



Winter 2016



Connections

NEWS TO KEEP YOU ENGAGED IN THE PROFESSION YOU LOVE

WEA-Retired Legislative Lobby Day 2017

By Lee Ann Prielipp, Legislative Work Team Chair

To move our legislative priorities forward, we need a LARGER VOICE! Therefore, we will be teaming up with the Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) for our 2017 Legislative Lobby Day. Their issues are the same as ours including reminding lawmakers that public pensions are a promise that benefits our state's economy, and that we oppose the creation of a Plan 4 (which would undermine all current plans), and want the Legislature to restore the Plan 1 COLA and the PEBB Medicare Benefit. We will also be prepared to speak against any negative legislation that may have been filed.

The Legislative Lobby Day will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in

Olympia beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8. The agenda that morning will include hearing from elected officials, getting a briefing on legislative issues from our lobbyists and some training on what to expect and what to do when lobbying our legislators.

There will be two buses, one of which is handicap accessible, transporting members to and from the Capitol. A box lunch will also be provided.

We will also be hosting a joint reception with RPEC from 6-8 p.m. the evening before, Tuesday, March 7, at the Red Lion Hotel and inviting lawmakers. In order to plan appropriately,

members planning to attend are asked to complete a registration form. This form will be available in our January issue of e-Connections. You may also request a registration form by emailing WEARetired@washingtonea.org or calling 253-765-7067.

**March 8
Lobby Day**

The President's Corner



**By Kit
Raney,
WEA-Retired
President**

I was with her. By “her” I mean Hillary.

I participated in the vote at the WEA Representative Assembly that endorsed her. I attended events, donated money and was thrilled to have my picture taken with her. I wanted that highest glass ceiling to finally be broken and I wanted to elect a president who was incredibly qualified and who shared my values. When I realized Donald Trump would be declared president though the Electoral College process, even though he lost the popular vote, I was shocked, saddened and concerned, as were many Hillary supporters.. We are a deeply divided country. And as a retired educator, I am very concerned about the impact this divide is having on our children and students.



I believe that rhetoric begets action and the rhetoric about building a wall, registering Muslims, labeling women as “fat pigs”, and worse, sounds the opposite of the country I want to live in. WEA just sent a memo from Alice O’Brien, NEA General Counsel, that contained some guidance for educators and parents on harassment and discrimination. It also stated that the Southern Poverty Law Center has received more than 400 reports of harassment or intimidation in the United States since the election. I would think there are many, many more cases that have not been reported.

Despite all of this, I have found encouragement and hope by the words and actions of others. The beautiful event held in Seattle on Saturday, November 19, where over 4,000 people joined hands around Green Lake in unity against fear and against racism, sexism, homophobia and Islamophobia is one example. The words tweeted by Seahawk Doug Baldwin are another. (Full disclosure...Doug Baldwin is my favorite Seahawk.)

The whole article and compilation of Doug’s tweets can be found at www.thenation.com/article/seattle-seahawk-doug-baldwin-with-the-words-we-need-to-hear/ and are worth reading.

Here is what Doug pledges to do:

I pledge to change the way I think. To be more empathetic to those whose experiences I haven’t endured.

I pledge to be more observant.

To listen with two ears and watch with two eyes. And ask questions.

I hope by my expression in these few tweets that others will join in pledging to do better.

I want my children to live in a world/country that is better than what we currently live in. And I don’t think that’s too much to ask.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. As Ellen DeGeneres says at the end of each show, “Be kind to one another.”

Contact Kit at raneyk@aol.com or 253-765-7067.

WEA-Retired Delegate Nomination Form for the 2017 WEA RA

WEA Representative Assembly will be held in Spokane, April 13-15, 2017.

- Nominees for WEA-Retired delegate must be retired and not hold a contract with a public school district.
- Nomination forms must be postmarked by **Jan. 6, 2017**.
- Nominees must agree to attend all sessions.
- All nominations must have the consent of the nominee. **Self-nomination is acceptable.**
- Delegates are elected annually to serve one year.
- Biography of 50 words or less is optional and will be used only if a run-off election is necessary.

I nominate the following RETIRED member to be a delegate to the 2017 WEA Representative Assembly.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Name _____ | Address _____ |
| City/State/Zip _____ | Phone (____) _____ |
| Email Address if available _____ | |
| UniServ Council: _____ | Retirement Date: _____ |

DELEGATE FUNDING

WEA-Retired Board of Directors approved a policy June 9, 2010, regarding the funding of delegates to the WEA Representative Assembly. In accord with that policy, WEA-Retired leadership has determined that WEA-Retired can afford to fully fund 20 delegates to the WEA Representative Assembly. If there are more than 20 nominees, then delegates will have some out-of-pocket expenses.

