



Spring/Summer 2022

Connections

NEWS TO KEEP YOU ENGAGED IN THE PROFESSION YOU LOVE

Welcome to our double edition of the **WEA-Retired Connections!** Inside, you will find contact information for agencies, highlights about our senior organization allies, and articles about our committees, WEA-Retired Awards & WEA-Retired Scholarship recipients, a PEBB update, and much more!

Join us on Sept. 21-22 for our 3rd annual (virtual) September Conference for WEA-Retired members!

Reflect on the past. Focus on the present. Plan for the future.

Featured Speakers

Jay Bowen, Native American storyteller, artist, and advocate

"Tales from the Magic Skagit: A Simple Conversation with Jay Bowen."

Elena G. Huizar, Outreach Services Supervisor Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General

"How to protect yourself and others from senior fraud, internet safety, and much more!"

Roxanne Lowe, Genealogy Enthusiast

"Genealogy Tips and pages of Free Sites to research your past."

Jackie Boschok, President, Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans (WSARA)

"Hot Topics in Medicare at the state and federal level."

Plus ... an online Airbnb adventure paid for by WEA-Retired!

Register for the conference today at <https://wea.mobi/2022WEARetiredConf>.

The President's Corner

By Mary Lindsey, 2021-23 WEA-Retired President



It has been a busy summer, starting off with the Health Care Authority's soft announcement that they would be terminating PEBB's most popular supplemental health care option, Uniform Medical Plan-Classic Medicare. More than 300 people showed up virtually at their June 30 meeting and dozens of emails were sent to the PEB Board. Fast forward, a newly formed coalition of senior organizations, including WEA-Retired, is meeting with Dave Iseminger, PEBB program director, and two other HCA/PEBB managers. The discussions will include ways for PEBB to engage in listening sessions, public meetings and town halls to receive feedback from all stakeholders. Dave Iseminger said that they want to improve their relationship with PEB participants, and that the UMP-Classic Medicare termination is now off of the table. Thank you to all who helped make this possible. Showing up, speaking up, and writing emails make a difference! Letters from organization leaders to the governor, a front page newspaper article, and a resolution (Sustain the UMP Classic Medicare plan and explore expanding government self-insured Medicare benefit plan for Medicare-eligible public service retirees in Washington) that passed unanimously at the Washington State Labor Council Convention also helped the cause. I am confident that the coalition will do good things regarding this issue and other issues as they come up in the months and years ahead.

As the long, sunny days become shorter, it is time to think of a new school year ahead. For the most part, we are not going back to school unless we are substituting or are a pre-retired member, but we are gearing up for another year of advocating for our WEA-Retired and pre-retired members as well as public education as a whole. This issue of the Connections is different. It is a double edition and includes articles about our allies and the work of our committees. We also recognize WEA-Retired Award recipients as well as WEA members receiving a WEA-Retired Scholarship as they pursue additional coursework. Also, please note the agency contacts and our yearly calendar. There is a place for you in WEA-Retired. If you are not already, please become involved in our work. Send me an email at WEARetired@WashingtonEA.org to offer your help.

WEA-Retired Awards 2022

By Maureen Ramos, WEA-Retired Awards Chairperson

2022 Pre-Retired Member of the Year

Lora Olinger currently serves as field staff in the WEA Fourth Corner UniServ Office. She is a pre-retired member who is always available to help with various activities of WEA-Retired. As a critical part of the pre-retirement seminar team, she created flyers, registered participants, and sent documents via email. Plus, she would text us on weekends before, during and after the actual seminars to check on our needs. Over the years, she has consistently been an enthusiastic advocate for all WEA-Retired activities and members.



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2022 Retired Member of the Year

Lee Ann Prielipp - Habits are difficult to break. Leaders will always be leaders ... even after they retire. After an incredible stint as WEA president and vice president, Lee Ann did not ride away into the sunset. She retired, yet she did not. When she was called on to be chair of the WEA-Retired Legislative Work Team, she graciously agreed. Her strengths include listening, offering support, gleaned important information, and leading the charge for WEA-Retired legislative goals. She has been a leader and continues to give of her time and efforts.

