

August Update

<div>Attacks on our Membership</div> <div><div>Don't be Duped</div> - September 1st deadline nearing!</div> <div>An anti-union group “Opt out Today” has spammed your work email box with an urgent reminder for you to drop your WEA membership by September 1st. Members who fall for this ploy will drop WEA, NEA, and VEA memberships. VEA has a representation policy that outlines what services are covered for everyone in our bargaining unit.</div> <div>Please remember that only members receive access to WEA legal services. At any given time, multiple VEA members are utilizing WEA legal representation for due process and certification issues. Private attorney fees for these cases could easily cost over \$20,000. Please know that legal coverage is similar to other insurances whereas you cannot get coverage after the barn burns down.</div>	<div>PL Days – New Digital Sign In Process</div> <div>The Professional Learning days are coming up this week. Participants must use the digital check-in process to sign-in for courses.</div> <div><div>Here’s how it works:</div><div>Log in to the PL site and follow 5 easy steps to check in. (Steps 6 and 7)</div><div>You must be registered for the course to check in.</div><div>You can only check in on the day of the course.</div><div>A few important reminders:</div><div>Not registered yet? Be sure to register before attempting to check in.</div><div>Arrived late? Still check in, then email the instructor.</div><div>Leaving early? Email the instructor to report your adjusted attendance.</div><div>Forgot to check in? Email the instructor as soon as possible.</div><div>REMEMBER: FAILURE TO SIGN-IN UPON YOUR ARRIVAL (OR BEFORE YOU DEPART) TO PROVE YOUR ATTENDANCE MAY RESULT IN NO CLOCK HOUR CREDIT OR PAYMENT.</div></div> <div><div>CHECK IN</div><div></div></div>
<div>PreSchool for All Update</div> <div>The VEA Executive Board voted to support the PreSchool for All coalition by sharing information about their efforts. We need your help to defend PreSchool for All from the 1% and Governor Kotek, who’s joined their campaign to kill this national model program that is on track to be available free to all kids in Multnomah County by Fall 2030.</div> <div><div>It’s building:</div><div>*Lots of choices for families of schedule, language, cultural context and size of setting</div><div>*Liveable wages, benefits and professional development for teachers, funded by a small tax on high-income households.</div></div> <div>If you are or were a PFA family or teacher, please take (and share) this short, Friends of Preschool for All survey to share your story of positive impacts and suggestions for improvements AND join them on Wed, August 20th from 5-8 pm in the County Building at 501 SE Hawthorne for the only evening public hearing being held on this tax cut proposal. The nearly 300,000 who voted for Preschool for All want to see it roll out as promised.</div>	<div>VPS – New Special Services Leadership</div> <div>At the end of June, Special Services leadership quietly exited VPS. Katie Arkoosh (Walnut Grove principal) and Barb Lorenzo (Equity TOSA and former VEA leader) have stepped in on an interim basis to serve as Executive Director and Director of Special Services. In a meeting with VEA leaders last week, they emphasized the importance of elevating educator expertise to best serve students, rebuilding trust, and breaking down silos within the department.</div> <div>They committed to collaborating with VEA leadership during monthly meetings, including on-site visits, listening sessions for members, and connecting directly with reps periodically at Rep Council to hear concerns.</div> <div>VEA leadership left the meeting feeling optimistic about the department’s direction. When we raise our voices together, we have the power to shape what comes next.</div>
<div>VSAA Family in Crisis</div> <div>A VSAA family is struggling and in need of support. A hardworking father, who has been a dedicated member of our community for over 20 years, was recently detained by ICE while picking up tools for work at Home Depot. He was the primary provider for his family, and now his partner has been left alone to care for their two young daughters, facing emotional pain and financial hardship.</div> <div><div>If you would like to help</div><div>Go Fund Me Page</div></div>	<div>Start the Year off on the Correct Contract Type</div> <div><div></div></div> <div>Members who were on a provisional contract and completed two years of service at a highly diverse and high poverty school who received a “proficient” or “distinguished” summative evaluation rating (classroom teachers) or a “Satisfactory” evaluation rating (non-classroom teacher)? New bargaining language in 11.1A allows for those individuals to be no longer considered a “provisional employee” and should be placed on a continuing contract.</div>