

Dear Members,

I am sure you are all on pins and needles as to what is going on with the Association as it pertains to the budget, to negotiations and to the legislature.

As you can tell from the newspapers and also e-mails from management, the budget keeps being a moving target. With threats of continued take aways by the State, the Supreme Court Decisions that it is illegal to take tax dollars from the Counties, and also programs being rolled down from the State to the County, the budget has gone through many ups and downs over the last couple of months.

The Washoe County Employees' Association, along with our attorney, has been meeting with our Negotiation Committee to determine the best way to address the budget when we ourselves still do not know what the complete impact will be to our members. We are taking our time as there is so much continual change that we don't want to negotiate anything when the budget still continues to change, and we want to make sure we can negotiate in the best interest of our members. Please understand and know that we are taking everything into consideration on our plan of action and the route to take to get there.

We have been asked why we did not disclose the results of the survey. The survey was just to guide your negotiation committee on what our members would be interested in negotiating, but by putting out the survey to our members is like asking you to bet on your poker hand after your have revealed your cards. This survey is for us to know our member's wishes and to do our best to negotiate what our members want.

As for the Legislature.....it is going fast and furious. We have Carla down in Carson a lot of the time, and we also have our coalition members down there daily who are from all over the State. We are monitoring and testifying daily on items that might affect our members. I'm sure you have heard the reports on a bill that takes away the rights of Supervisors to belong to an Association. We are closely watching that bill. Our coalition is working on getting the language tightened up and fighting off any amendments that might affect our membership.

We will keep you updated as soon as we have more information ourselves to update you on.

Sincerely,

Penny Rasmussen  
President  
WCEA