



Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

SPRING BREAK 2017



Your Health Care is Changing

As many of you are aware, the WEA is changing health care providers. Premera withdrew from the bid process and will be replaced with two new choices, Aetna and United Health Care, for your medical services effective November 1, 2017. By offering plans from two different providers, it is expected that members will see more services and competitive pricing. Make it a top priority to read and digest any information you receive regarding insurance. You will likely need to do some homework in the coming months to see who your provider contracts with. In addition, there will be hotlines established to call, WEA specific websites for information, and opportunities to meet with the new insurance providers to ask questions about coverages and details. Watch for specific details coming soon!

Do you have chronic pain, poor sleep, fatigue, anxiety, or stress stemming from a variety of medical conditions? MOBE is available to Premera members as an innovative guided self-management program supporting those looking for relief. This personalized process helps people enhance overall quality of life. There is no additional cost, participation does not affect your premium or coverage, and is confidential. Most participants start with 30-minute weekly telephone sessions. For more information call 1-844-841-9725 or email guide@mobeforlife.com.

It's Time for a



April 4 is the day that contempt fines against the legislature reach \$60 million. WEA has set up a Thunderclap for this day to create a viral, highly visible presence on social media. (A Thunderclap is when, through the wonders of technology, hundreds of people have the same message posted on their Facebook or Twitter feed all at the same time, thus reaching literally hundreds of thousands of people all at once).

<https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/54866-60-million-in-contempt-fines>

#MembershipMatters!



The first order of #MembershipMatters T-shirts are here!! Turn in your completed passbook to the VEA office. Be sure to note your size in the front cover.

PD Requirement: 8 Hours

Be sure that you complete the required eight (8) hours of professional development by June 1. Members are receiving advanced payment for these hours. If you fail to complete the hours, a deduction of \$36 per incomplete hour will be deducted from your July paycheck. You can check your hours on the PD website via your employee number. Please let VEA know if you need assistance.

TOWN HALL MEETING KEEPING THE CONVERSATION ALIVE



Over 200 educators and community advocates, including many VEA members and leaders, met with local legislators Rep. Paul Harris, Senator Ann Rivers, Rep. Vicki Kraft, Rep. Monica Stonier, and Rep. Sharon Wiley at the Town Hall meeting on March 11th. Conversations continued around funding education without eliminating crucial student services. Speakers advocated for student needs such as food services, homeless and mental health services, and extreme student behaviors. Teacher pay was also addressed. Revenue sources were discussed along with levy swapping and the upside-down tax code where poor residents pay much higher percentage than wealthier residents.

NEXT CONVERSATION OPPORTUNITY:

Education will be the main topic on April 5th at the 18th Legislative District Monthly Meeting, 6:30 pm at Luke Jensen Sports Park at 4000 NE 78 Street in the Bud VanCleve Community Room.

EDUCATION BUDGET UPDATE:

The Senate approved a Betsy DeVos-style budget that is reckless and punitive. It increases class sizes, and restricts funding needed to meet the needs of our most vulnerable special education students as well as limits educator pay and eliminates cost of living adjustments. The House education budget makes a major investment in K-12 public schools including higher pay for teachers and education support professionals. Voice your opinion as budgets are “negotiated” between the two chambers.

Columbia Sportswear Employee Store

A Note from the Doctor
by Dr. Rick Wilson

Just in time to select items for your spring wardrobe, VEA has once again partnered with Columbia Sportswear for access to their employee store March 27-April 16. Consider this a prescription for retail therapy!

Please print the invitation from the VEA website (www.vancouverea.org) and bring your work ID and a piece of personal photo ID to the employee store located at:

14100 NW Science Park Drive
Portland, OR 97229
503-985-4125

Open M-F 10:00 am – 7:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

First Year Educators Feedback

The VEA held a small group 1:1 visit with some of our first year educators and mentor teacher on March 27th. We are expanding the conversation to all first year educators via a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5BM35NC>. Thank you for helping us understand how we can help in your success!

National Board Jump Start is coming to Clark County!

In response to a large number of National Board candidates from Clark County, the WEA is hosting a Jump Start program at Liberty Middle School in Camas on **August 15-18**. Watch for more information, coming soon.



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