Please check one of the following statements:

- ____ I understand I could have some out of pocket expenses and I am willing to cover those expenses.
- ____ I understand I could have some out of pocket expenses and I would prefer my name be removed if that is the case.

Return WEA Representative Assembly Nomination Forms to:

Jan Curtis
718 Russell Road
Snohomish, WA 98290-5617

Deadline: Forms must be postmarked no later than **Jan. 6, 2017**.

2017 WEA-Retired Annual Meeting Nomination Form

WEA-Retired will convene its annual meeting in Federal Way on June 7-8, 2017. This year delegates will elect a president and vice president as well as board directors. There will also be an amendment to the constitution regarding membership.

Non-chapter units are: Kent (2), North Central (3), Puget Sound (7), Rainier (4), **WEA-Sammamish (10), Seattle (6), Soundview (2)**, Spokane (3), **Summit (3)**, Vancouver (4), WEA-Cascade (5), **WEA-Eastern Washington (6), WEA-Lower Columbia (3)**, WEA MidState (6), WEA Olympic (8), WEA-Riverside (5), and **WEA-Southeast (6)**. New board directors will be elected for the units in **bold print**. The number in parenthesis is the number of delegates the chapter is allowed in addition to the board director.

Chapter units are: Pilchuck (8), **Tacoma (4), WEA Chinook (12), and WEA Fourth Corner (8)**. The units in **bold print** will be electing a new board director this year. The number in parenthesis is the number of delegates the chapter is allowed in addition to the board director. Chapter units should elect their delegates by **March 15, 2017**.

This form can be used for nominating delegates from ALL councils, board directors, president and vice president. Nominees for chapter units will be forwarded to the chapter leader to be included when the chapter elects its delegates. Non-chapter delegates will be elected during a meeting of WEARetired Board of Directors in January.

All nominees must be WEA-Retired members. More than one name can be submitted for each position. You can nominate yourself and/or another retired member. If you nominate someone other than yourself, you must have the consent of the nominee. Fifty words or less biography for each nominee is optional.

Mail the nomination form to: Jan Curtis, 718 Russell Road, Snohomish, WA 98290-5617. Nomination forms must be postmarked no later than Jan. 6, 2017.

2017 WEA-Retired Annual Meeting Nomination Form — Multiple Positions

Your Name _____ Date of Retirement _____
Your email _____ Phone number _____

I nominate the following retired members for:

| | DELEGATE | CHAPTER |
|---|----------|---------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |

| | BOARD DIRECTOR | CHAPTER |
|--|----------------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

| | PRESIDENT | CHAPTER |
|---|-----------|---------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |

| | VICE PRESIDENT | CHAPTER |
|--|----------------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Bob Howard ... not a couch potato!



It is very rare for a person over 65 years of age to pole vault over 8 feet. WEA-Retired member Bob Howard, at 66 years of age, did it on July 23rd this summer at the 2016 Washington State Senior Games, the state track meet held annually in Tumwater, Washington.

The first picture is of Bob clearing 8 feet. Having done so, USA Track and Field recognized Bob as a Senior All American with honors presented later. The second picture shows Bob clearing 8'6"; getting the silver medal for 2nd place in the state meet; and qualifying for the national senior track meet in Alabama next summer. First place went to a recent national champion, the best in the country.

The Washington State Senior Games are open every year to anyone over 50 years of age. The competition is broken into five year age blocks such as 65 through 69. Bob has competed for over ten years and qualified for nationals every year except one when injured.

Bob retired from the North Thurston School District.

From the Washington State Senior Games website: The purpose of the Washington State Senior Games is to keep seniors healthy and productive. Participation in the Senior Games is a year-round effort to enhance wellness. Our mission is to promote health and fitness throughout the year for people from 50 years of age to 100+ through participation, competition and education.

We encourage all seniors to get off the couch and exercise your body and your mind. Join us for fun, fellowship and some friendly competition. Sign up with a friend and start training today at your local YMCA, health club, fitness center or in your own home.

If you are interested in more information about the Washington State Senior Games, go to www.washingtonstateseniorgames.com. If you have also participated in the Washington State Senior Games, we'd like to hear from you.



WEA-Retired works with allies

WEA-Retired is very lucky to be a part of the 92,000 members of WEA and the 3 million members of NEA but WEA-Retired also works closely with other organizations with shared goals. We are an active participant in Public Employees for Pension Responsibility (PEPR), a coalition of retired public employee organizations that share similar legislative goals and concerns about the retirement security crisis. In addition to WEA and WEA-Retired, some of the other members of PEPR are the Washington Federation of State Employees, Washington State Labor Council, and the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington (RPEC).

