



Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

March 2022



VEA is your *Safety Net*



Your mental health, financial strength, and professional needs are at the forefront of the work of the VEA. We are a member-driven organization where the programs and actions are a direct reflection of the membership needs and communications. Be sure to stay involved. Vote. Reach out to your building or constituent group representatives. Your voice matters! We recognize that this is likely the toughest year anyone has been involved in public education for both our members and the students we serve. Everyone is one thread away from a complete unravel. Please also take time for YOU.

Mental Health

Deer Oaks EAP. 1-888-993-7650. Email eap@deeroaks.com. Web/Logon: www.deeroakseap.com Call your EAP today for confidential around-the-clock assistance for all of life's challenges. The eap is available 24/7/365 for the benefit to YOU, your dependents, and household members.



The Way to Staff Well-being in Schools: Preventing Secondary Trauma for Educators.



March 22, 2022 4:30-5:30 PM. [Register](#) to receive your Zoom access. VEA has joined together with our labor partners at Kaiser Permanente (this event is open to EVERYONE and not exclusive to Kaiser Permanente members) to bring this necessary workshop to our members. This one hour workshop explores the needs of staff - stress management, self-care, and setting healthy boundaries. Recognize secondary trauma, understand signs and symptoms, prevention and treatment.

Financial Strength

VEA Membership SAVES

Cash management course
 March 3rd 5:00 (45 minutes) This course covers basic cash management disciplines and credit management tips. Free through VEA Member Benefits.

Student Loan Forgiveness Tutorial
 March 14th 4:30 (one hour) Recent changes to the Student Loan Forgiveness program... see if your loan is now eligible and how previous payments may be allowed. Free through VEA Member Benefits.

Membership Benefits 101
 March 24th 4:30 (one hour) Learn about saving money on everyday purchases through special pricing negotiated for members only. Find out where your membership can save you money! Free through VEA Member Benefits.

VEA
 Please use the QR codes to register. Contact VEA for more information.
 2509 Broadway, Vancouver, WA 98683
 360-695-3337 or cbrown@washingtonea.org

March into some MONEY with VEA...

FREE cash management course covering basic cash management disciplines and credit management tips, hosted by Certified Financial Planners on March 3rd at 5:00 pm (45 minutes). This course is FREE through your VEA member benefits.

Student Loan Forgiveness Tutorial March 14th at 4:30 (one hour). FREE through VEA Member Benefits

Membership Benefits 101 March 24th at 4:30 pm (one hour). Let your membership work for you... in your wallet!

Financial Strengths Continued...

Taking Action in Olympia

Holding the legislature to the McCleary promise!! On February 21st, WEA colleagues around the state and your VEA Political Action leaders stated loud and clear to fund your COLA to keep up with inflation at 5.5%. Stay tuned as the Senate completes their budget work. The legislative session ends on March 10th. See how WEAPAC contributions support this work (page 4 of this newsletter).

Check your February Paystub!! COVID MOU at work for you.

In recognition of increased expectations for use of the Canvas LMS/Seesaw/PKI Google site for the 2021-22 school year, each 1.0 FTE certificated employee will receive a one (1) time stipend of \$500 per semester, or half-school year equivalent for trimester, for a total of \$1,000 for the 2021-22 school year. Less than full time employees will receive a prorated stipend. Check your February 28, 2022 paystub... it will be noted as the "COVID Stipend." The second portion of the stipend will be paid in June.

Columbia Sportswear Employee Store Access!!



We are done with stormy winter weather, so Columbia Sportswear is having a winter sale. Save on select winter items up to an additional 50% off – while supplies last! VEA has partnered with Columbia Sportswear to allow members access to their employee store. VEA members and up to 4 additional guests can save up to 50% off the retail price of items March 4th – March 27th. Hours are Mon-Fri 10 am – 8 pm and Sunday 9 am – 8 pm. If required by local jurisdiction, shoppers are required to bring your own face coverings to wear while shopping. You will need [this flier](#) from the VEA website, your employee badge or pay stub and a valid photo ID at check in.

