



Update

November 11, 2019

Special LWEA Election Update

Elections for the 2020-21 LWEA Officers and Executive Board and the 2020 NEA and WEA Rep Assembly Delegates begins this week. What you need to know:

- Lake Washington EA Elections will open Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 7:00 a.m. and close Friday, December 6, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.
- You will receive an email with a link to the secret electronic ballot
- Each member will have a unique username and password – the ballot will contain instructions
- You can view the ballot as often as you like, you can only vote 1 time, once you hit submit – vote is final
- Every position has the option for “write-in” candidate(s)

Officer Candidates for 2020-21

President

Howard Mawhinney: LWSD enrollment now exceeds 31,000 students, making Lake Washington the second largest district in the state. This decade-long, 25% enrollment increase is a trend predicted to continue well into the future.

The impact of these changes on the Association cannot be discounted...and the LWEA has responded:

- In a post-Janus reality that requires LWEA to identify, connect with, and demonstrate Association value to our members, we’ve enrolled 250+ new members each year for the last three years, resulting in a 99.36% membership rate.
- Nearly 40% of our membership have 1-3 years with LWSD. We’ve welcomed many of those new members to well established events (Newbie Nights, Cert 101) and inaugural outreach efforts (LWEA sponsored Equity outreach groups, Pizza and Politics, Building Labor-Management Cohort Training) to name just a few.
- We’ve added three “Competency Teams” to the LWEA organizational structure to provide members, new and veteran, a voice in establishing LWEA priorities and to lend their expertise as we advocate for our professional, contractual, and individual needs.

While I believe the LWEA is well positioned to meet our challenges, we still have work to do:

- Continuing efforts for a 2020 implementation of [WAC 357-31-520](#), the newly implemented Paid Family Medical Leave.
- Preparing for the January 1 crossover to SEBB medical coverage.
- Providing leadership on equity issues and changing district demographics.
- Addressing challenges arising from overcrowded schools.
- Empowering our Building Representatives to identify and resolve issues impacting the teachers, students, and families that make up their communities.
- Not to mention preparation for the next year’s contract negotiation.

Our Association is built on the principal that our working conditions are our student’s learning environment. The voices of educational professionals are in integral part of meeting student needs. Despite the efforts of organizations like the self-proclaimed but ironically named “Freedom Foundation” that neither understand our values nor how our students benefit from our efforts, our union continues to grow.

I hope to continue to earn your confidence in my ability to lead the Association as we work together to ensure Lake Washington School District remains a great place to teach.

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Vice-President

Katie Badger: We are working together to make our schools great for our students and their families. Together we can continue to build a union that values educator voice. I am excited at the prospect of continuing as LWEA Vice President and respectfully ask for your vote. Thank you for your support.

Executive Board Candidates for 2020-21

Primary Rep

Patti Cook: Hi, my name is Patti Cook, and I have taught in our district for over 30 years. Currently, I am serving as the Primary Rep for LWEA. Throughout the past year, I have expanded my understanding of the workings of LWEA, WEA, and NEA. I hope to continue in this role as an advocate for you. In doing so, I believe I will be able to represent our community of educators who have an incredible amount of dedication and experience. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Intermediate Rep

Mary Kay Weinmeister: My name is Mary Kay Weinmeister, and I am running for the position of Intermediate Rep for LWEA. Over the past 16 years, I have taught 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th grades in elementary school and was also a substitute teacher for 5 years prior to coming back to the classroom. I have been a building rep for my school for several years and have learned a lot through that experience. All five of my children are graduates of LWSD, which allowed me to be part of our parent community, including serving as a PTA board member. Having worn all those hats has been invaluable and allows me to see issues from many angles. I have also had the privilege of representing LWEA at both WEA and NEA rep assemblies – which has both instilled a passion in me for union work and a desire to do even more. I would be honored to be your intermediate representative to bring your voice and your ideas to the district and support you in your work as an educator. Thank you.

Middle School Rep

Kyla Jackson (Thompson): Serving as an effective Middle School Representative is my goal, and something that is definitely a work in progress. I am currently serving as part of the Business and Finance group, taking a close look at our most important documents like our contract as well as our LWEA Constitution and Bylaws. My goals are to help us be more effective and efficient and support all members better. I started this journey with a trip to the WEA Representative assembly, and I'd love to extend that service by attending the NEA assembly as well. I appreciate your support.

