



Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

January 2017

Student Civil Rights Report from Olympia

By VEA President, Lynn Maiorca

VEA leaders and families joined with 6,500 other educators, parents, students and community members on the Martin Luther King holiday to voice their support for the legislature to fully fund education. It is right of every student to receive an amply funded public education, including providing competitive salaries for the educators who serve them. Many speakers provided the voice for our students and urged legislators to comply with McCleary. Your VEA representatives delivered the Student Bill of Rights that many of you signed in support of your students to Representative Monica Stonier (49th LD). This is just the beginning of a pivotal session. Do your part to stay in touch with what is happening by visiting www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org



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VEA Welcomes TOSAs to the VEA Bargaining Unit Strength is in our Unity!

The VEA and the district recently experienced a unit clarification where it was determined that the Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA) are included in the VEA bargaining unit. These members will now enjoy the protections afforded in the Comprehensive Professional Agreement along with the membership benefits and services provided by VEA. A welcome reception will be held on Monday, January 23rd to explain the member benefits and answer questions to this newest group of members.



One only needs to look at the 2011 Act 10 that passed in Wisconsin to understand why it is so vitally important to continue to build on our strength and unity. Public educators were complacent with their participation in their association in Wisconsin. Things were so good due to years and years of

collective bargaining advances to their contract. It was only after their collective bargaining rights were diminished that they began to see the value of what they lost. Currently their wage increases are capped, they are seeing monumental increases in the employee contribution portion of their insurance and retirement “benefits”, and their collective power supply is too low to make a difference. VEA members need to keep “plugged in”, stay aware, and participate! Strength is in our unity!

Member Benefits Professional Development

A Note from the Doctor
by Dr. Rick Wilson

The association provides professional development opportunities to our members to assist them in their personal and professional success. Please take advantage of the upcoming opportunities provided to you as a member benefit.

WEA Pre-Retirement Seminar

It's never too early to begin planning for your retirement. VEA's spring pre-retirement seminar will be held March 3 and 4. Space is limited and is filled on a first-paid basis. Registration forms are available on the VEA website at www.vancouverea.org or by calling Cindy at the VEA office (360) 695-3397. You cannot be added to the registration list without payment.

UPDATE on Culturally Responsive Strategies Training.

The first session of professional development was canceled due to the inclement weather. We are happy to announce that the WEA facilitators have rescheduled for February 8th.

Demystifying your Paycheck

Many educators are living paycheck to paycheck and struggling to make ends meet. Understanding your pay stub is the first step to good money management. VEA is sponsoring a professional development on **January 25th** at 4:30 at Bates to demystify your paycheck. Opportunity will also be provided for suggestions that VEA will relay to the district. No need to RSVP, but please bring a printout of your paystub.



GYROSCOPE ADVENTURE!



Are you a member with 10-20 years into this education game and feel like you are whirring of control and any one bump will spin you out of control? A Gyroscope adventure will whisk you away via train to a specially designed professional development where you will gain balance, insights, and perhaps even a new direction. Building reps were provided registration information for those in the qualifying years. Space is limited, and consideration will be given to order of application. Contact VEA for clarification or to submit your application.



NEA® Auto and Home Insurance Program
nea Member Benefits
in partnership with California Casualty

NEA Member Benefits – Win a Car

California Casualty is giving away a 2017 Ford Focus! The long-standing and popular NEA endorsed auto & home insurance provider cares about VEA Members and their students. California Casualty feels it is their role to focus on you so you can focus on the students. The company is keenly aware that the commitment of our members extends beyond school to home and family. The California Casualty Promise to Drive Focused campaign allows educators, like you, to join the movement to drive undistracted for a chance to win a new 2017 vehicle. It is free to enter. Wouldn't it be fun for one of our members to win a new car? Make your promise and enter to win right away. www.drivingfocused.com

It's Tax Time!

As you begin gathering your information together to figure your taxes for 2016, remember that most of your dues are deductible. Consult your tax professional about including dues as a miscellaneous deduction (unreimbursed employee expense). Members paid the following dues (NEA, WEA, VEA) in 2016:

0.76-1.0 FTE	\$939.72
0.51-0.75 FTE	\$751.40
0.26-0.50 FTE	\$481.36
0.25 or less	\$252.60

This figure is calculated using the 2015-16 rate for 8 months (Jan-Aug) and the 2016-17 rate for 4 months (Sept-Dec). If you did not work the full year, or changed FTE during 2016, you can calculate your dues using the monthly figures as follows:

	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
0.76-1.0 FTE	\$77.84	\$79.25
0.51-0.75 FTE	\$62.26	\$63.33
0.26-0.50 FTE	\$39.88	\$40.58
0.25 or less	\$20.94	\$21.27

Tax Deduction for Educators

Don't put your pencil down... In addition to your dues deduction be sure to ask your tax professional or visit page 31 of the 1040 instructions to see if you qualify for the educator deduction of \$250 for qualified expenses.

Bargaining/Climate Survey coming soon.

The survey link will be sent to members via your home email. Please provide your current home email address to the VEA office so you don't miss out on this opportunity to provide critical input.

Time for a Coffee Break?



Are you new, overwhelmed, and need someone to talk to? Contact the VEA office to set up a coffee break with President, Lynn Maiorca. No rules.

No expectations. Just coffee and a supportive ear. The association has vast resources that may be just the lifeline you are looking for. Call VEA to set up an appointment or email Lynn at LMaiorca@washingtonea.org



There are many hats to be worn in Association work. The more members wearing those hats, the more effective and strong the association becomes. Opportunities for members to run for leadership positions on the VEA Executive Board began with open nominations at the January Rep Council meeting. Nomination forms are available from the VEA office for the positions of President, 1st and 3rd Vice President, Treasurer, Special Education Trustee, and Specialists Trustee. Nominations will close at the February 7th Rep Council meeting.

Bylaws Proposal

The VEA Rep Council is recommending adoption of bylaws changes to reflect current practice and guidelines from WEA. The following proposed changes will be voted on by the membership following a minimum 30 day notification period.

Article XI, Section 11. C Operating Reserve. The general fund of VEA, Inc., shall provide an operating reserve for cash needs in an amount equal to the ~~unfunded amount of the employee retirement accounts~~ and ~~of~~ at least ~~ten percent (10%)~~ **thirty percent (30%)** of the annual budget for the previous fiscal year, **and no more than WEA's recommended contingency reserve.** Appropriations from the operating reserve may be made after approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board following a minimum of five (5) days advance notice of the proposed appropriation.

All verbiage that notes "written secret vote" or "written ballot" shall be referred to as "~~written~~ secret vote" or "~~written~~ ballot"



Do you still want tickets to the Feb 4th Winterhawks game? Promo code: Wilson. [Click Here](#) for VEA member discount ticket



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Read Across America

March 2 is
NEA's Read Across
America Day

www.nea.org/read2008



It is time to mark your calendars for the annual
**Vancouver Education Association's Book Fair event at
Barnes and Noble!**

This year the VEA will be having NEA's Read Across America Book Fair event on **Wednesday, March 1, 2017 and Thursday, March 2, 2017**. Our goal this year is to have 100 percent participation from all the schools and special programs in the Vancouver School District. Please contact **Shawn Sorensen** at CRM2679@bn.com or **360-260-3854** to sign up for a performance time on one of those two days and/or if your school is bringing in art work for the event. Here is a link to the event:

<http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/event/9780061843882-0> (More specific information will be coming soon!)

All school libraries receive gift cards to purchase books. Participating schools will receive additional money to buy books!



**"You're never
too old, too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book and
read to a child."
-Dr. Seuss**