

CONNECTIONS

WEA-SAMMAMISH
UNISERV COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: *THANK YOU*

I sure enjoyed the few days over Thanksgiving break to relax! It's nice to slow down a little with time to visit family and friends after the first quarter of the school year, parent conferences, and a stressful 4204 campaign. Simple Majority has been an even sweeter victory after being totally depressed with the results the day after the election. It is clear that without the organizational expertise of WEA and the down and

dirty hard work by our members, we would have had a different election outcome. Thanks to all of the local presidents, WEA-Sammamish staff, and many of you for making this another success in our "Taking the lead"!



ART GALLOWAY
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Take the lead.

Restoring Washington's Commitment
to Great Public Schools

Following the success of 4204, the *Take the lead* cadre is making plans to meet with local community groups and organizations to engage them in conversations about improving public education. If you are involved with any groups that might be interested in having a guest from *Take the lead* visit to talk with them about public education, please contact your local president. You can also send a message at the website:

<http://www.taketheleadwashington.org/>.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: CLASS SIZE AND COMPENSATION

You can keep informed throughout the legislative session about the progress of education issues by checking the Washington Education Association (WEA) website, www.washingtonea.org.

Remember, the combined efforts of each of us make a difference. If you want to contact your legislative representatives, you can do so from links provided on the WEA website.

Always remember: Do not use school computers or work time when contacting legislators. Also, please do not read, forward, reply, or print e-mails of a political nature from district computers.

OUR COUNCIL IN ACTION

SIMPLE MAJORITY

We did it! By an almost 20,000-vote margin 4204 was approved! Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated! With a 20,000-vote deficit on election night, success didn't look hopeful. But as the mail ballots were received over the next two weeks, the tide turned and it passed by a simple majority of 50.6091%. Our success was directly due to the combined efforts of WEA members, friends, and allies of education.

"This campaign was successful because of the recognition of the importance of the opportunity

to change the practice of funding schools at the local district level," said Art Galloway, WEA-Sammamish UniServ Council president.

"This funding issue unites all these groups and we all worked to make this opportunity a reality," Galloway said. "This hard work resulted in making a difference for the future of public education. I wish to sincerely thank each and every member and other supporters of this effort for their hard work, dedication, and commitment. You made a difference in the lives of the children of this state."

Caroline McDowell, formerly of Spokane EA and UniServ Council, has joined the WEA-Sammamish staff. Caroline (Lake Washington EA), along with Clarence Gunn (Issaquah EA, Snoqualmie EA, and Snoqualmie Valley ASA), Kathleen Heiman (Bellevue EA and Riverview EA), and Lora Hein (Lake Washington ESP, Mercer Island EA, and Tahoma EA), comprise the team of UniServ representatives for our Council. The staff is rounded out by field assistants Cheryl Hopkins, Margie Wold, and Charlotte Cole.

Upcoming Events

Sammamish Unified Bargaining Meeting	12/3
Presidents and Council Meeting	12/3
Council Office Closes	12/21
Council Office Reopens	1/2

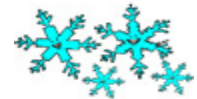
New Educator Caucus Provides the Answers

As a new educator, do you have questions about the Professional Teacher Certificate (Pro Cert) program? What about National Board Teacher Certification (NBTC)? Please join us on Tuesday, Jan. 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. for an evening with Jim Meadows, WEA instruction, certification and higher ed specialist, as he explains the process of obtaining these certificates.

The New Educator Caucus is geared toward new teachers, librarians, counselors, psychologists, and specialists in the first five years of their careers. The monthly sessions provide the opportunity to meet others who are in similar situations, to discuss issues that are of concern to you, to learn from the pros, and to have a great dinner.



All of this is available at no cost, while allowing you to earn clock hours for a \$5 fee as long as you attend at least 2 sessions. Please contact Charlotte Cole at ccole@washingtonea.org if you would like to register.



Join us on January 15
New Educator Caucus
and
Jim Meadows

We will meet in the
cafeteria at Sammamish
High School in Bellevue.

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

WEA-SAMMAMISH

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Executive Board

President—Art Galloway
Treasurer—Mike Blodgett

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