

THE

# COMMUNICATOR

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Winter has definitely arrived! Those warmer days in January really had me hoping more of the same will be on tap for the month of February, but I am always the optimistic one! Your dedication in communicating the rewards and benefits of membership in your local association and the WVEA is greatly appreciated. Without your efforts, non-members would never know the great work that is being accomplished by your local or the vital role they could have as a member of your local.

Remember, if you would like any assistance or training, the WVEA Communications Division is more than willing to help. All you need to do is contact Kym Randolph, WVEA Director of Communications, at 1.800.642.8261 ext. 211 or via email at [krandolph@wvea.org](mailto:krandolph@wvea.org) and schedule a date, time and place which is convenient for you.

You are always welcome to use any information contained in WVEA's publications such as the **Today**, the WVEA Website or any of our brochures as well. During the legislative session, you may also copy and use postings of *Lobbyline* or the *Legislative Update* found on the WVEA's Website which may contain information in which your members may have an interest.

An Adobe Acrobat version of "The Communicator" and selected clipart for the next three months can be accessed on the WVEA's Website at [www.wvea.org](http://www.wvea.org). Click on the "Resources" section, and then click on the word "Communicator." You may copy and paste anything you would like to use in this resource. If there are other items you would like for us to make available, please contact Anita Maxwell, WVEA Communications and Instructional Issues Specialist, at 1.800.642.8261, extension 116 or via email at [amaxwell@wvea.org](mailto:amaxwell@wvea.org).

## 2012 Legislative Session – Stay Informed!

The legislative process moves far too quickly to use our monthly *Today* as a means of communicating what is happening during the legislative process to our members. WVEA does, however, have a means of communicating through *Lobbyline*, *Legislative Update* and CapWiz in the WVEA's Legislative Action Center on our Website at [www.wvea.org](http://www.wvea.org).

**Lobbyline** is a daily recap of the main education related activities that took place at the Capitol. It is posted online most evenings by 7:00 p.m. **Legislative Update** is a review of the activities which occurred during the week. *Update* is published each Friday during the legislative session and mailed to all Association Representatives (ARs) at their schools. It is also published online and can be found each Friday by 2:00 p.m.

**CapWiz** is a legislative communication tool. Simply go to the WVEA Website at [www.wvea.org](http://www.wvea.org) to register for CapWiz and you will receive the latest news and updates throughout the legislative session. CapWiz also allows you to send quick communications to your legislators when the need arises.

## Keep Informed During the Session via Facebook

In order to keep up with the latest news from the Capitol as to where bills are in the process, consider going to the WVEA's Dedicated Teachers Facebook page at [Facebook.com/dedicatedteachers](https://www.facebook.com/dedicatedteachers) and "Like" us! You will then receive nightly updated *Lobbyline* feeds providing you with info to share with your colleagues regarding education legislation. You will also receive WVEA's regular news feeds directly to your Facebook account.

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*The Communicator* is a newsletter published by WVEA Communications periodically during the academic year. Please send suggested items for inclusion to *The Communicator*, WVEA, 1558 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV 25311.

## Kids In Need Foundation Teacher Grant Opportunity

Applications will be available February 14th for the Elmer's Teacher Tool Kit grants. Sponsored by Elmer's Products, Inc., the Tool Kit grants are awarded to K-12 certified teachers in the U.S. who want to replicate already proven projects in their own classrooms during the 2012-2013 school year.

You can view the projects available for replication on the Kids In Need website now. These grant awards are based on financial need, number of children who will benefit, and the teacher's commitment to complete the project. Special consideration is given to first year teachers. Find out more at this web address: <http://kinf.org>.

## WVEA Congratulates 2011 National Board Certified Teachers!

The WVEA congratulates the 53 WV teachers who have earned or renewed their National Board Certification, which is the highest voluntary credential in the field of teaching. Certification is achieved through a voluntary performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. WV now has 635 educators who have certified. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) announced during a ceremony at the White House in December that 6,266 educators achieved certification, bringing the nationwide total to 97,291 NBCTs.

This year's group of 53 WV NBCTs is a 9.1 percent increase in the total number certified in the state. WV now ranks 26<sup>th</sup> nationwide in the total number of NBCTs certified from 2005-2006 to 2010-2011. More than half (55%) of all 97,291 NBCTs teach in Title I eligible, high-need schools as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics.

"The WVEA congratulates each West Virginia educator who completed the rigorous process and celebrates their success," said WVEA president Dale Lee. "West Virginia is privileged to have dedicated teachers who ensure students receive a challenging 21<sup>st</sup> Century global education."

