



# Connections

NEWS TO KEEP YOU ENGAGED IN THE PROFESSION YOU LOVE

Coming soon! The 4th Annual (Virtual) WEA-Retired September Conference Save the dates! Wed., Sept. 20 and Thurs., Sept. 21 / 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily

Topics: Book share, Online Airbnb Travel Adventure, consumer best practices for retirees - and much more! Watch for the email to register for our virtual September Conference!

#### **WEA-Retired Awards 2023**

As part of the WEA-Retired Annual Meeting in June, we recognize members and allies whose hard work and dedication to public education, current and retired staff, and students are acknowledged and appreciated.

#### 2023 Pre-Retired Member of the Year: Larry Delaney

Some active WEA members join WEA-Retired while they are still working to keep their member benefits when they retire. Others actively promote WEA-Retired and its programs. These are the members we recognize with the Pre-Retired Member of the Year award. Larry Delaney currently serves as WEA president and has been a pre-retired member of WEA-Retired for many years. He has attended many WEA-Retired chapter meetings around the state, meeting with WEA-Retired members, listening to their issues and concerns, providing updates on WEA's activities, sharing both current and future plans, and generally celebrating with WEA-Retired members. When Larry was presented with an idea for WEA to join five other "Continuous Membership States," he was supportive from the very beginning. With his encouragement, WEA-Retired submitted an NBI (New Business Item) at this year's WEA Representative Assembly to form a study group to discuss the benefits of implementing a continuous membership plan within WEA to



automatically transition WEA-Active members to WEA-Retired/NEA-Retired life members. (The NBI appeared to pass unanimously.) This support is truly an example of "encouraging WEA-Retired membership." (cont. on page 6-7)

#### The President's Corner

#### By Mary Lindsey, 2019-25 WEA-Retired President



Every year, it is the responsibility of the WEA-Retired president to write a report for the delegates of the WEA Representative Assembly. This report and the articles included in this double edition of the *Connections* will update you on what is happening within WEA-Retired

#### **WEA-Retired 2023 Representative Assembly Report**

WEA-Retired is committed to improving retirement security for our members and future members and providing ongoing support for public education students and staff.

- This past year, WEA-Retired joined eight other senior organizations to form a PEBB Stakeholders' Coalition to work with the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA/PEBB) to maintain current health care choices, to seek ways to decrease costs while providing quality care, and to promote user-friendly HCA communications with stakeholders. In addition to the PEBB Stakeholders' Coalition, WEA-Retired joined forces with RPEC (Retired Public Employees Council) and WSSRA (Washington State School Retirees Association) to form a coalition to achieve an annual Plan 1 COLA.
- WEA-Retired encourages and facilitates grass-roots political involvement and lobbying. Our Legislative Work Team, chaired by Lee Ann Prielipp, meets monthly to keep informed and involved in the legislative process. WEA-Retired has an annual lobby/legislative day. This was the seventh year in a row that WEA-Retired joined with Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) to lobby for retirement security issues. We enjoyed this in-person event after having it held virtually for the past two years.
- WEA-Retired held its third annual virtual state-wide conference in September. Our theme was "Reflecting on the Past, Focusing on the Present, and Planning for the Future." Our 2023 September Conference is scheduled for the 20 & 21. Additional virtual fall events include a presentation about Medicare/PEBB Health Care and a Pre-Legislation Talk about Pension & Health Care.
- WEA-Retired virtually held pre-retirement mini-workshops at many locations throughout the state for WEA members retiring during 2022-2023. These seminars, as well as our regular pre-retirement seminars "Taking Care of Your Future," are designed to help WEA members maximize their retirement planning by offering information about Washington State retirement plans, financial planning, estate planning, and health care choices in retirement.
- Scholarships awarded through our WEA-Retired Scholarship program for WEA members (certificated, classified, or aspiring educators) help defray the cost to WEA members who enroll in courses that enhance their skills or go towards a degree. The scholarship program will continue to award up to ten \$1,000 scholarships this spring. Typically, applications are available in October, due in March, and awarded in May each year. Further information is on our WEA-Retired webpage.
- Many of our 22 WEA-Retired chapters (each UniServ Council has a chapter) are continuing to hold virtual meetings this year, as well as some in person. These chapter meetings often have guest speakers who discuss topics that are of interest to our members.
- Our quarterly mailed newsletter, *Connections*, emailed e-Connections, and our monthly Actively Retired legislative bulletin emails keep our pre-retired and retired members informed of retirement and public school issues as well as how members can stay engaged. We also email "Alerts" as needed, which help deliver additional and timely information to our members.
- The WEA-Retired Board of Directors, officers, committee chairs, and delegates to our WEA-Retired Annual Meeting each June direct and monitor our work to accomplish member-driven business.
- Coalition building with other organizations that have retirement and/or education issues as their core values strengthens our efforts to build community support for great public schools and security in retirement. WEA-Retired is an active member, having seats on the boards of the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans (WSARA) and the Washington State Senior Lobby.