2022 Advocate of the Year

Julie Salvi, WEA lobbyist - This award is given to people who, although they do not qualify for WEA-Retired membership, provide invaluable help to the organization over time by educating and/or providing support in a variety of ways. Her many assignments as a WEA lobbyist (presently WEA lead lobbyist) included working with WEA-Retired. She has collaborated closely with our WEA-Retired Presidents, Kit Raney, Neva Luke, and Mary Lindsey while coordinating with other retiree groups to advocate for our issues. In addition, she prepared the presidents so they were able to promote our issues at legislative hearings in Olympia. Julie spent time with our Legislative Work Team, explaining which legislative committees needed to hear from us and how to target specific legislators. Her suggestions helped us to formulate our plans. Because of her consistent support and advocacy for our issues, WEA-Retired is on a pathway to achieve our legislative goals.



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2022 Media Award



Shirley Hickey and Pam Fuelling have been committed to providing our WEA-Retired members with the legislative bulletin, *Actively Retired*, to inform them of legislative highlights as well as links to follow for further information and action on the topics. As an excellent team, Shirley solicits articles and links, and Pam proofreads all written work. They both work on formatting and writing articles/descriptions before the bulletin goes to WEA for publication.

Communicating with our members about legislative issues is so important!

For those members who are covered by the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) for their health care insurance, it came as a complete surprise on June 6 when it was a soft announcement by the HCA that the Uniform Medical Plan-Medicare Classic was going to be eliminated. Fast forward to now, the termination has been taken off of the table and PEBB leadership is seeking input from members and senior organizations.

Summary of the 2022 PEBB Meetings

By Tom MacRoberts, PEB Board Representative from WEA-Retired

The 2022 PEBB year was a conflicted and challenging one, with the state's health care plan, Uniform Medical, caught in the crossfire of rising healthcare costs and stagnant state funding. The directors of the WSHCA assumed that the newly projected rates for 2023 were too expensive for most subscribers and decided to close UMP for 2024. All members would be given 18 months to switch to one of the private Medicare plans in the HCA portfolio. However, as many of the emails the HCA received succinctly pointed out, this is a classic example of government overreach and arrogance. What subscribers choose to pay should be an individual choice, not the HCA's.

Mary Lindsey and the WEA-Retired leadership team, working in conjunction with leadership teams from other affected organizations throughout the state, sent the HCA a loud and clear message. We want to preserve, protect, and enhance Uniform Medical as an option for our health care insurance. Your participation, whether by email or by virtually attending the June 30th ZOOM meeting of the PEBB, made it crystal clear to the HCA how important Uniform Medical has been as the preferred option for our health insurance.

What have we learned from this experience? The HCA is already working to be more responsive to subscribers enrolled in their insurance plans by conducting listening meetings throughout the fall. They have also agreed to work more cooperatively with representative stakeholder groups to share information and address member concerns.

We will soon be approaching the time for open enrollment for all of us who receive our health care through the Washington Health Care Authority. Although most subscribers usually choose to remain with the plan in which they are currently enrolled, the new rates for 2023 might cause some of you to consider changing plans. If that is you, it is very important that you carefully compare the different components of each plan. You should begin with your retirement classification. Are you Medicare eligible? If you are not, then you will want to compare plans that fall under the category of Non-Medicare Retirees. If you are Medicare eligible, then you will have a different set of plans to choose from. If you are transitioning from non-Medicare retiree to Medicare eligible, another consideration is that it is possible that your current plan is no longer offered as part of the Medicare portfolio. All plan options can be viewed at the HCA website. Here are some examples:

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- a. You are enrolled in Kaiser Permanente Washington Value Plan. You are now Medicare eligible, so you will have to switch, as the Value Plan is not open to Medicare enrollees.
- b. You are enrolled in Uniform Medical Consumer Directed Health Plan (CDHP). You are now Medicare eligible, so you will have to switch, as the CDHP Plan is not open to Medicare enrollees.

