

CONNECTIONS

W E A - S A M M A M I S H
UNISERV COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've been on the job for over two months and boy have I learned a lot! The Council can be very proud of our efforts on the Simple Majority campaign. We have stretched ourselves individually, as locals, and at the Council level for the campaign. This has been a lot of extra work, but good work.

Have you been to the [Member Benefits](http://www.neamb.com) website www.neamb.com lately? I saved over \$250 last year on travel by using sponsored hotels and car rentals from NEA member benefits. I also have improved my car insurance coverage by switching to an NEA-endorsed plan without an increase to my premium. This is a great way to spend a little time and possibly save a fair amount with a "rebate" for being an NEA/WEA member.

Are you feeling rundown or run over? I've been hearing from many of you about your frustration with the continuing pressure and workload of being an educator today. WEA is looking into this issue with the formation of the Workload Strategy task force. I have been asked to serve on that task force. We will be soliciting feedback and stories from you this year to help this committee with its work. A report and recommendations will be forthcoming at the WEA Representative Assembly in May.



ART GALLOWAY
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

SIMPLE MAJORITY: *IT'S SIMPLE! SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS*

We're *Taking the lead* with NEW NUMBERS:

4204!

That's the number of the ballot resolution that, if approved, levies can pass with 50% +1 vote.

27,899

That's the number of voters to be called in the WEA-Sammamish UniServ Council area by election day to remind them to vote on Nov. 6 so if 4204 is approved, levies can pass with 50%+1 vote.

878

That's the number of callers needed to make the calls to remind the voters to vote on November 6 so if 4204 is approved, levies can pass with 50%+1 vote.

207

As of October 29 that's the number of WEA-Sammamish members who have made the calls to remind the voters to vote on November 6 so if 4204 is approved, levies can pass with 50%+ 1 vote.

9,959

Number of calls made so far.

To see how many calls have been made to date in your local area and find out more about the campaign, go to <http://www.simplybetterschools.org/action/results.php>. ~ Lora Hein

OUR COUNCIL IN ACTION

ESP Program Picking Up Speed

Educational Support Professionals (ESP) members and leaders from Lake Washington ESP, Mercer Island, Snoqualmie Valley Administrative Secretaries Association, and Renton ESP are meeting bimonthly at regional ESP leadership dinners. They have been invited to participate in discussions about ways to share and support the efforts of each other, as well as how to increase ESP member involvement in Council programs and services.

The Northwest Region ESP Issues Conference will be held Saturday, November 17 at Saghalie

Middle School in Federal Way. The program includes a series of workshops designed to address needs and concerns of ESP members. Participants can attend their choice of three classes from a list of about 12 being offered throughout the day. A \$20 registration fee covers breakfast, lunch, and 6 clock hours for the day. ESP members should have received the [registration flyer](#) in their home mail. Please call the Council office if you are interested in attending the conference. ~ *Clarence Gunn*

Bargaining Update

The Council has created the Sammamish Unified Bargaining (SUB), a bargaining cluster designed to help locals in the Council share information, ideas, and strategies for negotiations. This sharing has proven highly effective in comparing salaries, benefits, and language.

The Snoqualmie Valley Administrative Secretaries Association is still struggling to finalize their contract for this year. They are working hard to conclude negotiations with the help of WEA.

Bellevue EA, Lake Washington EA, and Snoqualmie EA are in the process of preparing to begin negotiations. Members in those locals should look for information soon about coming activities, meetings, forums, or other member input opportunities. ~ *Clarence Gunn*

October New Educator Caucus



28 new educators gathered in October for an evening with Kevin Gallagher, a 25-year veteran teacher from Seattle, who entertained and motivated with his “Top 15 Things I Wish I’d Known,” a list of advice that he offered to the group. Dinner and clock hours were also on the agenda.

Pre-Retirement Seminars

Space is still available for the April 18 and 19 seminar being held in Maple Valley for Tahoma EA members or any WEA-Sammamish members who live in the area. We also have space available for the May 2 and 3 seminar in our Council office. Please email Charlotte Cole at ccole@washingtonea.org to reserve your spot. The seminars fill quickly so please respond soon!

*Join us on November 20
New Educator Caucus*

Veteran elementary and secondary teachers will share their insights and lead small group discussions about Classroom Management Skills

*Email
ccole@washingtonea.org
if you are interested in attending*

Upcoming Events

Presidents Meeting	11/5
	11/6
NW ESP Issues Conference	11/17
New Educator Caucus	11/20
<i>Take the lead</i> Planning Committee	11/27
WEA Legislative Action Team Training	11/28
Pre-Retirement Seminar	11/30 12/1

Call the Council office to learn more about these events.

WEA-SAMMAMISH

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