## **PEBB Update**

#### By Tom MacRoberts, PEB Board Representative from WEA-Retired

I am just completing my fifth year as your WEA-Retired representative on the PEBB. The learning curve for these past five years has been steep, as there are many moving parts that you must learn, and that does not include the challenges that we have faced with the significant dues increases that the Uniform Medicare Plan has experienced. That has been the challenge this year as our rates have, once again, seen significant increases. Here is a breakdown of the projected monthly premiums for all of the HCA Medicare offerings. I have included the rates from 2022 so that you can see the trends for not only the immediate past, but to get a sense of the challenges we will continue to face in the future. (Note: KP refers to Kaiser Permanente, UMP refers to Uniform Medical, UHC refers to United Health Care, and Premera refers to Premera Blue Cross. KP NW Senior Advantage is only available in Clark and Cowlitz counties, as it is partnered with counties in Oregon. KP Medicare Advantage and Original Medicare is available in the rest of the counties in Washington State where Kaiser operates. It's not available in all counties. The rates listed below are for single subscribers; for two subscribers simply double the cost. Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount.)

Plan	2022 Monthly Premium	2023 Monthly Premium	2024 Monthly Premium
KP NW Senior Advantage	\$173	\$176	\$194
KP Medicare Advantage	\$177	\$175	\$189
UMP Classic	\$365	\$438	\$533
UHC Complete	\$149	\$146	\$161
UHC Balanced	\$126	\$123	\$136
Premera Plan G	\$99	\$98	\$102

I did not include Premera Plan F in this chart because it is closed to new subscribers. The federal government decided in 2019 to close it and replace it with Plan G. These rates as well as some explanatory details are published on the Washington Health Care Authority (WHCA) website.

Last year, I wrote an explanatory piece about what drives the rising costs of health care for our state plan. I am going to include that section again with a few additions, as it is good to keep in front of us the challenges that we face. "What drove the 2023 rate increases (and 2024 as well) breaks down as follows: 60% came from increases in pharmacy costs and 40% from the medical side. Prescription drugs have been the single biggest driver of medical cost increases since I have been on the board, and there is absolutely no indication that anything will change in the immediate future.

Because UMP is a state plan, it is dependent on funding from the state legislature and your dues for its income. The state portion, sometimes referred to as the Medicare Subsidy or the Carveout, is \$183 per subscriber. In 2024, this will be the fifth year in a row that the subsidy has been set at that rate. Consider all of the increases to pharmaceutical costs alone over the last five years and inflation for the last three years, yet state support has not changed.

Medicare Advantage Plans receive a significant portion of their funding from the federal government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS pays these private insurers a fixed monthly amount for each subscriber's expected health care costs. These monies are not available to UMP. Because of these funding disparities, UMP will continue to have rate increases that outpace plan offerings."

Much has happened since I wrote that passage. When the rates for 2023 were announced last June, WEA-Retired, along with several other retiree organizations, formed a coalition to work with the WHCA to help address the challenges that our state plan faces. Listening sessions, both live and via ZOOM, were held all over the state. Members were given the opportunity to share their concerns about the new rates and could also present new ideas on how to keep our rich benefits without increasing costs.

Your voices were heard. In early spring, Sue Birch, HCA director, and Dave Iseminger, PEBB retiree benefits director, were able to meet in Washington, D.C. with the directors of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to give them insight into the challenges our state plan faces when Medicare Advantage Plans receive supplemental funding from Congress. They have asked them for help but, as you can well imagine, that will be a complicated process. They also drafted a letter that was sent to the entire Washington State Congressional Delegation that explains the challenges that the Health Care Authority faces for funding our state plan and asked for assistance to address this inequity. They will soon have a link to that letter on the PEBB and SEBB websites with the hope that we, too, can contact them to encourage more support from Congress. Dave Iseminger has also been asked to join a new organization, a coalition of 12 states, that will work to promote more federal funding for state health care programs.

