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www.lakewashingtonea.org

January 4, 2023

Legislative Session begins on January 9



The Washington State Legislature begins meeting for a 105-day session, which includes a review of the state budget, on Monday. **Members across the state have set the WEA's 2023 legislative priorities:**

Schools that meet student needs and grow their joy of learning.

Safe learning and working environments.

Investments to attract and retain a diverse workforce.

Legislators make decisions that impact learning and working conditions. **They need to hear from front-line educators, including YOU!** Stay updated on the legislative session this year:

- Read The Update for opportunities to speak directly with legislators on proposed legislation.
- [Review the WEA legislative priorities](#) in more detail.
- Follow WEA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- [Subscribe to the WEA's Advocacy blog](#).

**LWEA Officers and
Executive Committee**

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[Howard Mawhinney](#)

LWEA / 425-822-3388

Vice President:

[Katie Badger](#)

LWEA / 425-822-3388

Primary Rep:

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Intermediate Rep:

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Middle School Rep:

[Hattie Midboe](#)

Stella / 425-936-2475

High School Rep:

[Bethany Shoda](#)

LWHS / 425-936-1700

Specialists Rep:

[Nikole Lalas](#)

RHS / 425-936-1800

Special Services Rep:

[Karyn Taggart](#)

KaMS/ 425-936-2400

Ethnic Minority Rep:

[Michael Finley](#)

RHS/ 425-936-1800



Educators of Color— First Gathering of the year

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

Where: New LWEA Office—8575 164th Ave NE Suite
100, Redmond, WA 98052

When: January 19th, 2023 at 4:30-6:00pm

Dinner will be provided! Please **RSVP by January 12th,**
2023 at LWEA-EOC@lwsd.org so we have a proper
headcount!

Lots of love to our members!

~The EoC Planning Team

Nominate the next "ESP of the Year"

Do you work with an exceptional Education Support Professional or know of one in your building whose accomplishments deserve special recognition? Why not take the time to nominate that bus driver, food service employee, office secretary, custodian or paraeducator who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments and reflects the contributions ESPs make in public education. Nominations for the 2023 WEA Education Support Professional of the Year are now open. **Nominate the next WEA ESP of the Year online.** Completed applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9. Questions? Contact **Gwendolyn Jimerson.**

To All Our ESP's



Votes Are In

Congratulate Your **WEA** and **NEA** Delegates

Gail Maynard-Viamonte

Katie Badger

Krithika Balasubramanian

Christina Hunsberger

Kristen Becker-Brown

Bridget Middaugh

Steffany Black

Shelina Williams-Martinez

Kelsey Brown

Brandi Trujillo

Tiffany Chow

Marcus Rose

Patti Cook

Anna Blankinship

Sharon Curry

Jodie Howerton

Martha Daman

Maria-Elena Velasquez

Axie Dompier

Sara Alvarez

Brittany Driftmier

Mary Kay Weinmeister

Michael Finley

Karyn Taggart

Shannon Fisher

Rojine Rudio

Todd Gibson

Hanah Rasmussen

David Hale

Eric Peterson

Cathey Hettinger

Rachelle Horner

Nikole Lalas

John Ownes

Katie Badger

Howard Mawhinney

Patti Cook

Michael Finley

Mary Kay Weinmeister

Karyn Taggart

Cathey Hettinger

Stefa Chow

Hanah Rasmussen

Marisa Gonzalez

Shannon Fisher

Axie Dompier

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Andrew David Robertson: May 17, 1962 Dec 27, 2022



We have lost the true Music Man of our time: Andrew (Andy) D. Robertson passed away on Dec. 27 in his home surrounded by his family, after a courageous fight with cancer. Andy (or "Mr. Ert" to thousands of students) lived to share his love of music with anyone and everyone he could. He created a musical legacy that will live on in the hearts of so many of his students, band families, friends, fellow musicians, and educators.

Andy was born in Columbus Ohio in 1962, the "baby brother" of 3 sisters and a brother. He was blessed by the well rounded education he received in the Shoreline Public Schools, especially from Mr. Ken Noreen, the band director at Shorecrest High School ("Go Scots!"). Mr. Noreen created the perfect place to love and learn music. And that set the standard for Andy's life goals to be a music educator and mentor for multiple generations of "band kids."

Flashback to 1979/80--Andy and his best friend for life Ward Brannman, put on a production of the Blues Brothers, with Andy as Jake and Ward as Elwood Blues!

Andy went on to Pacific Lutheran University to study both music and music education. He was a key member of the school's Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and pit musicals, playing tenor sax (and alto and soprano sax). He shared many stories of growing musically and professionally at PLU, alongside his colleague and peer Dan Gaily. Andy did what it took to be his best, and he did so graduating from PLU in 1984 Magna Cum Laude in Music and Music Education.

After testing the waters teaching in different schools and at different age levels, Andy took on the job that would allow him to define his life at Redmond High School. Starting in 1992 Andy was the Band Director at RHS for 30+years. Andy a/k/a "Mr. Ert" did more than teach band. He, with other professional educators/musicians at RHS, created a music sanctuary in the school.

From 1992 through 2022, Mr. Ert put his soul into everything musical: symphonic band, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, pep band, musicals, small ensembles, and infamous band trips (Disneyland how many times???). Andy created anything that would bring the joy of music to "his kids." In addition to the performance groups, Andy taught AP Music Theory and Music History, possessing an encyclopedic knowledge of early/mid 20th Century Jazz.