WVEA congratulates the following teachers on their professional accomplishment: Tammy Ashby, *Mineral*; Brian Baker, *Monroe*; Katherine Becker, *Lincoln*; Mary Blaker, *Wood*; Angela Boninsegna, *Wyoming*; Connie Bowers, *Wood*; Sarah Burton, *Monroe*; Meredith Canterbury, *Greenbrier*; Brittany Cecil, *Marshall*; Sonda Cheesebrough, *Monongalia*; Lisa Coleman, *Wood*; Elizabeth Combs, *Raleigh*; Rebecca Crane, *Greenbrier*; Marion Dailey, *Cabell*; Leanne Dolin, *Boone*; Elizabeth Duncan, *Lincoln*; Corinne Full, *Wood*; Pamela Gorrell, *Jackson*; Tina Green, *Cabell*; Terri Gunter, *Raleigh*; Alanda Hall, *Berkeley*; Jane Hall, *Greenbrier*; Myrtle Holland, *Berkeley*; Lee Hvizdak, *Cabell*; Mary Kessinger, *Kanawha*; Kent Kraft, *Berkeley*; Lewis Marcum, *Mason*; Kelly Massinople, *Kanawha*; Deanna Maynard, *Mingo*; Michelle McHaffie, *Hancock*; Bethany Miller, *Berkeley*; Heather Nutter, *Greenbrier*; Sara Pennington, *Monongalia*; Kathleen Perry, *Mineral*; Margaret Ponton, *Berkeley*; April Rearick, *Berkeley*; Rebecca Rhett, *Mineral*; Sonjia Richardson, *Putnam*; Rhonda Ritchie, *Jackson*; James Russell, *Jefferson*; Kristin Ryder, *Cabell*; Revonda Shiflett, *Raleigh*; Candace Smith, *Berkeley*; Melissa Smith, *Kanawha*; Jennifer Sparks, *Mingo*; Sharon Squires, *Mineral*; James Stewart, *Wood*; Mary Testerman, *Mingo*; Cindy Thomas, *Berkeley*; Bernard Vandal, *Kanawha*; Melissa Vinson, *Lincoln*; Elissa Whelchel, *Harrison*; Catherin Whorton, *Ohio*.

## NEA's Read Across America



[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)



The National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America. Now in its thirteenth year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships and reading resources.

NEA's Read Across America Day, NEA's national reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens and books and you can too! On March 2, the National Education Association calls for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult. Resources for NEA's Read Across America can be found online at [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross).

## Free Books Available for Read Across America Day

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, invites your school or other literacy project to apply for **FREE books for Read Across America Day**. During the past year, LEF has distributed over 3,000,000 books to schools all across the country for Read Across America Day and other literacy projects. Resources are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Orders must be received by February 11th, 2012. The Order Form can be found at [www.lefbooks.org](http://www.lefbooks.org). Mail the order form to: LEF, 1311 West Chester Pike, West Chester, PA 19382. If you have questions, call 1.610.719.6448 or email us at [info@lefbooks.org](mailto:info@lefbooks.org).

## NEA Partners with the Lorax in 2012



The theme is green for a very special 2012 Read Across America celebration. NEA's Read Across America campaign will showcase the Lorax book as well as NBC/Universal's *The Lorax* (featuring the voices of Taylor Swift, Zach Efron, Danny Devito and Betty White). For a sneak peek, you can find the latest trailer at the web address below:  
[www.theloraxmovie.com/index.php?](http://www.theloraxmovie.com/index.php?)

The film opens nationwide March 2, 2012 and Universal, Dr. Seuss Enterprises and Random House have joined NEA's Read Across America, creating new posters and classroom guides for the campaign. Read Across America will also develop new event ideas and materials to help you make this a Seussational celebration. Those can be accessed at [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross).

## Looking for Books to Recommend?

How about choosing from teacher favorites? The International Reading Association has released its Teachers' Choices List of outstanding books, from picture books to nonfiction to graphic novels. The list can be accessed at [www.reading.org/Libraries/Resources/TeachersChoices2011\\_web.pdf](http://www.reading.org/Libraries/Resources/TeachersChoices2011_web.pdf).

## Law Day Video Contest for "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom"

High school students in grades 9-12 can put their history buff skills and video production creativity to work to create a video for the Law Day video contest. The contest asks students to compose a 3- to 4-minute video pertaining to the 2012 theme - No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom - to enhance the understanding of Law Day. Four finalists will win a trip to Washington, DC. **The contest deadline is February 15, 2012.** To view the 2011 winning video and the complete contest rules go to:  
[www.americanbar.org/groups/young\\_lawyers/initiatives/law\\_day\\_video\\_contest.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/young_lawyers/initiatives/law_day_video_contest.html).

