

# UPDATE

## Lake Washington Education Association

June 1, 2011

### **WEA---asleep at the wheel?**

Many LWEA members have contacted us telling us they're extremely upset about what happened with the budget in Olympia last week---and they want to know why WEA didn't seem to do much to prevent the devastation. We wish we had an answer for them, but regrettably, we agree with them that WEA really dropped the ball.

What especially angered members was a quote from the WEA President on the front page of the Seattle Times last Wednesday, which read, "We knew it was coming." Teachers have asked us, if WEA knew it was coming, why didn't they do something?

Whether or not the outcome in the legislature would have been any different is anyone's guess, but very little was done to mobilize WEA's 82,000 members into concerted, organized action. While members were told repeatedly to e-mail or call their legislators, there were few WEA-organized events to bring public attention to the consequences of impending cuts to public education.

Where were the rallies?

Where were the rolling walkouts?

Where were the newspaper, radio, and TV ads?

Even the day that WEA designated to deliver class-size petitions to the legislature, April 4, was poorly organized and sparsely attended. Further, it took place without coordination with other statewide unions that were conducting daily events starting the following day. The other unions culminated their activities with a huge rally in Olympia---which LWEA members found out about afterwards when they saw the picture and headlines in the newspaper.

While it's true there were some public events, such as a "Grade-In" at Southcenter Mall and a Town Hall meeting in Everett attended by about 1,200 people, WEA did not organize these events. These were put on by local

associations and UniServ Councils desperately trying to get an urgent message out to the public and to legislators. On five separate occasions this legislative session, LWEA sent members to lobby legislators in Olympia. We sent a total of 62 members, which cost our local association over \$10,000 in release time and expenses. While our members' efforts were extremely valuable and worthwhile, we did this on our own and with other local associations in our area---not because it was planned by WEA.

During the height of the special legislative session, the WEA Representative Assembly was taking place in Tacoma, just 30 miles away from Olympia. Over 1,000 locally-elected association leaders from all over the state were there---a captive audience. Astonishingly, WEA did nothing to harness this incredible power and energy and send these leaders to Olympia to try to save public education funding. Instead, the WEA Executive Committee introduced a motion to "encourage each local to organize a local event to engage members and also the public and media where possible, to highlight the impact of legislative budget cuts to our public schools and colleges. Activities should be reported to WEA...for possible assistance and coordination." Possible assistance and coordination from WEA? Where's the master plan? Isn't our state organization supposed to lead us and make sure we don't end up with disorganized and disjointed "hits-and-misses" throughout the state that could have little impact collectively?

WEA needs to step up to the plate and lead. We need clear direction, a consistent message, and a well-executed plan to make public education the best it can be for students, staff, and our communities. Our members deserve nothing less than this.

# Information & News for Members

## Do you have a non-continuing contract?

If you have a non-continuing contract, which is a contract that expires at the end of this school year, the district will automatically assume you want employment for next year unless you tell them otherwise. If your principal recommends that the district should continue to employ you for next year, the first attempt will be to place you in your current school if at all possible. If there are no positions available at your current building, you should send an e-mail to HR letting them know that you're interested in being considered for openings in other buildings. You do not need to go through the LWSD application process all over again.

Since the state budget was approved only one week ago, and the district now must deal with a \$5.1 million shortfall for next year as a result, decisions on hiring non-continuing contracted teachers for next year have been delayed. The district, however, hopes to be able to inform all non-continuing contracted teachers of their status before the last day of school on June 22.

Here are some things to keep in mind if you have a non-continuing contract and are awaiting your status for next year:

- Positions held by non-continuing contracts after May 15 are considered to be open for transfers. This means if someone on the transfer list has requested your position, it's possible it could be filled by a transferee.
- Non-continuing contracts are contracts of up to one year in length, with no guarantee of future employment once the contract expires. You may want to consider whether or not to make long-term financial commitments based only holding a one-year contract.

If you have a non-continuing contract - be sure to read this now!

## \$83,000 in grants awarded to LW schools

The Lake Washington Schools Foundation has announced that over \$83,000 has been granted to schools in the Lake Washington School District. The grants will fund creative educational programs to assist those schools in meeting their CIP goals.

Seventeen elementary schools, four junior high schools, and five senior high schools will receive the grants.

### LWEA Executive Committee

President - Kevin Teeley  
LWEA / 425 822-3388  
[kteeley@lwsd.org](mailto: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 – Vincent Noto  
Northstar/ 425 936-1760

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

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

Specialist Rep – Jim Eaton  
Resource Ctr / 425 936-1363

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

### lakewashingtonea.org

**LWEA Office**  
10604 NE 38<sup>th</sup> PI, Suite 212  
Kirkland, 98033  
425 822-3388

UniServ Rep: Caroline McDowell  
[cmcdowell@washingtonea.org](mailto:cmcdowell@washingtonea.org)

Admin Assistant: Sheila Hagerman  
[shhagerman@lwsd.org](mailto:shhagerman@lwsd.org)

Admin Assistant: Ila Rhea Morrow  
[imorrow@lwsd.org](mailto:imorrow@lwsd.org)

## Communicator questions

As we reach the end of the first year with Communicator, you may be wondering if you need to do anything to carry your class website over to next school year. To ensure the smoothest of transitions, there are a few minor points you may want to attend to:

**What happens to my Communicator site over the summer?** It remains there just as you left it. No data will be purged. What's there today will be there on Day 1 of school year 2011-12, unless you decide to change it in the meantime.

