



From shorthand to thumbs

Part three of the “new language” [C2C: Care to Chat?]

By David Phelps, WEA
Communications Director

As part of my education in Australia, I learned shorthand. Specifically, I learned “Gregg Shorthand” with its loops and phonetic spelling. Although at the time the lessons seemed laborious, and the basics as foreign to me as learning Swahili or Mandarin, my education in shorthand “stuck.”

Even today, several decades on, I still find myself — occasionally — reverting to my own version of Gregg Shorthand when I am in a meeting, and need to jot something down quickly. When I worked as the speechwriter for Eunice Kennedy Shriver at Special Olympics International 10 years ago, I quickly discovered the only way to keep up with her rapid fire thoughts and dictation was to pull out a stenographer’s pad and go from there.

Talk to someone younger than 35 today, and it’s almost certain their eyes will glaze over, and their faces will show no recognition of the concept of shorthand or speed writing. Now, whether with a phone, a computer or an iPad, everything is centered on the keyboard. And, as phones have become “smarter” and expanded far beyond their original intent (“Hello, can you

hear me now?”), a new form of shorthand — text messaging — has evolved.

For this former elementary school educator, nothing can — or will — ever replace properly constructed sentences, polished phrases, and appropriate punctuation. I still get enormous

pleasure from reading books or essays where it is evident the author has spent time crafting his or her words and thoughts.

We live now, however, in an age where short bursts of data, transmitted at lightning speed, convey our interaction. Abbreviated, shortened, stripped to the basics, it’s a new and universal language. Like it or not, it helps us to be aware

of it, even if we don’t want to learn it.

Who would have thought, three decades ago as I was growing up in Australia and learning Gregg Shorthand, that written communication would move from loops and swirls to thumbs tapping away at a miniscule cell phone keyboard? It makes you wonder what might be next. Cars that run on electricity perhaps?

So we continue the texting alphabet where we left off in the March/April issue. This is the final installment, although new “words” are being created all the time in this new language.

(continued on page 4)



President's Message

As the school year begins . . .

by Kit Raney, WEA-Retired President

As I write this column I am acutely aware that educators around the state are getting ready for the beginning of a brand new school year. I always appreciated that, with each new school year, our



Kit Raney
WEA-Retired President

jobs had a definite beginning and end to them. I think that I learned something from every class that I taught, and the new beginning every year provided a chance to take advantage of what I learned. Unlike the movie *Groundhog Day*, it was kind of a “do over” in a very good way. I like to think that I used what I learned in order to make things better.

As I look out at some of the big issues important to all of us right now — keeping Social Security solvent, funding the pension system, reauthorizing ESEA, funding our schools — I

guess I don't see much evidence of anyone using what they've learned in order to make things better.

The President has appointed the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform to look at Social Security. Unfortunately, the Co-Chair, former Senator Allan Simpson, has not learned that name calling is not conducive to problem solving. The Alliance for Retired Americans is asking that the President demand Mr. Simpson's resignation for “a series of derisive and inappropriate comments about our nations' seniors and the Social security benefits they rely upon to make ends meet.” His comments include saying that older Americans are “greedy geezers”. If you want to know more about what is being done to save Social Security, visit <http://strengthensocialsecurity.org/>. This is the site for Strengthen Social Security, a coalition of 125 groups including NEA, NEA-Retired and WEA-Retired.

Funding our pensions is an ongoing problem. Pension funds are fully funded if assumptions, such as average growth from investments and the amount contributed by employees and employers, are correct. If those assumptions aren't met, the pension fund doesn't grow enough and is underfunded. Simple enough to understand, but an ongoing problem never the less.

The Gainsharing lawsuit

is working its way through the court system. The judge's decision about the summary judgment request should be released very soon, probably after you get this newsletter. WEA has information about this lawsuit at <http://tiny.cc/Gainsharing-lawsuit> and on WEA-Retired's Facebook page. (Yes! WEA-Retired is on Facebook. Join us there.)

This year is the 45th anniversary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, signed by President Johnson on April 11, 1965. The purpose of this act was to provide every student — regardless of their background — equal access to a great public school and is up for reauthorization this year. The latest version was No Child Left Behind, which punished schools for not making “adequate yearly progress.” Has Congress learned from the failure of NCLB or will they push for this money to be awarded by competition? According to NEA President Dennis Van Roekel, “We must build on the original promise of ESEA to ensure that all children have the opportunity to achieve their dreams. When we are talking about our students and their education, there should be no losers. We believe that the federal government has a vital role to play in guaranteeing that all students have access to the services and supports they need to succeed.” For more information,

(continued on page 6)

Nominations

WEA-Retired Delegate Nomination Form for the 2011 WEA-RA

WEA Representative Assembly will be held in Tacoma, WA, May 12-14, 2011.

- ◆ Nominees for WEA-Retired Delegate must be retired and not hold a contract with a public school district.
- ◆ Nomination forms must be postmarked by **November 1, 2010**.
- ◆ 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 2011 WEA Representative Assembly.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail Address if available _____

UniServ Council: _____ Soc. Sec. or ID# _____

(Soc. Sec. number or ID number listed on your membership card are needed by WEA for verification of membership)

Retirement Month _____ Year _____

CHANGE IN DELEGATE FUNDING:

WEA-Retired Board of Directors approved a new 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 RA. 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.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES:

Article VII. Section 4.

