



*From the desk of GEA Vice-president,
Michael McDonough*

On November 2, elections will be held for federal, state, and local offices. At the federal level, one of Utah's senate seats and all congressional seats are up for election. The next congress we elect will be re-writing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly known as "No Child Left Behind"), so it is imperative that we choose carefully.

At the state level, we will elect a governor, the Utah House of Representatives, and members of the Utah Senate. It doesn't matter whom we elect to run the state government—unless we care about the education budget, tax policy, class size, testing, what we are required to teach, and how we are required to teach it.

In addition to our state officials, there are elections for state school board, and some of us will even be voting for a Granite District School Board member. Yes, this is a chance to elect your own boss.

There are many things you can do if you want to get involved in a campaign. The first is to educate yourself. Find out who the education-friendly candidates are. Second, talk about the election with your friends and neighbors. People trust teachers on questions of what's good for public education.

Contributing to PAC is a great way to send the message that educators know that politics matter, and candidates can always use our cash; however, this time of year, what they can use even more is our time. Contact a candidate and volunteer an hour of your time this month for stuffing envelopes, typing data, making phone calls, or passing out literature.

There is one last thing you can do, one thing that's more important than talking or contributing or volunteering: **You can vote!** If we don't get out and vote, none of the rest of it matters.

Anyone who is registered can vote. If you have moved since the last election, register at your new address. The deadline to register by mail is October 4 (before you can vote by mail, you must

already be a registered voter). After that date, you have until October 18 to go to the county clerk's office to register. If you miss this deadline, vote anyway. Registered Utah voters, who have moved anywhere in the state, but have not re-registered at their new addresses, are allowed to vote at their new polling location – you will be given a provisional ballot. Bring a photo ID.

Polling locations can be located at the Salt Lake County Clerk's website: <https://secure.slco.org/clerk/elections/index.cfm>. The website also has information about early voting locations. As they say, "Vote early, vote often [not really], but **vote!**"

ONCE MORE—INSURANCE REMINDER

GEA reminds its members that ALL employees who wish to participate in Granite School District insurance programs must re-enroll for that insurance during open enrollment this month. **This includes newly-hired educators who may have just signed up during July and August—you MUST enroll again during this time period.**

Open enrollment runs from October 1 through October 22. Insurance fairs will be held at Cottonwood High on October 7; Taylorsville High on October 13; and Hunter High on October 19.

DON'T MISS YOUR DEADLINE!

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GEA HONORS NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED EDUCATORS

In 2007, GEA negotiated a stipend for educators who become Board Certified. The following educators are eligible to receive the stipend (except for administrators) this year, because they are our Granite National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT):

Anne Quigley
Mary Alsop
Joanne Fraser
Rebecca Ibarra
Pamela Johnson
Sharrie Lommen
Debra Cline
Terence Cline
Dawn Hauser
Karen Warrick
Sara Christiansen
Helen Hurd
LuAnn Kluge
Oren Randall
Susan Van Frank
Shauna Tanner
Jodi Sexton
Susan Gaily
Debbie Andrews
Melody Cook
Jennifer Allred (Retired, Substituting)

Administrators

Amy Martz (Principal Member)
Janice Flanagan (Principal)
Karen Chatterton (Asst. Principal)

The Granite Education Association is proud of its NBCT members, and WE CONTRATULATE YOU ON YOUR INCREDIBLE EFFORTS!

GRANITE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MEMBER APPRECIATION ACTIVITY

On September 20, GEA joined with its sister organizations—GESPA (Granite Classified Personnel), JEA (Jordan), JESPA (Jordan Classified Personnel), and CEA (Canyons)—at the annual “welcome back” and “meet the candidates” barbeque held at Wheeler Historic Farm.

This event has been held for the past five years, and its popularity seems to increase each year. Leaders and staff in the organizations served approximately 500 meals to Association members and their families.

The event is a great way to visit with old friends, talk with education-friendly candidates, and have a good time with the family. The barbeque is held each September, and we look forward to seeing more of our members next year.

GEA’s next Member Appreciation event is being planned around a COSTCO night (or morning), and it will allow members of GEA to shop the deals at COSTCO without purchasing a membership. We will have the entire store to ourselves for a few hours, and it’s a fantastic way to get your holiday shopping done while being fed and having the opportunity to win prizes. **Watch for further details in November.**



(Left to right) GEA President, Penney Tyree; GEA Board Member Beckey Carson; GEA Member, Kate Cotterall; and Board Member and GEA AR of the Year, Susen Zobel enjoy a moment at September’s Member Appreciation BBQ.

THANK YOUR BUILDING REPS!

GEA recognizes the increasing amount of time that our ARs volunteer for members. We simply could not survive without them. **Please take a moment to thank your Rep. for his/her time given on your behalf. AND, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, TALK TO YOUR AR! ☺**