



# Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

July 2021



## Coming up for Air? Good Stuff for Summer Pondering

### Washington Cares Fund (LTTST) A Long-Term Services and Support Trust

This is a new long-term care benefit for Washington State residents covering services and supports with a maximum lifetime benefit of \$36,500. This program is the first of its kind in the United States and is similar to programs in Germany, South Korea and Japan. While this program will be new, the commission is looking at potential modifications for those who work in Washington but live in Oregon.

What do we know?

Funding:

- All Washington employees pay into the trust beginning January 1, 2021
- Rate is 0.58% or 0.58 per \$100 earnings and is paid via payroll deduction.
- Only pay into the fund while working (eg. Not during retirement or on unpaid leave/non-work status).

Benefits:

- Beginning January 2025 those **eligible** may receive benefits.
- Maximum lifetime benefit is \$36,500 (adjusted for inflation over time)

Eligibility:

- Pay premiums into the fund for at least 10 years (to count as a year, employees must work at least 500 hours) without a break of 5 or more years within those 10 years **OR**
- Pay premiums into the fund for 3 of the last 6 years prior to applying for the benefit **AND**
- Must need assistance with at least 3 daily living activities

There is an Opt-out clause, however:

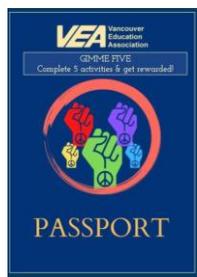
- Opting out is permanent! (even with job changes)
- Must apply and be approved for an exemption
- Must show coverage with a long-term care insurance plan or dedicated LTC rider **BEFORE** November 1, 2021.

If you are looking for another LTC provider, the NEA Member Benefits has [LTC insurance plans](#) that have a variety of options and designs for those wanting to supplement the state plan.

NEA has set up a site [specific to Washington members](#) who may be looking for an alternative to the state plan – **DON'T DELAY**. It is suggested to apply ASAP to ensure coverage. It takes a lot of time to process these types of policies and you must have the policy in place before November 1 (applications do not count) in order to Opt-out of the state plan. The WEA plans are specific to those over 30 years old. A recent physical (within 2 years) is also required.  
[www.ltcipartners.com/WEA/NEA](http://www.ltcipartners.com/WEA/NEA).

More about Washington Cares: <http://www.wacaresfund.wa.gov/wa-cares-benefits/>  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=50B.04.080>  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=50B.04.085>

## Equity Passport Prizes Awarded



Thank you to the VEA members who completed five equity-related activities and turned in their passports in May. Gift cards to multi-cultural restaurants, equity books, stickers, and posters were some of the prizes supported by our NEA Equity Grant!

Reflections from the participants included:

*“I want to keep going. The more I read, discuss and apply the more I grow and the people around me grow.”*

*I know that giving students opportunities to see themselves reflected in the curriculum communicates that they are seen and valued and increases their engagement in their learning. I am rewarded by earning their trust and being allowed to be part of the journey”*

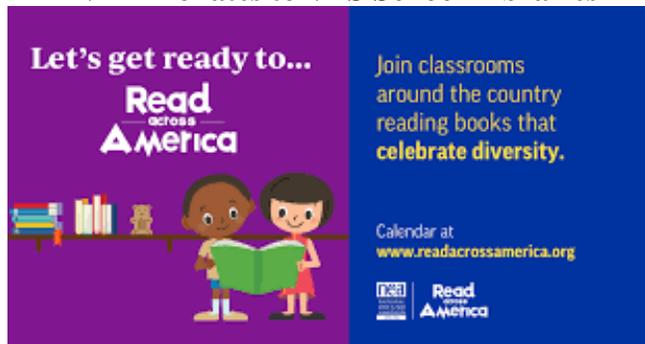
*“It was fun being able to engage in equity work in a variety of ways.”*

Watch for more exciting opportunities to engage around equity and social justice in the fall.

## Focus on YOUR Future Financial Goals

Summer is a great time to focus on you and your financial goals. Did you know that free access to Cassie Johnson, AIG is a member benefit? She can be reached at [cassie.johnson@aig.com](mailto:cassie.johnson@aig.com) or through her office at 503-276-1410. This [Toolkit](#) is another way to encourage you to change your focus from serving others to serving yourself!

### VEA Donates to VPS School Libraries



Typically VEA partners with Barnes and Noble to host a venue of student-oriented work and performances along with a book fair to support our school libraries. Typically this event coincides with the spring Read Across America. Due to COVID restrictions, this event was not possible. VEA donated a \$175 gift card to each school library to purchase literature that helps celebrate diversity. Your teacher-librarians helped facilitate these purchases!

## SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENTS

Amidst this heat, WEA PAC members from VEA, VAESP, and WEA-Retired gathered last week to review questionnaire responses from and to interview via Zoom with those candidates for VPS School Board who responded to our invitation! As always, the committee was looking for candidates who support public education, Vancouver educators, and union values. It was also important to find candidates who would represent the broader Vancouver community in a way that includes and lifts up all voices, in particular those who face obstacles or barriers within our systems. **Our WEA PAC committee is proud to endorse the following candidates for VPS School Board as we approach the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary Election:**

**Sandra Zavala-Ortega: Position 2**

[Campaign website](#)

[Campaign Facebook page](#)

**Wendy Smith: Position 3**

[Campaign website](#)

[Campaign Facebook page](#)

We encourage you to learn more about these WEA-PAC-endorsed candidates for VPS School Board by visiting their websites, liking/following their Facebook pages, and reaching out to them directly! Thank you also for spreading our support for these school and community-oriented candidates to your friends and family as well!

- VEA PAC Co-Chairs Megan Christopher and Lynn Maiorca

Also consider tuning into the League of Women Voters candidate forum on July 17 at 4:00 pm on CVTV. This link is to The Columbian article about the candidate forum:

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/jun/25/league-of-women-voters-of-clark-county-sets-dates-for-four-candidate-forums/>

## VEA Celebrates our Retirees!

The close of another school year also brings some more permanent good-byes. VEA and AIG/VALIC (WEA member benefits) have teamed up to help celebrate our retiring members. Thank you for your membership and service to the VPS students!

Joe Balin, Carol Bates, Filomeno Batol, Christine Christianson, Walter Crandall, Patricia Dahl, Darlene Harris, Katie Hebner, Lisa Kennison, Pam Laughlin, Lisa Leveque, Debra Mitts, Chris Morgan, Kirsten Owings, LaNnae Pust, Carol Sandison, Antoinette Saunders, Karen Uno, Lilah Veltkamp, Heidi Venema, Pam Vilhauer, Linda Wear, Reid Wetterau, and Crystal Wright.

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