



Outlook



Kathie Axtell, Council President

WEA Chinook worked hard to influence the 2007 legislative session. Many WEA Chinook members lobbied their legislators, wrote postcards and made phone calls. Thank you for all your hard work. Remember, it's never too late to let your legislators know how you feel about their actions in Olympia!

The Good News

COLA Plus: School employees will receive a 3.7% COLA in 2007-08 and an estimated 2.8% in 2008-2009. K-12 staff in 262 school districts will receive an additional .6% salary increase in 2007-08 and .7% in 2008-09, which will bring them closer to districts that are grandfathered at a higher salary rate. The budget also includes additional increases for ESP and administrators.

National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) bonuses: National Board Certified Teachers will receive an annual \$5,000 bonus (up from the current \$3,500) beginning with the 2007-08 school year. Bonuses in subsequent years will go up with inflation.

Legislative Session 2007

An additional bonus of \$5,000 is available for board certified teachers working in schools with 70% or more free and reduced lunch students.

Pensions: Members of Retirement Plans 2 and 3 can retire without penalty at age 62 with 30 years experience. The uniform COLA for Plan 1 members was increased.

Educational Staff Associates (ESAs): Up to two years of related professional experience will be funded for salary placement for ESAs (school psychologists, nurses, OT/PTs, counselors, etc.).

WASL Delay: The requirement to pass the math and science WASL for high school graduation has been delayed until 2013.

Simple Majority: The House and Senate approved a measure to change the requirement to pass a school levy from 60% to a simple majority (50% +1). This has been a WEA goal for at least 10 years. It will go before the voters this November, since such a change would be an amendment to the state's constitution.

The Not So Good News

No significant salary increase to move us out of dead last among west coast states for

compensation.

No major progress towards a "Rule of 85", which would allow those in Plans 2 and 3 to retire when their age plus retirement service credit equals or exceeds 85.

Gain sharing has been repealed for Plans 1 and 3. House Bill 2391, signed by the Governor, eliminates pension gain sharing after 2008, a move that affects more than 235,000 active and retired public employees. WEA opposed the repeal of gain sharing and has filed a lawsuit along with individual educators arguing that gain sharing is a vested contractual right that cannot be repealed unilaterally.

No class size reduction. We are now 47th in the nation for largest class sizes!

Health care benefits were under funded. A 3.6% increase vs. a projected 8%+ increase in health care premiums.

Please take care of yourselves as we focus on ending our school year on a positive note. Many thanks to those members who provided leadership and attended meetings and trainings throughout the year. We look forward to serving you in the 2007-08 school year!

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June 2007

Mark Your Calendar



The 3rd Annual
Gary Brown
Scholarship Golf
Tournament
will be held
the afternoon of
August 8, 2007
at the Golf Club.
Tee off
is
at 1:30 pm.

For registration
forms and more
information,
go to
www.gbclassic.com.



Keep Your Documents Current

I know, I know, you have enough to do! You have likely heard this and read about it as well, but maybe thought you'd check later, when you have time, but if you hold a Washington State teaching certificate dated August 31, 1987 or later — **check the expiration on the certificate! NOW!** New rules have a universal expiration date of June 30. You are responsible for meeting the current requirements for renewal by that date in the year your certificate expires.

In the event you miss the deadlines, you'll have even more to do getting the necessary certificate to continue in your profession. You will end up with the new Residency Certificate no matter what certificate you've held. This means you'll have five years to acquire the new Professional Certificate (Pro Cert), but only after showing your teaching competence meets the 17 standards set by the state.

Should you find yourself in a bind over this, don't hesitate to contact your local president or your UniServ Representative. When possible, we'll assist in addressing employment-related problems that may arise if you do not have the proper credentials needed to teach. This can be, and for many right now is, an ongoing source of aggravation. Avoid, the fuss and checkout your certificate **NOW!**



Exceeds Expectations!

WEA Chinook's WEA-PAC drives have exceeded last year's membership. We currently have 380 voluntary members with some locals still conducting drives.

WEA Chinook's Public Education Action Committee (PEAC) announces these additional winners in the ongoing drawing.

- Connie Van Hoose, North Thurston EA
- Harold Henry, North Thurston EA
- Susan O'Neal, Olympia EA
- Robin Wright, Morton EA



Morton Education Association for achieving the Council's all time high goal. Fifty-two percent (52%) of their membership joined WEA-PAC. Way to Go!

Payroll Deduction for WEA-PAC is Coming!!!!

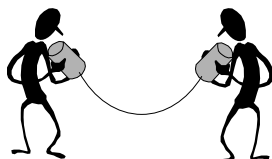
Payroll deduction for WEA-PAC was discontinued in 2000 because Initiative 134 made annual written authorization a requirement. Up until last year, cash, check, credit card, or EFT were the only methods of contributing to WEA-PAC.

