

SEA WAVES

Member Discounts During Tax Season

Good News! Educator Tax Deduction Extended

Congress approved a tax bill that extends the \$250 Educator Tax Deduction for the purchase of classroom supplies. This tax credit is in effect for the 2014 tax year and continues indefinitely. If you take continuing education units that you pay for yourself, there are possibilities for deducting that expense also.

Attached to this newsletter is an article from the NEA Member Benefits website that further explains the educator deductions mentioned above. Read this article before you file your tax return to educate yourself on how to receive the maximum deductions allowed to educators.

<http://www.neamb.com/finance/dont-miss-these-educator-tax-deductions.htm>

H & R Block Discounts offered to Members through NEA

Your membership in SEA/CTA/NEA also provides you with a tax preparation discount with H & R Block. This includes \$20 off office tax preparation services and special pricing on software and online programs. To take advantage of this offer you need to register on the NEA Member Benefits website (neamb.com), click on Everyday Discounts and then click on H & R Block. If you prepare your own taxes, there's a good article comparing software programs and costs. Just click on Learn More at the bottom of the screen page.

Do you want to see Democracy in Action? Attend the NEA RA

Every year, approximately 7,000 members of NEA throughout the country attend the NEA Representative Assembly Convention to be a part of making policy for the organization. This year the location of the RA is Washington D.C. and the dates are July 1—8, which includes travel days. Through the strength of NEA nationwide, we were able to reshape the current NCLB (No Child Left Behind) to a new and realistic ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). Much of the onerous testing has been reshaped to include multiple measures of student achievement and eliminating the AYP which aimed at 100% student proficiency in state goals. Under the new ESSA, each state will create an accountability system that recognizes that the "one size fits all" approach does not accurately measure student growth.

In your mailboxes, you will find a pink flyer which includes an application to be one of the SEA Candidates. Please follow the timeline listed and return your request to SEA by 4 pm on February 23rd.

Job Share Meet and Greet

If you were unable to attend SEA's Job Share meeting on Thursday, January 28th, and you are still interested in a job share position for next school year, please email SEA so that we can add your name to the list of attendees to make a job share match. Please email your name, site and grade/

Special Ed Round Table information on
the back of this newsletter

