

# Winter Update

## VEA/VPS Negotiations Update

Yesterday afternoon, VEA leadership met with VPS admin to propose new/modified MOU language related to small group onsite learning and to provide initial input regarding VPS' anticipated expansion to hybrid (beginning with elementary grades). Both topics were driven by VEA member survey responses, member outreach, as well as VEA rep input. VPS was not receptive to proposed language related to small groups, but they did commit to preserving Emergency Paid Sick Leave options for VEA members (and other VPS staff) by covering the associated costs that were originally federally funded. VPS also made note of our initial input regarding the expansion to hybrid.

As reported in yesterday's Zone/Building Lead communication, VPS is revisiting the hybrid schedules released last fall (still on their website) and plans to share some details, including target dates, with staff via email today, followed by a parent communication tomorrow/Friday. VPS confirmed the Superintendent will report further details during his report to the School Board during their Tuesday, 1/12 Zoom meeting (begins at 5 PM) for Board review/input. VEA will meet again with VPS Wednesday, 1/13 to further negotiations.

VEA encourages members to continue sharing email communication and/or public comment regarding your current or anticipated experience with remote and/or onsite instruction with School Board members and VPS Admin alike. The agenda and Zoom access link for Tuesday's meeting are not yet posted, but volunteers for public comment can place a request to speak by emailing [VPSBoard.Directors@vansd.org](mailto:VPSBoard.Directors@vansd.org) no later than 12 PM/noon on Tuesday, 1/12; please submit your full name, address, and topic. As you prepare remarks, please consider you are granted three minutes to address the Board.

## WEA-Retired \$Scholarship\$

WEA-Retired scholarships, in partnership with WEA-Retired, is offering up to ten \$1,000 non-renewable scholarships for 2021! Any WEA member can apply for a scholarship, but scholarship monies cannot be used for past classes, or to cover rent or gas.

Submit your three-part application:

- 1) [cover sheet](#),
- 2) letter of application based on [these questions](#), and a
- 3) letter of recommendation

via email to Bev at [barwentz@comcast.net](mailto:barwentz@comcast.net) and ensure it is **received no later than March 10, 2021**. Any questions can be addressed to Bev at the email address listed above.

## VEA Virtual Social, Open to All Members!



We realize the level of stress that all our members are feeling. We hope to "cook up" a great time with you Friday, **January 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 4:30 PM via Zoom** (this is a slightly later start time than initially announced in the January VEA Action Line)! Please plan to join us and register for the event no later than Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> using the link below:

**When: Jan 22, 2021 04:30 PM**

Register in advance – no later than January 15th:

<https://washingtonea.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ%20Upf-CorTksH9dDGGhf4KE3M-owr1avJAYX>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. See you there!

## Nominations for VEA Positions Are Open!

Nominations for several VEA positions opened January 5th at our monthly Rep Council meeting and will **close again at our next meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>** (note the date change from initial announcement in the January VEA Action Line in response to a motion from Rep Council to change future meeting dates). VEA encourages current and emerging leaders to consider requesting/completing/returning a nomination form to [cbrown@washingtonea.org](mailto:cbrown@washingtonea.org) for the VEA positions of:

- President (2-year term),
- 1st VP (2-year term),
- 3rd VP in Charge of Member Engagement (2-year term),
- Treasurer (2-year term),
- Intermediate Trustee, (3-year term) and
- Middle School Trustee (3-year term).

Details pertaining to each position can be found in VEA Bylaws and Standing Rules/Procedures under the Documents tab of [the VEA website](#).

VEA also encourages current and emerging leaders to consider requesting/completing/returning a nomination form to [cbrown@washingtonea.org](mailto:cbrown@washingtonea.org) for the positions of:

- VEA Delegates to the WEA Rep Assembly (virtual). This one-time event is currently scheduled for April 15-17. Details from past Rep Assemblies can be [found here](#).
- VEA Delegates to the NEA Rep Assembly (Denver CO – a virtual option has not yet been determined) This one-time event is July 2-6. Details from past Rep Assemblies can be [found here](#).

VEA will provide a voucher for participation in either Rep Assembly to reimburse members for any applicable meal purchases.

Dr. Rick Wilson, Executive Director: [rwilson@washingtonea.org](mailto:rwilson@washingtonea.org), 360-771-4146  
 Kari Van Nostran, President: [kvannostran@washingtonea.org](mailto:kvannostran@washingtonea.org), 360-624-7245  
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