

# CONNECTIONS

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

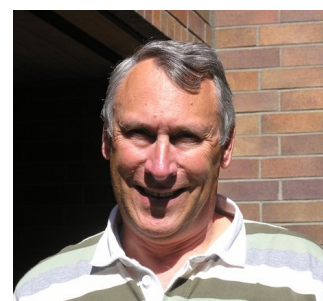
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### *ARE YOU WORKING HARDER THAN EVER?*

I recently met with other WEA leaders on the Workload Task Force and it was evident that our jobs have become more demanding and time consuming than it was just a couple years ago. With pressures from the federal government, the state about requirements, OSPI, local school districts--not to mention ourselves--there is no sign of slowing down. One of our discussion points centered around all of the new curricular and assessment changes and the pace of these changes. It is time we have the difficult conversations about what we are willing to stop doing as we undertake new initiatives. We can't keep piling it on ourselves.

The promise that technology would save time hasn't materialized and seems to have created a high demand for instant feedback and up-to-date communications. This has overloaded teachers and is taking away from our energy and ability to focus on teaching students.

I encourage you to have conversations with your colleagues and district leaders to address this growing problem.



ART GALLOWAY  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

## *Learn About Pro Cert and National Boards*

Are you contemplating the Professional Teacher Certificate (Pro Cert) or the National Board Certified Teacher programs? Please join us on Tuesday, March 18 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](mailto:ccole@washingtonea.org) if you would like to register.



*This event was cancelled by snow in January.*



*Join us on March 18  
New Educator Caucus  
and  
Jim Meadows*

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

*E-mail  
[ccole@washingtonea.org](mailto:ccole@washingtonea.org)  
if you are interested in  
attending.*

## OUR COUNCIL IN ACTION

### Partial COLA Restoration Thanks to Lobby Team and E-Mails

The WEA-Sammamish lobby team joined with other teams to assess support for WEA’s education priorities, including the COLA restoration, on Feb. 11 in Olympia. Lobby team members Mike Radow, Traci Mussetter, Stephen Miller, and Clarence Gunn met with and delivered the WEA message to area legislators.

Thanks in part to the team’s effort and all your e-mails, the state House of Representatives has included a 1 percent COLA restoration in the supplemental state budget. WEA president Mary Lindquist said: “The state House is making a

wise investment in quality public schools by partially restoring the voter-approved COLA that was taken from educators in the 2003-05 Dino Rossi budget. COLA restoration will help attract and keep high-quality educators. Restoring the lost COLA recognizes that high-quality educators in the classroom are the No. 1 factor in student achievement. Paying our teachers fairly is an important investment in our children’s future.”

For more information, please contact your local president, the Council office, or go to the WEA website at [www.washingtonea.org](http://www.washingtonea.org),



#### Take the lead.

Restoring Washington's Commitment to Great Public Schools

Changes in *Take the lead’s* future plans to improve long-term funding will be decided this month by the WEA Board. They are reviewing feedback provided at regional meetings in response to a report from the statewide *Take the lead* Steering Committee.

Our own WEA-Sammamish *Take the lead* cadre, now led by John Schuster of Tahoma EA, will be meeting in March to make plans of our own to move *Take the lead* to the next level.

Meanwhile, the legislative session is moving forward. Several districts have town hall meetings scheduled this month, so please contact your local president or the Council for more information.

### Jump Start Your National Board Certification

Are you planning to do the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in the 2008-2009 year? If so, WEA offers a 4-day National Board Jump Start seminar that provides early support to new candidates.

Online registration begins in March on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are a registered candidate, you should have received an e-mail invitation. If you are not registered and wish to be on the Jump Start invitation list, please e-mail Rebecca Jaffe at [rjaffe@washingtonea.org](mailto:rjaffe@washingtonea.org) with “Jump Start List” in the subject line.

Jump Start seminar options:

- Tacoma April 25, 26, May 9, 10
- Spokane June 23, 24, 25, 26
- Puget Sound August 4, 5, 6, 7



#### Council Calendar

Pre-Retirement Seminar	2/29-3/1
Read Across America Day	3/3
Sammamish Unified Bargaining (SUB) Meeting	3/3
Presidents and Council Meeting	3/3
New Educator Caucus	3/18
48th District Town Hall Meeting-Bellevue City Hall	3/22
Spring Break Begins LWEA, MIEA	3/31

#### WEA-SAMMAMISH

10628 NE 37th Circle Kirkland, WA 98033  
Phone 425-822-9898 or 1-888-476-4226

[www.weasam.org](http://www.weasam.org)

#### Executive Board

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