

NEWS Lawsuit

The lawsuit brought on by the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) against the state is now under way in King County Superior Court. WEA and about 70 community organizations, school districts, and local education associations are suing the state for its failure to fully fund public education.

Please visit www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org from your home computer to get daily updates.

For detailed information about the court case, visit www.waschoolexcellence.org from your home computer as well.



UNISERV? UNISERV!

The National Education Association Unified Service (UniServ) Program began in 1970 to build strong local associations in the interest of their members. Today, the UniServ Council staff handles grievances and arbitrations, negotiates contracts, organizes new members, coordinates professional development activities, and more. Washington Education Association is composed of 21 UniServ Councils statewide, including our own WEA-Sammamish UniServ Council.

Other Council members are: Bellevue EA—Kim Herzog, Michele Gaynor; Issaquah EA—Gayle Boyd, Marie Duke, Becky Havekost, Phyllis Runyon; Lake Washington EA—Mike Blodgett, Jim Eaton, Vicki McCarter, Peggy Solum, Ernest Young; Mercer Island EA—Tani Lindquist; Riverview EA—Teresa O’Shea; Snoqualmie EA—Lisa Radmer; WEA-Retired—Eleanor Gilmore; WEA Board—Neva Luke, Stephen Miller, Mike Radow, John Schuster (Tahoma EA).

WEA-Sammamish has seven certificated and two classified locals with a total membership of about 5,000 members. The Council is governed by elected leaders within the nine local associations, many of whom are full-time school employees. Our Executive Board members are: Stephen Miller, president (Bellevue EA), Art Galloway, vice president (Snoqualmie EA), Neva Luke, treasurer (Issaquah EA), and Michele Miller, secretary (Bellevue EA). Local presidents are: Michele Miller (BEA), Neva Luke (IEA), Kevin Teeley (Lake Washington EA), Lorraine VanKomen (Lake Washington ESP), Mike Radow (Mercer Island EA), Perry Garrison (Riverview EA), Art Galloway (SEA), Deb Baker-Jagla (Snoqualmie Valley ASA), and Scott Mitchell (Tahoma EA).

The Council has four UniServ representatives who represent our nine locals: Clarence Gunn (IEA, SEA, and SVASA), Kathleen Heiman (BEA and REA), Lora Hein (LWESP, MIEA, and TEA), and Caroline McDowell (LWEA). The staff is rounded out by field assistants Cheryl Hopkins, Margie Wold, and Charlotte Cole.

Our Council was formed in 1974 with Lake Washington EA and Issaquah EA as the original two locals. Lake Washington ESP joined the group in 1981, followed by Mercer Island EA, Riverview EA, Snoqualmie EA, Snoqualmie Valley ASA, and Tahoma EA in 1999. Bellevue EA operated as their own Council until they joined WEA-Sammamish in 2004.

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

Bargaining Updates

Kent EA was just one of dozens at the bargaining table this summer. However, their bargain was one of the most contentious and hard fought, but after a two-week strike, the Kent teachers voted overwhelmingly to ratify their contract. They fought for smaller class sizes and fewer district-mandated meetings. In the process, they had their voices heard and felt the support of their union.

In our Council, Mercer Island EA was able to achieve a settlement that was ratified by their members before the new school year began. Elsewhere, Lake Washington Educational Support Personnel (LWESP) is still in the process of completing negotiations for a Living Wage.

Issaquah EA, Riverview EA, Snoqualmie Valley ASA, and Tahoma EA will all be bargaining this year. They have the support of the Council and assist each other prior to and during the bargain.

The Council is part of a collective bargaining group comprised of our UniServ reps and local presidents, as well as the UniServ reps and presidents of Edmonds EA, Kent EA, Seattle EA, and Shoreline EA. The group meets monthly to share their progress, contract language, and issues.

Calendar of Events

Pre-Retirement Seminar	10/30-10/31
SUB Meeting	11/9
Presidents Meeting	11/9
Office Closed - Veteran's Day	11/11
Office Closed - Thanksgiving	11/26-11/27

*Join us on December 11 & 12
Pre-Retirement Seminar
E-mail ccole@washingtonea.org
for a registration form.*

WEA & NEA Offer...



There is a very helpful link with information, tips, and guidelines about the H1N1 Swine Flu virus. Please go to <http://www.neahin.org/h1n1/index.html> and find resources about the influenza virus and the H1N1 vaccine.

You and your students should follow these common-sense steps to limit the spread of germs:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- Put used tissues in a wastebasket.
- Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing. Use soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay at home if you are sick.

Trivia Teaser...

According to legend, which Seattle site is said to host a bevy of ghosts and just might be the most haunted place in the state of Washington:

1. Seattle Center
2. Woodland Park Zoo
3. Pioneer Square
4. Golden Gardens
5. Pike Place Market
6. University of Washington

E-mail ccole@washingtonea.org with your answer. All correct entries will be placed in the drawing for a \$10 Starbucks gift card.

Lisa Keuss, LWEA, had one of the two correct answers in June - Scene It and Pictionary were both invented in Washington. Congratulations, Lisa!