

VEA *Action Line*

Vancouver Education Association

May 2019 – Special Edition

VEA AND VPS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT INCENTIVE



The Vancouver Education Association and the Vancouver Public Schools have entered into an agreement for a one-time early retirement stipend of seven thousand, five hundred dollars (\$7500.00), for VEA members submitting a Letter of Resignation dated June 19, 2019, due to retirement.

This one-time early retirement stipend is to be paid at the end of the 2018-2019 contract year and is taxable income. This stipend is not precedence setting for future years.

Members who qualify for the one-time stipend must complete the following by June 3, 2019 (VEA members who have already completed the qualifications will also receive the stipend). Qualifications for the one-time early notification retirement stipend are as follows:

- Meet Washington State eligibility for retirement status
- Provide the District with a copy of their Department of Retirement Services (DRS) Acknowledgement Letter, demonstrating initiation of retirement applications with DRS
- Complete District resignation form dated June 19, 2019
- Signed resignation form must be submitted to Human Resources by June 3, 2019

The VEA values their senior members and has entered into this agreement to provide an additional incentive as they consider whether this is an appropriate time to retire. It is our sincere hope and expectation that the cost savings to the district will be used to mitigate announced cuts.

For accurate information regarding your retirement eligibility, please contact the Department of Retirement Services at 1-800-547-6657.

<https://www.drs.wa.gov/administration/contact.htm>

VEA Support for Teacher-Librarians, Counselors, Clerks, and SEIU SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS - **SAVE THE DATES: MAY 14 AND 28!!**

Be on the lookout for notifications of how to support the organizing around Teacher-Librarians, Counselors, ITFs, TOSAs, Clerks, and the SEIU bargain. You may be asked to wear red (or purple for SEIU), show up at a school board meeting, provide testimony in support of specific key points, etc. Text @veame to the number 81010 to join our text blast where information around these organizing efforts will be communicated.



The 2018-19 Professional Development year is July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019
The application deadline for 2018-19: June 17, 2019



Submit applications by June 17, 2019 to allow for processing and notification by the last day of school. Remember to allow sufficient time for supervisor review.

End Date for Activities Qualifying for 2018-19 Funding: June 30, 2019

The last day of an activity must be on or before June 30, 2019 to be reimbursed from the 2018-2019 professional development allocation.

Deadline to submit reimbursement paperwork: July 10, 2019

All reimbursement paperwork must be correctly completed and be in the professional development office no later than July 10, 2019.

The professional development office is located at the Bates Center for Educational Leadership and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the school year and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays and in the summer.

Time to elect building reps



It is time to elect your contingent of VEA representatives for 2019-20. Each site is allocated one rep for every 15 members. The VEA bylaws state the term is two years, but there are no term limits. This team of reps keep you, the member informed on important information.

All members are eligible to run for a rep position. Training opportunities for new reps will be scheduled in the fall. This is a great opportunity to unleash your leadership potential and receive first-hand information.

District Directed Training

The District may direct up to eight (8) hours per year of professional development training for which the employee will be reimbursed at their per diem rate from the basic allocation. Such training will be communicated no later than the close of the prior school year so that employees may appropriately plan for their remaining expenses. Any additional training would be subject to payment from other sources and would be scheduled in coordination with the Association and with alternative provisions to accommodate employees who cannot attend at the scheduled time.

- Documents are available on the HR Professional Development portal page on Tuesday, May 14th for all staff to access.
- This affects: Advanced placement, AVID, International Baccalaureate, Middle Years Programme, Highly Capable/Honors, special education including ESA, K-12 VaPA including K-5 physical education teachers, and CTE (Project Lead the Way, Gateway to Technology, Tech Smart Coding in Python, College and Career Ready LABS, and Applied Math)

WEA National Board Jump Start

WEA Jump Start is a four-day comprehensive seminar designed to provide National Board candidates with important information about the certification process, time to examine component and Assessment Center requirements, the opportunity to plan how to meet requirements, and time to collaborate, gather resources and information needed to pursue certification. Registration is open for the 2019 Summer Jump Starts! To sign up, click on the date and location link below

[July 29 – August 1, 2019: Vancouver](#)

Detailed information is on the WEA website! (link below)

<https://www.washingtonea.org/pd/certification-licensure/>

VEA will offer co-hort support for the 19-20 NBCT candidates. Watch for registration information on the VEA website soon!



SEBB

The state passed the School Employee Benefit Board legislation. There are a number of changes you may experience between your current coverage and the new coverage, especially if you are a Kaiser subscriber. Please begin to acquaint yourself with the options. Open enrollment is October 1 – November 15, 2019 with benefits beginning on January 1, 2020.

To prepare for the roll out of these new plans, please consider if you need to update your contact information with the district. The SEBB program will send out information by mail, including a full benefits guide in Mid-September. To update your contact information, log on to the employee portal, go to Forms, and click on Address Change Form. If you plan to enroll dependents on any of our insurance benefits, you will need to show documents to verify your dependents. It is anticipated those documents may include birth certificates, marriage certificates, and/or tax return information. More information as well as a Q and A can be found at: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/sebb>
Plan comparisons:
<https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/pebb/sebb-program-benefits-comparison.pdf>

WEA Retired Dues Rate increase September 1

NEA and WEA-Retired have approved a rate increase 9/1/19 for both their lifetime/pre-retired and annual membership. Life/Pre-Retired will increase from \$450 to \$550 (one-time payment) or annual dues of \$83. Active members who are retiring this year may join with the on-time payment as pre-retired now, saving \$100.00. One retired, their membership will convert from pre-retired to lifetime retired with no additional cost.

