

January Update



Wear RED on February 1

The VEA's first meeting with the district is on February 1st. We'd love to see a sea of RED in support of our team. VEA has a new supply of RED "Everything's Better when We're Together" Tshirts at VEA.

Send your size/building request to your building rep or directly to Cindy @ VEA (cbrown@washingtonea.org).

Bargaining Listening Sessions Continue

Constituency group perspectives are scheduled for Zoom listening sessions (5:00-6:00 pm). Remaining sessions are listed below. Join via [this link](#) unless otherwise noted: Passcode #GoVEA24

January 23 SLP

January 24 Psychologists

January 25 TOSA/Deans

January 30 Teacher Librarians

January 31 CTE



Nominations are open for VEA Executive Board positions (2nd VP Labor Relations, 4th VP Equity, Recording Secretary, ESA/TOSA

Trustee, Intermediate Trustee,

and Middle School Trustee). Submit [this Executive Board nomination form](#) by February 5.

Nominations are also open for members to attend the WEA RA (Spokane) and NEA RA (Philadelphia). [WEA RA Nomination form](#) and [NEA RA Nomination forms](#) are also due February 5. VEA pays for release, travel, meals, and lodging.

WEA

VEA's UniServ Council Director to the WEA Board position is open. This two-year position involves attending eight in-person meetings in Federal Way as well as some online. WEA pays for travel, meals and lodging for in-person meetings. [Nominations forms](#) are due to WEA by Jan 31.

NEA

State Delegates to NEA RA (2024 would be self-funded) 2025 is in Portland, OR. This two-year term provides additional opportunities for member participation in the NEA RA. [Nominations forms](#) are due to WEA by Jan 31.

NEA State Director. This person is on a team of five who represents WEA on the NEA board of Directors. The three-year term involves attending seven board meetings at NEA in Washington DC as well as some virtually to decide NEA policies, adopt the budget and provide direction regarding national education and labor related issues and lobby Washington's congressional delegation on federal policies that impact public education and labor. [Nominations forms](#) are due to WEA by Jan 31.

First Semester Extension Impacts Staff

The district has management rights to adjust the calendar, including moving the end of semester and finals schedule to the end of next week (Feb 2) due to snow/ice closures. We can then bargain the impacts of that decision. January 29th remains a non-workday for all staff as timing does not allow for secondary to utilize it as intended with this new shift and the MOU timing parameters prevent its use as a snow make up day. The Executive Board discussed options at length at their meeting on Monday in response to staff frustration and time for completion of end of term grading and other related work. Superintendent Snell agreed to the following:

- 1) Open the grade bucket on Feb 2 and close at 11:00 pm on Feb 12 to accommodate the shift caused by missed days. – AND
- 2) The all staff connect meeting on Feb 7 will be OPTIONAL for secondary and recorded so all staff can view afterwards.

SPARKS Applications Extended

Applications are still being accepted for VEA's 2024 SPARKS program.

Single rooms may be requested but the cost difference is the responsibility of the participant. SPARKS is an

immersive experience to learn more about your career and the association to support and sustain you in this profession. Application deadline is extended to January 26



Pre-Retirement Seminars Offered

VEA member benefits include access to the WEA-Retired retirement planning seminars. Whether you are one, three, five or even fifteen years from retiring, it's not too early to begin planning! [This registration form](#) is also available on the VEA website under NewsFlash

Navigating Student Loan Forgiveness

There have been many updates and changes made to student loan forgiveness programs, and the information you need to know is often hard to find and/or navigate. NEA member benefits is here to help! Come learn about the latest federal programs and how to access the NEA Student Debt Navigation Tool.



Use this [Registration Link](#) to join Teresa Muench on January 30 at 4:30 pm as she presents information about this awesome member benefit!

VEA Social – February 9



Join us on Friday, February 9th for a VEA social at Los Potrillos in Felida as a member engagement collaboration with the VEA equity team. Taco bar and first hosted beverage will be provided. Please RSVP for planning purposes: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P3DVQM7>