Those of you who are non-Medicare retirees and who are members of the PEBB are also going to be facing rate increases. The most significant changes will be with Kaiser Permanente. Even active employees who are Kaiser subscribers will see significant increases. Here are the proposed rates for a single subscriber:

	2023	2024
Kaiser NW Classic	842	1039
Kaiser NW CDHP	700	908
Kaiser WA Classic	837	934
Kaiser WA Value	764	919
KW Sound Choice	716	777
Kaiser WA CDHP	700	739
UMP Classic	805	832
UMP Plus	767	817
UMP Select	729	767
UMP CDHP	704	748

#### (cont. from page 3-4)

I wish that the news on the proposed rates for 2024 was better. However, I am ending this board season feeling better about what we did accomplish than in any year past. As mentioned previously, I have only been on the board for five years, yet I am now second in seniority. We have had a large turnover of members, and those new members have been uniformly excellent. When we first met to discuss proposed rates, we met in executive session. In those meetings, people were able to express their feelings, their passions, and their frustrations. I think this board and the directors, Sue Birch, Lou McDermott, and Dave Iseminger, are all passionately committed to preserving Uniform Medical Plans now and in the future. I would encourage you to check the HCA website periodically. The link to the letter that I referenced should be posted soon as well as some other actions that we will examine in the coming months.

# PEBB Medicare Stakeholders' Coalition receives Mother Jones award

**By Mary Lindsey** 



Last month, at the Washington State Labor Council's (WSLC) Convention, the PEBB Medicare Stakeholders' Coalition received the coveted Mother Jones Award. "The Mother Jones Award has been recognized for decades as the state labor movement's award that recognizes our own members in their struggle for dignity and respect for all working men and women in our state," reported the STAND newsletter. Two such awards are given, one to an organization and one to an individual. The Coalition received the award for their advocacy protecting the health care benefits of public sector retirees in our state.

## **PEBB Medicare Stakeholders' Coalition Organizations**



#### 2023 Retired Member of the Year: Phyllis Farrell

We all know people who see something that needs changing, and they step up to do something about it. They are always ready to act around strongly held beliefs, and they speak truth to people in power. They have a passion for doing what they know is right and to educate through information and conversation. Our Retired Member of the Year is one of these people. Phyllis is the WEA-Retired representative on the Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby where she also serves as an executive board member. She is also on our legislative work team and works tirelessly to promote the organization and the issues she holds dear. Phyllis understands the impact of telling a story to influence legislators and others. She created a spreadsheet documenting her own expenses over time, showing her loss of buying power and the need for a permanent, ongoing COLA. Others have used her data when speaking to their own legislators. Phyllis is also dedicated to advocating climate issues affecting the public health and safety of students and members.



#### 2023 Team of the Year: Justin Fox-Bailey, Marj Njaa, Susan Lindsey, Pam Fuelling, & Shelly Lamb

The following four members and one staff member from Pilchuck have received this team award for joining together to carry out two major WEA-Retired goals this spring. 1. They were the first chapter to deliver their "appreciation treats with supportive notes" to all WEA members throughout their council. 2. They gained 48 members during our April Rebate Membership Drive. Pilchuck was responsible for 1/3 of the new members gained during April throughout the state.

Justin Fox-Bailey (council president & pre-retired member) has consistently supported the WEA-Retired Pilchuck chapter over the years. The Pilchuck executive committee, too, has followed this support, shown by approving to offer their members a \$100 rebate if they joined as pre-retired members in April. They also approved \$1,800 to support the appreciation treats program.

Marj Njaa (chapter president) presented separate proposals to the Pilchuck leadership for the membership rebate and council funding to support the appreciation treats program. She showed her support for both WEA-Retired programs within the council.



Susan Lindsey (board director) and Pam Fuelling (WEA-Retired secretary), worked together to prepare the treats for delivery. They had work parties at the council office, often after their monthly meetings. Pam also had one at her home, and both took many boxes home several times to prepare on their own. Susan handled buying the treats and recordkeeping.