High School Rep

Rachelle Horner: This is my 12th year teaching humanities in the Lake Washington School District, and as a graduate of Redmond High School it has been astounding to see how far we have come, but also how far we have yet to go. As a teacher of social justice, I have expanded my understanding of all the ways change happens, both big and small. I have been working in small ways to cause positive change by teaching all of my classes through the lens of social justice, leading staff professional development on social justice pedagogy and now as the leader of the our school's equity team and now I would like to start activating change in bigger ways as LWEA's High School Rep. Attending WA RA these last three years I have enjoyed watching teachers be a voice for social progress and I look forward to continuing to add my voice to that progress by continuing my role as Secondary Rep for the LWEA.

Specialist Rep

Marilyn Hargraves: As a former high school English teacher, counselor at Redmond High School, and current counselor at Lake Washington High School, I am fortunate to have experience in the classroom as well as outside the classroom. I have served as a building representative and delegate to WEA, NCUEA, NEA Leadership Summit, and NEA, as well as serving on the bargaining team. This is my ninth year on the Executive Committee, and each year I am more and more grateful for the opportunities that have allowed me to grow my leadership skills and to become more active on both the local and state levels. From meeting with legislators in Olympia and speaking at local town hall meetings to phone banking and door-belling in our neighborhoods, I enjoy being active in the political process that helps elect pro-public education candidates. Whenever I visit schools and/or chat with our members, I am humbled by your candid stories of successes and challenges. I look forward to continuing to listen and learn from my colleagues and to find ways to support all educators. I would be honored to continue to be your advocate and represent your interests, ideas, and concerns both within and outside LWSD. I appreciate your trust, your vote.

LWEA Officers and Executive Committee

President:

[Howard Mawhinney](#)
LWEA Office / 425-822-3388

Vice President:

[Katie Badger](#)
LWEA Office / 425-822-3388

Primary Rep:

[Patti Cook](#)
Rush / 425-936-2690

Intermediate Rep:

[Cathey Hettinger](#)
Barton / 425-936-2480

Middle School Rep:

[Kyla Thompson](#)
Finn Hill / 425-936-2340

High School Rep:

[Rachelle Horner](#)
EHS / 425-936-1500

Specialists Rep:

[Marilyn Hargraves](#)
LWHS / 425-936-1700

Special Services Rep:

[Cookie Grant-Suggs](#)
Rush / 425-555-6982

Ethnic Minority Rep:

[Maryziel Galarpe](#)
Blackwell / 425-936-2520



Executive Board Candidates for 2020-21 (cont)

Special Services Rep

Cookie Grant-Suggs It would be an honor to continue to be an advocate and represent your voice as the Special Services Representative in 2020 on LWEA Executive Committee. I would like to thank you for electing me as your Special Services Representative for the present school year: 2019 / 2020. It is my desire to be a voice for Special Services ensuring that they receive the resources and support needed, overcoming obstacles that may be blocking the need to do a phenomenal job.

As an educator I truly believe that strength is a great asset and we have a dedicated group of people in Special Services. Teaching for over 20 years has taught me to never give up and fight for the right of educators and public education. Previously I was a Building Rep listening to the challenges and successes of the people in our building seeking resources that would be beneficial to all.

It is vital that your voices are heard and represented in the district. I will do my best to be the advocate and voice that Special Services desires. Enlisting my support so you never have to settle for less when more is right around the corner. I am running because I have just begun the work of being your representative this year and want to continue in the upcoming year.

Thank you for your trust, support, and vote in Cookie Grant-Suggs as Special Services Representative!!!

Ethnic Minority Rep

Cathey Hettinger: My name is Cathey Hettinger and I am running for Ethnic Minority Rep for the Executive Committee. I hope to be your voice for matters that pertain to people of color. Thank you for entrusting me to do this important work.

NEA and WEA Rep Assembly Delegate(s)

Delegate statements can be found on the by clicking this link:

https://www.washingtonea.org/file_viewer.php?id=25276

School Psychology Awareness Week

November 11-15, 2019 is national School Psychology Awareness Week. This year's theme is – "Find Your Focus". The theme highlights how school psychologists and other educators can help students identify strengths and areas of interest, develop persistence, see ideas and situations more clearly, and attend to important information in academic and social settings. Focusing can help us set goals, identify action steps, communicate need, and engage in discussions to help create the connections necessary for students to develop critical academic and social emotional skills.