



Shortwaves

Everett Education Association / United Teachers of Everett

Volume 4, 2016-17

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

TOPICS IN THIS SHORTWAVES: FULLY FUNDING • SUBSTITUTE SHORTAGE • ANTI-UNION E-MAILS • NEA AND WEA REP. ASSEMBLY • MEMBER CONTRACT QUESTIONS • NEW EDUCATOR NIGHTS • FOR SALE, FOR RENT

Fully Funding Schools Happens Now!

During our building visits, we continually hear class size and maintaining our ability to negotiate TRI are the two main concerns. This legislative session will be a long one and we have plans to maintain our pressure to hold legislators accountable to fully fund education.

We have already started by e-mailing Governor Inslee to hold the high water mark for funding. Thank you to all of you who wrote and signed our posters. We have heard it made a significant impact.

The upcoming 2017 Legislative Session marks the last legislative session before the McCleary deadline imposed by the Washington State Supreme Court. This means K-12 school funding is going to be THE issue this year. The State of Washington is about to run out the clock, and as the professionals closest to the students who are being shortchanged, it's our job to keep the pressure on.

The outcome our students deserve will not come to fruition without a fight. **And this is where you come in.** Join with WEA members from across the state to rally in Olympia on **Monday, January 16th** (Martin Luther King Jr. holiday) to send a strong message to our Legislators. We will be rallying on the steps of the Capital and then presenting our Legislators with a Student Bill of Rights to fully fund our schools.

Now is your **opportunity** to take a **stand** for your students and public education. EEA has been allotted only 40 seats on the buses, so this is a limited opportunity. **Quickly register here:** <https://goo.gl/forms/tpr30TYftqhxWO632>. This *Shortwaves* will also be sent to your home e-mail address so you can register there, too. Please only register from your own device.

Family and friends are encouraged to attend with you. Pilchuck UniServ will be providing buses and lunch for all attendees. **Space on the bus is limited**, so reserve your spot today.

Basic logistics:

- Buses will leave from 3 departure points (Monroe area, South Everett area, North Everett area). Specific locations will be determined after registration is full.
- If you prefer to drive or carpool on your own, please register via the link, so we can provide you with lunch and rally instructions.
- Departure will be at 8:00 a.m. Rally at 10:30. Pick up lunches and depart at 12:30. We anticipate being back by 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- Once you register, look for upcoming communications with further details.
- If you have any questions, please contact us or Shelly Lamb at slamb@washingtonea.org.

Substitute Shortage

We are proud to announce the Association and District have agreed to a \$35 a day increase for substitutes starting January 1, 2017. Our substitutes deserve higher wages because they provided us the opportunity to take care of ourselves and family and enable us to take much needed professional development. You can also help by putting in for a sub the night before if you are feeling sick. The majority of shortages occur when the substitute is requested in the morning. It is better to get a sub the night before and cancel it in the morning because the sub will get another job.

Anti-Union E-mails

Lately, you have been receiving in your district e-mail, letters from Choice for Teachers and the Freedom Foundation with inaccurate information about opting out of membership. In several e-mails, they promote liability coverage that just isn't true. Everett teachers know the value of our contract and what membership brings to our profession, but the Freedom Foundation is well-funded and hopes to diminish our role in Olympia.

The District has been amazing on working to block these e-mails, but we think the way the national political climate is progressing these types of attacks will continue. Members have had success unsubscribing, but they are finding new ways to use your district e-mail to communicate. We are sorry about any confusion they have caused.

NEA and WEA Representative Assemblies

We are excited to try an electronic voting system for NEA and WEA Representative Assemblies this year. Instead of paper ballots in the staff room, you will receive an e-mail with your own personal log-in and a four number password. You will use these to electronically vote. We are excited because this system meets our by-law requirements, should save us on printing costs, and will use nearly no paper.

Nominations will be open after Winter Break and elections will be held February 2-14, 2017. We encourage any member to run for a position (7 spots for NEA and 18 spots for WEA) because it is so valuable to have a wide-range of members representing us at the governing bodies of our associations. WEA-RA is on April 13-15 in Spokane and NEA-RA is July 2-6 in Boston. All expenses are paid.

Member Contract Questions

If you have a question regarding our contract, please send them to me and we will continue to answer some in each *Shortwaves*.

Can we add 403b's for payroll deductions?

--Teachers from Cedar Wood.

Our contract permits payroll deductions for approved tax-sheltered annuity plans. These deductions may begin, be modified or terminated at any such time, with appropriate written notice. The District has a right to limit the number of plans it approves for payroll deductions, provided that a minimum of five (5) plans are approved, including the Washington Education Association Annuities Plan. Further, the District has the right to discontinue approval of any plan which has less than ten (10) employees participating in said plan. If you have interest in adding a plan and would like to know if others want to participate, please contact our office.

WARNING: Several non-approved financial groups have surfaced in buildings. They are not endorsed by the Association or District. The only financial group we endorse (they also give a big discount) is Clarity Financial in Mill Creek. They have been recommended highly by our members. If you need some financial advice or service, they can be contacted at 425-287-5800—ask for Robert or Bob.

New Educator Night—January 26th at 5 p.m.

Topic: Culturally Responsive Classroom Management. This session is part-two in a series and is only open to those who attended in November. If you plan to attend, RSVP to slamb@washingtonea.org as soon as possible. Dinner will be served! When you RSVP, please let Shelly know if you have dietary restrictions. FREE CLOCK HOURS!

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

School Visits—Now until January 20
Exec. Board—January 9 (4:15 at EEA)
Rep. Council—January 23 (4:30 at EEA)
New Educator Night—January 26 (5 at EEA)
Silvertips Game—January 27 (TBD)

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!!