



## IEA Propaganda and Tactics to Prevent Teachers from Learning Their Association Options

A Response from Northwest Professional Educators  
September 2007

### IEA Propaganda — Event Disturbances — Communication Blockades

**IEA Propaganda:** The Idaho Education Association (IEA) is distributing deceptive, anti-NWPE flyers designed to sow seeds of doubt about NWPE and dissuade teachers from joining. It is an attempt by the IEA to maintain its membership rolls and to control the information that teachers receive. NWPE is merely dedicated to providing the services educators want most without the bloated noneducation political agenda that drives NEA/IEA dues up to \$600. NWPE dues are \$12 a month for \$2 million liability insurance, guaranteed legal services for job protection issues, trouble shooting on classroom concerns, practical resources, scholarships, grants, and a voice on education issues.)

**NWPE RESPONDS:** Northwest Professional Educators provides a comprehensive response to IEA's propaganda at [www.nwpe.org/PDF\\_Files/IEA\\_&\\_NWPE\\_Compared\\_Sept\\_2007.pdf](http://www.nwpe.org/PDF_Files/IEA_&_NWPE_Compared_Sept_2007.pdf). Please educate yourself with the facts.

One of the IEA flyers is a letter written by Melissa, a Caldwell School District teacher and supposedly ill-served former NWPE member. In reality, an IEA representative who joined NWPE with the intention of resigning and writing a critical letter to be distributed throughout the state wrote the letter. NWPE was attentive to all of Melissa's concerns while she was a member despite her hostility from the beginning. See Melissa's letter at [http://www.nwpe.org/PDF\\_Files/Melissa\\_IEA\\_Letter.pdf](http://www.nwpe.org/PDF_Files/Melissa_IEA_Letter.pdf). NWPE responded to her disingenuous charges with this letter: [http://www.nwpe.org/PDF\\_Files/IEA\\_Melissa\\_Letter\\_Response.pdf](http://www.nwpe.org/PDF_Files/IEA_Melissa_Letter_Response.pdf). The IEA has altered and distributed Melissa's letter in other states where there are independent teacher organizations.

The IEA has distributed at least two other flyers mischaracterizing NWPE. These flyers are available at [www.nwpe.org/PDF\\_Files/IEA\\_Anti-NWPE\\_2007.PDF](http://www.nwpe.org/PDF_Files/IEA_Anti-NWPE_2007.PDF) and [http://www.nwpe.org/PDF\\_Files/IEA\\_on\\_NWPE\\_Chart\\_2007.pdf](http://www.nwpe.org/PDF_Files/IEA_on_NWPE_Chart_2007.pdf).

**IEA Event Disturbances:** Using faulty legal arguments, the IEA has made harassing legal threats against districts if they allow NWPE participation in new teacher orientations, teacher benefit fairs, etc. These threats have caused many districts to deny their teachers access to NWPE information due to fears of union lawsuits. For example, the Meridian School District forced their teacher, NWPE member Sandi Long, to tear down her informational table at the New Teacher Orientation after initially granting her permission. It was a distressing and embarrassing incident for Sandi and district personnel.

At the Post Falls School District benefit fair, the IEA posted officials to flank both sides of NWPE's table and handed out misleading, anti-NWPE materials as teachers walked by the table.

The IEA's legal arguments have been debunked by attorneys in Idaho and at the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation. To read a copy of the IEA threat letter, click here: [www.nwpe.org/PDF\\_Files/IEA\\_LEGAL\\_THREAT.pdf](http://www.nwpe.org/PDF_Files/IEA_LEGAL_THREAT.pdf).

**IEA Communication Blockades:** The IEA has made harassing threats against school districts if they allow distributions of NWPE materials in teacher mailboxes as other organizations are allowed to do. These threats have included holding up negotiations and filing unfair labor practices. Because of the blockades in many districts, NWPE has resorted to emailing teachers' school email addresses. The IEA has sought to have districts block NWPE from communicating with teachers through their public email accounts as well.

Northwest Professional Educators will continue to advocate for its and our members' associational rights. We desire a fair and equal opportunity to promote NWPE's educationally related objectives in a professional manner.