

UPDATE

Lake Washington Education Association

March 9, 2011

NEA president speaks out on state legislative battles

This message is from Dennis Van Roekel, NEA president:

True fiscal leadership requires creative solutions grounded in the most important needs of the community. So faced with crippling budget deficits, fiscally responsible governors should focus on reforms that create jobs and a long-term agenda for moving their states forward. All of this sounds plausible enough.

But in many states that flipped to GOP control last fall, nothing about it is true.

In actions more fitting for comic book arch-villains, a new crop of state leaders have launched blistering attacks on working families disguised as budget and education reforms, and many have sought to strip workers' rights to have a voice through their union. Instead of dealing with the real problems at hand, such as looming deficits and high unemployment, these politicians are choosing to use public sector workers as scapegoats.

Gov. Chris Christie launched this storyline in New Jersey, where for the past year he has tried to make scapegoats out of public employees in general and educators specifically, blaming us for the weak economy. Now his understudies are falling into line with one purpose: to silence the voice of the middle class with anti-worker and anti-union legislation.

- In [Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker's](#) "budget repair bill" would strip public employees across the board – from teachers and prison guards, to nurses and snowplow drivers – of their right to have a voice in their profession.
- In [Indiana, Gov. Mitch Daniels](#) and his allies are trying to ram through legislative attacks on public sector workers, crippling their right to form effective unions.
- In [Ohio, under the direction of Gov. John Kasich](#), the GOP-controlled legislature is ready to wipe out the state's nearly 30-year-old collective bargaining law and sharply curtail binding arbitration rules for local governments.

- In [Idaho, School State Superintendent Tom Luna](#) unveiled a package of proposals that would undermine public education and gut job protections for educators.

- In [Tennessee](#), politicians backed by big business interests are seeking to abolish collective bargaining between teachers unions and school boards across the state.

Let's be clear: Walker's plan won't make Wisconsin stronger — it would increase the state's long-term debt – and it won't create any new jobs. It's a quick-and-dirty bill focused more on political payback than reforming his state's economy. Daniels is attacking public education and public school teachers with several bills under the pretense of school reform. Silencing the voices of workers by busting up their unions won't create one job or help Ohio's economic recovery. And reckless proposals in Idaho and Tennessee will turn their public education systems upside down.

Instead of working to rebuild their states' economies and public education systems, these politicians have turned their sights on weakening or eliminating unions – and repaying the CEOs and big donors who contributed to their campaigns.

Scott Walker passed \$140 million in special interest spending, including \$25 million for an economic development fund that already has plenty of revenue on hand, and \$48 million for private health insurance accounts that mainly benefit the wealthy. Now, after giving corporate lobbyists a handout, he wants to balance the budget on the backs of hard-working public employees.

The old adage proves true once again: if you're not at the table, you're on the menu. This isn't about balancing budgets. It's about balancing power. In our country today, the richest one percent of the people

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Information & News for Members

Read this if on TRS Plan 1

If you're one of the 95 teachers in Lake Washington who are on TRS Plan 1, you may be interested to know that there is legislation being considered that could help you out with your medical expenses if you decide to retire this year.

If passed, under the proposal Plan 1 teachers who retire at the end of this year will be given \$250 per month to use for medical premiums for up to three years to help bridge the gap between retirement and Medicare eligibility.

We recommend that you contact your legislators with your opinion if you have an interest in this bill. You can do so by going to www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org from your home computer, or by calling 1-800-562-6000 from your home or cell phone during non-work hours.

LWPTSA scholarships available for staff

Each year the LW PTSA Council generously provides at least two \$500 scholarships to LWSD certificated staff for continuing education at an institute of higher learning or through LWSD Staff Development or for pursuing National Board Certification. Applications are available from [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWEA office. The deadline is 5 PM on Monday April 4, 2011. For more information, contact [Wendy Delong](#), the LW PTSA Council Scholarship chair.

Doing your taxes soon?

If you're planning to do your taxes soon, don't forget that you can deduct most of your association dues from your income tax. The dues deduction amount for teachers is as follows:

.76 - 1.0 FTE	\$952.72
.51 - .75 FTE	\$848.08
.26 - .50 FTE	\$502.40
.1 - .25 FTE	\$334.64

Please remember that your 2010 dues for income tax purposes includes 8 months at the 2009-10 dues rate and 4 months at the 2010-11 dues rate.

If you changed FTE from last year, keep in mind that your dues amount will be different - you will need assistance in determining the correct dues amount.

If you have any questions, please contact [Sheila Hagerman](#) at the LWEA office.



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Town Hall Meetings

Plan to attend this important meeting on Saturday, March 12. The 1st District legislators are holding a meeting with their constituents. If you have an opinion about proposed cuts to salaries, job security, benefits, class size and school funding, you might want to share it with Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe and Reps. Luis Moscoso and Derek Stanford.

10:00 – 11:30 AM
Northshore Senior Center
10201 E Riverside Drive
Bothell, 98011

12:30 – 2:00 PM
Cathcart Elementary School
8201 188th Street SE
Snohomish, 98296

3:00 – 4:30 PM
Mountlake Terrace Library
23300 58th Ave W
Mountlake Terrace, 98043

Here's a unique opportunity

Consider yourself to be a Republican? Feel versed in the evaluation protocols that LWEA has negotiated with the district? The WEA Republican Educators Caucus is looking for someone to help make a presentation to Mainstream Republicans of Washington's annual Cascade Conference, on Saturday, May 21; at the Icicle Inn in Leavenworth.

