

CONNECTIONS

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: *BACK TO SCHOOL*

Time to take a deep breath and get your mind back in the game! Now that most of you are back to your classrooms or worksites, you're probably wondering where summer has gone. Bellevue EA and Snoqualmie EA worked hard over the summer at the bargaining table. Snoqualmie EA reached a Tentative Agreement at 10:35 p.m. on August 26 which was ratified by 10:00 a.m. on August 27 by the membership. SEA compensation improvements include the COLA plus an average of 2.5% in each of the next 3 years. Stay tuned for details!

Bellevue EA has settled after a successful teacher strike. They were organized and focused. They knew the issues and supported their bargaining team. In the end they prevailed and ratified a contract that meets their needs and addressed their issues.

I heard a rumor there were important election races coming this fall. Please visit the WEA website at www.washingtonea.org for more information. There have been major changes in the high school graduation requirements (increased to 24

credits) and the State Board of Education has tied these changes to increased funding to cover the additional cost to school districts. Now the legislature will need to work to find the means to fund this change. The interesting issue to be resolved seems to be how we will recruit and retain the additional teachers needed to fill the hard-to-find teachers in math and science. The good news is that it will be phased in from 2013 to 2016.

WEA continues to work hard at building coalitions across the state to address funding that doesn't meet the requirements of world-class educational opportunities for all students. Watch for opportunities to participate in the *Take the lead* campaign this year!

Please let your local association leaders know how you will help create world-class education and schools.



ART GALLOWAY
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ELECTION SEASON

There are several events this fall which will have a major impact on public education. Most notable are the upcoming elections for governor, superintendent of public instruction, and a few key legislative positions. WEA-PAC has been actively involved in these races by reviewing questionnaires, interviewing candidates, researching their records, and determining which candidates are the best friends of public education. Now it is up to the members and the public. Please be sure to vote and encourage your friends and neighbors to vote.

For information about WEA-PAC endorsed candidates, visit one of our websites at www.OurVoiceWashington.org. Please be sure to do this from a personal computer and not on school district equipment.

Another key educational activity this fall is the report from the Basic Education Funding Task Force. The task force is charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the current education funding system. ~ *Clarence Gunn*

Summer Bargaining Heated Up!

One of the greatest areas where members can improve their working conditions, pay and benefits is by exercising the power of standing united in their own local bargaining. Members experienced this as bargaining for WEA-Sammamish locals heated up this summer.

In June, Snoqualmie and Bellevue members voted to strike if they did not have a contract by the first student day.

SEA and BEA bargaining teams worked hard this summer to reach agreements they could recommend to their respective members. Just days before the start of school, SEA and BEA members showed their resolve by picketing their district's offices. Both locals had made improvements in local TRI pay and increased district contributions to offset rising medical insurance premiums priority items for their bargains.

This level of member awareness and involvement was enough in Snoqualmie - SEA settled on August 27. SEA Secured a number of contract improvements including TRI increases in each year

of a three-years contract and improved district contributions to employee insurance. SEA President Art Galloway stressed that these contract improvements will attract and retain quality educators in Snoqualmie.

In Bellevue, the parties were deeply divided on economic issues and over whether Bellevue teachers should be allowed to modify or replace the required, scripted daily lessons on the district's "curriculum web." During the nine-day strike, members showed spirit, strength and unity on the picket lines. They made YouTube videos and stated their case against mandated one-size-fits-all lessons at www.bellevueEa.org. At a public meeting, parents did not support the district's views on teaching or a court order against the teachers. Member resolve paid off. The district ultimately agreed to allow teachers to use their professional judgment with lessons, to increase TRI pay by 5% over three years, and to add \$1 million to the insurance pool every year of the new contract. Other contract improvements were also made. ~ Kathleen Heiman



Take the lead.

Restoring Washington's Commitment to Great Public Schools

The newly formed TTL WEA-Sammamish Steering Committee met in August to formulate a plan of action for the new school year under the leadership of John Schuster, Tahoma EA and Lora Hein, UniServ Rep.

Jami Hellickson (BEA) will be in charge of the NEWS Action Plan, Marian Illingworth (LWEA) will head External Organizing/ Community Outreach, and Tani Lindquist (MIEA) and Becky Whelchel (LWESP) will take on the Living Wage Action Plan.

Paul Hopp (BEA) will delve into a deeper understanding of the Basic Education Task Force/ Grimm Commission and the NEWS lawsuit, specifically focusing on the numbers. John Schuster will be our point person on the State Board of Education.

Libby Boucher (LWESP) and Paula Weiss (IEA) will be involved with the planning of the all-day *Take the lead* training that is scheduled for Thursday, December 4 that will involve the entire Cadre. The training will be held at the Hollywood Schoolhouse in Woodinville. ~ Lora Hein

WEA-Sammamish UniServ Reps

Clarence Gunn - Issaquah EA, Snoqualmie EA, Snoqualmie Valley ASA
Caroline McDowell - Lake Washington EA

Kathleen Heiman - Bellevue EA, Riverview EA
Lora Hein - Lake Washington ESP, Mercer Island EA, Tahoma EA,

Sammamish Summer

Many local members attended the NEA Convention in Washington, D.C. during the first week of July. Delegates to the Representative Assembly elected new NEA officers: president Dennis Van Roekel from Arizona, vice president Lily Eskelsen from Utah, and secretary-treasurer Becky Pringle from Philadelphia. By a vote of 80%, delegates endorsed the candidacy of Senator Barack Obama for president of the United States. Among many other issues, they approved a continuing effort to fix and fund “No



Child Left Behind.” Our delegates were: BEA—**Michele Gaynor, Tessa Heady, Michele Miller, Debby Nissen**; IEA—**Becky**

Havekost, Doug Jones, Emily Lee, Becky Rappin, Paula Weiss; LWEA—**Mike Blodgett, Lucy Davies, Jim Eaton, Ken Egawa, Marilyn Hargraves, Sandy Hargraves, Laurie Harrison, Kay Knox, Kevin Teeley, Jane Wartenbe**; State Delegates—**Barbara Galler (IEA), Stephen Miller (BEA), Sheila Nokes (LWESP), Peggy Solum (LWEA)**.

Our summer continued with several local leaders attending the WEA Leadership Academy (WEALA): **Gary Barone (MIEA), Perry Garrison (REA), Lorraine VanKomen (LWESP)**.

Many of our members who are readying themselves for the National Board Certification process attended 4-day Jump Start seminars this summer.

WEA Offers...

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With Safeway.com, grocery shopping is convenient—7 days a week, night or day. Prices are the same online as in a local store, including Club Card and advertised specials. Just choose a delivery time that’s convenient to you. Products come from a Safeway store near the delivery address. Just before delivery, a Safeway.com personal shopper carefully hand selects each order to ensure quality and freshness. The order is loaded into temperature-controlled trucks and delivered right to your home. ~

www.washingtonea.org



Join us on October 28 New Educator Caucus

If you are a certificated educator in your first five years, please come for hot topics, conversation, good food, and clock hours.

E-mail

**ccole@washingtonea.org*

***Please note:**
Currently, please e-mail
ccole@lwsd.org

Upcoming Events

Presidents Meeting	9/15
Take the Lead Steering Committee	9/25
SUB Bargaining Meeting	10/6
Presidents and Council Meeting	10/6
New Educator Caucus	10/28

WEA-Sammamish

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Executive Board

President—Art Galloway
Treasurer—Mike Blodgett

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