

# UPDATE

## Lake Washington Education Association

February 1, 2012

### **Supreme Court tells Legislature to fund schools; instead, they want to cut your health care!**

After our tremendous Supreme Court victory declaring that the Legislature is violating the constitutional requirement to amply fund public schools, you'd think legislators would be scrambling to find additional money for schools during this legislative session. Think again.

Instead, they're spending their time looking for ways to punish us for standing up for our students and public education. They're bringing up items such as charter schools, evaluations based on student test scores, and layoffs based on principal evaluations.

And now, lawmakers are considering legislation that would strip you of your current health care plan and put you into a state plan with reduced benefits, higher costs, and poor customer service.

A state takeover of K-12 educators' health benefit plans would provide **no cost savings** and would actually **cost taxpayers millions of dollars**.

The health care takeover would:

- **Add more than \$21.5 million in NEW taxpayer costs:** \$12 million for start-up costs in 2011-13, plus \$9.5 million for additional start-up costs in fiscal year 2014.
- Cost taxpayers **\$7.1 million per year** in ongoing costs.
- Cost school employees **\$25 million per year through higher premiums** and "point-of-service cost sharing" (higher fees).
- **Shift all future cost risks to school districts** for costs above the state allocation for employee insurance.
- **Abandon a system that today costs less and provides more.** Currently, the state pays \$768 a month per full-time equivalent K-12 employee vs. \$850 per full-time state employee, yet K-12

certificated employees have insurance coverage that is as good or better than what state employees receive.

- **Reduce overall benefits in order to avoid immediate cost increases.**
- **Potentially cause you to have to change doctors.**

The state Health Care Authority (HCA), which runs the state plan, would likely not have the capacity to handle an additional 100,000+ subscribers to its present system. In fact, the HCA recently had a 9-month backlog in paying state employee health insurance claims. HCA has been plagued with other problems, too. For example, a Seattle Times investigative report found that pain patients were purposely steered into lower-cost treatment regimens that may have contributed to over 2,000 unnecessary deaths.

Legislators need to hear from you about their plan to punish you and other school employees by moving you into a health care plan that will cost you more, provide less coverage, and possibly make you change your doctor.

***During non-work hours –  
Call the Legislative Hotline at  
1-800-562-6000  
or go to  
[www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org](http://www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org)  
on your home computer to make  
sure your legislators know your  
opinion on this important issue!***

# Information & News for Members

## Would you like \$50?

It's easy to ignore your health when you are dealing with the demands that are placed on you at work and trying to cope with your everyday life. Here's a way to get back to reclaiming your health – take the WebMD<sup>R</sup> HealthQuotient<sup>SM</sup> online health assessment.

The confidential assessment will give you personalized health advice that will show you how to embrace your health while you live your life. Your assessment may also qualify you for free coaching which can give you the extra support you may need.

**\$50 check for you?** 10,000 Premera subscribers (and their dependents 18 years of age and older) who complete the assessment between February 1 and April 11 will receive a \$50 check. If you completed the assessment and received a check last year, you are still eligible to participate this year.

How do you access the online health assessment – simply follow these steps:

1. Go to [www.premera.com/wea](http://www.premera.com/wea)
2. Click on "Take the HealthQuotient"
3. Complete the confidential assessment (takes about 20 minutes)

## Did you know you can use your sick leave for parents?

Dealing with ill/injured parents, grandparents, and adult children can be extremely challenging and difficult. Thanks to state legislation that was passed several years ago, you can use your own sick leave for this purpose. It might be a simple doctor's appointment that you need to take your parents to, or it could be a long-term illness---as long as you have sick leave, there's no limit as to the number of days you can use.

You can also use your sick leave for the care of your adult daughter or daughter-in-law who has given birth.

For short-term absences, simply use the AESOP system to enter your absence. For longer term situations (longer than 5 days), you need to fill out a leave request form and check "Family Care Leave."



## LWEA Executive Committee

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## lakewashingtonea.org

### LWEA Office

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# LWWEA

## Scholarships available

There are a number of scholarship opportunities available for continuing education. Here are a few options available to you:

**WEA-Retired Dollars for Scholars** is offering up to five \$1,000 nonrenewable scholarships for WEA members to enhance their skills in specific education areas and/or attaining a teaching certificate. For information and application forms, go online to the [WEA website](#). Certificated, classified or student WEA members are eligible to apply. The deadline is April 16, 2012.

