

UPDATE

Lake Washington Education Association

November 30, 2011

Special session: Will lawmakers continue to break the law?

Despite a February 2010 ruling in King County Superior Court which found the State of Washington to be in violation of the state constitution for failing to amply fund public education, the state legislature continues to consider more cuts to public schools. On the table are proposals to reduce the school year, cut teacher salaries, reduce teacher health care benefits, slash funding for preschool and all-day kindergarten, and reduce or eliminate levy equalization funds that help property-poor school districts make ends meet.

LWEA took a busload of members to Olympia on Monday, the first day of the special session, to protest further cuts to our schools. Meanwhile, educators throughout the district wore red in support of those who made the trip to Olympia to represent them. (See photos on Facebook under "[Washington Education Association](#).)

The message we have for legislators is clear---it's time for profitable corporations and the ultra-wealthy to pay their fair share to fund public schools and social services. According to the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, the wealthiest 1% of Washingtonians pay just 2.9% of their income in taxes, while those earning less than \$20,000 annually pay 17.3% of their income towards sales, excise, and property taxes.

Legislators need to hear your opinion about more cuts to education and how their previous cuts have affected your students. Washington is 49th in the nation in class size and 47th in per-pupil spending. Ask your legislators if they plan to continue to break the law by failing to fully fund public education, or will they do the right thing and put kids ahead of the interests of wealthy individuals and corporations?

Contact your legislators from your home computer at www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org or by calling them during non-work hours on your cell phone at 1-800-562-6000. Please do so TODAY!



LWEA members join education supporters on the steps of the State Capitol to protest cuts to public schools.

Information & News for Members

Have you checked your beneficiaries lately?

Remember all those forms you filled out when you were first hired by the school district? Probably not. For some of us, it's been many, many years. Even if you've only been with the district a few years, you've likely forgotten what all the forms were, much less what you put on them.

On some of the forms, you were asked to designate a beneficiary for life insurance and retirement. If you don't remember who you listed on each of these forms, then it's probably time to fill out new forms and send them to Payroll. **Please DON'T contact Payroll to find out who's listed on your forms.** They'd rather you just sent them a new form, even if the information ends up being the same.

Since you were first hired, have you:

- Become married?
- Legally separated?
- Divorced?
- Remarried?
- Entered into a domestic partnership?
- Dissolved a domestic partnership?
- Had children, or additional children?
- Adopted?
- Experienced the death of a parent who might be listed as your beneficiary?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should fill out new beneficiary forms. Often times if employees are single with no dependents when they're

hired, they'll designate their parents as their beneficiaries. They tend to forget, however, that when they experience a change in family status, they should consider revising their designation.

Here are the four plans for which you should submit new forms:

District Life (Cigna): As an employee of the district, you're automatically covered with a life insurance policy that's equal to your salary up to \$50,000.

Retirement: State retirement plan

Premera Life: If you have Premera Medical, you're automatically covered by a small life insurance policy.

Unum Optional Life: This is an optional life insurance plan that you pay for through payroll deduction. If you're unsure whether or not you have it, look on a recent pay stub under "Deductions." It will show up as "OPTL LI-UNUM P."

It's important to know that these plans will ONLY pay to the designated beneficiaries, REGARDLESS of what your will might say. The only way to guarantee that the funds will be paid out to the people you want is to list them on your beneficiary forms.

To get copies of these forms, go to Payroll and Benefits on the Staff Portal. Look for Beneficiary Forms. Send completed forms to Payroll.

LWEA Executive Committee

President - Kevin Teeley
LWEA / 425 822-3388
kteeley@lwsd.org

Vice President - Mike Blodgett
Kirkland / 425 936-2420

Primary Rep – Ken Egawa
Blackwell / 425 936-2520

Intermediate Rep - Peggy Solum
Frost / 425 936-2560

Junior High Rep – Matt Breyse
Kamiakin / 425 936-2400

Senior High Rep – David McGibney
EHS / 425 936-1500

Special Services Rep – Gerry Pappas
Muir / 425 936-2640

Specialist Rep – Marilyn Hargraves
LWHS / 425 936-1700

Ethnic Minority Rep – Ernest Young
Kamiakin / 425 936-2400

lakewashingtonea.org

LWEA Office
10604 NE 38th PI, Suite 212
Kirkland, 98033
425 822-3388

UniServ Rep: Caroline McDowell
cmcdowell@washingtonea.org

Admin Assistant: Sheila Hagerman
shhagerman@lwsd.org

Admin Assistant: Ila Rhea Morrow
imorrow@lwsd.org

LWWEA

Professional Fund money is here



Did you find your Professional Fund money in your November paycheck? If you selected materials or tuition, your untaxed money was directly deposited into your regular account - just like your normal paycheck. If you selected salary, your money was included in your November paycheck as taxable income.

Reimbursement forms for those selecting materials or tuition will be sent to buildings for distribution.

So what was the answer?

In the latest prize puzzle, we gave you a hypothetical scenario about a teacher who needed to take off one extra day following mid-winter break. This teacher had put in for annual leave but the day was already full. We asked you to tell us what this person should do to cover the work day.

A number of the responses we received were wrong so we thought we should clarify this for everyone.

A. Change the leave request to sick leave.

Wrong. It would be inappropriate to use sick leave in this manner. Not only does the AESOP system know that you have changed your request (and reports it), abuse of sick leave can lead to serious discipline.

B. Just take the day and worry about it afterwards.

Wrong. This action could result in serious discipline. Keep in mind that any time you make plans to be gone on a workday - you should not make non-refundable reservations before you have approval for the leave.

C. Fill out a leave request form for annual leave and send it to HR. Correct! This is the process to be used when the limit of 25 has prevented you from using your annual leave. This should be done early and before you book tickets.