**Can I work on it?** Yes, it is your site and you can work on it anytime you want. It continues indefinitely with the same login and is accessible from home at <http://communicator.lwsd.org>. If you have removed student permissions as trained at the May 6 LEAP, your site changes will be visible to you alone. NOTE: If you need a reminder on how to remove permissions, you will find directions on the Technology Integration portal under the [Communicator tab](#).

**How long will students have access this summer?** That depends. If you do not remove student permissions, they will have access to your site until passwords for all students are reset on June 30. Supporting documentation and how-to's are always available under the Technology Integration Communicator tab.

**When will students get access in the fall?** Student access will be available on the first day of school, September 6, 2011.

**How will passwords be distributed to parents this fall?** Display of usernames and passwords will be available inside of Parent Access.

**How will passwords be distributed to students this fall?** Display of usernames and passwords will be available inside of Student Access.

**Can I keep my old non-Communicator web site up and running?** Yes, but keep in mind that due to its security and ease of access for students and parents, Communicator is the district provided and supported class website.



## 2011-12 contracts issued

The District will issue the 2011-12 contracts next week. This practice allows the District to be able to effectively work on staffing by knowing which staff members are returning. The delay in distribution was due to the extended legislative session.

**Upon receipt, signed contracts are due back to Human Resources by Monday, June 13.** If you do not return your signed contract, the District will assume you do not intend to continue your LWSD employment.

It's important to note that **signing a contract is legally binding**. That means that once your contract is signed, **you are legally obligated** to fulfill that contract.

The District will allow teachers to resign their contracts if the resignation is received by Human Resources on or before June 30. After June 30, the resignation will be allowed only when a replacement is found. If there are extraordinary circumstances (such as the transfer of a spouse or domestic partner) that make it necessary for the teacher to resign, the District will accept the resignation.

## Waiting for a transfer?

If you're waiting to hear about a transfer, be sure HR has a way to contact you if you plan to be away during the summer. You will have two business days to respond to a transfer. Keep in mind that you can turn down one transfer offer and still stay on the list. If you turn down the second offer, your name will be dropped from the list and you'll remain in your current position.

### Calendar

June 6	School Board Meeting
June 7	Rep Assembly Ballots arrive in buildings
June 8	Retirement Tea 4:30 PM – Resource Center
June 14	Ballots due to LWWEA – 5 PM

# Marketplace

## FOR RENT

**Room to rent** in teacher's North Bend lakefront home, very private. Master bedroom w/ attached full bath, share living spaces. Available 6/1. \$800/mth, includes most utilities. Contact Jill at [jill.jueling@gmail.com](mailto:jill.jueling@gmail.com). (Michelle Fraley, BEST).

View **apartment**, 2 bedroom, bottom story of home. Located on east side of Lk Samm. Utilities included (heat, AC, water, garbage, basic cable). No smoking or pets. \$1,500/mth. Call Arlene at 425-392-7307. (Scott Myers, LWHS).

## SERVICES

**Kitchen & bathroom cabinets** need a spring facelift? Let us save you \$\$\$ by restoring & repairing your cabinets & all wood surfaces to like new condition. We do refacing & new cabinets as well. Most kitchens under \$895. Free estimates, quality work & excellent references. Call John at Cabinet & Wood Restoration NW, 425-861-5470. (Suzi Desimone, Audubon).

## FOR SALE

**Mazda CX7 Grand Touring**, silver, AWD turbo engine, navigation, leather, moonroof, sports rack. 24.5K miles. \$23,000. Shawna Locey (Smith) 206-228-2894.

Sears **console color TV**, model # 564.54711850, 31" screen. 41.5"Hx35"Wx23.5"D. Cable ready, MTS stereo sound, SAP sound, surrounds sound, digital control, external speaker terminals. Excellent condition, \$50. Pick-up only – Woodinville area. Laurel Morton (RC) [lamorton@frontier.com](mailto:lamorton@frontier.com).

**Estate sale** on 6/4-6/5. Mother lived in same place for 55 years – now everything is for sale: furniture, appliances, clothes, porcelain dolls, antiques, vintage kitchen ware, china, crystal, & health aid equipment. Address – 7210 126<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Kirkland, 98033. Grace Lawrence (RHS) 425-868-1665.

Proform 650 **Cardio Cross Trainer**. Will deliver to Seattle/Eastside. New was \$300, sell for \$150 OBO. Call John at 425-821-4088. (Elaine Logan, Retired).

## WANTED

**Peer companion** for 18 yr old boy with Aspergers / Autism. Work 8-10 hrs per week, flexible scheduling. Prefer male student (high school or college) who is interested in working w/ kids w/ special needs and willing to play video games, take trips to the part, etc. Work 6/11-8/11. Call Kristin at 425-785-3209. (Pam Drake, RHS).

**4-door sedan**, 150K miles max, \$7,000 maximum. Shawna Locey (Smith) 206-228-2894.

## Last puzzle of the year!

Don't miss it – this is your last chance this school year to win a \$10 Starbucks card. Send us the correct answer, and we'll enter your name in our Prize Puzzle drawing!

Which one of these statements is NOT correct?

- A. The 2011-12 school year starts on Tuesday, 9/6/11.
- B. Teachers can begin saving receipts for next year's Professional Fund starting 6/1/11.
- C. Our state legislators feel so bad about the basic education budget cuts that they have volunteered to send their legislative salaries to a local school district in their legislative area.
- D. Teachers who met the requirements of the IT<sup>2</sup> Program will receive their \$1,250 Technology Stipend in the June 30<sup>th</sup> paycheck.

Send your best guess to [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWEA office. Who know – you just might be one of the winners this time!



**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.**