



Outlook

From the President...



Welcome back to a new school year. While you are working hard with students, NEA continues to work on the reauthorization of the elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Many of you know this piece of legislation as No Child Left Behind. This bill brought you the WASL and highly qualified educators just to name two things! NEA is currently in a major battle to see that the reauthorization of this bill doesn't do further harm to our students and our members.

I am asking for your help. The ESEA draft and reauthorization is on a fast track for a vote in Congress, possibly at the end of October. NEA believes that the train is going down the wrong track and Congress should take the time to do it right. Any decisions voted on in the reauthorization will be in place for the next six years!

Some concerns regarding the draft are as follows:

- **It continues to measure school success overwhelmingly on two standardized tests.** NEA has asked for growth models and multiple measures in an attempt to get a more accurate picture of student learning and school quality.
- **It fails to take into account unique needs of ELL and students with disabilities.** Our ELL students and students with disabilities need to be treated with respect and given multiple measures to meet the criteria set by ESEA.
- **It contains pay for test scores by linking standardized tests scores to teacher pay.** Local districts would apply for grants that use student test scores to determine teacher pay and "bonuses." A pay system that mandates teacher pay based in whole or in part on student performance or test scores is unacceptable.
- **It undermines educators' collective bargaining rights.** Transfers from school to school within the district based on effectiveness in the classroom and performance pay are two examples.
- **It imposes many new mandates without guarantee of additional funding.** ESEA is currently under-funded. School districts cannot afford a further drain on their resources.

Please take the time to contact your Washington state representatives and ask them to slow down the process for a thoughtful reauthorization of ESEA. Representatives of Congress also need to hear from you! Share examples of the frustration you feel when it's time to give the WASL. Share your horror stories as well as your successes! Let them know the effect No Child Left Behind has had on your profession and the lives of the students in your classrooms. Contact them today. **It's up to us, all educators, classified and certificated, to stand up for our rights and those of our students.**

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Take the lead.

*Restoring Washington's Commitment
to Great Public Schools*

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WEA Chinook's Community Outreach Grant

Surrounded by barbecue smoke, Debbie Wilson & Rosemarie Majeski (Cosmopolis Education Association President) serve hamburgers to parents and students at the Cosmopolis Education Association's (CEA) sponsored Back to School Barbeque held September 13.

Through the efforts of Aaron Roiko the CEA applied for and received a



Rosemarie Majeski & Aaron Roiko



Debbie Wilson & Rosemarie Majeski serve hamburgers at the Back to School Barbeque

WEA Chinook Community Outreach Grant. The grant provided food and dinnerware products for the event. The PTA and others donated bicycles that were given to students through a no-cost drawing. Bicycle helmets were also given to students needing one.

Three hundred and fifty (350)

parents, students, and school staff attended the event. Aaron said, "This is a great example of the union, school and community all working together to encourage students to achieve."

Community Outreach Grants are available to all WEA Chinook members. For an application see our website at www.wea-chinook.org or call 360.943.1776 or 800.244.0147.



WEA-PAC Payroll Deduction is Here!

Payroll deduction for WEA-PAC is now available for only \$2.25 per month. Once you fill out the enrollment form your membership continues until you stop the deduction or leave employment. Check with your local president or building rep to get your enrollment form.

✓ WEA-PAC gives us a voice to fight for increased education funding, higher school quality and improved compensation.

- ✓ WEA-PAC helps to elect candidates, including school board candidates, who will put children and public education first.
- ✓ WEA-PAC gives us a strong voice in the debate over key issues such as funding, class size, compensation and accountability.

If you are currently a member through electronic funds transfer (EFT) your membership will continue unless you want to switch to payroll deduction. Payment by check is also available.

WEA PAC
Your Voice – Your Vote

WEA-PAC is the political action committee of the WEA.



Peer Support Program



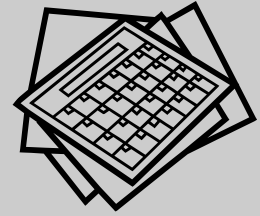
Do you want to improve your professional practices or expand your current content knowledge? Would you like to receive help and advice from a fellow practitioner on classroom management, special education issues, time management or organizational skills? Would you like to improve your skills in an area in which you have experienced difficulty?

If so, try WEA Chinook's Peer Support Program:

To begin the process, members should fill out an application available through your local president and/or WEA Chinook. A peer support program committee member will then interview the member to develop an appropriate mentor match, and the applicant and mentor will cooperatively determine how to proceed based on the applicant's identified needs. All assistance is provided with competence, concern and complete confidentiality.

If you or a colleague are interested in working with a peer mentor, WEA Chinook is here to help. The program is open to any WEA Chinook member not currently on probation. Members anticipating placement on probation are encouraged to seek assistance from their local association president or UniServ Rep as soon as possible.

Find out more! Contact WEA Chinook for an application or more details about this confidential assistance program. (360.943.1776 or 800.244.0147 or email dcuomo@washingtonea.org or lbowlen-nadeau@washingtonea.org)



Mark Your Calendars!

Council Meeting

October 25th

WEA Bargaining Conference

(Doubletree at SeaTac)

October 26-27

Coordinated Bargaining Mtg

November 13th

Executive Board Meeting &

Holiday Dinner (1:00 pm)

December 13th

Dinner at 4:30 pm
Meeting starts at 5:00 pm

All meetings held at
WEA Chinook unless noted

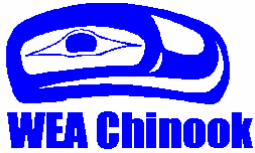
NEW IRS Regulations for 403b Tax Sheltered Annuities!

Members who have 403b tax sheltered annuities should be aware of a new IRS regulation which shifts the responsibility for keeping supportive documents from the annuity companies to the district. This also requires that changes and withdrawals must be done through the school districts.

Districts must adopt policies to deal with these annuities by 2009, and recommended providers AIG/VALIC and NEA Valuebuilders have prototype language available. There is some concern that districts might stop offering these plans since they have this added re-

sponsibility. It's a good time to make sure that your collective bargaining agreement specifies that 403b plans be offered to employees. Check with your local president to see how this affects you!

For more information, go to
[www.washingtonea.org/
static_content/edge/403.pdf](http://www.washingtonea.org/static_content/edge/403.pdf)



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It's Simple! Support Our Schools

For nearly 70 years a requirement has been in place that calls for a 60% passage on any school levy or bond. Many of the levies that fail across our state receive a majority vote but come just shy of a 60 percent vote—thus failing. School levies are the only vote taken by the people that require above a 50 percent vote.

We now have an historic opportunity to change this. Simple majority for school levies is on the November 6th ballot. It's time that school levy elections are treated like any other election that requires a simple majority (50% plus one vote) for passage.

It will take every pro-public education supporter in this state to cast a vote on November 6th, and we need your help. You are the credible voice in your community. You know what the passage or failure of a levy means to your district, your school, your classroom and each individual student. Get the word out:

- **Local levies provide our schools with fundamental needs.**
- **Our schools need our help.**
- **Levy failures hurt our kids.**
- **The 60% supermajority rule is unfair to our schools and our students.**

Vote for Simple Majority
APPROVE 4204



FACT: We need you to vote on November 6!
