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www.lakewashingtonea.org

April 27, 2023

Olympia Watch: a look back at the 2023 session

The 2023 session ended on Sunday. Educators were unified and active in advocating for our students and our profession. Here are some highlights:



Special Education Funding

- \$371 million in additional funding for Special Education supports.
- Increase in the SpEd funding cap from 13.5% to 15%.

Other education priorities

- Expanded free K-12 student meals.
- Increased recess for elementary students.
- PD around student behavior interventions.
- Universal screening for highly capable programs.

Cost of living adjustments

- Reliable COLA (cost of living adjustments) for K-12 salaries.

Labor rights

- Improved and guaranteed access by unions to information about bargaining unit members.
- Privileged protections for communications about union business between employees and union reps.



These gains could not have been realized without WEA-PAC!

WEA-PAC works to elect pro-public education, pro-labor candidates to public office, regardless of political affiliation AND bring the voices of educators to elected leaders.

While this legislative session reflects important investments in public education, **we still have work to do in Olympia to meet our priorities: fully funding Special Education, ensuring competitive wages, and improving and funding ESP wages.**

We need to continue strengthening our union by strengthening WEA-PAC. **Only 46% of LWEA members have joined WEA-PAC. We can do better!** Choose your level and JOIN TODAY: \$2.25, \$5, or \$10.50/month.



JOIN
TODAY

**LWEA Officers and
Executive Committee**

President:

[Howard Mawhinney](#)

LWEA / 425-822-3388

Vice President:

[Katie Badger](#)

LWEA / 425-822-3388

Primary Rep:

[Patti Cook](#)

Rush / 425-936-2690

Intermediate Rep:

[Fareeha Nasir](#)

Alcott / 425-936-2490

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



*Celebration of Life
for
Chuck Hagerman*



Please join Sheila, Scott and Sara as they celebrate and share memories of Chuck, their loving husband and father. Many of you knew Chuck through Sheila Hagerman, the heart and soul of LWEA for 27+ years.

Whether you knew Chuck as a family member, a friend, or co-worker, join them for an informal potluck gathering. Please bring food to share that reminds you of Chuck.

**Saturday, May 6 from 1-3pm
Normanna Lodge
2725 Oaks Ave, Everett**

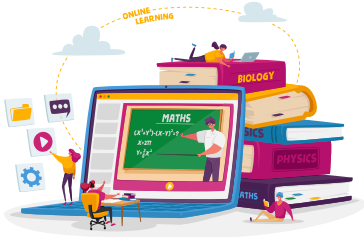
If you have questions please call:

Scott Hagerman 425-923-0232

Sara Nelson 425-308-6832

Sheila Hagerman 425-359-5351





WEA Virtual PD



Navigating Your Student Loan Forgiveness Journey **May 10th**

Come learn the latest news on all of the Federal Student Loan Forgiveness Programs, lawsuits, repayment options, due dates and much more. If you need a quick update on where things stand and steps you may still be able to take to make certain you are doing all you can to achieve forgiveness, please join us. If you don't already have an account with the NEA Student Debt Navigator, please log in to www.neamb.com/start and create your account. We will discuss this tool and how it will keep you informed and maximize your forgiveness.

Registration: <https://www.washingtonea.org/home/events/type/sql/event/7541>

Life Stage Investing **April 26th**

This workshop discusses how to save for the long term and provides guidance on how to identify retirement income sources and gaps. Additionally, this workshop unpacks the long-term financial impact of the Social Security, if available, and health care decisions that emerge as retirement approaches to help attendees feel better prepared and empowered.

Registration: <https://www.washingtonea.org/home/events/type/sql/event/7544>

Medical Rebate in April Paycheck



In the mid-2000s, the Lake Washington School District switched health insurance plans from Regence Health Plans to WEA Premera Plans. When that change occurred, Regence refunded the district for the reserve balance on the account. At that time, the district's Benefit Advisory Committee (BAC) made the recommendation to set these funds aside should the district decide to switch to a self-insured health plan in the future.

When the state mandated that all school districts participate in the State SEBB program for health benefits, this removed the district's ability to make individual health plan decisions. Thus, the reserve funds from Regence no longer needed to be set aside.

The current BAC recommended that these funds be distributed equally to all employees who are on a SEBB plan as of March 10, 2023. Funds will be distributed in the April paycheck. You will receive an amount of \$367 on your paycheck under "Medical Rebate." This is a one-time distribution of these funds.

If you have any questions, please contact benefits at SEBBbenefits@lwsd.org or your current Benefits Committee member.

Benefit Advisory Committee: Melissa Bartolo, Carolina Borrego, Alyce Bredeheoft, Chris Brenengen, Lucy Davies, Claire Hinkson, Keli Hoek, Howard Mawhinney, Dawn Moore, Denise Radecke, Tom Spellman, Jan Sproul, and Lydia Wheeler

OFFICE STAFF

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A Friend In Need



Carrie Creek, Peter Kirk Elem, had a kidney transplant in the Fall and is experiencing complications which led to another emergency surgery. She has run out of sick leave and requires time to recover. If you can help Carrie, please complete the shared leave form. Thank you for your support.

Please consider a [Shared Leave Donation](#) by filling out the donation form and sending it to HRLeaves@lwsd.org. Thank you.

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.



MAY 2

Exec Committee

MAY 2

National Teacher Day

MAY 14

Mother's Day



Retiring This Year?

LWSD will recognize all retirees in a slideshow that will be showcased on the district website and social media pages. Please contact Collin Sullivan at csullivan@lwsd.org or 425-936-1300 if you are planning to retire so we can be sure to include you in this year's presentation.

We want to honor you for all your hard work and dedication.

Congratulations!!

It's not too early to join WEA-Retired!



Did you know that if you could join WEA-Retired as a pre-retired member?

Benefits of WEA-Retired/NEA-Retired Membership: Membership is for a lifetime in a powerful, active retiree organization that understands the value of public education and unions because of its affiliation with WEA. (WEA-Retired is the only retiree organization with this affiliation and the only one that offers a life membership.)

Membership continues eligibility for NEA Member Benefits such as credit card and insurance programs, including the \$1,000,000 liability insurance if you choose to work as a substitute educator, and WEA's Attorney Referral Program which offers two free 30-minute consultations a year.

Your membership will flow seamlessly from pre-retired to retired status.

[JOIN HERE!](#)

If you have any questions, please email WEARetired@WashingtonEA.org.