



WAEMSP Annual Report January 2010



MEMBERSHIP

Membership efforts have gone very well again this year. As of the 6th of January we had 166 Active Members, 27 Aspiring Members, 1 Associate Member, 2 Institutional Active, 3 Retired Members and 2 Emeritus Members, for a total of 201 members. The revenue generated so far has been \$23,065, which is \$435 under the budgeted amount for the year. Our goal for the year is 234 members. Wyoming was a Goal Buster Plus state again for the last membership year and received that designation at the National Convention in April. In addition, they were recognized for having the Largest Percentage Increase and Largest Numeric Increase of all state affiliates. A WAEMSP lapel pin was sent to all new and renewing members this year along with a copy of the newly written NAESP publication, *How to Interview, Hire, and Retain High-Quality New Teachers (Second Edition)*, as well as a Membership Certificate, and information in regards to both the WAEMSP Annual Conference and NAESP Convention. WAEMSP generated its own invoices again this year.



WAEMSP BOARD RETREAT

The WAEMSP Executive Board held a retreat in Sheridan, in August, before school was underway. This was the eighth annual retreat held. It was a grand gathering of very dedicated individuals. Topics covered included mission and purpose, a review of the NAESP Platform, role definitions, executive director goals, calendar for the year, membership, legislative issues, and discussion on the results of the Member Survey taken in December 2008. Evaluations of the retreat indicated that it was very successful and future retreats will be decided by the new Executive Director. A regular Board Meeting is held at the end of the retreat.

VENDOR FAIR

The WAEMSP held another Vendor Fair during the conference last year. The Fair was held on the first day of the conference for two hours over the lunch break and all conference participants were encouraged to visit the vendors and get a card initialed by each vendor which was then returned for a drawing for valuable and numerous prizes. Lunch was available during the Fair and the final reports from vendors were very positive and participants also reported that they had a good time. The Vendor Fair generated \$2,725 in non-dues revenue at last year's conference.

NEWSLETTER

The WAEMSP newsletter has gone through a transformation this year. Through a statewide competition a new name was selected and the format of the newsletter has been changed. The new name is *The Wyoming Principal*, and the winner was Scott Schiller, Powell. Scott received a WAEMSP logo shirt for his effort. Over 15 names were submitted. There are four issues each year: October, January, March, and May. *The Wyoming Principal* is distributed electronically throughout the year. Each issue carries messages from the WAEMSP President, WAEMSP State Representative, Executive Director, Middle Level Representative and Federal Relations Coordinator. It is hoped that members find the information in each issue informative, entertaining, and useful. The publication is emailed to every WAEMSP member, elementary and middle school principals in the state who are non-members, as well as all district superintendents and NAESP State Editors. The distribution of *The Wyoming Principal* has been extended considerably over the past three years to include State Board Members, members of the Joint Education Committee, members of our congressional delegation, BOCES Directors, Wyoming Public TV, and some key people at the University of Wyoming.

WAEMSP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Last year's WAEMSP Annual Conference, "Teaming Up Together to Lead Learning Communities", was a great success due to the direction and creativity of WAEMSP President Ginger Sleep, and the coordination of Southeast Region Principals. There were 88 registered participants. 6 were complimentary, 87 were paying, and 21 registered using the half price promotion for new or first time conference attendees, which continues to be a strategy for increasing conference participation. In addition, there were 75 teachers registered. Highlights of the conference were the full day with Anthony Muhammad, NAESP Director of Membership and Volunteer Development, Denise Taylor, sessions on Professional Learning Communities and RtI with Wayne Callender, and the last day presentations by State Superintendent, Jim McBride with his update on WDE activities and V.J. Smith, "The Richest Man in Town". The awards banquet recognized Wyoming's 2009 NDP, Mary Jo Chouinard, Rendezvous Elementary, Riverton, as well as retirees from around the state.

And we won't forget the great time we had at Casino Night that was held at Little America with food and beverages provided by our good friends from SRA-McGraw Hill.

NON-DUES REVENUE

Your WAEMSP continues to seek ways to generate non-dues revenue for the association. During the last fiscal year WAEMSP was successful in generating non-dues revenue totaling \$41,159 which was generated from our Annual Conference, Secretaries Conference and Resale Items.

