

April, 2017

We are the teachers, specialists and support employees who dedicate our professional lives to creating great public schools in Southwest Washington.

NEW STATE BUDGET

The House budget was introduced it last week. WEA President Kim Mead testified in favor of it, also encouraging House Democrats to stay strong. "Our students and educators are counting on you to stay true to your Democratic values. Continue fighting for policies and funding that put our families first. Stay strong. Don't back down."

Here's a rundown of the House budget and education plan:

- Provides a significant increase in state-funded base pay for all certificated and classified staff
- Funds voter approved COLAS for K-12 basic education and higher ed increases
- Adds support staff for social and emotional needs of students
- Maintains local control and flexibility for districts
- Protects collective bargaining rights
- Maintains professional standards regarding certification
- Maintains NBCT bonuses
- Protects, but delays by two more years the full implementation of class size initiative



For additional information on the House Revenue Package, Capitol Budget, Testing, Higher-Ed, Paraeducators, Pro-Teach, School Nurses and Physical Education, and any other updates to Public School

Education visit the WEA Our Voice Website.
<https://www.washingtonaea.org/ourvoice/>

DIVERSITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Nearly 150 educators gathered on Saturday, March 25, 2017, to participate in the *Welcoming Schools, Diversity and Social Justice Conference*. Dr. Daniel Spikes, Professor at Iowa State University served as the keynote, highlighting our obligation to create welcoming schools for all students. Conference attendees attended this free, member driven conference, and received 6 clock hours, a scrumptious lunch, and invaluable knowledge. Attendees self-selected from over 20 sessions, ranging from providing support for homeless students, tips for working with Latino/a students, using a trauma based lens when working with students, preventing biased-based bullying, LGBTQ awareness, and much more. Many thanks to the Diversity Cadre and the Diversity Club Volunteers from Vancouver Arts and Academics who volunteered their time to ensure this



→ Daniel Spikes, Ph.D., Keynote



VSAA Diversity Club Volunteers

Educators take a break for lunch

MLK RALLY IN OLYMPIA

Over one dozen educators from the Vancouver Metro traveled to Olympia on Monday, January 16, 2017 to join with 7,000 educators, students, parents and supportive community members to proclaim the Student Bill of Rights to call attention to the legislature's duty to fulfill their paramount duty in appropriately funding public education. Following the rally the activists marched around the capitol, and delivered resolutions to the legislators. Our delegation made lobby visits to our elected officials in the 17th, 18th, and 49th, sending a strong message that the students of Southwest Washington are deserving of a twenty-first century quality education.



ESP SPARKS 2017

The month of March began with an exciting start this year as the WEA-Riverside UniServ Council welcomed twenty-five Classified members to Long Beach, Washington for ESP SPARKS. SPARKS is a retreat for members to learn more about their union, ways the union can support them, and the many fabulous opportunities and benefits the union provides. It wasn't all serious time: members were treated to a delicious Mexican dinner on Friday evening and then some recreation time after that. On Saturday, the members presented to the group what they had learned the day before in their breakout sessions on topics ranging from *Dealing with Difficult People*, *Generations in the Workplace* and *Contract 101*. It was fun, informative and entertaining.



SCHOOL BOARD TRAINING



WEA Riverside held their first ever school board training meeting on Wednesday, March 8th. Emily Hansen from WEA Governmental Relations came down from Federal Way to do a presentation for local presidents and citizens who were interested in running for local school board. WEA-Riverside is encouraging local associations to get involved in their local school board races. This is the group that approves the district's budgets, policies and contracts. The Freedom Foundation is also looking for candidates to promote their agenda. Needless to say- their agenda isn't our agenda!

This November half of all Directors on each local school board are up for re-election. WEA-Riverside is assisting locals in finding education-friendly candidates. If you know someone who would do a good job please let your local president know. The WEA-Riverside Staff and Leaders can assist in educating them for their campaign and what the job entails. School Board Directors play a critical role in the direction and priorities of your school district. Now is the time, to make a difference for our students and staff. Don't wait too long, candidate filing period is May 14-19, 2017 for the November 7, 2017 election.

POETRY MOVES

Stoney Surprise

Emma L. – 10th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics
Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Hermit crabs in minuscule shells

snails leave slime trails

slick on the ragged stone.

Anemones wave hellos before returning to their dinner party.

The barrel chest bear says it's time to leave.

The small hands wave goodbye to new friends,
and the tiny feet walk happily away.



Poetry Moves is a project of Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna and the nonprofit organization Arts of Clark County.
artsofclarkcounty.org



Poem from The Poetry Moves Student Event, Summer 2016.

COORDINATED BARGAINING

It has been a busy year for Coordinated Bargaining. The Coordinated Bargaining group currently meets 4 times a year with all locals in the WEA-Riverside Council to learn table techniques, compile research and learn from each other about what works, what doesn't work and how we can help each other achieve better settlements. It has been an interesting year with snow day make ups, infectious disease outbreaks, and a wild legislative session. We have two ESP locals with open contracts this year; Hockinson ESP and Ridgefield ESP. Our Certificated units with full re-openers this year are Battle Ground EA, Camas EA, Stevenson Carson EA and Washougal AE. All certificated units may need to bargain if the legislature comes up with a new salary schedule. Clark Community College is also bargaining this year. Hold on to your hat, we are in for some fun times!