WEA-Retired and RPEC will be holding a joint Legislative Reception and Lobby Day on March 7 and 8 this year. See the related article in this newsletter. WEA-Retired is also a part of the Washington Alliance for Retired Americans. WEA-Retired member Mary Lindsey represents WEA-Retired as a vice president of the Alliance. See Mary's article about

the Alliance below.

Working together with organizations whose issues are the same as ours is vital if we are to make improvements for our members.

WEA-Retired Connects with WSARA

**by Mary Lindsey, WEA-Retired/
WSARA Executive Board**

Preserving and expanding Social Security and Medicare for us, and future generations, is a major focus of the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans. WEA-Retired is one of many retiree organizations that have become a part of the Alliance.

WSARA celebrated its 15th Anniversary in October, by holding its first annual Senior Champion Awards Banquet fundraiser to fund political action for 2017 on behalf of seniors. The "Lifetime Achievement Award" was presented to Congressman Jim McDermott for his long history of improving the lives of seniors. He recently introduced a bill to expand Medicare to include dental, vision and hearing.

The "Senior Champion Award" was presented to Congressman Adam Smith who has a 91% voting record with the Alliance for Retired Americans for his work to preserve Social Security, Medicare, and retirement security and pensions. He is also against TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) with predicted impact on workers, seniors and prescription drugs. The keynote address was provided by Rosalinda Guillen, Executive Director of Community to Community Development (C2C), from Whatcom County. She is an activist on behalf of farm workers and immigrants. She gave a moving speech that defined citizenship as activism and the need to fight for social justice for everyone. The successful event was attended and enjoyed by several WEA-Retired members!

Social Security Works

Want information about what might be a threat to Social Security and what you can do? Go to Social Security Works at www.socialsecurityworks.org/.

Thoughts on the Electoral College by a retired history teacher

by Nancy Miller

I had an interesting observation on the Electoral College the other day. The first amendment proposed to the Constitution (12 were proposed, 10 passed at the time, one snuck in later) called for an addition to the House of Representatives for every increase in population of 30,000. That did not pass. If it had, there would be about 10,700 members in the House of Representatives today.

Congress did regularly increase the number of seats until 1911 when the size of the House reached 435. Conflicts between urban and rural states resulted in Congress failing to pass a reapportionment bill in 1922. It was the "Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929" that fixed the size of the House at 435. Today there is one representative in the House from Wyoming; California has 153 representatives. So Wyoming's electoral count is 3 and California's is 55.

Just so you know ... if we used the discarded plan of a regular increase

in the House of Representatives, then today there would be 20 representatives from Wyoming and 1,293 from California. Adding the senators would bring Wyoming's Electoral College delegation to 22 and California's to 1295.

Today an elector represents 195,000 votes in Wyoming. In California an elector represents 705,500 votes. That is NOT one person, one vote. That is not equality in a democracy.

Don't let anyone tell you that our system to choose the president is a democracy.

Yes, you learned about this in civics class, but I'll bet you thought it would never mean much.

Washington state is part of a compact (10 states plus DC signed up so far) reflected in RCW 29A.56.320 that says the state's electors will be bound to the NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE when the compact has signatories equal to a majority of the Electoral College.

It seems to me this is an easier plan (one Legislature at a time) to elect the presidential candidate with the most popular votes than a constitutional amendment, which 13 states can derail (and they will). Now about getting those other 40 states moving ...

Have you been getting e-Connections?

This emailed newsletter is sent out every month when we do not have a printed and mailed newsletter. If you are not receiving e-Connections, let us know your email address and that you wish to start receiving it at WEARetired@washingtonea.org.

Newsletter Editor

WEA-Retired is still searching for a new editor for our printed and mailed newsletter, Connections, produced four times a year. The responsibilities would include working with the president and staff person to determine the content and timeline for each issue, and procuring and editing content. Willingness to contribute content would also be appreciated. Experience with an association newsletter would be helpful but is not necessary. This is a volunteer position. If you are interested or want additional information, please contact Kit Raney at raneyk@aol.com.



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KEY DATES

January 6: Nomination forms postmarked by due date

January 9: First day of the Legislative Session

January 16: MLK Day Rally on the Capitol steps in
Olympia

February 10: Legislative Lobby Day registration due

March 7: Legislative Reception

March 8: Legislative Lobby Day



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Connections is published by
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your comments and contributions.

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