The democratic process at work

VEA Leadership 21-22

Elections for VEA Executive Board positions were ratified in February by the Rep Council. Your VEA board taking office on August 1 is:

- ◆ **President**, Kari Van Nostran
- ◆ **1st Vice President and co-WEAPAC Chair**, Lynn Maiorca
- ◆ **2nd Vice President in Charge of ESA & TOSA Affairs**, Shauna Guinn Burnett
- ◆ **3rd Vice President in Charge of Member Engagement**, Maxwell Merchant
- ◆ **4th co-Vice Presidents in Charge of Equity Affairs**, Renee Sutter and Amanda Clow
- ◆ **Recording Secretary**, Jackie Kozlowski
- ◆ **Treasurer**, Shannon McClelland
- ◆ **Primary Trustee**, Carl Gibson
- ◆ **Intermediate Trustee**, Melissa Bergmann
- ◆ **Middle School Trustee**, Keith Lloyd
- ◆ **High School Trustee**, Anne Kizerian
- ◆ **Special Ed Trustee**, Mona Rominger
- ◆ **Specialist Educator Trustee**, Cam Swarts
- ◆ **WEA-PAC co-chair**, Jesse Affeldt

VEA's Bargaining Team 2022

The February Rep Council also affirmed the appointment of the interim bargaining team for 2022:

Jamie Anderson (Primary), Keith Lloyd (MS), Sunny Selders (Intermediate), Andrew Wicklas (HS) and Amy Spofford (Special Ed).

Your team has planning dates scheduled in March for this bargain. Watch for the Bargaining newsletter for updates.

VEA Voice at the State and National Level

Cam Swarts was nominated and elected as VEA's Director to the WEA Board. Her term begins in August.

Your delegates to the WEA Rep Assembly are Kari Van Nostran, Lynn Maiorca, Cam Swarts, Lisa White, Rebecca Wallen, Amy Spofford, Eric Silvey and Leslie Nguyen. NEA Rep Assembly Delegates are Kari Van Nostran, Shannon McClelland, Marina Heitz, Lisa White, Lisa Freeman, Carol Patrick, Eric Silvey and Anne Wiley.

Professional Needs

Updated! Professional Development List

VEA in collaboration with the district is proud to bring you a variety of WEA sponsored courses. Approved VPS courses will allow for payment via available individual PD funds. Some courses are still in process, so please Save the Date!

Beginning July 1, 2023, certificated employees in Washington will be required to have 15 equity-based clock hours for certificate renewal.

March 5th Sat (4 hours): **Implicit Bias - Interrupting Discrimination Against LGBTQ Communities** (District Course 8283)

- This research-based course for educators explores vocabulary to help educators understand gender terminology, binary gender systems, and student perspectives about their experiences as LGBTQ+ youth

April 13th Wed (3 hours) **De-escalation strategies for Educators.** (Save the Date)

- Participants learn to recognize signs of a potential behavioral crisis and remediate before the event. In addition to exploring how their own behavior can effect the escalation cycle, participants discover and practice de-escalation techniques that recognize the importance of maintaining student dignity during behavior crises

NEW!! April 23rd Saturday (6 hours) **Foundations of Equitable Inclusion** (District course 8338).

- This course focuses on the intersectionality of special education and equity in schools. Examining beliefs and bias is necessary for system-wide change for overcoming barriers to educational access, participation, learning processes and outcomes, and to ensure that all learners are valued and engaged equally.

April 30th Sat (4 hours): **Implicit Bias - Using Restorative Justice Practices in Education** (Save the Date)

- The objective of this course is to create a space where educators can learn to understand the positive impact that restorative justice can play in building relationships and developing

community with students daily. Educators will learn how restorative justice implementation can repair harms and restore relationships that could be jeopardized between students, peers, or other educators by participating in small group activities.

May 7th Sat (6 hours): **Autism 101** (Save the date).

- This is an introductory course defining autism and characteristics of autism. This presentation introduces teaching strategies that can be implemented in a general education classroom as well as a special education classroom. Find out what we know about autism, review WAC definition of autism, review the diagnosis of autism, as well as strategies and interventions.

