

CONNECTIONS

WEA-SAMMAMISH
UNISERV COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: *WHAT A LATTE A MONTH CAN BUY*

I know how enjoyable those specialty drinks from our favorite coffee shops are that help us all make it through the day and week. If you are willing to spend the equivalent of less than one drink a week to *Take the lead*, consider WEA-PAC TODAY! Salary, benefits, pensions, class size and all other education issues will be discussed and decided in Olympia this session

and into the next biennium. Your association leadership will contact you soon regarding WEA-PAC. For information about payroll deduction, contact your building representative.



ART GALLOWAY
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Take the lead.

*Restoring Washington's Commitment
to Great Public Schools*

The statewide *Take the lead* Steering Committee met at WEA headquarters for their monthly meeting last Thursday. They received updates on *Take the lead* progress and plan to discuss the future direction of our long-term funding campaign. A series of meetings is scheduled around the state to determine the next phase of *Take the lead*. Our own WEA-Sammamish *Take the lead* cadre will be meeting this month to make plans of our own to take *Take the lead* to the next level.

Meanwhile, the legislative session is in full swing in this election year. There will be at-home district meetings, so please contact your local president or the Council for more information.

WEA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The 2008 legislative session is a short 60-day session. WEA is focusing its legislative agenda on two priorities, reducing class size and restoring lost COLA. This focused legislative plan keeps pressure on legislators in the two areas that members wanted to have corrected.

WEA is contacting members directly via weekly Legislative Outlook updates. These are sent to your home e-mail addresses so that you can

reply and act as needed. Members are encouraged to stay informed and active throughout the session by reviewing the WEA website, www.washingtonea.org, about the WEA legislative agenda.

Please check the WEA website from your home computer if you are accessing it for legislative information

SVASA Settles Contract

29 members of the Snoqualmie Valley Administrative Secretaries Association (SVASA) voted unanimously to ratify a new three-year contract on Jan. 29. Key changes to the new contract include: major increases in health insurance pool dollars, salary increases to “improve by the same percent authorized and funded by the state legislature” along with additional local dollars, and an additional longevity step at 10 years. There were a number of other clarifications and putting into language a number of current practices, as well

as increased SVASA involvement and input into key decision processes impacting members.

This was a long-fought bargain. The members were active and supportive throughout the process and participated in rallies, passed out leaflets, and wrote letters to the editor to inform the school board and the community regarding issues of importance to them. Congratulations, SVASA members, on achieving your goals of respect and value. ~ *Clarence Gunn*

WEA-Sammamish at WEA Lobby Day

Several WEA-Sammamish members attended a WEA lobby day in Olympia on Jan. 23. Representing the Council were Mike Radow, Stephen Miller, Traci Mussetter, Paula Weiss, Eleanor Gilmore (WEA-Retired) and Clarence Gunn.

They received an update on key legislative issues and priorities before going to the Capitol. They met with legislators from the 5th, 41st, 45th and 48th Legislative Districts to provide them with information about WEA’s priorities and to assess their support for those priorities.

New Educator Caucus

A snowy Tuesday evening cancelled our January New Educator Caucus. We have rescheduled Jim Meadows’ Pro Cert and National Board Certification presentation to Mar. 18. Another change in our schedule: Jerry Painter will discuss “Safe Interactions with Students” on Apr. 22 instead of Feb. 12. Our new topic for this month is Grading and Assessment with Rob Prufer, a high school teacher from Bellevue’s Newport High School.

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.

Council Calendar

Sammamish Unified Bargaining & Presidents Meeting	2/4
48th District Town Hall Meeting—Kirkland City Hall	2/9
Lobby Day in Olympia	2/11
New Educator Caucus	2/12
2008 Pacific Regional Leadership Conference	2/15-2/17
41st District Town Hall Meeting—Newport High School	2/23
Pre-Retirement Seminar	2/29-3/1

*Join us on February 12
New Educator Caucus
to discuss
Grading
and
Assessment*

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

*E-mail
ccole@washingtonea.org
if you are interested in
attending.*

WEA-SAMMAMISH

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Executive Board

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