



The Eugene Education Association



# ADVOCATE

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## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL TRAINING

Sixty-nine participants attended the fun filled and informative **Casino Night** training on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. State representatives Phil Barnhart, Nancy Nathanson and Val Hoyle joined this event and shared information about tax fairness and state funding for education. EEA presenters entertained participants in interactive activities as they learned more about member advocacy, political involvement, contracts, EEA committees and OEA/NEA resources. The power-point presentations that were shared at the training will be available on the EEA website <http://www.eugea.org> in the very near future.



Special thanks to Dayna Mitchell, Tom Di Liberto, Julie Wenzl, Tad Shannon, Debbie Jaffarian, Jeff Jackson, Tom Grimsley, Carissa Boyce, Crista Lawson, Sabrina Gordon, Julie McCauley, Ken Anderson, Brad Jungert, Nancy Rose and all the Executive Board members who helped make this a successful event.

## TAX FAIRNESS: Sign Up Now to Protect Schools and Bring Fairness to Oregon's Tax System

Some large corporations and out-of-state special interests opposed to the legislature's tax fairness measures appear to have turned in enough signatures to force an election this January. In order to uphold these measures and preserve Oregon's critical services, now is the time to get involved in the YES campaign.

Voting YES on these measures will preserve services by raising the \$10 corporate minimum income tax for the first time since 1931. Right now, two-thirds of the corporations doing business in Oregon pay just \$10 a year in income taxes, while the average family pays about \$3,100.

The YES campaign needs your help. The corporate-funded opponents may have millions of dollars to spend on misleading TV ads, but we have you. We need your help to reach out to voters to explain why a YES vote will protect schools, community colleges and critical services by making our tax system more fair. Your voice will make the difference.

Here's how you can get involved:

**Sign the Pledge:** Visit [www.DefendOregon.org](http://www.DefendOregon.org) to get the facts and sign the Defend Oregon Pledge. Then, get your friends and family to sign up as well, letting the campaign know that you plan to vote YES on January 26.

**Sign Up to Volunteer:** Now's the time get involved! We need your help to contact voters between now and January 26. When asked in the upcoming weeks, please sign up to join your colleagues in connecting with voters - either on the doorstep or by phone.

To learn more about the campaign to fight for tax fairness and help protect public education go to: <http://www.defendoregon.org/> or [www.defendoregon.org](http://www.defendoregon.org)

## HELP YOUR BUILDING REP

Building reps are updating EEA membership records. Please help them by providing updated information. Additionally, they will be asking each of you to join People for Improvement of Education (PIE). PIE contributes money to candidates who support public education. PIE monies go primarily to candidates for the Oregon Legislature and Oregon statewide offices (Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Labor Commissioner, Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Oregon Supreme Court and Oregon Appeals Court. This is a chance to have our collective voice heard. When asked by to contribute, please say yes.

## ANNOUNCING EEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Registration will begin in early December at <http://www.eeamembers.org> Please call the EEA secretary at 345-0338 for more information.

- **WHAT:** Meet with EEA members who have extensive professional expertise.
- **CHOICE:** Select only the seminar sessions you wish to attend.
- **WHEN:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, January through March, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- **COST:** Free for EEA members and their practicum students.
- **WHERE:** Eugene Education Association, 2815 Coburg Road
- **CREDIT:** Optional 1 or 2 UO graduate credits. Optional 1 or 2 credits toward advancement on either the District 4J or District 52 salary schedules. Optional 2 PDU's (Professional Development Units) for each 2-hour seminar attended.
- **CREDIT SUPPORT FOR NEW TEACHERS**

The EEA Instruction Committee will provide matching funds to help teachers who have

taught five years or less (including this school year) to register for university course credit. The objective is to provide professional support for entry-level teachers. Funds are available for a maximum of 20 EEA members.

## NEW RESOURCES FOR PERS MEMBERS

With new actuarial tables used to calculate retirement benefits for members of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) going into effect later this year, PERS Tier I Money Match members who opt to retire on or after January 1, 2010 will see a 2% reduction in their benefits. PERS has new information, including examples, on its website regarding the effect of the updated actuarial equivalency factors on member benefits.

PERS Tier I, Tier II and OPSRP members interested in the impact of the current recession on the PERS Fund can find out more in the recently released "Market Downturn Impact on PERS: Frequently Asked Questions."

Members with general inquiries about recent changes to actuarial equivalency factors or the PERS System and their PERS retirement may contact OEA Government Relations Consultant Lindsey Capps: [lindsey.capps@oregoned.org](mailto:lindsey.capps@oregoned.org)