Shelly Lamb (Pilchuck administrative assistant) organized the delivery of treats through the local presidents who have monthly meetings at the council office. The presidents then passed them on to individual school leaders. During the membership drive, Shelly was very diligent and responsible for getting the word out to Pilchuck. She also expressed excitement for writing the \$100 rebate checks to new members within the council and sent out emails on her own to recruit more pre-retired members.

#### 2023 Advocate of the Year: Laurie Weidner

Laurie Weidner, executive director of the Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC), was chosen as our Advocate of the Year for her visionary work. She rallied nine senior organizations to form the PEBB Medicare Stakeholders' Coalition after PEBB (Public Employees Benefits Board) abruptly announced last June that they were going to close their most popular health care plan, the Uniform Medical Plan-Medicare Classic. Laurie is clearly the lead of this coalition. She is organized, experienced, forward-thinking, consistently employs strategic options, involves coalition partners to reach consensus, is open-minded, and checks with all coalition partners throughout the



process, as the coalition is committed to PEBB offering a quality health care program with both member choice and affordable, high-quality health care being paramount. After many meetings this past year, the relationship with PEBB and the coalition partners will continue as we move forward in the future. The coalition made gains in the following areas this past year with the backing of PEBB members: UMP-Classic Medicare is not being eliminated, PEBB and the Coalition took part in a series of listening sessions with PEBB members, and both groups are actively looking for ways to cut costs while not cutting care.

#### 2023 Media Award: Jackie Boschok

Jackie Boschok, president of the Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans (WSARA), is the editor and writer for the highly resourced WSARA Monday Alert. Every week, Jackie edits, composes, compiles, and emails the alert to union members, senior advocates, and allies throughout the state. The Monday Alert provides information concerning issues important to seniors and a defined call to action for the readers. Jackie does not just ask for action, she takes part by preparing volunteer kits which include talking points, voter lists, postcards, and postage stamps, and then she disseminates



the kits to volunteers by mail or other means. Jackie communicates and meets with legislative and congressional elected officials and their staff, tracks and meets with candidates, compares information from a variety of political resources, and promotes voter outreach volunteer opportunities. She has organized many rallies and high-profile events. She keeps the issues of retirement security, health care, prescription drug costs, and labor practices in the spotlight. Jackie searches out the background of stories. She knows when to make contacts directly and when to follow from a distance. Jackie is very connected to community groups and leaders, as she serves on the Washington State Labor Council, is chair of the Green River College Board of Trustees, and is the Washington State Women's Commission Commissioner. She belongs to the Machinists IAM 751 Retirement Club, Boeing Commercial Airplane Group.

#### Join today by mailing the WEA-PAC envelope provided, or join online using the link below!



Protect your pension and health care! Help elect pro-education and pro-labor candidates to state offices as well as local school boards. Only candidates who support education and labor, regardless of party affiliation, receive a WEA-PAC endorsement.



The WEA-PAC membership year runs from September through August. Please consider setting up a monthly or annual recurring donation. You may change or cancel at any time.

#### **Link for WEA-Retired members:**

https://bit.ly/donateWEAPAC

Protect Social Security and Medicare! Help elect pro-education, pro-labor, and pro-retirement security candidates to federal offices. To donate to the NEA-PAC (Fund for Children and Public Education), please make a donation at <a href="https://educationvotes.nea.org">https://educationvotes.nea.org</a>.



\*If you already have an ongoing monthly donation but would like to change the donation level or credit card/checking account being charged, please email Gena Mansell at GMansell@WashingtonEA.org or by mail at:

Washington Education Association
Attn: Gena Mansell, WEA-PAC/NEA-PAC Accounting Specialist
WEA
P.O. Box 9100

Federal Way, WA 98063-9100

# Freedom to Learn Rally at NEA RA

#### **By Karle Warren**

On a hot, humid, July day, your NEA-Retired Representative Assembly delegates attended the "Freedom to Learn" rally outside of the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. There were many reasons for us to attend the rally as individuals in this large gathering for public education. We were there for our brothers and sisters in public education whose teaching ability is being crushed by individuals who don't want the truth to be taught. We were there so that all students can safely learn in a high-quality public school, and we were there to show that politicians cannot destroy public schools for their personal gain.



The stage was full of inspirational speakers who stood up for students, education personnel, and communities throughout Florida. Was the event successful? Yes! The voices of all who attended the rally were loud and clear!