In the process, Andy shared jokes and puns that would keep his students--groaning the foundation of countless "Ert jokes." For those of you that were part of that, you know that Andy created one huge musical family--that is the Music Man that he was.

Andy cared about his band family, not the accolades. Regardless, the accolades poured in. Andy's students and student ensembles won countless awards over the decades. Plus, Andy was honored with many professional awards. Here are just a few: 1997 Redmond Volunteer Arts Award winner; the 2010 Golden Mustang Award; the 2020 Outstanding Music Educator for the Northlake Region of Washington State; and the 2021 Redmond PTSA Outstanding Educator Award. Andy also received the **highest honor for music educators**--the 2020 Hall of Fame Award by the Washington Music Educators Association. All this to say--everyone recognized Andy as our 21st Century Music Man.

And still more - Andy announced track meets for many years. He worked continually on RHS admin/faculty working groups to increase the academic excellence of the entire school. He was deeply involved in the teachers' union to protect and promote the rights and recognition of educators throughout the school. He helped ensure students were fed on weekends and during summer breaks.

Andy was also a gifted, talented, and excellent musician. He played reeds through college but loved percussion. Andy helped create, conduct, and play percussion in the Washington Wind Symphony. In honor of his father, he always had a Sousa march on the program. He also played jazz drum kit in MOJO and was a member of the percussion section with Seattle Wind Symphony. Andy loved to create music, so he would, at the actual drop of a mallet, jump in and cover for countless community ensembles. He just loved to play music.

Andy loved what he did, he cared deeply for each of his students, and still, as he was dying, wanted to do so much more. He was and is our Music Man. So, to honor Andy, please enjoy the human connection that music brings. If you can, give money or volunteer time to the RHS music department or to your local public school music program--the effort/dollars you give might just help create the next Music Woman or Music Man for our future generations. Andy's family thanks all of you who loved him, for your love made his life full.

Andy's family members extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who cared for him, particularly Adam, Joshua, Yan, Jean, infusion/radiologist teams, scores of caring nurses, Michelle, Jessica, and Miriam.

A celebration of Andy's life and legacy will be held later this spring. Andy's family and friends will post information on Facebook and share with the musical groups that he loved.

Smile -- Andy lived his love wonderfully. Share a joke or a memory of Andy as you listen to a Count Basie album.



Red for Ed: 1/11

Show your LWEA power and pride by wearing Red for Ed on January 11! Take a picture and [send it to us](#).

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.



JAN 10

Exec Committee Mtg

JAN 11

Red for Ed

JAN 16

Martin Luther King Day
No School



MONEY MINUTE

Tax Free VEBA Account!



Last year, LWEA found out that instead of taking the cash for your sick leave buyback, you could deposit that money into a tax-free VEBA account before retiring. There are triple tax benefits to a VEBA account. You do not pay taxes on the money when you receive it, you do not pay taxes on the earnings of your VEBA investments, and you do not pay taxes on the money when you withdraw/use it for qualified medical expenses.

What is VEBA?

The Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association is a non-profit, multiple-employer organization with a Trust managed by a board of trustees that offers a funded health reimbursement arrangement (HRA). VEBA started just as a way for retirees to "cash out" their sick leave into a tax-free account for health care expenses. Still, any employee group can set up specific contribution rules before retirement. As an organization, we are required to re-authorize our plan annually and can make any changes at that time.

Contributing to VEBA is a great way to save money on taxes while saving money to use in retirement for medical expenses.

We want to invite you to attend a Zoom meeting to learn more about VEBA on Thursday, January 19th, at 4:30. To receive the link, email [Terri Neely](#).

Professional Development

Courses developed and taught by WEA Educators

WEA is pleased to share a listing of Certification Training courses being offered January through March 2023!

Their webpage has all of the information and registration links. <https://www.washingtonea.org/events-training/pd/certification-licensure/>

Courses are open to all active WEA Members and are eligible for Clock Hours! Winter 2023 Courses being offered:

- Teacher Certification 101: Learn about the latest teacher certificate renewal requirements, policy changes, STEM renewal requirement, PGP basics, National Board basics, OSPI eCert platform.
- Educational Staff Associates (ESA) Certification 101: Learn about the latest ESA certificate renewal requirements, policy changes, OSPI eCert platform, PGP basics and ESA professional growth needs.
- National Board Certification Information Sessions: Explore and learn about the National Board Certification Process and the WEA trainings available to support your National Board Certification journey.
- Professional Growth Plan (PGP) Sessions: Learn how to earn 25 clock hours per year for certificate renewal and salary movement.
- WEA National Board Maintenance of Certificate (MOC) Training Series: WEA is here to help you maintain your National Board certificate. Our National Board Maintenance Of Certificate sessions will support you in this process.

WEA's **Center for Education Quality** has updated its latest calendar of upcoming certification-related trainings for WEA members. Many of the courses are free and offer clock hours for certificated and Education Support Professionals. (Some courses are open to nonmembers too). Visit the [Events & Training tab](#) on our website to see what's new.



Lake Washington EA STEM Robotics

- **STEM and Computer Science in the Inclusionary Classroom:** Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, 9:00-noon. Food provided. Register: <https://cvent.me/20q9G5>
- **STEM and Robotics in the Inclusionary Classroom:** Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, 1:00-4:00. Food provided. Register: <https://cvent.me/lagqQr>