If you are interested, contact Ken Mortland (WEA Retired Board and WEA-PAC Board) at 425-821-4866 or kmort@frontier.com.

Strategies for including students with autism

The LWEA Alliance Caucus is pleased to announce a workshop designed to assist classroom teachers. This hands-on workshop will provide strategies for working with students with autism spectrum disorder which can be used in your classroom every day.

The workshop will take place from 4-6 PM on Wednesday, March 16, in the Kirkland Junior High cafeteria. There is no registration fee.

Class size will be limited to 50 (no drop-ins allowed – sorry!) and preregistration is required. Contact [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWEA office for more information or to register for this workshop.

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receive one-fourth of the total income. We have to hold these elected leaders accountable to do what is in the best interests of working people – not a few wealthy and powerful individuals.

Growing the middle class – educators, nurses, and firefighters – is crucial to growing and sustaining our economy. Workers, acting together through their unions, are the last best defense against the attacks on the middle class. And without unions, these attacks will go unanswered.

We will not bow to individuals and special interests who want to dismantle the rights of working people and the stability of middle class families. Working people need more power, not less. We need a stronger voice. And we need to build the labor movement because America cannot have a middle class without unions. We will not be silent or denied.

You are needed in this crucial battle for the American worker and public education. [Sign up now as an online volunteer on EducationVotes](#). It only takes a minute!

Calendar

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|----------|---|
| March 13 | Daylight savings begins |
| March 15 | Rep Assembly |
| March 16 | Autism Workshop, 4-6 PM
Kirkland Jr High |
| March 18 | LEAP Day – No students |

Marketplace

FREE

JVC **big screen TV**, needs a bulb replaced but otherwise works great. Linda McGrath (JHS) 206-799-5115 or timcgrath@frontier.com.

WANTED

Youth bed, in good condition, to be used by young granddaughter on visits. Susan Worthen (Twain) 425-820-0712.

FOR RENT

Condo, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, on 2nd floor unit in Redmond, on the river. Newly remodeled complex. Easy access to trails, RTC, Marymoor, downtown Redmond, Microsoft & 520. \$890/mth + \$500 security deposit (includes water, sewer, & garbage). Contact Tanner at 206-550-5573 or bulentaki@msn.com. (Kathy Kier, RC).

FOR SALE

Corner workstation, ALVE from IKEA, pine w/ antique stain. Space for all your computer equipment & office materials. Photos & dimensions available. New was \$400, sell for \$200. Katrina Gerrits (Blackwell) 425-830-0183.

Dog kennel, 6'Wx12'Lx6'T, galvanized cyclone fencing, excellent condition, \$250 OBO. Large **dog igloo**, \$75 OBO. **Folding dog ramp**, \$45 OBO. Forrest Miller (Support Svcs) 206-484-5637.

Outdoor chair link steel **dog kennel/run**, 10x10x6 or 2.5x15x6 configurations, easy assembly, \$150. Antique spindle **headboard & footboard**, full size, \$50. Trundle **bed frame**, twain size, \$50. **Patio chairs** (4), UV protected fabric, great condition (kept inside during winter), \$60. Pictures available & all prices OBO. Lisa Lovin (McAuliffe) 425-417-6806.

Pine **computer desk/workstation** for your office or home. 3 drawers, 2 cabinets, keyboard tray. Removable/adjustable shelves. 5'1"Hx4'5"Wx2'D. Very good condition. \$125 OBO. Jennifer Droke (Mann) 425-283-9693.

SERVICES

In home licensed child care: Currently enrolling infant 0-24 months, toddler 2-5 yrs, M-F, 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM. Bridle Trails/Rose Hill area. Mission is to provide a nurturing & fun learning environment for your little ones. Call 206-718-8801. (Jennifer Pence, Family Lrng Ctr).

Learning center / daycare (licensed): Full or part-time, ages 4 mth to 12 yrs. 2 spaces available. Education Hill area. Instructor qualified in early childhood education. Contact Janet Tang at 425-463-7284 or fengming.tang@hotmail.com. (Mamoona Zia, HR).

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

To the T Home Inspections: Buying or selling a house & need an inspection? Fully licensed, pest & dangerous chemicals inspector - call Tyler Tachell at 425-466-7441 or tyler@TDTHomeInspections.com. (Janine Tachell, Frost).

Mount Si window cleaning: Time for spring cleaning? Father & son team w/ 35 yrs experience. John Cowlshaw (Alcott) 425-495-1198.

Income Tax Preparation: Over 30 yrs experience, high client satisfaction. Specializing in individual & small business. Reasonable w/ discounts to educators. References available. (LWEA member & bldg rep for many yrs.) Sandy Hargraves (RHS) 425-868-8898 or sandyhargraves@hotmail.com.

Home improvements, repairs, remodels: Skilled carpenter/handyman, specializing in siding, windows, doors, trim, crown, decks, wall repair, bath & remodels. Pics & references available. Free estimates. Awarded Angieslist Super Service award 2 yrs in a row. Affordable, high quality licensed. NW by NE Carpentry Services at 425-691-7000 or nwbyne@comcast.net. (Kathy Kier, RC).

**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.**