

September Update

October 6 VEA Social



Join us for a complimentary beverage and appetizers. Come when you can, stay as long as you like! [Please RSVP](https://tinyurl.com/5n8un3k5)

Membership Deals and Discounts September 26 4:30-5:15 pm

[Register HERE](#) to Learn about how to save money, manage your finances, and live your best life using NEA Member Benefits. Planning your next vacation, saving money on everyday purchases, insuring your most valuable things, and taking charge of your financial life are all made easier through your membership. Get started at www.neamb.com/start before the session and bring your questions. These 45 minutes will be certainly fun and might change your life!

Re-Election Rally for Tracie Barrows

Saturday, September 30

2:00 pm

Heathen Brewing (1109 Washington Street)

Join Tracie for a re-election rally for School Board candidate, Tracie Barrows. Tracie is endorsed by VEA and WEAPAC. Come grab a yard sign, enjoy a toast to Tracie, and celebrate with her community of supporters. Meet Tracie (if you haven't already) and learn why she's running for re-election. Everyone is welcome.

COVID is Back!

The VEA-VPS MOU expired on August 31. The state and Federal emergencies ended and the presumptive coverage for COVID-19 frontline workers ended as well.

Workers' comp will consider coverage if an employee contracted COVID (with a positive test) had direct contact with an unmasked, positive student providing the date/how long they were with the student. Contracting COVID from a coworker however would not be covered under workers compensation. Employees should provide as much detail as possible regarding exposure source as they are able on the workers' comp claim. If a parent/student communicated a positive COVID case, the correspondence should be included as well as the documented time they spent with that student around your positive test date. *(Note: Unless requested by our local health jurisdiction, VPS will not notify families and staff about individual COVID cases and there will be no COVID dashboard for the 2023-2024 school year).* Claims are investigated and reviewed on a case-by-case basis for allowance. If allowed, there's a three day wait (out of your sick leave) before time-loss benefits would kick in which would be 60-70% of wages with some sick leave used to make up the difference. Becky Johnson in HR can provide the workers' comp claim form.

Please refer to the [District COVID protocols](#) for further details on COVID 2023-24

VEA Advocating for YOU POP UP Message REMOVED

A pop up message indicating "leaves for certificated employees will be granted in units of half or full days only" **was removed** by VEA request because it contained information that conflicted with the CPA, Article 6.2H. Illness, injury and emergency leave can be reported in hourly increments.

Thank you to the building representatives who communicated this error to VEA for advocacy.

#BetterTogether

National Board Certification - VEA Cohort

The VEA cohort registration letter and meeting information can be [accessed here](#)

NBCT participants must complete either the Jump Start held in August or a Foundations Course. **The VEA Foundations course is scheduled for Saturday, September 30th.** To participate, please fill out the Survey Monkey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SXRQ52F>. This will secure your place in the program and give us the necessary information to place you in a cohort. Priority deadline is September 29, 2023. You may register up until the day prior to the first meeting.

Then, complete the [registration form](#) found at www.vancouverea.org under the documents tab. Finally, submit your completed registration form and the \$100 registration fee if you are new to the VEA NBCT Cohort this year to the VEA office at 2509 Broadway – Vancouver, WA 98663. You may bring payment for the cohort fees to the first meeting or contact VEA to pay via the square. Checks are to be payable to VEA.

Looking for Members

Contact VEA if you are interested in these opportunities!

Member Engagement Activity Planning: VEA's 3rd VP of Member Engagement is looking for members at large to help design and implement member engagement activities (socials, gatherings, swag, picnic, etc.). Typically meeting after school as needed to plan as well as attend some planned events to assist with sign in, run activities, etc. A VEA application is available to participate.

Standing Rules/Bylaws/Policy – Blue Book committee. VEA's governing rules are a "living document". The blue book committee meets approximately once every 6 weeks to review, revise and recommend revisions of our "blue book". Executive board reviews the recommendations and Rep Council approves or sends to the membership for a vote as stipulated.

Professional Rights & Responsibilities – Grievance Commission. This commission of members reviews grievances for advancement to the next stage of action or to dropped based on merit. This commission will review documents via email or in person as needed. Training will be provided.

1:1 Member Listening team. VEA has committed to engage with members by forming a team of listeners. These members will chat with fellow members on what's going well, identify potential leaders, and gather information for bargaining. Listener team members will be scheduled as available. The more robust this team is the smaller the commitment becomes. Release time and training will be provided.

Equity Team. VEA's Equity team plans and implements opportunities for members to educate and empower members and students to be inclusive by dismantling systemic barriers and injustices. A VEA application is available to participate.

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