# Banned Book Bus at Freedom to Learn Rally By Mary Lindsey



Another key part of the rally was a MoveOn bookmobile full of banned books, ready to go on the road to distribute free of charge. As you know, Florida, Texas, and some other states are in full gear to ban books. They started banning books in some schools where only one parent complained, which caused classroom teachers to close their classroom libraries with the threat of being fired or charged with a felony. Now some schools are eliminating their school libraries entirely.

To learn more about this bookmobile, go to *MoveOn.org*.

I donate to both WEA-PAC and the NEA-PAC, as they are committed to supporting candidates for school board and local, state, and national elections who are pro-education and pro-labor. It does matter who is elected to office. Do you know that council teams of WEA-PAC members interview potential candidates to determine if they are worthy of a WEA-PAC endorsement?



# **Operation:** Delivering appreciation treats with supportive notes to school staff statewide!

- Goals:To show appreciation for the work actives do every day
- To promote pre-retired seminars and WEA-Retired scholarships



















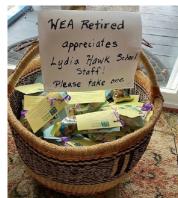
















# Congratulations to the 2023 WEA-Retired Scholarship recipients!

By Linda McGee, WEA-Retired Scholarship Representative



**Logan Borchard** is a first-year teacher at Northwood Elementary School in the Puyallup School District where he teaches music and orchestra to nearly 400 students. He will use his scholarship to attend the Level One Portland Orrf course, the leading pedagogy in elementary music education. In addition to being a performing artist, he has worked in a variety of capacities with young musicians around the Pacific Northwest.

**Alexa David** is in her sixth year of teaching and is currently teaching 6th grade leadership and math at Chief Joseph Middle School in Richland. She is working on her National Board

Certification, which she feels will assist her in becoming a more reflective and responsive educator. She facilitates Homework Club for students who need academic assistance, and she also advises Math is Cool Club.

twenty students attending twice weekly.





Amber Hanes is in her seventh year of teaching and is currently teaching 2nd grade at Mark Twain Elementary School in Pasco.

Although "COVID threw a curveball," she is now ready for the challenge of enhancing her teaching skills through National Board Certification. She has worked to revitalize her school's garden, and she facilitates the after-school garden club with over

**Jill Ives** has taught for eight years and is a social studies and AVID teacher in Richland. She is working on her Career Technical Education endorsement. This endorsement will allow her access to CTE funds,

which will give her AVID students access to more activities and opportunities that will prepare them for future education and career goals. She has also worked with Special Olympics Washington for over 20 years.





**Wendy Jordan** has taught in various settings since 2005 and is currently teaching culinary arts at Shorewood High School in Shoreline. She will use her scholarship to complete a certification in Holistic Landscape Design. She will use this to support the creation of a teaching garden that can be used by students and the surrounding community. Wendy also offers cooking classes through an organization that empowers young women (9-12) to learn skills to be self-sufficient.

Do you want to apply for a WEA-Retired Scholarship? To access the forms, visit www.WashingtonEA.org/ Retired starting in the fall. All applications are due in March and awarded in May.



Jennifer Lam is in her sixth year in education and is currently teaching 3rd grade at Hazelwood Elementary School in Lynnwood. She is working on her National Board Certification, with the goal of strengthening her teaching practices and improving student outcomes. She feels this experience will help her implement more evidence-based practices in her classroom. She serves as a Korean language teacher of students aged 4-18 at her church, both native and new speakers, and she also volunteers at a youth shelter.

**Nicollette LeTellier** has taught for 18 years and is currently teaching at Swiftwater Elementary School in Gig Harbor. She will use her scholarship to attend the Space Academy at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. She will use this week-long immersive experience to bring new experiences to her students and to work with the elementary STEM team to promote learning opportunities. Her passion for space has led her to facilitate a NASA and astronomy club at her school.





**Bailey Martin** has been a paraeducator for the past two years at Klahowya Secondary School in Silverdale, after spending time working as a nanny and at a financial institution. It was her experience as a nanny that led her into education. She is in the third year of earning a bachelor's degree in secondary mathematics. This year, she is coaching high school volleyball as well as tutoring a student through the Klahowya's Native American program.

