

The Info Newsletter

Invite a Non-Member To Join

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The publication of Granite Educational Support Professionals Association Newsletter is made available as a service to our Members. It is not an official site 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.



I am Tony Beale, President of the Granite Educational Support Professionals Association . GESPA is an important part of education in Granite School District. The benefits and salary that you have as you begin your career are due to the work of the association.

The GESPA is the local part of the educational support professionals , which works together to benefit every classified employee in many ways. The Utah School Employees Association, USEA, is the second part which works for you at the state level. Finally, the National Education Association, NEA, works for you at the national level. The NEA is 2.8 million members strong, making it the largest professional association in the world. Together with USEA and GESPA members, we are a strong voice as we advocate for support professionals, children and public education.

As a support professional, you will be concerned about many issues facing education. You will want to have your voice heard in the right places to make a difference. You will want people in the Granite District office, the Utah State Legislature, and even the United States Congress, to hear your concerns. In addition, you will want your individual rights protected and enhanced. Being a member of GESPA is the way in which you can have an impact. As an Association member, you have a voice in advocating for the needs you see in your school and job.

Last year, GESPA negotiated a 5% pay raise for Support Professionals. What does this mean to you as a new hire? Your salary is 5% higher than last year. Many beginning ESP's comment that they can't afford to belong to the Association, however, as more ESP's join, GESPA's bargaining power increases, which has a direct impact on ESP's salary and benefits.

Joining your Professional Association is the right thing to do for many reasons:

You enjoy rights and benefits negotiated for you. One of these is the Negotiated Agreement between GESPA and Granite School District that guarantees your working conditions and rights as a support professional.

Communication about what is happening in your profession, Newsletters from GESPA, USEA, and NEA keep you informed of many issues affecting your jobs. You can communicate with GESPA to answer questions or resolve problems related to your employment.

The Association takes care of many things that individual ESP's don't have time to do. Some examples are, handling grievances, lobbying the legislature, addressing issues and concerns with Granite District, and representing your interests.

Start your career off right, do the professional thing and join the Association, GESPA/USEA, today!

Sincerely,

Tony Beale

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



Legal Network for Members

USEA members who need legal services for personal issues now have access to a statewide network of attorney's who will provide services at a discounted rate.

Previous limitations on the service have been removed and there is no longer an annual membership fee to participate. The referral service is a free benefit of USEA membership.

Job-related legal services will still be handled through Geoff Leonard, the USEA staff attorney.

USEA members who participate in the Personal Legal Services program have had two years to use their accumulated time as that program has been phased out.

According to Geoff Leonard, the new program has many advantages over the old. "Our members will now have discounted access to representation for both criminal and civil matters. And the best thing is, the attorneys are located in different parts of Utah so people don't have to travel to Salt Lake to meet with their attorney."

Executive Director, Mike Hepner believes the agreement will also be beneficial for the job-related portion of USEA's Legal Department. "The fact of the matter is, job-related cases for our members have been increasing and it has been difficult to balance the personal needs against the job-related needs of our members. This is a win/win for our members and there is no enrollment fee!"

Members who need a referral for personal legal issues need to call USEA Offices 801-269-9320. Geoff or his assistant will still screen all issues and refer the member to an appropriate law office in their area.

Job-related legal issues must still be referred to the USEA attorney through the Labor Relations Representative assigned to your area.

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



Outstanding Employee Awards



Chuck Hiatt, Vaughn Babinchak, Melvin Hamilton, Becky Gutke, Vance Hilton, William McNeil, and Yvette Wood, the Custodial Staff at Churchill Jr. High have been presented the Outstanding Employee of the Month Award by the Granite Educational Support Professionals Association for the month of August, 2006.

The Principal wrote, "The entire Churchill Custodial Crew has been an example of TEAM work, 'Going The Extra Mile', 'Whistle While You Work', and School Pride! This crew came together after the Wasatch Jr. fire and rallied to bring the Wasatch Faculty and Staff into the Churchill building."

"The Churchill Custodial Crew continues to make sure that the Wasatch faculty and staff are taken care of while continuing to ensure that the Churchill faculty and staff needs are not ignored."

"As the year has progressed, this "Can Do" department has stepped up to the challenge of having twice as many students as they once had in the building. Each morning, when the faculty and staffs of both schools return, they find a refreshed building, ready for teaching and a days worth of learning."

The Crew were presented with their award during the Churchill and Wasatch Jr. faculty meetings held prior to the beginning of the new school year.

Building Representative Workshop

There will be a building representative workshop on **September 18 & 19, 2006**. This work shop will last about 2 ½ hours on Monday and Tuesday night at Taylorsville High School Cafeteria. Building Representatives will be compensated for attending and refreshments will be served.

This work shop will be sponsored by our NEA affiliate. The workshop is a very worthwhile meeting to attend with information that will assist you in communicating with members and non-members of the ESP's in Granite School District.

The Building Representative Program is vital part of the future of ESP's in Granite District and other districts in the State of Utah. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

RSVP is required for this workshop. We are announcing the workshop early enough for all building representatives to have time to schedule this meeting with their busy schedules. We are excited for the future of our Association and need the support of all of you to be successful.



Political Action Fund

As a Classified Employee in Utah, you know what an important role you play in Utah's public education system. Your caring efforts to make the educational system function professionally and efficiently are appreciated by students, teachers, school administrators and patrons of Utah's public education system.

However, elected officials in Utah have a great deal of control over Your working conditions, Your salary, Your: insurance coverage, Your: professional development opportunities, and Your: retirement benefits. These elected officials include state Legislators, state school board members and local school board members. In many cases, these elected leaders do not fully understand and appreciate the value of your work and the important contribution that you make to the educational system.

USEA does not use dues money to support candidates for office. Therefore, your voluntary USEA-PAC contributions will help to elect local school board members and state elected leaders who support public education, and who understand the important role that education support professionals play in the education process of students. So give what you can, but please give. The more you give, the more we can help to elect supportive candidates. USEA-PAC contributions will only be used for candidates at the state and local level, here in Utah.

USEA members who participate and contribute to the USEA Political Action Committee (USEA-PAC) play an important role in our ability to influence elected leaders, who control so many decisions that affect us as employees of the public education system. Our political activism helps us to have a strong voice in the destiny of our chosen professions.

To contribute to the USEA-PAC Committee, please complete the form listed below, make checks payable to USEA-PAC and mail to: 864 Arrowhead Lane, Murray, Utah 84107. Form is located at our WebSite: <http://www.graniteclassified.com/USEA%20PAC.htm>