(c) Election of WEA-Retired Delegates

- (1) If the number of nominees to the WEA Representative Assembly is less than or equal to the number of delegates established by the WEA Board, then the WEA-Retired Board of Directors will confirm the nominees to be duly elected delegates.
- (2) If the number of nominees to the WEA Representative Assembly is greater than the number of delegates established by the WEA Board, then an election of the Retired members will be held.

Return WEA Representative Assembly Nomination Forms to:

Jan Curtis ◆ 718 Russell Road ◆ Snohomish, WA ◆ 98290-5617

Deadline: Forms must be postmarked no later than **November 1, 2010**.

Technology

C2C Texting acronym list; Part three of three

N1	<i>Nice one</i>	PM	<i>Personal message -or- Private message</i>
NALOPKT	<i>Not a lot of people know that</i>	POTATO	<i>Person over thirty acting twenty-one</i>
natch	<i>Naturally</i>	POTS	<i>Plain old telephone system -or- Pat on the shoulder</i>
NATO	<i>No action, talk only</i>	POTUS	<i>President of the United States</i>
NAVY	<i>Never again volunteer yourself</i>	POV	<i>Point of view</i>
NAZ	<i>Name, address, zip</i>	PSA	<i>Public service announcement</i>
NB4T	<i>Not before time</i>	QL	<i>Quit laughing</i>
NBD	<i>No big deal</i>	RBAY	<i>Right back at you</i>
NBFAB	<i>Not bad for a beginner</i>	RBTL	<i>Read between the lines</i>
ne1	<i>Anyone</i>	REHI	<i>Hi again</i>
ne14kfc	<i>Anyone for KFC?</i>	RL	<i>Real life</i>
NEET	<i>Not currently engaged in employment, education or training</i>	ROFL	<i>Rolling on floor laughing</i>
NHOH	<i>Never heard of him/her</i>	ROR	<i>Raffing out roud (in Scooby-Doo dialect)</i>
NIMBY	<i>Not in my back yard</i>	RUOK	<i>Are you OK?</i>
NIMJD	<i>Not in my job description</i>	RUP	<i>Read up please</i>
NMP	<i>Not my problem</i>	RUS	<i>Are you serious?</i>
NNWW	<i>Nudge, nudge, wink, wink</i>	RYFM	<i>Read your friendly manual</i>
NO	<i>Not online</i>	S2R	<i>Send to receive</i>
NQOCD	<i>Not quite our class dear</i>	SB	<i>Stand by</i>
NTK	<i>Nice to know</i>	SCNR	<i>Sorry, could not resist</i>
OATUS	<i>On a totally unrelated subject</i>	SICL	<i>Sitting in chair laughing</i>
OBO	<i>Or best offer</i>	SIL	<i>Sister-in-law</i>
OLO	<i>Only laughed once</i>	SIT	<i>Stay in touch</i>
OMW	<i>On my way</i>	SITCOM	<i>Single income, two children, oppressive mortgage</i>
OT	<i>Off topic</i>	SLAP	<i>Sounds like a plan</i>
OTOH	<i>On the other hand</i>	SM	<i>Senior moment</i>
OTP	<i>On the phone</i>	SOES	<i>Start of exams</i>
P	<i>Partner</i>	SOTMG	<i>Short on time, must go</i>
P&C	<i>Private & confidential</i>	SWIM	<i>See what I mean?</i>
P-ZA	<i>Pizza</i>	SYT	<i>See you tomorrow</i>
P911	<i>Parent alert</i>	TAM	<i>Thanks a million</i>
PCM	<i>Please call me</i>		
PDA	<i>Personal digital assistant -or- Public display of affection</i>		

TC	<i>Take care</i>	WDYT	<i>What do you think?</i>
TFLMS	<i>Thanks for letting me share</i>	WFM	<i>Works for me</i>
TLGO	<i>The list goes on</i>	WIP	<i>Work in process</i>
TM	<i>Trust me</i>	WIT	<i>Wordsmith in training</i>
TNTL	<i>Trying not to laugh</i>	WTG	<i>Way to go</i>
TTG	<i>Time to go</i>	WX	<i>Weather</i>
TTS	<i>Text to speech</i>	WYWH	<i>Wish you were here</i>
TXT IM	<i>Text instant message</i>	X-I-10	<i>Exciting</i>
TXT MSG	<i>Text message</i>	YA	<i>Yet another</i>
TY	<i>Thank you</i>	YGM	<i>You've got mail</i>
TYCLO	<i>Turn your CAPS LOCK off</i>	YGTBK	<i>You've got to be kidding</i>
u up	<i>Are you up?</i>	YGWYPF	<i>You get what you pay for</i>
UOK	<i>Are you OK?</i>	YLH	<i>Your loving husband</i>
UPOD	<i>Under promise over deliver</i>	YLW	<i>Your loving wife</i>
VBG	<i>Very big grin</i>	YMMD	<i>You make/made my day</i>
VM	<i>Voice mail</i>	YNK	<i>You never know</i>
W/E	<i>Weekend</i>	YOYO	<i>You're on your own</i>
W/O	<i>Without</i>	YTB	<i>You're the best</i>
WAYD	<i>What are you doing?</i>	YW	<i>You're welcome</i>
WBS	<i>Write back soon</i>	YWIA	<i>You're welcome in advance</i>
WC	<i>Who cares</i>	ZZZS	<i>Sleeping, bored, tired</i>
WDYM	<i>What do you mean?</i>	^5	<i>High five</i>
WDYS	<i>What did you say?</i>		