Some other considerations:

- a. If you are switching from non-Medicare to Medicare retiree, you have some other plans that are now available options. These plans are Kaiser Permanente WA Medicare Advantage, United Healthcare PEBB Balance, United Healthcare PEBB Complete, and Premera Blue Cross Plan G. These options are all Medicare Advantage Plans. The Uniform Medical Plan Classic is the same for all retirees.
- b. Not all plans are available in all counties. To find out if your plan is offered in the county in which you reside, go to the HCA website, then to PEBB, then to Medical Plans and Benefits, then to Compare Medical Plans. If you scroll down the page, you will find a link that says, “Do I live in the plan’s service area?” You will see a link that will take you to your county to see which plans are available there. This step is very important for non-Medicare retirees because metropolitan counties such as King have many more plan options than more rural counties.

If you do decide to switch plans or are simply interested in seeing what options are available, it is a simple task to compare the benefit offerings from these different plans. Go to the HCA website, click on the link, ‘Employee and Retiree Benefits,’ then ‘Retiree Medical Plans,’ and then ‘Compare Medicare Retiree Plans.’ This link allows you to compare up to three different plans at one time.

The most common concern for members is the cost of their health care. Listed below are the monthly dues for each of our Medicare Portfolio plans:

Plan Name	Single Subscriber Rate	Two Subscribers
Kaiser NW Senior Advantage	\$176.13	\$347.26
Kaiser Medicare Advantage	\$174.59	\$344.18
Uniform Medical	\$438.34	\$871.68
United Health Care Complete	\$145.63	\$286.26
United Health Care Balanced	\$122.94	\$240.88
Premera Plan F Retired	\$115.16	\$225.32
Premera Plan F Disabled	\$196.69	\$388.58
Premera Plan G Retired	\$98.53	\$192.06

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Summary of the 2022 PEBB Meetings continued

The single subscriber rate includes a \$5 administrative fee that is only charged once. The two-subscriber rate is the single subscriber rate doubled, minus the \$5.00 fee. There are a few more things to consider when examining these plans. Kaiser NW Senior Advantage is only available in Clark and Cowlitz Counties, as it is part of a network that includes counties in Oregon. Premiera Plan F is closed and can take no new subscribers. Premiera Plan G does not include a prescription drug benefit. That has to be paid by finding a plan on the open market.

2023 Public Employees Benefits Board Meeting Schedule

Feb. 2 (Board Retreat): 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

March 9: 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

April 13: 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

May 11: 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

June 8: 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

June 29: 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

July 12: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

July 19: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

July 26: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

There is a portion of every meeting for public comments. You may also send emails at any time to the PEB board at PEBboard@hca.wa.gov, which then become part of the permanent record.

WEA-Retired Chapter Membership Options

Did you know that our members also belong to a WEA-Retired chapter within the UniServ Councils? You belong to the chapter where you retired or where you live. If you would like to make a change, please send an email to WEARetired@WashingtonEA.org.



The WEA-PAC membership year runs from **September through August**. You may make one-time payments, or please consider making a monthly on-going donation which may be changed or cancelled at any time.



Pro-Education. Pro-Labor.

Help elect pro-education and pro-labor candidates to public office, from local school boards to state offices. WEA-PAC member teams interview candidates. The team then votes on whether to endorse the candidate. Only candidates who support education and labor receive a WEA-PAC endorsement.

Link for WEA-Retired members

<https://bit.ly/donateWEAPAC>

Electing pro-education, pro-labor, and pro-retirement security candidates is also important at the federal level. To donate to the NEA-PAC (Fund for Children and Public Education), please make a donation at <https://educationvotes.nea.org>.

If you would prefer to send a check to either WEA-PAC or NEA-PAC, send it to WEA, Gena Mansell, PO Box 9100, Federal Way, WA 98063-9100. If you would like to inquire about or change donation levels, please send an email to

GMansell@WashingtonEA.org.

Congratulations to the 2022 WEA-Retired Scholarship recipients!



