

OCTOBER 2007

The Info NEWSLETTER

GRANITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

New Executive Board

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| Anderton, Eileen | Board Member |
| Atkin, Tracy | Board Member |
| Beale, Tony | Board Member |
| Clark, Dave | Vice President |
| Cleveland, James | Board Member |
| De La Cruz, Sue | Board Member |
| Herndon, Doyle | Board Member |
| Kimber, Boyd | President GESPA |
| Kirkpatrick, Nan | USEA Labor Rep. |
| Luka, Phillip | Board Member |
| Mann, Brian | Board Member |
| Memmott, Mike | Board Member |
| Nielsen, Susan | Board Member |
| Norton, Jerry | Board Member |
| Palmer, Jo Ann | Board Member |
| Richards, Dave | Board Member |
| Salmond, Elese | Board Member |
| Sayers, Stefnee | Board Member |
| Stark, Marla | Board Member |
| Turner, Don | Board Member |
| Winter, Mickey | Board Member |
| Woolsey, Doug | Sec./Treasurer |

Over forty years ago a small group of individuals employed by school districts in the State Utah band together to form what could be called a social organization. These individuals did this to discuss problems and issues that were shared by employees throughout the State. Pay was low, and district officials didn't see that classified employees were important and deserved better pay and the same benefits as the educators.



In 1967 Utah School Employees Association was organized in Utah. People like you and I gathered together in solidarity to make a statement to the school districts, and local government, which classified employees, (support staff) plays a vital part of the educational system.

With the hard work of many classified employees willing to do their part, our voices began to be heard. Do you think the benefits we enjoy today just happened? Could you or I have done this our self? maybe, maybe not. The point is we have strength in numbers. When you work alone you get very little done. When we work together in our local, and state Association we are helping to improve and maintain these benefits and wages that we so much enjoy today. Could you live on minimum wage as many people do?

This year the Association negotiated a 6.61 percent increase in wages and longevity pay. It took the support of all the members of our Association to make this possible. We have new employees slipping through the cracks. They don't know about the Association and what it does for them. Look around your school or department. Are their individuals enjoying the benefits we work so very hard for that, are not supporting the local Association. It's time to ENROLL these people. Share with them why the Association is so important to our future. Share with them why we have the wages and benefits we do. *It didn't just happen!!*



**For the latest Information
go to our website:
www.graniteclassified.com**

2008 OPEN ENROLLMENT DATES ANNOUNCED BY GRANITE DISTRICT

The annual Open Enrollment period for the upcoming 2008 plan year will be held
October 10th through October 26th, 2007.

Contract employees of the District can expect to begin to receive information regarding Open Enrollment during the last week of September 2007. Open Enrollment information will be provided via District mail and District Newsletters. Additionally, a postcard will be sent to each contract employee's home address reminding them of the upcoming open enrollment period.

Please watch for this important and time-sensitive information!

The publication of Granite Educational Support Professionals Association Newsletter is made available as a service to our Members. It is not an official Newsletter of Granite School District, nor does it represent the opinion of GSD and/or its School Board or Administration. Any concerns should be sent in written form to GESPA Executive Board 864 East Arrowhead Lane Murray, Utah 84107.

VOUCHERS “Know the Facts”

Utah's Voucher Law is Fundamentally Flawed

- The flawed voucher law contains too many loopholes, unanswered questions, and little accountability for private voucher schools.
 - Private schools are not required to be accredited like public schools.
 - Unaccountable private voucher schools may hire teachers without a college degree or a state license.
- Private voucher schools don't have to meet the same coursework or attendance standards that public schools must meet.

Utahan's Need to Invest in Our Own Public Schools

- 96% of Utah's children attend public school.
- Utah has the most overcrowded classrooms in the country.
 - Utah ranks last in the nation in spending per student.
- Instead of diverting hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars for vouchers, Utah's should increase our investment in public schools.

Vouchers Won't Help the Majority of Utah Families

- More than half of Utah's counties have NO private schools at all.
- Even with an average \$2,000 voucher, many Utah families won't be able to afford expensive private school tuition, which averages \$8,000 per child each year. For a family with four children, the additional \$24,000 in tuition puts private school completely out of reach.

Phone: 801-971-9200

Email: info@utahnsforpublicschools.org

www.utahnsforpublicschools.org

Utahan's for Public Schools

Welcome New Executive Board Members

We have several new Executive Board of GESPA. Phil Luka, Maintenance, Dave Richards, Police Department, Elese Salmond, Transportation, Dave Clark as the new Vice President, Eileen Anderton, Hourly, Jo Ann Palmer, Food Service, and Nan Kirkpatrick as the Associations new USEA Labor Rep. We are proud to have these new individuals join us on the Executive Board.

GESPA FUNDRAISER

\$20 per person

Private Charter for Granite School District Employees, Family and Friends.

Join us for another fun filled Wendover Trip



When: Friday November 2, 2007
We will leave Valley Fair Mall, north parking lot by JC Penny at 5:30 PM
We will leave Wendover at 1:30 AM sharp to return to Salt Lake City
Contact Tracy Atkins to R.S.V.P. tracy.atkin@granite.k12.ut.us
Tracy Atkin: 646-4123, Mickey, 250-5971 or Marla, 688-3721

Granite Educational Support Professionals Association is an affiliate of Utah School Employees Associations and the National Education Association.