

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
May 15, 2020

Erica Rewey, Garden of the Gods Rotary's Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Erica Rewey, English teacher at Palmer High School and CSEA Vice President, for being named the first recipient of the Garden of the Gods Rotary Club Teacher of the Year Award. A team of teachers evaluated extensive and impressive submissions by teachers and selected Erica, with this kind of praise:

"When we read her stuff it was more like a storyteller than a report, and it was almost mesmerizing, or maybe compelling is a better word."

"I was impressed with Erica's demonstration of the interconnectedness of personal relationships, academic rigor, and individual responsibility to impact the world with empathy and action in a broader global society."

"Her thoughtful dedication is deeply inspiring and worthy of the highest praise!"

Well earned, Erica!

What Does Our Association Do For Members?

It takes all of us working together to advocate for children and public education. Here are a few of the ways in which **we support our members in their endeavors for Solidarity, Justice and Professionalism.**

Negotiations

We negotiate with the District for your salary, benefits, job protection, and professional issues. Our Master Agreement gives you the right to academic freedom, to enforce discipline, to engage in site-based decision making, and to receive just compensation for your work. This year, as we bargained virtually, we continued to adapt and negotiate for **professionalism and justice** in the workplace.

Representation

Recently we conducted elections for ARs. They are the primary resource for members in your school, there to organize you in solidarity in support of workplace **justice and professionalism.** Our President, Joe Schott, participates in District leadership meetings, meets with members of the community, and oversees the health and well-being of the Association. Our Director, Thad Gemski, works with members in need of work place assistance. CEA has attorneys on staff should a member need legal assistance.

Keep You Informed

In our weekly email, *The Union Pulse*, we keep you informed of issues in the District, the State, and public education as a whole. In addition, CEA and NEA provide state and national publications to members.

Government Relations

CEA and NEA have full-time lobby teams working for you. Every decision that is made about public education is a political decision, made at the local, state or federal level. And every political decision that is made will significantly affect your ability to teach. Every year we ask members to represent CSEA at Lobby Day at the Capitol. This week we encouraged you to contact legislators about the current budget crisis and demand that budget cuts not be made on the backs of students and teachers.

As you can see, membership is one of the best investments you can make. It demonstrates **your support to Solidarity, Justice and Professionalism.**

Here's What The Master Agreement Has To Say About Your Right To Representation

As Kevin Coughlin, Mitchell Region Director, explains [here](#), teachers have a right to representation in meetings with administrators:

III.E.2.e: The Association Representative shall have [t]he right to be present at any meeting when requested by the teacher. Such request shall not have the effect of delaying the meeting unless discipline is contemplated.

(Remember that the entire MA is available at the CSEA website: www.cseateacher.org. The Master Agreement constitutes officially adopted and prevailing Board policy [II.E & F].)

www.cseateacher.org
csea@coloradoea.org



This correspondence is intended for members of CSEA, ESPA, CEA, and their families. It is not intended for public distribution.