Samantha Lord is the first person in her entire extended family to earn an undergraduate degree. She was a substitute teacher for a year before becoming a full-time English teacher at Fort Vancouver High School in 2013. She will use the scholarship to earn a Master of Arts in Education with a focus on Trauma and Resilience at Concorde University-St. Paul online.

Jackie Bachmann-Quincy has been in education for 28 years. She started as a paraeducator while going back to school to earn her teaching credential. Her experiences have been varied, with her heart at the middle school level. She will use the scholarship to help with tuition for a master's degree at Western Governors University.



Mali McEnderfer is an itinerant music teacher in the Cheney Public Schools. She covers two elementary schools. Her first year of teaching was halted by COVID-19. She continued to work hard through creating online performance opportunities. She recently was accepted to Eastern Washington University's Master in Music Education program.

Jacob Munden has taught for 12 years, beginning as an agriculture science teacher and now completing his second year at Pasco High as the sole welding shop/metals instructor for the district. He has been an officer in his local union association and is an advisor for the FFA youth leadership organization. He will use his scholarship to support fees associated with the ESD 123 Cohort program that will be an efficient means to prepare for and be successful in his National Boards quest.



Lindsey Nordberg has been in education for the past three and a half years. She is currently a life skills paraeducator during both the school year and for the extended school year during the summer. She also works full time and attends graduate school full time in pursuing higher education to become a certificated teacher in special education. The scholarship will help pay for tuition for her alternative routes master's degree in special education.



Andreana Polichronakis is a certificated teacher at Marysville Middle School. This is her fourth year with primarily middle school students as a 6th grade math teacher and a 6th grade AVID elective teacher. After the school day, she either coaches student athletes or hosts a math/homework help club. She plans on using the scholarship either for National Board Certification fees or for course classes next fall/winter at a college/university.

Denise Reynolds was employed as a custodian, acquired a commercial driver's license and became a substitute bus driver, and opened her own daycare. Upon moving to Washington state, she began filling in as a substitute paraeducator and obtained a full-time paraeducator position. She pursued her teaching degree through Central Washington University. In 2011, she started her teaching career as a first grade teacher in the Granger School District. Currently, she is a second grade teacher in the Zillah School District. She will use her scholarship to assist with tuition at Western Governors University in the Learn and Technology master's program.



Coming soon

To access the application forms for next year's WEA-Retired Scholarships, visit
www.WashingtonEA.org/retired - beginning in January 2023.

Applications are due in March 2023.

If you are interested in serving on the WEA-Retired Scholarship selection team, please contact Linda McGee at 360-574-2562 or mcgee4748@gmail.com.

WEA-Retired Scholarships

By Sandy Kokko and Linda McGee

History

The first two WEA-Retired scholarships were awarded at \$300 each. Today, WEA-Retired awards up to ten \$1,000 scholarships each year! From its humble beginning in 1996 to the present, WEA-Retired Scholarships has awarded \$121,350 to 141 WEA members. Recipients have come from every corner of the state and all parts in between. They represent every level of our public education family: aspiring educators, secretaries, active teachers, paraeducators, custodians and every position in between.

We are all familiar with the adage, “It takes a village.” This is true in many aspects of life, including WEA-Retired Scholarships. In particular, we are seeking your help in two areas.

Fundraising

Historically, the organization has focused its fundraising efforts around two events, a cash prize drawing held during the WEA Representative Assembly and a dinner/auction held during the WEA-Retired annual meeting. These activities work well when you can mix with people.

In the past few years, we have explored revenue sources that are not dependent on in-person gatherings. Many people have a list of organizations they support. They make a donation commemorating a birthday or an achievement, in memory of a loved one, or “just because.” Please consider adding WEA-Retired Scholarships to your list.

For those who are tech-savvy, transfers via Zelle can be made using skokko1946@gmail.com. Checks are still good! They should be made out to WEA-Retired Scholarships and sent to: WEA-Retired Scholarships, P.O. Box 820708, Vancouver, WA 98682.

