Welcome from the Chair

The purpose of the Staff Employees’ Council (SEC) is to serve as the representative body for all classified employees at the University. We strive to be a voice in decision-making on matters that concern classified staff. The SEC works to ensure that classified employees work in a positive, respectful atmosphere with opportunities for their own professional and personal growth and development while supporting the mission of the University of Nevada, Reno. Essentially, the SEC is a group of employees, just like you, who were elected by peers to represent the classified employee at the University of Nevada, Reno. Throughout the month, we work on standing committees on your behalf. We hold monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. All of our regular meetings are open meetings; staff is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please visit http://www.unr.edu/sec/events/calendar for meeting location.

We are continually looking for effective ways to communicate to the entire classified staff on campus. Currently, that means finding a way to reach over 1,000 of you—a lofty goal! Our first attempt in reaching you has been the revision of the SEC web site (www.unr.edu/sec). Our second attempt is the first issue of this newsletter. Our goal of the newsletter is: to increase awareness and function of the SEC; increase collaboration and communication between faculty, staff and administration; and enhance camaraderie of the classified staff through special events. The newsletter will be published biannually (Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer issues) and we look forward to your input!

We look forward to serving you this year and hope to see you at our special events!

SEC Annual Open House—Mark your calendar!

Submitted by: Barbara Wiley

The SEC Open House is an annual event that provides employees with information on SEC and University Committees, campus programs, community information relating to university activities as well as vendors that supply products to the University.

This year the annual SEC Open House will be held in the Joe Crowley Student Union Ballrooms on Thursday, March 14, 2013. Attendance is free and drawings for door prizes will be held throughout the event for merchandise donated by the vendors and departments attending the event.

Seventy four Vendors, Departments and Committees came to the event last March and filled the Joe Crowley Student Union Ballrooms from one end to the other. Vendors ranged in their offerings from baked goods, sporting goods, fitness centers, restaurants, museums, as well as people giving chair massages and a host of other interesting things. Check out the photos from last spring at http://www.unr.edu/sec/events/open-house. Click on the Flickr feed.

Look for more information on the 2013 SEC Open House this spring!
In August 2012, the following members finished their term with the SEC. We thank them for their time, hard work and service to the Staff Employees’ Council!

- Julie Bradt – Cooperative Extension, North
- Roxanna Courtney – College of Education
- Scott Geib – Facilities
- John Kreiger – Facilities
- Michael Maskaly – School of Medicine
- Karla Narcassey – Cooperative Extension, South
- Chet Payne – Facilities

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Welcome Aboard!

Starting their term this year are:

- Jorge Farinacci — Facilities
- Rebecca Hess — Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resource
- Nancy Horowitz — School of Medicine
- David Lockyer — Facilities
- Cheyenne Magpantay — Research
- Cynthia Olivo — Student Services
- Augusta Washington — Cooperative Extension, South

A Heartfelt THANK YOU!

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A New Name, A New Format-A TRIUMPH

Submitted by: Melodie Gander

What was once called the SEC Luncheon Committee, with members who organized a sit-down, buffet lunch, followed by an awards presentation, has now been happily changed to a reception awards format, called the SEC Classified Recognition Reception. This exciting new change was inspired by the “Honor the Best” awards ceremony the President’s office hosts every spring.

Committee Co-Chair, Phyllis Snedeker, first brought up the reception idea at our January 2012 meeting. When she mentioned about her positive experience as an audience member for the Honor the Best ceremony, I was also able to affirm what a wonderful change of pace it would be for our upcoming event. It was no secret that the SEC Luncheon Awards ceremony was experiencing waning numbers, despite the tremendous effort committee members put into the event. It was clear something needed to be done to enliven the event and give it a fresh look and feel. When Phyllis put forward the reception idea, it was enthusiastically embraced by the rest of the committee.

Co-Chairs, Phyllis Snedeker and Lynda McLellan, worked hard in composing a proposal letter for our new reception format to President Marc Johnson and Vice President Ron Zurek, asking them to please consider allowing us to host a new format at NO-COST to the classified attendees. In the budget proposal, we asked to reinstate two free parking passes and a $450.00 Airlines voucher, in hopes to increase attendance interest and increase raffle ticket sales to benefit our SEC Classified Staff Development/Educational Leave Fund. Both objectives were successfully achieved (we made $1,015 for the raffle -- $668 more from the year before!) and as you can see, the rest is history. Our first annual SEC Classified Recognition Reception was a HUGE hit!

Vice President Ron Zurek did an outstanding job as our Master of Ceremony, along with the excellent help of our SEC Chair, Erik Williams. President Johnson was there, too, despite his busy schedule, to give his full support to our hardworking staff. We also couldn’t hold this event without the expertise and guidance of Ron Zurek’s right-hand assistant, Georgianna Trexler. The food and drinks were perfect, and we all have to admit it was also a real morale booster when President Johnson allowed us to attend the event by giving us two hours of paid administrative leave.

Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

If you have any ideas, suggestions, questions, or comments please feel free to contact your division Staff Council representative or email the SEC directly at sec@unr.edu