NEXT ISSUE: Should you be on Facebook?



Chris Gray, retired Washington state teacher and former president of Lake Washington Education Association, has an opportunity to spend a few minutes with Sen. Patty Murray, D-WA. Sen. Murray has been endorsed by WEA-PAC in the November election. To see other WEA-PAC endorsements, go to [www. OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org](http://www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org).

President's column

continued from page 1

about NEA's principles for the reauthorization of ESEA, visit www.nea.org/esea.

The economy is doing a number on adequate funding for our schools. Less money in the State's General Fund means cuts to public education. There are several ballot measures on the November ballot that, if approved, will reduce money available for schools and one that will create additional education funding.

WEA-PAC recommends "yes" on I-1098 (income tax for individuals earning over \$200,000), which creates \$700 million a year in new education funding. Backed by Bill Gates, Sr., I-1098 also cuts the state property tax by 20 percent

and eliminates the B&O tax on 375,000 small businesses.

WEA-PAC recommends "yes" on Referendum 52 which provides \$500 million for healthy school construction projects. R-52 will make Washington public schools safer for staff and students, save energy and money, and create 30,000 construction jobs.

WEA-PAC recommends "no" on I-1053 (requires 2/3 vote to raise revenue), Tim Eyman's initiative that would prevent the Legislature from raising the revenues needed to fully fund K-12 and higher education.

WEA-PAC recommends "no" on I-1082 (privatize Workers' Comp Insurance) which would hurt the economy, our

students' families and could result in higher costs to the state and less money for schools.

WEA-PAC recommends "no" on I-1100 and I-1105 (privatize liquor sales) which could cost the state as much as \$300 million in revenue, money that helps fund public education.

WEA-PAC recommends "no" on I-1107 (candy and soda tax) which eliminates \$100 million in new revenue that pays for health care and education.

Here's to a great school year for all of us, those retired and those still working. One thing I've learned (and not forgotten) is that *together* we can make things better for us all and for the students in our public schools.



For all the latest information regarding the November elections, visit www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org

Member Activities

Republican educators meet to strategize and support education

By Ken Mortland, WEA-Retired

Two educators from Washington state just returned from Washington, D.C., where they joined 89 educators from 41 other states at the 4th annual NEA Republican Leaders Conference (RLC). Attending her first conference was Spokane elementary school teacher Beth Nye. She is a member of the Spokane Education Association Executive Board and part of WEA's 5th Congressional District Contact Team. Attending his fourth conference was retired Bothell teacher Ken Mortland. He is a member of the WEA-Retired Board, WEA-PAC Board, and the Mainstream Republicans of Washington Board.

During the conference, members heard from NEA President Dennis Van Roekel, who emphasized the importance of bipartisanship on education issues and reaffirmed NEA's commitment to the NEA RLC. Several Republican elected officials spoke at the conference, including Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX), Rep. Judy Biggert (R-IL), Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO), Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA), Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX and chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee), and Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA). Reichert was a particular hit at the conference.

"Federal government is not the national school board," said Congresswoman Biggert. She went on to say, "We need to do more with holding parents accountable." Congressman Sam Graves, whose wife is a special ed teacher, said, "Spe-

cial ed kids should be exempt from standardized tests and their IEPs should be the focus of their assessment."

Members listened to briefings on federal education policy, taxes and the economy. They participated in a grassroots lobbying and leadership seminar, and they visited the hill to speak with members of Congress about the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA and also known as No Child Left Behind). Nye and Mortland visited Justin Prosser in Congressman Doc Hastings' office and David Bahar in Congressman Jay Inslee's office. Nye spoke to Congresswoman Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, and Mortland talked to Lindsay Manson in Congressman Reichert's office.

After their visits on the hill, delegates were hosted at the Ronald Reagan Center, where they received updates on congressional elections across the country. While there, they were introduced to senatorial candidate Dino Rossi from Washington state, who was attending a meeting there.

Other WEA members who have attended this conference are Ana Harlos (NEA Leg. Committee), Dennis Weber (newly elected president of the Longview Education Association and a Longview City Councilman), and Kathie Axtell (Chinook UniServ president and recipient of the 2009 NEA ESP of the Year award.)





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November 2010: the midterm elections

WEA-Retired members:
In October, contact
your local political
organizations and devote
a few hours of your time
to turning out the vote
in this crucial election.

**The only retirement organization affiliated with the
Washington Education Association**

