



Update - Stay Connected

May 15, 2020

Presidents Update

Hello LWEA members!

I have to admit, this week has been a doozy but aren't they all at this point! Here's some good news to share: I was invited to join the OSPI task force on reopening schools. This is a huge honor, and one I take with incredible humility. Reopening schools is a big task involving lots of stakeholders exchanging ideas about what schools could or should look like in the fall.

Not only am I deeply vested in letting the science guide my thinking, but I am also committed to listening to LWEA members on the matter. In the next few weeks, we will ask reps to collect your concerns, hopes and fears with school reopening this fall. We know August can seem a long way off, but it will be here before we know it.

Until then, please enjoy some sunshine and rest. I know you have earned it.

In Solidarity,

Howard Mawhinney, LWEA President

Correction to "Packing up Rooms"



Quick Clarifier to Our Information Round up Yesterday!

Rooms need to be packed up by June 19th (except for Juanita HS, which needs to be packed up by June 1st). **Building-based plans for packing up rooms will not be ready on Monday (5/18). By Monday (5/18), building principals will receive information that helps them begin developing a plan over the next few weeks for packing up rooms safely**, including accommodations for staff, including high-risk individuals, and a clear procedure for signing in and out so that cleaning and sanitizing practices can be followed. *Stay safe, stay healthy! While packing up rooms, please limit your contact with others, practice social distancing, wash your hands, wear a mask, and follow building protocols for disinfecting surfaces.*

In
this
issue

- Submitting Prof Funds (2)
- Red for Ed (2)
- WEA Crisis Fund (3)
- Fraudulent Claims (3)
- Let Your Voice Be Heard (4)
- SAGA Deadline Extended (4)

Submitting Professional Funds

The deadline to submit Professional Fund receipts has been **extended to June 15, 2020**. **Don't wait – submit now if you can.** The reimbursement form can be found [here](#), on the budget page of the staff portal. To simplify the requests, we encourage staff to claim union dues, cell internet and home internet.

- Union Dues can be submitted for Professional Fund reimbursement by completing the LWEA Dues Receipt: [LWEA Dues Receipt 2019-20](#)
- You should claim \$50/month for home internet regardless of the bundled amount for your plan.
- You should claim \$41.67/month for cell data regardless of the bundled amount for your plan.

There are three ways that you can submit your information:

- Mail your reimbursement forms/receipts to LWSD Accounting Dept., PO Box 97039, Redmond WA, 98073-9739
- Deliver your reimbursement forms/receipts to your school office (inter-district mail is picked up at schools each Wednesday).
- Drop off your Professional Fund documents at the LWEA office, 10604 NE 38th PI, Kirkland, Monday-Friday between 9:00AM – 4:00PM. There will be a drop off box outside the office door, Suite 212.

Note: Please have all your documents in one envelope and label the envelope PROFESSIONAL FUND, your name, and building. If you do not have an envelope, there will be a supply of 10x13 envelopes available at the LWEA office next to our drop box.

Questions, concerns?

- Most of your questions can be answered by reading the instructions on the reimbursement form. If after review you still have questions, please send to askprofessionalfund@lwsd.org. Eligibility questions should go to Tyler Harris, Tyharris@lwsd.org. Please do not contact accounting to confirm your packet was received. Accounting will contact you with any questions.
- If you have questions regarding union dues, please contact [Terri Neely](#).
- If you are high risk and unable to submit by any of the above options, email [Terri Neely](#) and cc: [Howard Mawhinney](#)

Make back-ups of your documents before you submit take pics with your phone.

Red for Ed

Show your support for public education by wearing **Red** for Ed on Wednesdays. Send your picture to [Lama](#) and we'll add it to our Facebook page.



LWEA Office

10604 NE 38th Place, Suite 212

Kirkland, WA

425-822-3388



Office Staff

Office Manager: [Terri Neely](#)

Admin Assistant: [Lama Chikh](#)

UniServ Rep: [Katie Bishop](#)

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

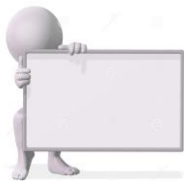
Special Services Rep:

[Cookie Grant-Suggs](#)
Rush / 425-936-2690

Ethnic Minority Rep:

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

**LWEA -
this is your union!**



WEA Member Crisis Fund

The WEA Board approved the WEA Individual Crisis Fund to provide one-time, temporary financial relief for active WEA members (WEA-Retired and SWEA members are not eligible) who have personally experienced a loss of income due to the COVID-19 school closures. Crisis grants will be \$575 each and are intended for those WEA members hardest hit from lost income. Loss of wages does not necessarily have to be from your primary job but may apply to 2nd job or a certificated employee who is also a coach. There is limited funding available, and applications will be accepted until funds are depleted.