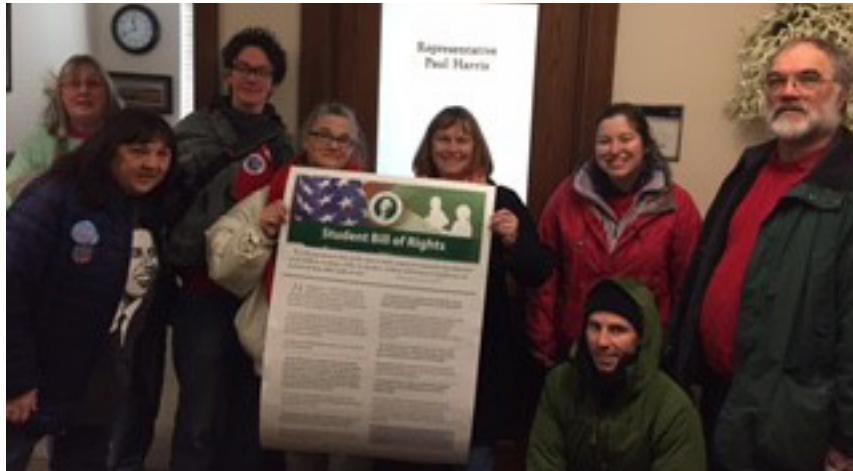


READ ACROSS AMERICA

March 2, 2017 was full of smiles and books. Frontier Middle School, in the Evergreen School District, hosted their very own *Read Across America Day*. The morning started off with students beginning their day by reading a book at breakfast with friends. As the morning moved forward, the Evergreen Superintendent, John Deeder, hosted a reading group of middle schoolers and shared a Dr. Seuss book with them. Students were engaged with open-ended questions around OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO by Dr. Seuss. Parents from Ms. Robertson's class and volunteers hosted students from Maria Rose, Alina Stevens, Terri Angelbeck, Maria Black, Judy Gordon and Mr. McNicholas' classes. Judy Gordon, Vicki Loren, Rachael Sams came and read to students giving them that personal one on one time. In all, approximately 240 students & 15 staff participated in the group event for the "Read Across America" celebration. Thanks to generous grants from WEA-Riverside and IQ Credit Union, 30 students won free books and everyone was served hot cocoa and cookies. Special thanks to Frontier Middle School's Principal, Griffin Peyton, and WEA-Riverside's President, Norma LaChine, for their support during the event.

LOBBY TRIPS TO OLYMPIA

WEA-Riverside has sponsored approximately 5 carloads of members to visit Olympia this session to meet with Legislators from the 17th, 18th and 49th Districts. There are plans to send several more groups before the end of the session. The meetings have been centered around fully funding education and members take the opportunity to share their unique stories of what they experience as educators on a daily basis in schools in Southwest Washington.



CERT SPARKS 2017

Twenty-three certificated members, newer to the profession met February 3-5, 2017 in Long Beach, Washington to participate in the CERT SPARKS experience at the Breakers Resort overlooking the ocean. SPARKS has been held all over the state (and nation) for nearly 20 years, with a goal to connect with educators who are experiencing the realities of being a public-school educator. Members from Evergreen, Camas, Hockinson, Battle Ground, and Washougal gathered to learn more about differentiation of instruction, conflict management, National Board/Pro Teach, financial planning, stress management, and much more. Joe Thayer, REA President, joined the SPARKS for a fabulous “Putting the You in Union Session.” Adam Aguilera, WEA Board Member, served as the host for the event and escorted them on a Magical Mystery Tour. All participants enjoyed the learning, scrumptious food and treats, and making connections with peers. A great time was



DATES OF IMPORTANCE

April 13-15 - WEA-RA - Spokane, WA

April 18 - At-Home Poli-Sparks Training

April 20 - Coordinated Bargaining

May 10 - RUC Exec Board Meeting

May 17 - RUC Rep. Council Meeting

AT-HOME POLITICAL ACTION SPARKS

Nearly 20 educators from Evergreen, Battle Ground, and Washougal have been participating in a series of sessions engaging in politics, elections, the legislature, and school board since November 2016. The group has met for a series of trainings and interactive sessions. In December participants held a legislative reception for those legislators serving in the 17th, 18th, and 49th. Since February, the participants have coordinated a weekly carload to send members to Olympia to lobby on behalf of appropriate funding and pro-public education legislation. Currently the focus has been adamant opposition to the Senate Budget. The WEA is encouraging all members to support a budget more reflective of the Governor’s proposal and the House. The next month will be significant, as the House and Senate are required to reach compromise on a budget. There is added pressure, and the legislature remains in contempt of the Supreme Court for its failure to maintain its paramount duty to appropriately fund public education.

EDUCATOR TOWN HALL

On March 11th, 2017, two hundred and seventy-five educators gathered to ask questions of legislators from the 17th and 49th Legislative Districts. The Council invited legislators from the 18th Legislative District also, but none of them were able to attend the event. The legislators: Monica Stonier, Paul Harris, Vicki Kraft, Ann Rivers and Sharon Wylie, listened attentively as K-12 educators asked probing, pointed questions about education in general and the McCleary decision regarding fully funding education.



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