May 21st Sat (6 hours): **Implicit Bias – Race & Ethnicity, Moving Past our Biases** (Save the New Date – Formerly scheduled for Jan 22)

- This research-based course for educators explores the difference between race and ethnicity through an analysis of definitions, real-world examples, group discussions, and collaborative work strategies. This course also examines the myths of race and how developing sustainable relationships can improve the outcomes of educator experiences with students, families, and peers.

Certification Courses

(not applicable for PD funds)

[Register today](#) Understand the latest teacher certificate renewal requirements, policy changes, STEM renewal requirements, PGP basics, NBCT, OSPI eCert platform.

March 9th **ESA Certification 101** (2 clock hours). Also includes ESA Professional Growth needs.

WEA's Inclusionary Practices Project and Special Education Support

The Parents' Perspective: Caregivers and Educators working together. March 7th and March 9th (4:30-6:30 pm). This course is led by a team of parents of students with disabilities, including some that are professionals in the field of education. Clock Hours/Free to members.

[Registration is open.](#)



do I need to be interested in politics?

Your Salary – Washington State Legislature determines allocations to the district such as regionalization percentage, what constitutes a senior workforce, levy lids, ESA staffing, etc.

Your Collective Bargaining Rights – The Legislature can take away rights to collectively bargain working conditions and provisions such as TRI.

Your Class Size – The Legislature controls school funding – which affects your class size.

Your Benefits – The Legislature initiated and funds SEBB.

Your Retirement – The Legislature decides which plans to offer and how they are administered.

Your School Board – The School Board is an elected body who makes decisions affecting you directly!

Who can join? YOU!!

#MembershipMatters - the collective power of WEAPAC speaks volumes. VEA currently has 68% of our membership contributing... and are in contention for holding the top spot in the state if we meet our goal of 73%

- ◆ **WEA-PAC** gives us a voice to fight for increased education funding, increase school quality and improved compensation.
- ◆ **WEA-PAC** helps to elect candidates who will put children and public education first.
- ◆ **WEA-PAC** gives us a strong voice in the debate over key issues – including funding, class size, compensation and accountability.
- ◆ **WEA-PAC** is a powerful voice in lobbying for the right kind of education reform. By being members of WEA-PAC we can work together to help children and strengthen our schools.
- ◆ **WEA-PAC's** political activities help protect the interests of education employees, and give us a better chance of winning improved compensation and health benefits.



What is WEA-PAC?

◆ WEA-PAC is Washington Education Association's Political Action Committee.

WEA-PAC supports candidates, regardless of party, who champion the needs of public education. Based on input from local WEA-PAC members, WEA-PAC determines how political candidates stand on the issues that affect our members, our schools and our students. We support good candidates who are willing to stand up for public education and union rights.

◆ Candidates from local to statewide positions can and do receive assistance from WEA-PAC. School boards, city councils, the state Legislature, the governor, the superintendent of public instruction and judgeships have all been affected by WEA-PAC and its members.

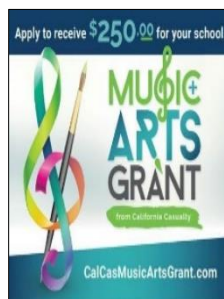


If you are a VEA member, but have not yet joined WEA-PAC - you can join electronically. If you are already

a member contributing to WEAPAC, you can choose **new contribution levels** of \$5.00 or \$10.50 a month. **VEA has some awesome SWAG (phone wallets, hats, and sweatshirts) to give out for new or upgraded contributions** - while supplies last.

www.washingtonea.org/joinweapac

More Opportunities for You!



California Casualty Arts and Music Grants are BACK!

You too can win a \$250 grant for your classroom or program! Apply by June 2022 for awards in the Fall. [Quick Entry Link!](#) This is a very popular member benefit!

Save the Date: March 25th – VEA In-person ALL member social. Location TBD. RSVP: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y5KBNV9>

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