

WEA to drop Premera in favor of United Health Care and Aetna

Last June, the WEA Board of Directors approved conducting a market evaluation of WEA's sponsored medical plan, Premera, to determine if the plan was meeting the needs of members both in cost and in coverage. After identifying what plan members considered to be the most important elements of a health care plan, WEA put its medical plan out for bid.

WEA's Benefit Services Advisory Board spent seven months reviewing insurance carrier proposals, receiving presentations, and conducting site visits to customer service centers. Three carriers emerged as finalists---Premera, Aetna, and United Health Care. After thorough evaluation, two carriers were approved---United Health Care and Aetna.

As a result, Premera will no longer be the WEA-endorsed plan as of November 1, 2017.

What does this mean for Lake Washington? At this point, we're not exactly sure. Here are some possible scenarios:

- Nothing changes. LWSD continues to offer the same Group Health (now Kaiser) plans, plus Premera Plan 3. Premera would not be endorsed by WEA, so we may have to negotiate rates and coverage locally with Premera instead of statewide by WEA.
- LWSD continues to offer the same Group Health (Kaiser) plans, drops Premera, and picks up Aetna and/or United Health Care as additional options.
- LWSD drops Premera and becomes exclusively Group Health (Kaiser).

The LWSD Benefits Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from all employee groups (including LWEA), will make a recommendation once more information is available about the plans and what the impact would be in making any changes to our plan offerings. As of now, we don't have rate or coverage information on Aetna and United Health Care, nor do we know what Premera will do in response to losing 100,000+ enrollees in the WEA market. Specifically, we don't know if we'll even be able to offer Premera next year, much less what the rates and coverage might be.

Even though we have very few details at this time, we thought it was important for you to hear from us as soon as possible about WEA's decision to drop Premera. We'll continue to seek more clarity on the issue and will share with you any developments that arise.

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Kevin Teeley,
President

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Scholarships for you

WEA-Retired is offering up to eight \$1,000 non-renewable scholarships for the purpose of assisting WEA members to enhance skills in specific education areas and/or attain a teaching certificate. Certificated, classified (ESP) or student WEA members are eligible to apply. Use this [link](#) to access the applications (scroll down the page).

Applications for the 2017 scholarships are now being accepted. Complete an application form and submit a letter of application using the criteria in the addendum for certificated members, classified (ESP) members, or student WEA members.

The deadline to apply for the 2017 scholarships is April 16, 2017.

LW PTSA Council is offering at least two \$500 scholarships to LWSD certificated staff for continuing education programs, professional development courses, or National Board Certification (or recertification) and are available exclusively to LWSD Certificated Staff Members.

Applications can be accessed by contacting [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWEA office or on the LWPTSA Council [website](#). The application deadline is 6 PM on April 12, 2017. For additional information, contact [Irene Neumann](#), LWPTSA Council Scholarship Chair.

ADK Scholarship: The Beta Iota Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, the international honorary organization for women educators, is pleased to announce a \$500, non-renewable scholarship for a certificated female staff currently employed in LWSD.

The scholarship must be used for courses that are required for professional employment or advancement with either a Bachelor's degree in the field of education that is different from any previous area of study for previously earned degrees, a certification program (CTE), ProTeach, National Board), or a Master's degree in education.

The deadline to submit applications for the 2017 scholarship is 12 PM on April 14, 2017. The winner of the scholarship will be awarded at the annual Retirement Tea on June 14 at the LWSD Resource Center.

Scholarship applications are available by contacting [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWEA office.

Community Immigration Forum

A Community Immigration Forum will be held on Wednesday, March 22, from 6-8 PM at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Center (16600 NEA 80th Street, Redmond, WA). The City of Redmond, the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, and LWSD are partnering to host this event to help educate and inform the community.

Attendees can learn more about the complex issues of immigration from legal experts in the field. All are invited.



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Conference for you?

The [Teaching Equity Conference](#) is a collaborative effort for future teachers and current WEA members that focuses on the successes and challenges educators face in the daily work of educational equity and social justice for students in our classrooms and communities. This year's focus will be on ELL strategies for closing the opportunity gap. Participants will have an opportunity to learn new instructional skills and strategies from current classroom practitioners as well as learn about resources available within the educational community.

This year's conference will be held Saturday, April 22, at Highline Community College, from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. The keynote speaker is Daudie Abe, a Seattle-based professor, writer and historian.

Clock hours, and breakfast and lunch are included in the \$40 registration fee for WEA members. The fee is \$50 if registering at the door. The fee for non-WEA members is \$100.

LWEA will reimburse the conference fee for LWEA members who complete the conference.

To register - you can use this [link](#) (scroll down the page).

What bargaining can do...

THEN: Administrators could change a student's grade without consulting the teacher involved.

NOW: A specific process must be used prior to any grade change taking place. The process is clearly set out in the [LWEA/LWSD contract](#) (Section 10.14 - page 10).

Reimbursement forms

Need a reimbursement form for your Professional Fund receipts? You can find that form on the LWSD Portal – go to Pay, Benefits, & Wellness – then Professional Fund, and open the Documents. Send completed forms and receipts to Liz Elliott in accounts Payable.

An important thing to note – receipts can't include personal items so be sure to check each receipt you submit.

Classified School Employees Week

March 13-17 *

Take a moment to thank the classified staff in your building who work so hard to keep your school running so well!

*We reported in error that last week was Classified School Employees Week – so we're going to appreciate all of you again this week!



FOR SALE

5-piece Ricardo **luggage set** w/ wheels, no rips, or stains, \$75 OBO. Black **tap shoes**, black, size 9M (street shoe size 8M), \$30. Jazzsize ankle **& wrist weights**, \$20 for both. West Bend polished aluminum 30-cup **coffee pot**, \$10. Glass **punch bowl** & ladle, w/ 12 cups, \$10. Karla Stalwick (retired) 425-898-0747 or dkstalwick@comcast.net.

Dymo LabelWriter 450 Turbo Thermal **Label Printer**. Lightly used, great condition. Includes original packaging, manuals, software, & starter labels. Use for address labels, postage, folder labels, name badges, & more. \$50. Cathy Webb (Twain) cdwebb70@mac.com.



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Loan Forgiveness Seminar

The latest NEA Member Benefits research shows recent graduates are leaving higher ed schools with greater and greater debt. We know that student loan debt is a critical issue for our members.

Teresa Muench, our expert from NEA Member Benefits will walk us through the process of Loan Forgiveness. This program is a result of NEA's "Degrees Not Debt" campaign.

The class will take place on March 23, 2017 (from 4:30 - 6:30 PM) in the LWEA Meeting Room #214.

To register, complete the registration form (located on our [website](#)) and send the form and your \$20 check to **Sheila Hagerman** in the LWEA Office.



Marketplace

Ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis. All ads need to be in written form. Send directly to Sheila Hagerman at shhagerman@lwsd.org.

Ads are subject to approval of the LWEA Executive Committee and may be edited for length.

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LWEA Website

Lakewashingtonea.org

[Facebook](#)

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Calendar

March 17

St. Patrick's Day

March 20

First Day of Spring



March 21

Rep Assembly

March 23

Student Loan Forgiveness
4:30 -6:30 PM

March 28

Wine & Wisdom - 5 PM
BJ's Restaurant & Brew House