Selection team

The selection team leader is responsible for dispersing application information to WEA UniServ Councils and getting the information on the WEA-Retired website. Linda McGee is the new team leader. The selection team evaluates the applications and then meets to determine the recipients. Utilizing virtual meeting technology means you can live anywhere in the state and be part of the team. Your time commitment would be focused in the spring. Applications are due in mid-March, and the team meets in early April to decide the winners. Consider becoming part of the selection team. If interested, call 360-574-2562 or email mcgee4748@gmail.com.

WEA-Retired Pre-Retirement Seminars

By Karle Warren, Pre-Retirement Seminars Chair, WEA-Retired Southeast

From September to June of the 2021-22 school year, we had 44 seminars scheduled. Many were modified seminars for those retiring at the end of this school year. Also, teams presented the information in three separate sessions to accommodate the participants' working schedules. Due to COVID-19, we scheduled virtual seminars through the WEA website and individual UniServes that wanted to serve only their members. We were thrilled to do this for the health and safety of seminar teams and participants.

WEA staff around the state, from their workplaces wherever that might be, have been outstanding in helping us offer retirement seminars. Please also applaud the work of the WEA-Retired volunteer presenters, as they overcame hurdles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. They helped active WEA members "Taking Charge of Your Future" for a smooth transition into retirement, and they continued to promote the benefits of WEA-Retired/NEA-Retired membership.

We are always looking for interested WEA-Retired members who enjoy learning, traveling when that returns, and helping others with the path to retirement. If you would like to join this group of volunteers, email karle1989warren@gmail.com.

WEA-Retired Seminar Team Leaders

Sandy Kokko / Vancouver, North Central

Karla Kragelund / WEA-Riverside

Barb Brantingham / WEA MidState

Jan Curtis / Pilchuck

Jan Phillips / Kent, Auburn, WEA-Cascade, Rainier, Federal Way

Debby Nissen / Summit, Seattle, Tacoma

Michael Coleman / WEA-Sammamish, Lake Washington

Diana Kanda / WEA Fourth Corner

Lois Perkins / Soundview

Karle Warren / WEA-Southeast, WEA-Eastern Washington, Spokane

Want to be involved in the seminars?

The annual September training for the pre-retirement seminar presenters/ facilitators will take place virtually on Sept. 15. For information about being involved in the seminar program, please contact karle1989warren@gmail.com.

WEA-Retired Representative to the Senior Lobby Board 2022 Legislative Report

By Phyllis Farrell, WEA Chinook Chapter

The Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby is a coalition of 37 public service groups, non-profit and private groups and government agencies striving to advocate on senior issues. The Senior Lobby has been in existence since 1977. I am the WEA-Retired member representative. I also represent WEA-Retired as one of seven members on the Senior Lobby Board of Directors.

The Washington Senior Lobby actively promoted legislation related to seniors' health and wellbeing in the 2022 Legislative Session. According to the League of Women Voters report by Cynthia Stewart, it was a transformational session: 622 bills introduced in House - 168 passed; 564 bills introduced in Senate - 140 passed; 308 bills passed both Chambers. A record \$17 billion over 16 years Transportation Budget providing for more transit; \$1.5 billion Capital Budget; Operating Budget \$121.7 billion; 2022 Supplemental Budget adds \$5.1 billion to General Fund, leaves \$608 million in the budget stabilization account. Projected revenues exceed the 2021 estimates for 2021-25 by \$10.1 billion.

Key policy bills passed and sent to the Gov.:

- *Benefit PERS/TRS 1 - One-time, 3 percent increase to PERS plan 1 and TRS Plan 1 retirees up to a maximum of \$110 per month, effective 7/1/22 (SB 5676; Gov. signed)
- *Dementia Action Collaborative was approved to continue (SB 1646)
- *Drug Affordability Board was approved (SB 5532)
- *Cap on cost of insulin in health coverage plans at \$35/month (SB 5546; Gov. signed)
- *Reporting and emphasis on primary care (SB 5589)
- *Changes to Long-Term Care Trust – delay and certain exemptions (HB 1732 & 1733; Gov. signed)
- *Continue B&O tax exemption for health benefit exchange (HB 1765)
- *Direct sale of dialysis devices and related drugs to patients (HB 1765; Gov. signed)

Working together with the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans

By Shirley Hickey, WEA-Retired Vice President & WSARA Secretary

WEA-Retired is a member affiliate of the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans. WSARA is a state affiliate of the nationwide coalition of community-based and retired union organizations, the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA). We are stronger together. Goals include actions such as, “mobilizing seniors to be aware of and act on issues of civil rights and increasing access to and lowering costs of health care and prescriptions.”