1. Apply online via the online application at <https://forms.washingtonea.org/Forms/CrisisFund>

Submit information -- name, local, and employer to verify active membership

Provide contact information and complete mailing address

Indicate financial need via a checkbox

2. Call 253-765-7093 to have the application filled out for you. People calling the number will leave a voicemail and be called back in the order their message was received, during regular business hours.

People who have questions about the application process can email

WEAmembercrisisfund@washingtonea.org.

Fraudulent Unemployment Claims - WEA Update

This is an update to last week's notice about **fraudulent Unemployment Insurance claims** occurring in several districts throughout the state.

We have subsequently learned that this is not unique to school employees, but is happening across a wide swath of employment sectors.

How did this happen?

The rise in fraudulent claims is being investigated by the state Employment Security Department (ESD) and law enforcement. It is too early to cite any definitive source, but there is wide speculation that it is linked to prior data breaches, like the 2017 Equifax breach which compromised personal data for more than 40 percent of Americans. Because the fraudulent unemployment claims cross many employment sectors, there is not any indication that school district employer nor state data sources have been leaked.

How will I know if I am impacted?

Employers are required to verify each claim, so if someone has filed a fraudulent claim in your name, your district should be contacting you.

What do I do if someone has filed a fraudulent claim in my name?

If you have been unable to reach the Employment Security Department by phone, you can [use this link](#) to let them know you have not filed a claim.

Additionally, KOMO news reports other [steps you can take to monitor your credit reports](#) and further protect yourself.



**BELIEVE IN
YOURSELF.**

Marketplace

Ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis. All ads must include a home email and/or phone number. Send directly to [Terri Neely](#) in the LWEA office.

All ads are subject to the approval of the LWEA Executive Committee and may be edited for length.



May 20

Informal Exec Comm Meeting

May 22

NOT LEAP Day

May 25

Memorial Day

weekend

YOUR
VOICE
MATTERS



Let Your Voice Be Heard

The 2020 election (federal and state) will have a huge impact on who drives our response to the Coronavirus and potential changes to education funding. We want as many pro-public education and pro-union voices representing us as possible. That is why we have launched a \$20.20 for 2020 fundraising drive. [Click here to contribute](#). This is a onetime contribution to help build our PAC so that we build our voice in the election process this fall. This money goes directly to supporting pro-education, pro-labor candidates that WEA rank and file members interview and endorse.

As we said at RA, 55% of LWEA members are WEAPAC members. That means we have 45% to go! If you are not yet a WEAPAC member, join online at [Join WEAPAC](#).

If you are already a PAC and want to get more involved in the elections this fall please indicate your interest here ([Political Activity Interest Form](#)). Signing up just lets us know you are interested in joining other LWEA educators, as we advocate and encourage our community to vote for pro-education candidates. Complete the form and our political action team will be in touch as we get closer to the fall!



Deadline Extended

SAGA, the Sexuality and Gender Affinity group sponsored by LWEA, would like to do something for Pride this year! The idea is to invite each LWSD teacher, para, IA, administrator, etc. to record a short video where they just say something to encourage our Washington students and staff who need to hear from happy LGBTQ **teachers** and **allies**. Messages can include things like: "Happy Pride! We support you. We are thinking about you. We love you!" Those who identify as LGBTQ, and are comfortable, can mention why this message is personally relevant. We feel that so many of our kiddos are stuck in homes where they might not be accepted or that school was the only place they might have felt supported and this message of support would be great! At the end of the video there would be a slide with phone numbers and websites of places students can get help or gather some support. To participate, please send your video in an email to our amazing volunteer video editor su.ringvitue@gmail.com.

Video guidelines:

- About 10 seconds long
- If using a phone to record, turn the phone sideways (horizontal), so your video will fill the entire screen. Many social media platforms have people film vertically but in video, the picture is much smaller, with two black borders on either side

- **Send video by 5pm on May 22**