

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
September 8, 2022

Labor Day Weekend

Thank you for making the **Labor Day Lift Off Book Give Away** such a success! CSEA again showed our teachers' dedication to children and literacy all weekend as we were able to give away roughly 5,000 books to people of all ages in our community. We had new books, used books, big books, and small books, but the overall reaction to the Free Book tent was very exciting. One little boy hoped for a dinosaur book and his eyes went wide with delight when he got one. His mother shared that delight with us: "Thank you so much! He loves dinosaurs. He's already reading it."

Fifteen volunteers and numerous donors inspired so many smiles, so many happy dances, all summed up by one simple comment a child made on more than one occasion over the weekend....." Books...free books.....this is my favorite thing at the balloons!"

Many members also gathered at Cogstone Brewery for **First Friday** to socialize and kick off the Labor Day weekend. It was great to see so many new faces and know new people. Join us next month at the Triple Nickel Tavern and bring a friend, your team, or your school!

First Paycheck for New Hires and CSEA Financial Assistance Program

Last Thursday was the first paycheck of the year. After the initial flurry of questions about pay, it is clear that we may have members who are in need of some initial financial assistance. If you, or a fellow CSEA member, needs an interest free loan from CSEA, we have the Financial Assistance Program. It may relieve money stress if you have it. Contact the office and we can discuss the availability and details of any loan.



Thumbs Up - And thank you to the many volunteers that showed up to support the annual CSEA book give-away at the Colorado Springs Labor Day Lift Off! These educators and CSEA members dedicated part of their Labor Day weekend to support literacy in our community. A special shout out to Kevin Coughlin, committee chair, for all his hard work and coordination around this event!

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment: September 2022

The **Sick Leave Bank** is a voluntary paid leave benefit and is designed to provide assistance to an employee that has exhausted all sick leave time and needs more paid leave to carry them through a critical illness/injury for the employee or their immediate family. Sick Leave Bank enrollment must be completed in PeopleSoft Self Service by September 30, 2022. Please review the Sick Leave Bank Instructions: FAQ's available [here](#) for any questions.

Open CSEA Board Positions

Interested in becoming a member of the CSEA Board of Directors? BOD meetings are twice a month at the CSEA office and attendance at AR meetings once a month. Duties vary depending on the position. Please email [Joe Schott](#), CSEA President if you are interested or would like additional information. The following positions are available.

Coronado Region Director
Doherty Region Director
Mitchel Region Director
Itinerant Director

EAA Flight Experience

There are a few spots left for the CSEA member flight experience and all you can eat lunch on the morning of September 24. If you are interested, complete this [link](#) to make a reservation.

Additionally, Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 72 has a raffle for a **plane**. Tickets for the raffle are \$100 each and the prize is an AIRPLANE. For more information, check out their website at: <https://www.eaa72.org>.

CSEA Cycling Event

CSEA's Cycling Club is riding the **Sinton Trail** on **Saturday, September 17th**. Meet at **9:00** at the CSEA building at 2520 N. Tejon. We will plan to take off at 9:15am and may split into two groups to accommodate beginners/families and more advanced riders.

Changes due to weather will be posted to the CSEA Cycling Facebook subgroup by 8:00 am Saturday, the 17th, if needed.

Voices of Grief Center and Professional Opportunities

Last year, CSEA members helped support the launch of a regional resource that focuses on coping with grief. This new non-profit, the Voices of Grief Support and Education Center, has several kickoff events in the next few weeks. These events may be a great professional opportunity for our members. Details can be found [here](#).

Articles of Note

Negotiations are about Rights, not just about money!!

A living wage is a natural part of any contract negotiations. Nevertheless, other things are equally important. Recent strikes all ended (with the exception of Seattle which started Wednesday) at impasse because of issues beyond pay. In Columbus, OH, [4500 teachers went on strike](#) over planning time, safe learning environments, adequate HVAC systems, class size, and paid parental leave. [Kent, WA](#) reached tentative agreement on September 7 after striking over issues of "increased support for student mental health; reduced class sizes and caseloads for educators working with students receiving special education services; and a competitive salary with neighboring districts." And [Seattle, WA](#) teachers hit the picket lines yesterday over issues of "pay, mental health support, and staffing ratios for special education and multilingual students." These strikes all illustrate the fact that collective bargaining is about more than just pay. It is a process where the interests of students, professional ethics, and justice converge in one collaborative document ratified by both a Board of Education and the membership of the Association. The rights and responsibilities located in our Master Agreement are not there by accident. They tell a story of the past and how we want to support the whole community.

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