have any questions you can answer. Many may need just a little reminder to remember, "Oh yeah, I was going to join!"

Membership options are available at www.nwpe.org/join.htm. Contact Cindy at info@nwpe.org if you would like more personalized opportunity letters.

**GIFT YOUR STUDENT TEACHER WITH AN NWPE MEMBERSHIP!**

Have you considered giving a student NWPE membership to your student teachers? **Glenn Mabey**, NWPE member in Boise, ID, recently purchased a student membership (\$25) for his student teacher, **Jessica Williams**. Glenn stated, "This is a small expense to promote professionalism to my student teachers."



"Once started in Northwest Professional Educators, I'm confident they will remain members after they are employed as teachers."

Our thanks to Glenn for his generosity and for looking out for the professional interests of his student teachers!

When promoting NWPE to your students, help them to understand how valuable the membership is. Not only does the student member receive a \$2 million liability policy for student teaching, the policy remains in effect for a full year even after their student teaching has ended and he or she has been hired to teach. Additionally, since a teacher union cannot protect a first year teacher with job protection issues, NWPE's guaranteed legal assistance for such job protection issues becomes critically important for the first year teacher.

Feel free to gift NWPE student memberships to your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, as well! It is a great way to introduce them to an organization that will help them as academic professionals and provide the protections they will need most. Pssst. . . Christmas is coming!

NWPE LETTER TO EDITOR ON NEA'S VIEW OF HURRICANE RELIEF FOR STUDENTS

Dear Editor:

President Bush plans to include the students of public school and private-school families in a \$1.9 billion education recovery plan for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The National Education Association (NEA) criticized the plan as "flawed and divisive" and believes aid should exclude private school students unless they switch to public schools.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops' Secretary for Education, Sr. Glenn Anne McPhee, O.P., reacted to the NEA saying that "denying aid to victims of Katrina because they attended Catholic schools is like denying home repair assistance to anyone who is not in public housing." The NEA's stance discriminates "against what amounts to 45 percent of the students of New Orleans, many of them African-American and underprivileged." In just a matter of days, it is estimated that 12,000 evacuees flowed into Catholic schools, which opened their doors wide to help the children that Katrina placed in dire need.

Northwest Professional Educators, a nonpartisan professional educators' organization, believes that educators' first duty is to children. In the wake of Katrina and Rita, we appreciate the good example of everyone, including the private and parochial schools, who are reaching out to help all children who have been afflicted by disaster--whatever their race, socio-economic status, religious or school affiliation.

Cindy Omlin, Executive Director

<http://www.idahostatejournal.com/articles/2005/10/06/opinion/opinion02.txt>

<http://www.spokesmanreview.com/local/story.asp?ID=93812>

**EMAIL NWPE MEMBER NEWS AND EDUCATION RESOURCES
YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FELLOW NWPE MEMBERS
TO NORTHWEST PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS AT INFO@NWPE.ORG**

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Northwest Professional Educators is a nonprofit, nonunion, professional educators' organization providing legal services, liability insurance, job protection benefits, professional development resources, and teacher scholarships/classroom mini-grants.

Annual dues are \$12/month for new members. It makes good "cents" to join NWPE!

Nonunion and union educators (certified, classified, administrative) are welcome. View brief NWPE video at www.nwpe.org. See Reasons to Join: http://www.nwpe.org/PDF_Files/Reasons_to_Join.pdf. Membership payment options are listed at www.nwpe.org/join.htm.

CONTACT INFO: Northwest Professional Educators, PO Box 28496, Spokane, WA 99228-8496, 800-360-6973, info@nwpe.org, www.nwpe.org.