Initiatives that WSARA engaged in during the 2021-22 year:

- Addressed Medicare Guarantee issues and the so-called financial Medicare Cliff which may affect individuals who switch at age 65 from Medicaid to Medicare.
- Participated in the WA State Senior Citizens Lobby fall virtual convention to keep informed on senior issues to continue advocacy.
- Contracted with Emily Murphy Strategies Consulting to collaborate with legislators, legislative staff, and allies to further membership and advance support for seniors and workers.
- Representation on the WSLC Political Committee & Commissions Work Group that set goals to include more labor on boards and commissions and seek more retirees to help balance worker conditions with business initiatives.
- Supported a Credit Ban on auto insurance, as the checking credit score law penalized seniors.
- Participated in the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) Legislative Conference and lobby meetings with legislators. WEA-Retired members participated as WSARA delegates at the virtual event.
- Advocated for strengthening Social Security. Member email alerts highlighted issues such as the “elites making more than \$50 million a year,” and reaching the Social Security cap sometime in the first working day of 2022. They hit the Social Security tax cap of \$147,000 in just a few hours, meaning that the elite high income workers stop paying into Social Security. WSARA supports scrapping the cap entirely, making the richest Americans finally pay their fair share, as the best way to strengthen our Social Security system.
- Advocated for lowering prescription drug prices and increasing awareness of pharmaceutical companies’ patent policies designed to recoup the research and development costs through extending the soaring prices after slightly changing and then renaming the drugs, congressional responsibilities and opportunities to change the laws, and electing public officials who support lowering drug prices.
- Collaborated with the Health Care as a Human Right (HCHR) coalition to advocate for increased access to and quality of healthcare for all.
- Recognized elected officials such as Congresswoman Dr. Kim Schrier with the WSARA Hero Award for her 100% voting record on senior issues as documented by the ARA, and recognized Congresswoman Kathy McMorris Rogers with the WSARA Zero Award for her 0% voting record on senior issues as documented by the ARA. Link to the 2021 ARA congressional voting record – Washington (www.retiredamericans.org).
- Publicized research such as the fact we have known for decades that pension plans have substantial advantages over 401 (k) plans for workers and retirees. New research shows the advantages associated with administering defined-benefit plans.

Sign up for WSARA Monday email news alerts at <https://washington.retiredamericans.org> or the ARA website at www.retiredamericans.org. Shirley Hickey and Mary Lindsey serve on the WSARA Board.

WEA-Retired 2021-22 Legislative Work Team annual report

The WEA-Retired Legislative Work Team is committed to working on your retirement security.

This year, our work plan focused on three areas: individual committee member responsibilities, communications, and work team education.

By Lee Ann Prielipp, Chairperson

As individual members, we contacted our own state legislative representatives, accepted responsibility for contacting assigned legislators from key legislative committees with our specific messages, and attended Zoom hearings. Our communications focus included working with WEA-Retired members, attending legislators' town halls and other public meetings, promoting WEA-PAC and NEA-PAC membership, and advocating for endorsed candidates. Work team education included learning more about the Department of Retirement Services (DRS), the Health Care Authority (HCA) on PEBB and SEBB, and the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP), which makes recommendations to both state legislature houses.

The work team reviewed and made recommendations to our WEA-Retired Legislative Goals which were then adopted by the WEA-Retired Board of Directors. Following each of our meetings, *Actively Retired* is emailed to all retired members. WEA-Retired members Shirley Hickey and Pam Fuelling have been essential in coordinating the work involved to prepare each issue. We continue to seek input on how to improve this document for our members.