## Send Your Video to SchoolTube

Looking for your 15 minutes of fame? SchoolTube has created a Read Across America channel designed to showcase student and educator videos from around the country. To sign up and share your videos, go to SchoolTube at <http://schooltube.com/user/NEAreadacrossamerica>.

## February 1-28 is Black History Month

In the United States, Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and their role in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Black History Month Lessons & Resources which can be found at [www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm](http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm).

Schools, churches, libraries, bookstores, community and professional organizations and interested citizens are urged to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month by participating in the National African American Read-In. Information can be accessed for the National African American Read-In at [www.ncte.org/action/aari/packetinfo](http://www.ncte.org/action/aari/packetinfo).

## March 1-31 is Women's History Month

In the United States, March is Women's History Month and the celebration of the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. For teaching resources such as lessons, activities, background reading and more, see **Women's History Month for the Classroom** which can be accessed at [www.nea.org/tools/lessons/womens-history-month.html](http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/womens-history-month.html). Additional information can be accessed at the National Women's History Project's Website at <http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php>.

## April 1-30 National Poetry Month

National Poetry Month was inaugurated in April 1996 by the Academy of American Poets. On their Website at [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org), they provide lesson plans, tips for teaching poetry curriculum and a teaching resource center.

Resources (lesson plans, activities, printables and video/audio recordings) are also available on the NEA's Website for bringing poetry into grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. These can be found by accessing [www.nea.org/tools/lessons/bringing-poetry-to-the-classroom.html](http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/bringing-poetry-to-the-classroom.html).

## Bid on a Blue Horse and Help Fund Arts Education

In honor of Eric Carle's latest book, *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse*, many of your favorite artists, illustrators and celebrities are creating original artwork with 100% of the proceeds going to the NEA Foundation for arts education grants and curriculum resources. From Mo Willems to Wendell Minor to Eric Carle himself, artists are taking to the canvas with beautiful results. To view and even bid on the artwork, go to [www.bluehorseauction.com](http://www.bluehorseauction.com).

## YALSA Invites You to Geek Out your Library

This Teen Tech Week™ (March 4–10, 2012), YALSA invites you to <http://teentechweek.ning.com/>. This year's theme encourages libraries to throw open their physical and virtual doors to teens and showcase the outstanding technology they offer, from services such as online homework help and digital literacy-focused programs to resources like e-books, movies, music, audiobooks, databases and more.

## Ezra Jack Keats \$500 Minigrant Available

Public school libraries and public libraries that host programs encouraging literacy and creativity in children can apply for an Ezra Jack Keats minigrant of \$500. Programs focusing on the work of Ezra Jack Keats are welcome, but not required. Keats was the first American author/illustrator to give an African-American child a central place in a children's book. *The Snowy Day* featured a young African-American boy named Peter, and in 1963 it received the Caldecott Award for most distinguished picture book for children. Peter appeared in six more books, growing from a small boy to an adolescent.

Examples of successful minigrant applications include: Pen-pal projects bringing disparate communities together, Multicultural portrait projects, Art projects culminating in art shows, murals, or quilts, Bookmaking, Creation and performance of puppet shows, Intergenerational journals, etc.

**Go to [www.ezra-jack-keats.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=103&Itemid=65](http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=103&Itemid=65) for the guidelines and a downloadable application form. The deadline is March 15, 2012.**

## Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day will be observed this year on April 20-22, 2012. Youth Service America publishes a set of posters, toolkits, and curricula guides to help you plan your Global Youth Service Day (or Semester of Service!) event. This year's theme is "Youth Changing the World." Need help organizing your project? Want to engage the media? It's all in provided in downloadable files which can be accessed on the Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) website at [www.gysd.org](http://www.gysd.org).

## Captain Planet Foundation Grants

Awards from \$250 to \$2,500 are granted for initiatives that support hands-on environmental projects involving children and youths in grades K-12. The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to fund projects for students to help them achieve a better understanding and appreciation for the world in which they live.

Generally, the range of grants awarded by the Foundation is \$250 to \$2,500 for innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. **The next deadline for this grant is May 31, 2012.** For grant eligibility, application, restrictions, and deadlines, please visit the Captain Planet Foundation website at <http://captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/>.

FEBRUARY  
Black  
History  
Month

Women's  
History Month



Announcing...

