



# Update - Stay Connected

May 22, 2020

## End of Year is Approaching

Nineteen school days until our school year ends on June 19<sup>th</sup>. With the summer solstice, some much-needed rest begins the next day.

I am privileged to have the opportunity to text message, zoom, email, and speak with so many of you every week. From time to time, a few of you even stop by the LWEA office to drop off membership applications, WEA-PAC forms, Leave applications, or Professional Fund packets. The opportunity to speak with members in person, even at a distance, is a very welcome change.

At the same time, hearing from members can be a little bitter-sweet. While I am afforded the chance to hear firsthand stories of your creativity and hard work, I am also aware of the hardships many of you have faced over the past 10 weeks. Even on our best days, teaching often demands everything we have to give. We've all had days when, even after staying late, we packed a bag or box with papers to grade, half-finished lesson plans, IEPs to complete, and/or PD to start only to leave that bag/box on the first flat surface we encountered at home and not pick it up again until the next morning. Many of my days have started before 5AM because I needed to begin early to finish what I had not completed the night before.

Teaching has always been challenging. It is even more so now. We continue to struggle to answer basic questions like "how do we deliver meaningful instruction that engages students, has rigor, and that doesn't rely on parents?". Much of our energy is derived from the happiness we feel from being with our students, witnessing their accomplishments, seeing them grow. Distance teaching does not allow us to tap into that energy.

Thank you for all you are doing. Our tasks are different one grade level to the next, one subject area to the next, one student population to the next. Nevertheless, we all work incredibly hard to serve our students. I hope you have moved your "box" out of sight for the weekend and enjoy three days of rest. We will certainly need that renewed energy for this final push to June 19<sup>th</sup>.

In admiration and respect,

Howard Mawhinney

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## Certification Trainings

The WEA is pleased to share they have opened registration for the final series of WEA certification trainings for the school year. These trainings have been really popular so they have expanded participant capacity. WEA certification trainings are open to WEA members only and provide free clock hours. There are six course offerings:

- Teacher Certification 101 (3 hours)
- Educational Staff Associate (ESA) Certification 101 (3 hours)
- National Board Information Session (2 hours)
- Professional Growth Plan 1 (3 hours)
- Professional Growth Plan 2 (2 hours)
- Professional Growth Plan 3 (2 hours)

Online trainings in May and June are offered to help you navigate next steps with your certification. These trainings are free, open only to WEA members and offer free clock hours. There are a range of offerings for certificated educators to examine the latest certification and renewal requirements in place. In the Professional Growth Plan (PGP) series, participants learn how to create PGPs for certificate renewal, salary advancement and meeting the STEM certificate renewal requirement. In the National Board Information Session, participants explore the certification process, Washington incentives and candidate support options. To learn more about courses and to register, go to: <https://www.washingtonea.org/pd/certification-licensure>

## Reminder: Learn about National Board for Professional Teaching Certification

Have you been considering pathways towards professional certification?

Then you need to attend the NB information session online through **TEAMS**:

**May 26 in TEAMS from 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession and is a voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Certification is achieved through rigorous performance-based assessments that can take 1-5 years to complete. The process measures what accomplished teachers/librarians or school counselors should know and are able to do. In addition, holding a valid NBPTS certificate, satisfies the ongoing clock hour requirement for 5 years of a teaching certificate, or the requirements of the Washington State Professional Certificate, whichever is applicable.

Additional information for [National Board Certification is available by visiting the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards website](#), calling 1-800-22TEACH or contacting Kathy Colombo, [kcolombo@lwsd.org](mailto:kcolombo@lwsd.org).

If you are interested in attending the NB Information Session contact Kathy Colombo, [kcolombo@lwsd.org](mailto:kcolombo@lwsd.org) or Kim Lucas at [klucas@lwsd.org](mailto:klucas@lwsd.org) or Leah Jones at [ljones@lwsd.org](mailto:ljones@lwsd.org) and get added to the **TEAM** chat.

We look forward to seeing you remotely on **May 26**. Our next year's Cohort begins in June. You must attend the LWSD Foundations (June and August) or WEA JUMPSTART to complete Components 2, 3 or 4 with LWSD in 2020-2021.

### LWEA Office

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**LWEA -  
this is your union!**



## Educators of Color—Last Gathering of the Year!

**Connecting** Educators of Color, **Sharing** ideas/struggles and **Empowering** each other to make change.

**Who:** All Educators of Color

**When:** June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 4:00- 5:00pm

**Where:** Join s for on **Zoom** with a beverage of your choice!

RSVP [LWEA-EOC@lwsd.org](mailto:LWEA-EOC@lwsd.org) from your home email to receive the Zoom link.

## WEA Member Crisis Funds Are Still Available

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 2<sup>nd</sup> job or a certificated employee who is also a coach. There is limited funding available, and applications will be accepted until funds are depleted.

Many members who are most in need may not have access to technology or email and we want to make sure you have an opportunity to reach out to them. Please remember, the funds are granted first come first served.

There are two options for applying:

1. Apply here via the [online application](#).

- 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 voice mail, which will be returned during business hours in the order it was received.

People who have questions about the application process can email [WEAmembercrisisfund@washingtonea.org](mailto:WEAmembercrisisfund@washingtonea.org).

## ID protection Available Through NEA Member Benefits

With all the various scams that have arisen during the pandemic shutdowns, educators have expressed concern about being the victim of identity theft. NEA Member Benefits partner California Casualty has joined with CyberScout, a leading provider of identity services to bring educators ID Defense at no additional charge if they have auto or home insurance coverage through California Casualty.

The service provides advocacy through CyberScout to help handle the recovery by placing fraud alerts, calling creditors, and assisting for as long as it takes to restore the good name and peace of mind for identity theft victims. For more information, members can call California Casualty at 800-800-9410 and choose Option 3, or visit [calcas-idtheft.com](http://calcas-idtheft.com) for information online.

## 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 25**

Memorial Day

**May 26**

NB Info Session

**May 27**

Exec Comm Informal

**June 3**

Exec Committee

**June 4**

EoC Final Gathering



## Staff Mental Health Supports

EvergreenHealth's LWSD Team is here to ensure all staff receive the social-emotional support they need. With school closures for the rest of the school year, new social-emotional challenges will pop up. EvergreenHealth is readily available to remotely address those needs. They can provide brief emotional support and resources through virtual drop-in appointments from the secure and HIPAA-compliant web platform "Doxy.me"

- **Emotional support:** brief, solution focused interventions, skill building, and outpatient referrals via phone, virtual meeting, or over email.
- **Resources:** connect individuals experiencing a hardship with community-based resources.

**Doxy.me Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-5:00 p.m.**

Click one of the following links to be directed to the waiting rooms of the following staff:

- Erin Sutherlin- <https://doxy.me/erinsutherlin>
- Lindsay McMeins- <https://doxy.me/lindsaymcmeins>

(Must use Chrome or Firefox and be willing to provide first and last name, call back number and current location in the event of an emergency).

Email addresses for questions/concerns: [c-esutherlin@lwsd.org](mailto:c-esutherlin@lwsd.org) or [c-lmcmeins@lwsd.org](mailto:c-lmcmeins@lwsd.org)

**FREE:** 1- Infant bouncer seat, Disney/Winnie the Pooh pattern with music and vibration and 1 – Graco Soothing Vibration Electronic baby swing w/variable speed, sound and music. Both are in excellent condition, barely used. Text Terri @ 425-443-2619 (Terri Neely, LWEA)