A specific activity this year was to have each work team member assigned to an individual serving on the SCPP. We used emails, texts, phone calls and written correspondence as we attempted to build a relationship with our assigned member. If the member had a legislative aide, we also worked with that person. Sharing personal stories on the inadequacies of certain aspects of each of our retirement plans helps to influence the thinking and actions of the SCPP members. Many of the work team members attended the SCPP meetings via Zoom, and many testified on behalf of WEA-Retired. One outcome of this activity is the Plan 1 COLA beginning in July. While it isn't the amount nor the permanent on-going outcome we wanted, it will be helpful to Plan 1 members. We still have opportunities to address further needs in all retirement plans.

Additional activities involving the work team were Joint Lobby Day with Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) in January; a symposium to communicate with all members on health care in October; and in May a symposium on end of the legislative session, pension issues, and next steps.

The Legislative Work Team continues to work on meeting the needs of our members and their retirement security. One feature that we will address further is how to involve more of our members in *365 Days of Lobbying*. To achieve our goals, we must all be actively involved in keeping our issues front and center with our Legislature.

Who do you contact when you need specific information about provided services available to you?

Agency contact information

Social Security / 800-772-1213, www.ssa.gov

Medicare / 800-633-4227, www.medicare.gov

Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) / 800-547-6657, www.drs.wa.gov

WA State Health Care Authority (HCA) / 844-284-2148, www.hca.wa.gov

Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) / 800-200-1004, www.hca.wa.gov/pebb

VEBA Plan / 888-828-4953, www.veba.org

Voya Financial (Plan 3 defined contributions third party administrator) / <https://my.voya.com>

Deferred Compensation Program / 888-327-5596, www.drs.wa.gov/dcp

Health Equity / 877-873-8823, www.healthequity.com/pebb

Statewide Health Insurance Benefit Advisors (SHIBA) / 800-562-6900,
www.insurance.wa.gov/shiba

(This state program offers free, unbiased, and confidential help in evaluating and comparing Medicare plans and programs to meet your individual needs. All advisors are well-trained volunteers.)

Other contact information

Attorney Referral Program through NEAMB / www.WashingtonEA.org/legal

Legislative hotline to leave a message for your legislator / 800-562-6000

Mary Lindsey, WEA-Retired president / WEARetired@WashingtonEA.org

NEA-Member Benefits / 800-708-4632, www.neamb.com

WEA-Retired direct line / 253-765-7067 (to leave messages)

WEA-Retired webpage / www.WashingtonEA.org/retired

WEA switchboard / 800-622-3393



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Important dates

Sept. 16: Virtual Executive Committee
Sept. 21-22: Virtual 3rd Annual September Conference
(Register for the conference here:
<https://wea.mobi/2022WEARetiredConf>)
Oct. 18: Executive Committee
Oct. 19: WEA-Retired Board Meeting
Jan. 18: Virtual Executive Committee
Jan. 19: Virtual WEA-Retired Board Meeting
Jan. 30-Feb. 3: WEA-Retired/RPEC Lobby Day/Week
March 2023 (TBD): NEA Leadership Summit/Retired Conference
March 21: Executive Committee
March 22-23: WEA-Retired Board Meeting/Retreat
April 13-15: WEA Representative Assembly
May 16: Virtual Executive Committee
June 6: Executive Committee
June 7: WEA-Retired Board Meeting
June 7-8: WEA-Retired Annual Meeting
June 29-30: NEA Retired Annual Meeting
July 2-6: NEA Representative Assembly

Do we have your current mailing address, email, and phone number? If not, please send it to <https://forms.washingtonea.org/forms/memberupdate>.

Connections

NEWS TO KEEP YOU ENGAGED IN THE PROFESSION YOU LOVE

Connections is published by Washington Education Association-Retired four times a year. We invite your comments and contributions. During other months, a newsletter is sent to your email address. If you're not receiving those, please send an email to WEARetired@WashingtonEA.org.

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