

In March John Konen, Pam Meier, Dave Wick, Brenda Krueger and Carole McKittrick attended the National Leaders Conference in Washington DC. This year NAESP added a day to the conference in order to provide more leadership training.

We were able to meet with representatives for Jon Tester and Ryan Zinke and we also met with Steve Daines. The points we brought to them were:

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

Reauthorization of Career and Technical Education

Support for ESSA funding at the full amount

Support for funding of Title II Part A which includes the authorization of formula grants for states

We asked that they oppose the following bills

HR 716 Enhancing Educational Opportunities for all Students Act of 2017 which would force title I funds to follow a student to the school of his or her choice rather than being appropriated to the neighborhood school, thus limiting funds for public education institutions.

HR 610, Choices in Education Act of 2017 which would repeal the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and create a nationwide education voucher program through block grants to states.

HR 895/S 148, Educational Opportunities Act of 2017 which allows a tax credit for individual taxpayer for charitable contributions to a scholarship granting organization, which pays for students to attend a private school of their parents' choice.

At the State Reps' meeting we discussed membership and how to increase it and wrote action plans for increasing membership. Montana is a unique state because our membership rate is so high. We only have about 10 principals who are not members. My action plan is attached.

At the National Convention in Philadelphia next July, the Zone 7 reception will be held at the Independence Beer Garden. We decided to invite our counterparts from NASSP. I have contacted Paul Furthmeyer and he contacted his NASSP board. They agreed to join us and donated 1000.00 to the event. It will be a great event.