D. Take an unpaid leave day without prior approval. Wrong. Unpaid leave is only to be used for extraordinary circumstances and requires a 30-day prior request. The District is not obligated to grant all requests for unpaid leave.

Deadlines to keep in mind

- February 15 Requests for **transfers** (same level) for 2012-13 due in Human Resources.
- February 15 Requests for **job shares** for 2012-13 due in Human Resources.
- February 15 Requests for **leaves of absence** for 2012-13 due in Human Resources.

LWEA strongly recommends you put in for a transfer if you think there's ANY chance you might want to change schools next year. Note: This transfer list is for people interested in changing from one location to another at the same level (in other words elementary to elementary, middle to middle, or high school to another high school).

Remember, you can always remove your name from the list if you change your mind, but you can't add your name after the deadline.

We have winners!

In our last Prize Puzzle, we asked what type of leave could be used to add an extra day to a break. We received quite a number of responses – and from those, we drew these three names to receive a \$10 Starbucks card.

Our winners are:

Robin Heliotis, Kirk Elementary
Nancy Kuta, Juanita High School
Ann Sandbo, Kirk Elementary

Calendar

- Dec. 5 School Board Meeting
- Dec. 6 Executive Committee
- Dec. 13 Rep Assembly
- Dec. 19-Jan. 2 Winter Break – Enjoy!

Marketplace

FOR RENT

Redmond **townhome**, 2 bedrooms, den, 2.5 bath, private garage, 1 covered space. Good for roommates. Great rate for privately owned townhouse, \$1,350/mth. Contact Amy at 206-914-4804. (Jaime Pace-Garney, Mead).

OPPORTUNITIES

Parent Effectiveness Training (PET): PET is for parents, grandparents, nannies, teachers, & others who care for children of any age. This program is offered by Redmond Parks & Recreations Dept. Fee - \$100 (Redmond residents) / \$120 (Non-residents) / \$150 (Couples). Includes PET book & workbook. Classes are 7-9 PM on Thursdays from 1/12/12 – 3/8/12 (no class on 2/16). To register – call 425-556-2314. (John Love, RC).

SERVICES

Real estate broker: Looking to buy or sell your home? Know someone who is? Give me a call. "The best compliment I could receive is your referrals." Nyk Minke at Skyline Properties, Inc (LWHS) 206-914-1633.

Need a great contractor for that long-awaited remodel? **Triple R Contracting** is the company to call for reasonable & excellent workmanship. Honesty & integrity are the hallmark of this company. Contact Ron Knodel at ron@triplercontracting.net 425-765-4124. (Gale Paul, Inglewood).

FOR SALE

Seahawk tickets (2 or 4) for 12/24, Section 308, row Q, seats 20 & 21 or 22 & 23. \$60 each (face value - \$80 each). Buy as 2 or 4. Malia Goodfellow (Kirkland) 206-450-9964 or malia.goodfellow@gmail.com.

1968 **Ford Mustang**, recent restoration. Tahoe turquoise w/ black interior, loaded w/ options – 289 V-8, AT, power steering, turn signal hood, seats w/ head rests + more. All original except AM/FM/CD player. \$10,000 OBO. Linda Lou Package (RC) 425-881-3457.

1968 **Ford Mustang**, older restoration showing some wear, but still looks good. All original, 6 cylinder & AT, Royal maroon w/ dark red interior. Loaded w/ options – floor console, AM/8-track radio, seats w/ headrests, dash clock, & more. \$7,500 OBO. Linda Lou Package (RC) 425-881-3457.

Macy's furniture – 4 piece "Mission style" **couch, loveseat, chair, & end table**. Good condition. \$600. Bonnie Howarth (Kirkland) 425-823-1276.

Observe Garrit steel belted radial **snow tires** (4) for Toyota sedan, size 215/55R16. You pick up. \$500 OBO. Linda Stevens (RC) 206-852-1795.

Kawai **electric piano**, 88 key (full keyboard) weighted keys, feels like playing a regular piano. Upright size + bench. Pristine condition, perfect Christmas gift. You pick up. \$800 OBO. Linda Stevens (RC) 206-852-1795.

Bowflex Ultimate w/ leg attachment, brand new. Pristine condition. You pick up. \$800 OBO. Linda Stevens (RC) 206-852-1795.

Field trip participants represented you!

We had 48 members representing LWEA at the rallies in Olympia on Monday, November 28. We'd like to thank each of them: **Melissa Anderson, Cass Avery, Wendy Baker, Michelle Brennan, Matt Breyse, Alan Brinn, Chris Broderick, Cara Byrne, Lael Camacho, Debbie Cutting, Liz Davies, Nikki Davis, Brenda Dean, Sheila Dearden, Jim Eaton, Debbie Ellis, Susan Fowler, Scott Hageman, Sandy Hargraves, Veronica Hernandez, Robyn Hodges, Sandra Hoffman, Jill Johnson, Marshall Kettner** (student teacher), **Nancy Kuta, Angie Laulainen, Claire Lazar, Shell Lockwood, Leanne Mawhinney, Dina McDonald, Caroline McDowell, Leslie Paige, Sandy Perry, Eric Peterson, Mark Rabitoy, Molly Rothlisberger, Taylor Schreiber, Katie Stone, Kevin Teeley, Lisa VanEnkevort, Jane Wartenbe, Beth Waters** (LWESP), **Nancy Weber, Bill Weeks, Alicia Wetherbee, Ronica Wilson, and Haley Woods**.

Pending available space, ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis. Ads are accepted only in written form – send directly to Sheila Hagerman – shhagerman@lwsd.org. Ads are subject to approval by the Executive Committee and may be edited for length.