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

WAEMSP continues to be visible and verbal on legislative issues. WAEMSP continues to take an active role in the Wyoming Education Coalition, which is a combined effort of the many education agencies and organizations in the state, thanks to our State Legislative Coordinator, Dave Olsen. This relationship will help build support for our platform of Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Programs as well as other worthy issues with the common goal of providing quality education for Wyoming children.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The 2009 Summer Reading Program was another success for WAEMSP. There were 51 participating schools (-18%), and 1,714 participating students (-6%). Each school and student received an attractive participation certificate. The total number of hours read by those students was 47,321 (+5%) and the average hours read by participants was 27.61 (+11%). Wyoming elementary and middle level principals are encouraged each year to have their students participate in this easy, rewarding summer program. Award winning schools are the top three schools in five enrollment categories with the highest per capita reading time for their school. These schools receive plaques to hang in their schools for all to see. Participation continues to decrease and it is hoped that elementary and middle level principals will resolve to encourage their students to read during the summer, whether or not they participate in our program.

Also offered this last summer was a special Middle Level Summer Reading Program designed by the WAEMSP Middle Level Representative, Scott Schiller. Participation in the program was minimal and the program continues to undergo development and revision.

WYOMING AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE/WAEMSP WORKSHOP

In early November, the Wyoming Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals partnered with the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance to offer a one day workshop, "Aligning the Learning Day: Collaboration Strategies for Principals and Afterschool Program Directors." Thirty-five participants worked with Patrick Bryan, a principal in St. Paul, MN and his afterschool program director, Emily Weiss. Each participant received a copy of the NAESP publication *Leading Afterschool Learning Communities*. Workshop evaluations indicated that the workshop was very successful with the main emphasis on collaboration and networking.

NDP PRESENTATION AT RECIPIENT'S SCHOOL

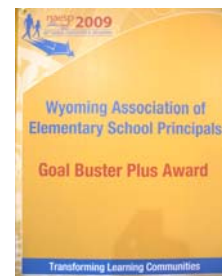
One of the events that was added this year to our NDP celebration was a visit to the recipients school to make the presentation (again) in front of students, faculty, staff, parents, and other district personnel. On January 20th, Executive Director Walt Wragge visited Rendezvous Elementary, Riverton, to make the repeat presentation to Mary Jo Chouinard in a fully packed multi-purpose room. What a glorious event it was and one well worth repeating each year for the new National Distinguished Principal.

WYOMING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS BANQUET

Each year during the NCA/WDE Spring School Improvement Conference, the Wyoming Excellence in Education Awards Banquet is held. This year's banquet will be held on Monday evening, March 1, 2010. Recognized at this banquet are the Blue Ribbon Schools, Title I Distinguished Schools, Finalist for Presidential Awards in Math and Science Teaching among others. The WAEMSP has recently been allowed to recognize the 2010 Wyoming National Distinguished Principal at this banquet and we are very honored to be able to do it. We thank the WDE for the opportunity to present our NDP to the gathered participants.

NAESP CONVENTION

Fourteen enthusiastic Wyoming principals attended the NAESP Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April 2009. Carla Gregorio, WAEMSP President Elect was in charge of the Wyoming State Booth and arranged for all convention goers to work in the booth promoting Wyoming. The Wyoming Cowboy Hat that was given away was donated by Linton's Big R Stores, Jim Linton, in Powell, and was won by Ruth Tweto, Orion Elementary, Anchorage, Alaska. Many



of the attendees were at the Zone VII breakfast which is always a big event for all Zone VII principals and the Wyoming Gift at the breakfast went to JoAnne Tierney from Minnesota. This year's convention will be held in Houston, TX, April 8-11, 2010. Participants are urged to make their convention and hotel reservations early to save money. WAEMSP will not be participating in the State Room Block for the 2010 convention. A highlight of the convention was the awarding of the Goal Buster Plus Award to WAEMSP for outstanding membership achievement.

WAEMSP ELECTIONS

WAEMSP elections were held during the past year. Eighty six ballots out of 225 were returned for a 38% return.

Three positions were on the ballot for this year. The candidate for WAEMSP President Elect was Kris Cundall. Candidates for WAEMSP President Elect were Brenda Farmer, Randy Hurd, and Brent Notman. Candidates for NAESP State Representative were James Fraley and Joe Ingalls. The successful candidates were: Kris Cundall, Brenda Farmer, and James Fraley. Hard copy ballots continue to be the most effective and successful method for conducting elections although not the most cost effective.

