

# The Info Newsletter

864 E. Arrowhead Lane  
Murray, Utah 84107

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## Granite Classified, Makes A Name Change



As our Website has indicated, we have recently changed the name of our organization from (Granite Classified Employees Association) to (The Granite Educational Support Professionals Association, GESPA).

In a move to better reflect the direction of the Association, we have changed the name of the association to GESPA, and have integrated some of the goals and services of national Association (NEA).

The executive board did a study, and presented the idea to all the building representatives, and combined the results into making the decision to make the name change.

On February 27, 2006 a mass meeting was held at Taylorsville High School to give the membership an opportunity to discuss and vote on the name change as it is constituted in the GCEA By-Laws. After discussion, a vote was taken of those in attendance. The membership voted unanimously to make the change.

### Some the ideas behind the name change:

The official rationale for changing the name is making an effort to clarify the naming and strategy for the association. Taking on a new name is part of a revamping by the local association that better reflects its goals for the future. Changing our name represents the natural evolution of our Association and educational system.

There has been no other change and we continue to provide quality service to our membership. Changing a local association name can be time consuming, but many locals throughout the nation realize that their association names need new identities. They need names that reflect changes in the educational systems and the local associations themselves.

In comments from the Building Representatives they seemed genuinely upbeat about the change. Over the past few years, the Association has renewed its commitment to its goals and membership with focus on spending more time out in the schools and departments to help people.

We would appreciate it if you would bring this announcement to the attention of your coworkers'. Remember, there is strength in numbers.

## Summary of 2006 Legislator

The **2006 Legislative Session** came to a close shortly after midnight on Wednesday, March 1, 2006. Below is a short summary of some of the legislation passed. A detailed report will be provided for USEA Local Officers on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the USEA Collective Bargaining Workshop.

The Weighted Pupil Unit Value (WPU) will increase from \$2,280 to \$2,417, for an increase of 6%. This increase will be for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

1. The Pupil Transportation budget was also increased by 6% and a one-time appropriation of \$5,000,000 for 2006-07 was also approved.
2. **HB143** Instructional Expenses Requirements, Representative Hughes. This bill failed to pass. USEA opposed this bill.
3. **HB184** Parent Choice in Education Act, Representative Adams. This bill failed to pass. USEA opposed this bill.
4. **HJR15** Joint Resolution Raising Public Awareness of Vital Role of Paraeducators, Representative Menlove. USEA supported this bill along with other members of the Utah Education Coalition.

The House of Representatives was finalizing the appropriations bill, **HB3** Appropriation Adjustments, at 11:45 p.m. This pushed the budgeting process for the State into the last minutes of the legislative session. The highly publicized tax reform bill, **SB242** Tax Revisions, sponsored by Senator Bramble passed the Senate in the form of a second substitute bill. However, the House of Representative, after extensive debate, circled the bill at about 11:30 p.m. and ran out of time before they could return to it for further action. This sets the stage for a Special Legislative Session to be called.

A more detailed report on specific legislation will be provided later. If you are interested, you can access additional information on the bills highlighted above and other legislation for the 2006 legislative session by going to: [www.le.state.ut.us](http://www.le.state.ut.us). This is the State's legislative home page.



## **WELCOME TO Sandy Memales**

To the GESPA  
Executive Board  
She will fill the position of  
President of  
Secretaries

**For the latest  
Information go to  
our website:**

[www.graniteclassified.com](http://www.graniteclassified.com)



## **Lawyer Referral Program**

The NEA Lawyer Referral Program provides members with legal advice on personal matters. Each member is entitled to **two 30-minute consultation sessions free** during each membership year.

The consultations are limited to discussions of the member's legal problems and to determine if further legal services are needed. If additional legal services are needed, they are billed at a rate of 30% less than fees normally charged by similar attorneys.  
[www.nea.com](http://www.nea.com)

## **Outstanding Employees of the Month Awards**



**Debra Walters**, Food Service Worker at Hunter High School, was presented the Outstanding Employee of the Month Award by the Granite Classified Employee's Association for the month of *January, 2006*.

"Debbie is a great person to work with. She is a persons person. Debbie always takes the time to listen to everyone, whether they are a student or an adult. She is just a special kind of person that people are drawn to. She's a good worker, always going that extra mile, whether at work or in her personal life."

"She relates to students and makes them feel special. She takes pride in her work, and is willing to do whatever she's asked to do. She seems to always be happy, and we enjoy working with her."

Debra received her award at the Hunter High School cafeteria kitchen with her supervisors and fellow workers present to applaud her achievement.



**Joe Lamper**, Journeyman Painter in the Maintenance Department, was presented the Outstanding Employee of the Month Award by the Granite Classified Employee's Association for the month of *December, 2005*.

"As Joe's Supervisor in the paint shop, I have always noticed that Joe handles himself in a professional manner, and is a great asset to the Granite School District. He has also been a very good supporter of the GCEA, which is not always easy when people around you are criticizing it. I believe this shows true team support and leadership."

For 23 years, Joe has been a great employee for the school district and has distinguished himself through personal achievement in his profession. We could use more people like Joe.

Joe received his award at the Paint shop was surprised to learn that he was the award recipient.

## **Hourly May Be Entitled To Retirement Benefits If:**

It has come to our attention that there are many Hourly Workers that have been working 20 hours or more for the last several years but did not know that they were entitled to Utah State Retirement Benefits. It is the goal of the Association to find these individuals and get them signed up for the benefits they deserve.

An employee is qualified for membership in the Contributory or Noncontributory State Retirement System if his or her employer participates in the System and the employee works at least 20 hours per week and receives benefits normally provided by his or her employer as approved by the Retirement Board, teachers who teach half-time, and classified school employees who work an average of 20 hours or more per week, regardless of benefits provided.

These retirement benefits may be retroactive back to 1995. If you have worked 20 hours or more a week for at least a year or longer, please us at: [gcea@softcom.net](mailto:gcea@softcom.net)

## **Instructional Assistants Change Job Title**

In a Mass Meeting held on February 27, 2006 the GESPA membership voted to change the job title of Instructional Assistants to, "Para-Professionals" The Association feels this new name will better represent those that work with certified educators in the classroom.