**Ann McPartion** is in her 25th year of teaching elementary school through high school, all in Tacoma. She is currently

teaching special education math at the online high school. She will use her scholarship toward completing her doctorate, emphasizing integrating technology. She plans to use her degree to promote best practices for teachers working online. She has coached high school and middle school sports and has been an advisor to a variety of clubs.





Joel Pals has been a music educator for 26 years in

Washington and Idaho and is currently teaching 4th through

12th grade music in Asotin, Washington. He plans to use his scholarship to complete the renewal of his National Board Certification, believing it will enhance his teaching skills and keep him on a path of continuous improvement. In addition to traveling with his music students to competitions and festivals, Joel serves as his association president and as a member of the bargaining team.

Would you like to donate to the WEA-Retired Scholarship fund? Checks should be made payable to WEA-Retired Scholarships, P.O. Box 820708, Vancouver, WA 98682.

# WEA-Retired Retreat & Board Meeting with time to create!

For the first time in a decade, WEA-Retired had a board retreat in March, followed the next day with a regular board meeting. We devoted the retreat to talking about membership and who or what prompted us to join WEA-Retired many years ago. We discussed our two WEA-Retired membership projects for the spring.



- 1. The April membership drive with the WEA-Retired \$50 rebates on life memberships (one payment & you are done). Ten UniServ Councils also either matched or exceeded our \$50 rebates for their members who joined WEA-Retired as a pre-retired member during April.
- 2. The progress of our major project of delivering an "appreciation treat with a supportive note" to working WEA members throughout the state. This project will continue during the 2023-24 school year. \*Most chapters could use some help in all phases of the preparing and delivery of the treats to schools in your area. Send an email to WEARetired@WashingtonEA.org with your name and chapter/council name if you are interested in helping. Your email will be shared with your local chapter.

After sharing what was happening in each of our 22 chapters (one for each council area), we enjoyed a dinner catered by the Renton Technical College. We like to support our local culinary students. Then it was time to create a painting, thanks to the two instructors from Pinot's Palette in Federal Way who came to us at the WEA headquarters.

On Day 2, we had our regular board meeting. We approved the self-nominated delegates to our Annual Meeting, some constitution/bylaws/policy revisions, and a \$1,000 donation to the WEA-Retired Children's Fund. We also discussed our NBI to be submitted to the WEA RA - "Study Group for Automatic WEA-Active to WEA-



Retired Membership Status." (This passed at the RA!) We also heard committee reports and ended the day with a presentation from Teresa Muench from NEA Member Benefits.

#### **WEA-Retired Board of Directors 2023-24**

A complete listing of our board can be found at www.WashingtonEA.org/retired.

We have two chapter board director openings, one in WEA Eastern Washington and one in WEA Lower Columbia. If you are interested, please contact

Mary Lindsey at WEARetired@WashingtonEA.org.

# Who to 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) Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/public-employees-benefits-board-800-200-1004 or pebb-program

**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

\*SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance **Benefit Advisors**) 800-562-6900 or www.insurance.wa.gov/statewide-health-insurance-benefits-advisors-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**

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

**NEA-Member Benefits** 800-708-4632 www.neamb.com

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

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

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

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

**WEA Switchboard** 253-941-6700



P.O. Box 9100 Federal Way, WA 98063-9100

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Does WEA-Retired have your current email and phone numbers? If not, please update at https://forms.WashingtonEA.org/forms/memberupdate

# **Connections**

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#### **Important dates**

Sept. 7: Virtual PEBB Health Care Update

Sept. 14: Virtual Pre-Retirement Seminar Training for the

irainers

Sept. 20-21: Virtual 4th Annual Sept. Conference for WEA-Retired Members

#### Save the dates

Jan. 22: WEA-Retired/RPEC Legislative Day in Olympia

April 11-13: WEA RA in Spokane

June 5-6: WEA-Retired Annual Meeting in Federal Way

#### Ally Organizations' Events

Sept. 12: Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans

(WSARA) Annual Convention

Oct. 19: Senior Citizens' Lobby Annual Fall Conference

#### **WEA-Retired Governance Meetings**

Executive Committee-Sept. 15, Oct. 17 Board Meeting-Oct. 18

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

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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Secretary Pam Fuelling

Neva Luke Financial Director

WEA Staff Brooke Mattox-Ball

P.O. Box 9100 Federal Way, WA 98063-9100 www.WashingtonEA.org/Retired