



Northwest Professional Educator

Winter 2006

Volume 5, No. 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY/MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY RESOURCES](#)
- [WALL STREET JOURNAL EXPOSES POLITICAL CAUSES FINANCED WITH NEA DUES](#)
- [NWPE EXPANDS SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAM!](#)
- [FALL NWPE SCHOLARSHIP/MINI-GRANT WINNERS](#)
- [AND THE PRIZE FOR MOST NEW MEMBERS REFERRED GOES TO . . .](#)
- [FREE CLASS: DISCIPLINE & THE DIFFICULT CHILD WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIPS](#)
- [JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT NEW CHARTER SCHOOL](#)
- [MEMBER SPREADS THE WORD IN OREGON NEWSPAPER](#)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY/MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY RESOURCES

Gateways to Better Education writes, "This year, Religious Freedom Day, January 16th, falls on a Monday, the same day as Martin Luther King Day. It is fitting that both Martin Luther King Day and Religious Freedom Day share the same significance of 'freedom.' It was Reverend King's religious faith that animated his fight for civil rights, and religious freedom that enabled him to express his faith and move a generation.

"You can recognize both important days this coming week. Whatever is planned at school or in the classroom for Martin Luther King Day can also incorporate recognition of Religious Freedom Day. Click on the links below for resources to help you."

Martin Luther King's Religious Faith

You can help students gain a better understanding of how Rev. King founded his civil rights movement. The article at <http://www.gtbe.org/news/index.php/1/11/18.html> and its discussion questions promote critical thinking among students.

Religious Freedom Day Articles

See <http://www.religiousfreedomday.com/> for articles, presidential proclamations, and ideas for incorporating Religious Freedom Day into your curriculum.

[TOP](#)

WALL STREET JOURNAL EXPOSES POLITICAL CAUSES FINANCED WITH NEA DUES

The NEA gave \$65 million in its members' dues to left-liberal groups last year. Read and share this [Wall Street Journal](#) article with your colleagues!

[TOP](#)

NWPE EXPANDS SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAM!

Northwest Professional Educators now offers \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants as well as our \$200-\$500 Teacher Scholarships for continuing education and Classroom Mini-Grants for classroom needs. All educators are eligible, but as always, NWPE members receive first preference!

To qualify for the \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grant, one must be teaching in a new school this year. The grant is designed to assist teachers new to their school or the profession with the frustrating and expensive task of setting up a new classroom.

To request an application, please email your name, address, phone number, school, and school district information to info@nwpe.org. Please indicate which application you would like, i.e., New Classroom Start-Up Grant or Scholarship/Mini-Grant Application.

If you were not new to your school this year, the [expanded scholarships and grants flyer](#) would be a great way for you to introduce NWPE to the new teachers in your building! Please download, copy, and share it with your colleagues.

[TOP](#)

FALL NWPE SCHOLARSHIP/MINI-GRANT WINNERS

Congratulations to the following Northwest Professional Educators members who were awarded Teacher Scholarships/Classroom Mini-Grants from our fall 2005 review of applications:



David Meyer, a middle school special education teacher at Telford Academy in the Bonneville Joint School District, Idaho Falls, Idaho, was awarded \$500 to assist him in pursuit of his Masters of Education in Administration.

David believes that the experience he is gaining at Telford, an alternative public middle school, will be invaluable when he becomes an administrator. If administrators and teachers knew how to help the severely problematic child, he is convinced there would be less need for alternative schools.

David learned about NWPE through the scholarship program. "I couldn't have been more thrilled to learn about the organization's mission and goals! To find a professional organization that focuses solely on putting children first, without the political and social agendas, is refreshing."

See additional awards on page 3.





Annie Lamberto, a high school special education teacher at Prairie High School in the Battle Ground School District, Vancouver, WA, was awarded \$500 to purchase job-training materials for life skills students with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities.

Annie believes that the professionalism of educators will be improved if they focus on a mission to increase students' skills and not be overly distracted by process and procedure. This mission should be clearly communicated to parents, communities and the nation.

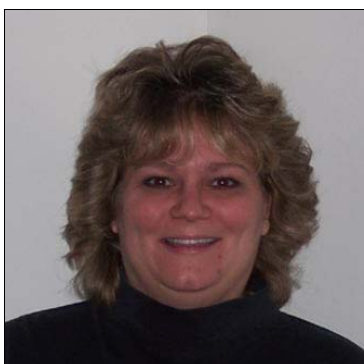
Annie joined NWPE because she wanted a professional organization that represented her beliefs as an educator. She believes teachers should have a choice whether or not to join a union.



Christopher Butts, a 3rd grade teacher at Willow Creek Elementary School, Nampa School District, Nampa, ID, was awarded \$500 for continuing education in reading and writing instruction which will help him obtain his "highly qualified teacher" certification. He is excited to use the tools learned to send a class full of confident readers to fourth grade next year.

Chris believes that competition and choices in professional organizations encourage associations to run efficiently and concentrate on serving their clientele well. Additionally, multiple organizations provide a broader forum for educators to contribute their ideas and efforts, strengthening the teaching profession.