**LW PTSA Council** annually offers a number of \$500 scholarships to LWSD certificated staff for continuing education at an institute of higher learning, through LWSD Professional Development, or for pursuing National Board Certification. Applications can be accessed by contacting [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWWEA office. The deadline is 5 PM on April 9, 2012. For more information, contact [Wendy Delong](#), the LW PTSA Council Scholarship chair.



## Deadlines to keep in mind

- February 15 Requests for **transfer** 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
- April 15 Requests for **contract waivers** for 2012-13 due to LWWEA
- June 1 Forms/Receipts for **Professional Fund Materials / Tuition Reimbursement** due to Liz Elliott in Accounting

## Time to do your taxes

Planning to work on your taxes soon? Don't forget that you can deduct most of your association dues from your income tax. The dues deduction for teachers is as follows:

.7 - 1.0 FTE	\$999.68
.51 - .75 FTE	\$867.44
.26 - .5 FTE	\$512.52
.1 - .25 FTE	\$341.28

Please remember that your 2011 dues for income tax purposes includes 8 months at the 2010-11 dues rate and 4 months at the 2011-12 rate. If you've changed FTE from last year, or are new this school year, your dues will be different - you will need assistance in determining the correct dues amount. If you have any questions, please contact [Sheila Hagerman](#) at the LWWEA office.

## What's up in Olympia?

For the latest news from the state capital, [click here](#). You'll find updates on top issues, including the budget, teacher evaluation, charter schools, and health benefits.

## Calendar

- Feb. 1 Nominations Open – 9 AM  
WEA RA & NEA RA Delegates
- Feb. 2 Will he see his shadow?
- Feb. 2-3 Elementary Conferences – ½ Day
- Feb. 6 School Board Meeting
- Feb. 7 Executive Committee

Next Rep Assembly – Feb. 21

# Marketplace

## SERVICES

**Remodel, additions, & new construction:** specializing in kitchens, bath, decks, siding, & more. Over 30 yrs experience. Licensed/bonded – RICKTC196QA. Rick Tachell Construction at 425-823-5046. (Janine Tachell, Frost).

**To-the-T home inspectors:** Buying or selling a house & need an inspection? Fully licensed & a pest & dangerous chemical inspector. Questions? Contact Tyler Tachell at [tyler@TDThomeinspections.com](mailto:tyler@TDThomeinspections.com) or 425-466-7441. (Janine Tachell, Frost)

## WANTED

Looking for .2 FTE **job share partner** for 2012-13. Work Mondays or Fridays. Kacie Brown (Sandburg) 425-286-5576 or [kaciebrown@live.com](mailto:kaciebrown@live.com).

## FOR SALE

**PC computer:** component built system, AMD Athlon 64 processor, 200gb hard drive, ATI Radeon platinum video card, DVD, CD-RW, HDTV & remote, wireless, Windows XP, multi-media keyboard, Intellimouse, manuals, discs, extra cables. \$40. Caroline McDowell (LWEA) [cmcdowell@washingtonea.org](mailto:cmcdowell@washingtonea.org).

**Vintage sideboard,** light colored wood, 26"H x 18"D x 45"W, w/ 12" drop-leaf on each side. 3 drawers, 2 doors. Inside drawer marked Heritage (pre-1963, prior to becoming Drexel-Heritage). \$50. Caroline McDowell (LWEA) [cmcdowell@washingtonea.org](mailto:cmcdowell@washingtonea.org).

## Solve the puzzle – win a prize!

Which of these areas are **NOT** determined by our state legislators?

- A. The dollar amount you can use for medical benefits.
- B. The amount of the bonus given to National Board certificate holders.
- C. The number of days that students are in school.
- D. The amount of money the District can collect in local levies.
- E. The amount of money you can receive in the Professional Fund.



Please e-mail your answers to [Sheila Hagerman](mailto:shhagerman@lwsd.org) in the LWEA office. We'll place all correct entries into a drawing – 3 lucky winners will each receive a \$10 Starbucks card!

**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](mailto:shhagerman@lwsd.org).  
Ads are subject to approval by the Executive Committee and may be edited for length.**