ADMINISTRATIVE JOB LISTINGS

Administrative job listings will again be sent out beginning in January and going through the month of May. They are sent out electronically on the 15th and last day of each month to WAEMSP members on the listserv. Listings are taken from the University of Wyoming Career Center, the Wyoming School Boards Association website, and NAESP's CareerCentral. It is hoped that this service proves beneficial for WAEMSP members.

NAESP SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The NAESP Speaker's Bureau was established several years ago to assist states financially in securing top speakers for their annual conferences. VIRCO, makers of high quality school furniture and equipment, has entered into a 10 year \$1.5 million agreement with NAESP to continue the funding of the Speaker's Bureau. The WAEMSP was successful in acquiring some of these funds for the first time for its 2005 Annual Conference, and also for its 2006 - 2010 Annual Conference. This year's allocation is \$2,000. These funds will provide the state association with no more than 50% of the cost of a keynote speaker. Your WAEMSP will continue to seek these funds for future conferences.

WSBA TRADE FAIR

Each year, the Wyoming School Boards Association, in conjunction with their annual meeting, holds a Trade Fair for vendors on the first evening of their meeting. Your Executive Director, Walt Wragge, and NAESP State Representative, Kenny Jones, and this year Jim Fraley, have been visible and present at this Trade Fair for the last five years visiting with school board members and showing them the different pieces of literature we make available and also the benefits of membership for their principals. We find opportunities to congratulate them on the leadership qualities of principals in their district as well as thanking them for making membership available through the payment of dues for their principals. We are always very well received and even receive encouragement for our continued efforts.

MIDDLE LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE

WAEMSP is into its fourth year with the new Middle Level Representative serving on the WAEMSP Board. Scott Schiller, Powell Middle School, Powell, was elected to that position in the Spring of 2006, was re-elected to that position and has been serving admirably since. He is to be commended for the work that he has done over the past 3 ½ years, which includes the development of an electronic listserv for all middle level principals in the state, not just members, and seeking suggestions for further exploration through roundtable discussions during the WAEMSP Annual Conference, as well as a Summer Reading Program for Middle School Students. Scott was also instrumental in bringing forward the issue of a name change for WAEMSP to include Middle School, which the membership approved at last year's conference. This position on the Board has been funded to attend the NAESP Convention along with other WAEMSP officers. This position will be open for nomination at the Annual Conference in Jackson.

NATIONAL LEADERS CONFERENCE

As usual, your WAEMSP State Leadership Team attended the NAESP/NASSP National Leader's Conference in Washington, D.C., in July 2009. Those attending were: WAEMSP President Carla Gregorio, President-Elect Kris Cundall, Federal Relations Coordinator Layne Parmenter, NAESP State Representative James Fraley, and Executive Director Walt Wragge. The highlight each summer is the visit to Capitol Hill where Wyoming delegates (WAEMSP and WASSP) visit with our congressional members about pertinent education issues.

NAME/LOGO CHANGE

January 15, 2009 was an historic day for your professional organization. It was on that day, in Cheyenne that the general membership voted unanimously to change the name of the organization from The Wyoming Association of Elementary School Principals to The Wyoming Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals (WAEMSP). Also on that day the new Bylaws were adopted and a new logo was approved. The WAEMSP is an incorporated 501 (C) (6).

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE.

One of the new services that has been provided this year for WAEMSP members are publications from Educational Research Service. Some of the services include:

- **Hot Off the Bench**, a quarterly update on the latest in school law at the state and federal level.
- **Fifty percent discount** on all ERS publications!
- **First run copies of most ERS publications.**
- **e-Bulletin**, which is emailed 20 times per year.
- **Six Free Custom Searches for Information** on the topics of your choice.



It is hoped that the membership feels this is a valuable service and one that they would like to see continued in the future.

WAEMSP LISTSERV

One of the more popular member benefits of WAEMSP/NAESP membership is participation in the WAEMSP Listserv. This service provides opportunities for members to make inquiries to the general membership on a variety of topics, and most usually will get responses within the next couple of hours from the posting time. Topics that have been queried since last January are:

- Testing time
- Number of contract days for administrators
- PAWS Writing Test
- Reading/Writing Publishers representatives
- NAEP/PAWS/WyCAS comparisons
- Food Policies
- Lockdown procedures
- Cursive Writing
- Common Core Standards
- Standards Based Report Card
- Hiring ISS paraprofessional
- and others

Respectfully submitted

Walter Wragge, WAEMSP Executive Director