On his NWPE membership, Chris comments, "The ethical and economic beliefs of NWPE appeal to me a great deal. Bypassing partisan politics is one of the most effective ways to generate membership. On a practical note, as a new father, I am suddenly more interested in stability and job protection and NWPE's low dues and high degree of legal assistance guarantee our livelihood at a reasonable cost."



Kim Lewis, a kindergarten teacher at Paris Elementary, Bear Lake School District, Paris, ID, was awarded \$500 to purchase "discovery bags," thematic collections of fiction and nonfiction books, poems, songs, file folder games, manipulatives, and puzzles in order to provide a vital home-school literacy link by providing home reading materials to children who do not have appropriate books available at home.

Kim believes that educators' professionalism will be improved with less complaining and more "digging in and working hard for the common goal we all have, educating children."

Kim discovered that NWPE provides value-oriented teachers like herself with an affordable professional association focused on professionalism and job protection.

Teacher who are not members of Northwest Professional Educators who received Teacher Scholarship/Classroom Mini-Grant Awards include: **Debra Cutler**, Murtaugh, ID; **Andy Ornelas**, Quincy, WA; **Shari Sackrider**, Satsop, WA.

[TOP](#)



AND THE PRIZE FOR MOST NEW MEMBERS REFERRED GOES TO . . .

Congratulations to **Sarah VanDyken**, NWPE member in Lynden School District, Lynden, WA, who wins the 2005 award for most new members referred. Sarah, who referred four new members to NWPE, will receive a check for \$100 in addition to one year's free membership dues!

Congratulations and thanks also go to the twelve additional members who referred at least two new members by December 31. These members include: **John Anderson**, Preston, ID; **Kris Carte**, Nampa, ID; **Jim Dishon**, Sprague, WA; **Mark Edwards**, Pocatello, ID; **Ron Hanson**, Lynden, WA; **David Jones**, Lakeland, ID; **Bill Proser**, Coeur d'Alene, ID; **Bill Ressel**, Sprague, WA;

Scott Sahagian, Lynden, WA; **Joan Schmitt**, Sprague, WA; **Verlyn Smith**, Lyle, WA; and **Tim Sperber**, Colton, WA. They each receive their next year's membership dues free!

We will continue this member promotion program starting fresh in 2006. Keep spreading the good news about NWPE for professionalism and protection for just \$12 a month for our new members!

[TOP](#)

DISCIPLINE & THE DIFFICULT CHILD WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIPS

Nationally renowned educator Gene Bedley is generously partnering with NWPE to provide scholarships for his workshop, "Practical Discipline Strategies for the Difficult Young Child." Three NWPE members may obtain this scholarship, one each for Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Please contact NWPE at info@nwpe.org if you would like to attend one of the workshops below.

Discipline and the Difficult Child Workshops

January 23, Eugene, Oregon
January 24, Portland, Oregon
January 27, Boise, Idaho

[TOP](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT NEW CHARTER SCHOOL

Taylor's Crossing Public Charter School, a new charter school in Idaho Falls, ID, is hiring an administrator and teachers, kindergarten through eighth grade, who can teach a core curriculum of mathematics, science, reading, writing and social studies, with an enhanced emphasis on American History and the Constitution. The school would prefer that the kindergarten teacher also be a special education teacher.

Applicants need to understand and support the Harbor Method when they apply. The school website, www.taylorscrossing.org, has this information. Teachers in the Boise area can contact Liberty Charter School for tours of a fully functioning Harbor School. The Taylor's Crossing website will make teacher applications available on its website very soon.

Contact info@taylorscrossing.org for information about educator positions.

[TOP](#)



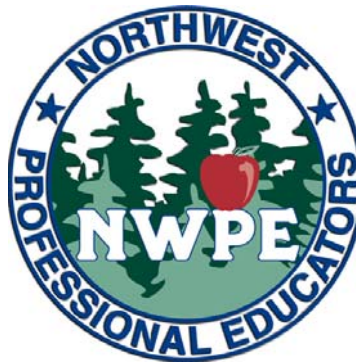
MEMBER SPREADS THE WORD IN OREGON NEWSPAPER

Congratulations and thanks to **Martha Daniels**, NWPE member in Bend, OR, for the editorial she helped develop and publish in the *Bend Bulletin*, "[Teachers Leaving Labor Unions to Join Non-Union Associations](#)." The editorial focused on the expanding independent educators' movement and Northwest Professional Educators.

If you would like help inform your community about education issues and Northwest Professional Educators through letters to the editor, please contact Cindy Omlin, Executive Director, at info@nwpe.org. We can assist you with writing and editing if you would like the assistance.

[TOP](#)

Happy New Year to you and yours! May 2006 be a year of personal and professional achievement for you and students.



Please send NWPE news about your education accomplishments and news of interest to your fellow members.

Thank you!

Cindy Omlin, Executive Director
Northwest Professional Educators
PO Box 28496
Spokane, WA 99228-8496

www.nwpe.org * 800-380-6973 * info@nwpe.org

[TOP](#)