In 1992, prior to the passage of Initiative 134, WEA-PAC members numbered roughly 50,000 with an annual PAC budget of \$630,242. In 2006, there were only about 7,660 members and a budget of \$187,000. Without increasing membership and contributions, WEA's ability to affect the outcome of key state legislative races could decline at the same time the legislature becomes more involved in issues affecting education.

In 2004, the law changed allowing for ongoing payroll deduction with an annual notification requirement. WEA will notify WEA-PAC members of their status each year and provide an opportunity to discontinue the deduction.

The payroll deduction rate for WEA-PAC will be \$2.25 per month (\$27 per year if deducted every month for 12 months), no more, no less, beginning with the September payroll.

Members who wish to pay with cash, or by check or credit card, may continue to do so, and can then contribute more than \$27 if they wish. Members currently contributing through EFT will continue to pay the same amount they have been paying.



If you have any questions or need a form, please contact Margery Owens at WEA Chinook: 943-1776, 800-244-0147, or mowens@washingtonea.org.

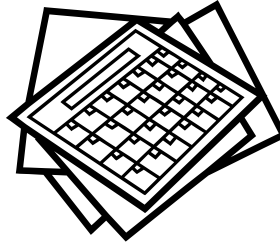
July's Events

June 30-July 5, 2007
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
NEA Representative Assembly

July 2-6, 2007
WEA Chinook office
Office closed for summer vacation

July 30, 2007
Shoreline Conference Center
WEA Leadership Academy

PLEASE
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS



August's Events

August 1-2, 2007
Shoreline Conference Center
WEA Leadership Academy

August 24, 2007
WEA Chinook office
Executive Board Retreat



Local Highlights

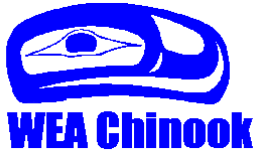
North Thurston Education Association members will be voting on the ratification of their 2007-2009 contract during the week of June 11. NTEA president Conni Van Hoose reports significant gains were made in compensation over the two years of this contract. In 2007-08 four TRI days will be added creating a salary range of \$35,805 - \$68,163. In 2008-09 four additional days will be added to create a range of \$37,809- \$71,966. Of the TRI days, ten are in a Responsibility Contract for 07-08 requiring no tracking or documentation during the year. In 08-09 thirteen days are in the Responsibility Contract. During the 2003-04 year North Thurston teachers were only paid for 30 TRI hours. That number increases to 172.5 hours by the end of the 2007-09 contract. President Van Hoose stated, "We see this as a significant gain, yet, the bargaining team knows we have a long way to go to catch up with other like-sized districts. We will continue to pursue our goal of higher compensation."

Other changes in the Contract include: the ability to take 5 of an accumulated 6 personal leave days in a row, Special Education Safety language, a caseload review process for special education, and removal of the requirement that a jury duty stipend be returned to the district.

Scenes from the
SPARKS Retreat held on
May 17—19, 2007 at
Best Western Wesley
Inn, Gig Harbor



What is SPARKS? It's an interactive, hands-on, fun way to connect with other people who, like many, are new to education (5 years or less).
Members from Centralia, Olympia, North Thurston, Tumwater, and Yelm attended.



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Congratulations!

Centralia High School teacher
Therese Allin
has been selected as a
Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by
The National Society of High School Scholars.

GOOD JOB, THERESE!

WEA Leadership Academy Provides the Fundamentals & Fun For All

The 2007 WEA Leadership Academy (WEALA) is being held at Shoreline Conference Center (just minutes north of downtown Seattle) from July 30-August 2, 2007. The schedule will be: **Registration on Monday, July 30th at 4:00 pm;** Classes start on Tuesday, July 31st at 8:30 am; Classes end on Thursday, August 2nd no later than 3:30 pm.

What's WEALA? It's a mixture of fun activities, peer networking and

serious training that addresses a wide range of leadership development and local advocacy skills. Classes focus on bargaining, grievances, building rep training, organizing, National Board Certification, communication and leadership.



Come enjoy the fun at
WEA Leadership Academy
at the Shoreline Conference Center

You can also earn clock hours or college credit.

Interested? Get onboard for the WEALA Express—a time for fun, food and learning. You can find out more about WEALA at

www.washingtonea.org, go to 'quick links' at top of the page, then choose WEALA

ALL ABOARD!

WEA Chinook's Summer Schedule

This is the time of year that you make your summer vacation plans. Many of you will be out of school, and thus it is the best time for our staff members to take their vacations as well. Our office will be closed from July 2nd through July 6th. Chinook will be staffed for the rest of July, although with a reduced number of staff.

If your issue is not an emergency, I urge you to call in August when our UniServ Representatives will be available.

Hopefully, this will meet all of your needs and still give our staff the chance for a much needed opportunity to relax and recharge for next year.

