

Shortwaves

Everett Education Association / United Teachers of Everett

Volume 10, 2018-19

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter—an informed membership leads to a strong membership.

TOPICS IN THIS SHORTWAVES: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE • WEAR RED FOR ED • WEA-PAC THANK YOU • SNOW LOG • CONTRACT QUESTIONS • FOR SALE/RENT

Legislative Update—What is going on in Olympia?

Hopefully you saw the e-mails from WEA over the break about an urgent need to contact legislators about the Senate's budget. Here is a summary of what has been going on this session. Since we elected pro-education candidates last fall, legislation has been going relatively well for public schools and unions. We have been working to make tweaks on how McCleary is funded by fixing the levy system, de-linking state testing from graduation, fully funding a state healthcare system for us, adding staff (counselors/support staff) to make schools safer, and increasing special education funding. You can click on [comprehensive legislative agenda](#) to learn more specifics about what we have been fighting for in Olympia. At this point in the process, things have been going well as we awaited budgets from the House and Senate. The House budget came out, and attempts to meet our legislative priorities were headed in the right direction, although we would have like some of the amounts to be higher. The Senate's budget had higher amounts, but went off the rails at 2 am on two pieces of legislation we could not stand for at all. The first was by Senator Palumbo (Bothell) to divert some state levy funds away from districts to fund charter schools. This legislation was particularly harmful because it pulled much needed funds from the public school system to a system that has yet to be proven effective in our state. The second piece of legislation was even worse (SB 5313). It came from Senator Mullet (Issaquah) to cut our salaries and restrict our bargaining rights so lower paid districts can catch up to the higher paid districts. As the highest paid teachers in the state, we have to be against every piece of legislation like this one. We don't need bumpers and guardrails on our bargaining rights!

So, where are we now? Last Thursday members from around the state descended on Olympia and defeated each piece of legislation. It was a huge success, especially during the break. Although we were successful, bad bills tend to come back towards the end of the session on April 28th. We need stay informed and ready to act.

Here's how you can stay up to speed with legislative and political news that affects students, educators and public schools – and take action with other union members and supporters.

1. Text **OURVOICE** to 41411 to get regular legislative and election updates by text message
2. Visit WashingtonEA.org/OurVoice and subscribe to the OurVoice blog
3. Download the **We Are WEA** smartphone app on [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#) and check out the **OurVoice** political action section!
4. Like and follow OurVoice on Facebook at facebook.com/OurVoiceWEA/
5. Follow OurVoice on Twitter at [@OurVoiceWEA](https://twitter.com/OurVoiceWEA)
6. Post using the hashtags **#WaEdu** and **#WaLeg** ([hashtags explained here](#))
7. Call your legislator's office! Need your legislator's contact information? [Find it here!](#)
8. Call the Legislative Hotline at 800-562-6000 and leave a message for your lawmakers.
9. Come lobby with us. We cover travel, sub, and food. If you have never been and want to have some fun and open your eyes to government, please let me know.

If you ever need more information on the legislature, the [WEA Take Action page](#) is a really good resource.

Wear Red for Ed on Wednesdays

The most recent order of our Red for Ed t-shirts and sweatshirts will be delivered by the end of the day today. The legislative session ends at the end of the month, so let's wear our red shirts each Wednesday in solidarity and support for each other. Please post pictures on social media, too.

WEA-PAC Thank You!

We would like to thank all the members who are also members of the WEA Political Action Committee or WEA-PAC. Over 85% of our EEA members are also WEA-PAC members. In the last two elections, WEA-PAC was instrumental in electing pro-education candidates across the state. These candidates were key in increasing school funding and defeating the problem bills addressed above. If you are not a WEA-PAC member and would like to be (it is only \$2.25 a month), please contact your me or your building representative. We plan to make endorsements in upcoming school board and some local races this year.

Snow Day Log

We have received a lot of questions about the snow day log over the last month and hope to make this really easy for you. The log is merely an accounting of time for auditing purposes. Educators already do a ton of extra time in the course of the work planning, preparing, and collaborating that go well beyond the contracted day. We are sure you have already met the 7 hours needed to make up the time and maybe even did it during the snow days. So, to make this really easy, you should check the second option on the log menu, put down 7 hours, sign it, and make sure to get it to your office staff as soon as possible. The time is at your discretion. Finally, if you have a scheduling conflict during the make-up days because of a pre-planned event, please contact our office.

Contract Questions

If you have a contract question, please send them to me by the 15th of each month.

For Sale, For Rent

If you would like to place an ad to sell personal items in *Shortwaves*, please send your ad to jkink@washingtonea.org by the 15th of each month. Please keep your ad to less than 25 words.

Calendar of Events

EEA Ex. Board—April 22 (EEA 4:15 pm)

EEA Rep. Council—April 29 (EEA 4:30 pm)

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We're also on the Web! Visit us at www.everettea.org or on Facebook.