WEARA 2019

VEA actively participated in the WEA RA, which is the statewide decision making representative assembly. VEA had two WEA board members, 10 elected delegates and two ambassadors who worked behind the scenes to make sure everything ran smoothly!



The following reflections are from our participants:

Jon Lauderbaugh, VSAA, VEA Delegate

This year's Washington Education Association Representative Assembly (WEARA) sizzled like bacon frying in a hot cast iron skillet, i.e. hot topics, hot debates and I think even some Hottentots were present. VEA representatives worked with other reps from all over the state on New Business Items (action items), Resolutions (belief statements), & Constitution and Bylaws Amendments (policy statements and changes). All of your VEA's reps have documents available that show which of these were dealt with and how they were dealt with. There were approximately 87 NBI's alone that passed, failed, were amended (sometimes more than once), or bundled and sent to committee(s). This meant, of course, long hours of dedicated work by your reps. It was easy to spot us because we were exhausted at times. To wit: we face planted where we sat, our eyes rolled back into our heads, and we let drool spill out of the corners of our mouths like un-spooling fishing line. Not pretty. But, perhaps I'm prone to hyperbole. Needless to say, we accomplished a lot.

From this representative's point-of-view, the prevalent theme this was Equity. Equity for Educational Staff Assistant's (ESA's), Aspiring Educators (AEC's), Paraeducators, WaKIDS teachers, librarians, students of color, educators of

color, minority students, minority teachers, students and teachers in poverty, college educators, LGBTQs, non-binary students and teachers, and so many others. This was powerful and life affirming. Again, from this rep's perspective, we got a lot things right. We did well.

There were many issues that were interesting and thought provoking: Too many to talk about here. I and the other reps learned a lot of valuable information and heard insightful stories. Who would've think that (I'm an English teacher, by the way) in a room filled with over a thousand educators. No surprise, I guess.

Do yourself a huge favor and participate sometime in this democratic process. It helps to justify and improve what we all do with kids everyday.



Leslie Morrison, GATE, VEA Delegate

I have attended 17th RA's. Each time I am inspired by all of the action WEA members promote to direct public education towards an inclusive and progressive ideology. We are WEA! What I found helpful to members was the booths of membership services outside the RA floor. WEA retired had information and was informing us about what they were advocating for. Another booth that was extremely helpful to me and my staff was the School Employees Benefits Board. They had some informational material on the SEBB Program benefits. Next year some of the options proposed are Aetna, Kaiser, Premera, Providence, and UMP for Medical benefits. For Dental; DeltaCare, Uniform Dental and Willamette. Vision Benefits; Davis Vision, EyeMed, and Metlife. Examples of Deductibles, Out of pocket max, Coinsurance, RX deductible, and RX out of pocket limit were given as well.

Enrollment will be from Oct 1 – Nov 15. Coverage will begin Jan 1, 2020. For more information visit website: hca.wa.gov/sebb.



Jesse Affeldt, Ogden, WEA Ambassador

When I was initially invited to the 2019 RA Rep assembly, I had no idea what to expect. I knew that it was a gathering of educators from across the state, and that was about it. After attending, I truly feel like this was a life altering experience. Watching dedicated educators from varying backgrounds express their passions to the democratic body of delegates was powerfully inspirational. Many teachers who spoke were of diverse backgrounds, many younger than my 34 year old self. They articulated issues across the gamut from equity, social justice, testing, new teacher compensation, teacher attraction and retention, teaching black lives matter, combatting toxic masculinity and white supremacy, and promoting LGBTQ+ issues for teachers and students. Witnessing teacher's passions bolstered by the WEA and its commitment to the democratic process created a powerful impact and lasting impression. I am proud to be a member of an organization committed to progressive action promoting justice and equity for marginalized groups. I look forward to seeking out opportunities for further involvement in these issues.



Summer Learning Opportunities for All Educators



Summer Learning Institute Battle Ground - July 29-August 1

Prairie High School
11311 NE 119th Street, Vancouver, WA 98662
Choose from over 50 class tracks, engage with colleagues, and receive FREE clock hours at the premier training program of the year. Courses are available in the following content areas:

- Teaching and Learning
- Culturally Responsive Strategies and ELL
- Special Education
- Technology

National Board Jump Start/Renewal Camas - July 29-August 1

Liberty Middle School
1612 NE Garfield Street, Camas, WA 98607



*Sign up today and meet new people, engage with instructors, learn the latest in new teaching strategies, the law and technology. **Whether you're a general educator or in a specialized field, or classified member, the WEA Summer Learning Institute offers something for everyone.***

COURSE OFFERINGS & DESCRIPTIONS

Battle Ground -

<https://tinyurl.com/BGCourseDescriptions>

Camas - <https://tinyurl.com/Camas-NBTraining>

REGISTER

Click the specific course link listed in the "Sessions at a Glance": <https://tinyurl.com/BG-CamasSessions2019>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- TEACHING AND LEARNING OR NATIONAL BOARD CLASSES: Sheila Beaver, sbeaver@washingtonea.org
- SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES: Melissa Marsh, mmarsh@washingtonea.org
- CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE STRATEGIES AND ELL: Yvonne O'Neill, yoneill@washingtonea.org

<p>When & Where</p> <p>July 29-August 1</p> <p>Professional Development in Battle Ground & National Board Jump Start/Renewal in Camas</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>Tuition varies from \$20-\$250 per course, depending on the training selected.</p>
<p>What's Included</p> <p>Morning refreshments, beverages and lunch</p> <p>Materials: Training materials and resources</p> <p>FREE Clock Hours, TPEP & STEM Hours available</p>	<p>Devices Required</p> <p>Please bring a laptop as some resources will be available via USB thumb drive or download via NEA edCommunities</p>