



national substitute teachers alliance

James Politis, President



Happy New Year, my colleagues

I hope that 2011 will be a prosperous and fulfilling year for you.

It is with great satisfaction and some excitement I am issuing this CALL TO CONFERENCE for our 11<sup>th</sup> annual NSTA National Conference.

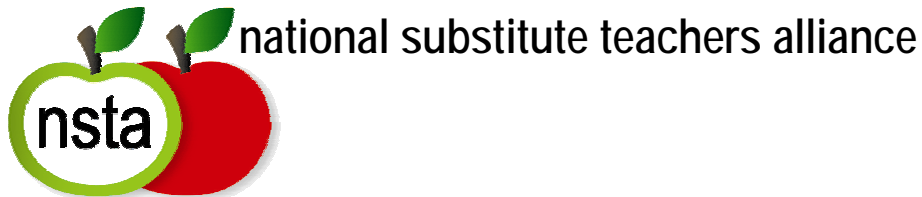
July 22<sup>nd</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> in Seattle Washington we will gather to renew acquaintances, make new friends and upgrade our skills with professional workshops and seminars.

In cooperation with the Seattle Education Association we will be offering a full agenda of the interesting, enlightening and professionally rewarding activities.

Lodging and meetings will be on the campus of Seattle University. Our Washington Hosts are also planning a social evening for entertainment and informal networking with other substitutes from across the country and Canada.

Last year in my call to conference message I said "Education is front and center on the National agenda. Finally it seems everyone is talking about "The Teacher in The Classroom". There is also a slowly dawning awareness that teachers get sick, get married, have babies and for a thousand other reasons call a substitute! Of course they do! We have always known we were a part of the education team. We too, educate the children"

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I sadly overestimated the degree to which our leaders would put aside their differences for the good of educating the next generation.

One of the messages we are encouraged to give students who may be struggling with their studies is **“I wont give up on you”** and that is a message I’m applying, to the congress and state legislators. I won’t give up trying to get substitutes the recognition and the rewards they deserve.

No one can be sure what the economic conditions will be when we meet in Seattle this July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> but I am sure that involvement, training and togetherness will win out over the alternative. We are the “unnoticed” branch of the education profession but surely not to each other and together we will begin to shed our unwelcome cloak of invisibility.

NSTA is committed to making the voice of substitute teachers heard, especially in these difficult and in some areas even hostile times.

The NSTA conference committee is waiting for the final word from the college about the cost of conference housing but expect it will be considerably less than a commercial hotel room. Meals in the university dining facilities will also help keep the price low.

You will receive a completely detailed registration form and more details on conference sessions as well as the group social event in the next week or so. In the mean time I hope you will flip several pages on your 2011 calendar and mark July 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> as conference days.

I look forward to meeting you in person in Seattle this summer

JIM

