Sean Foster

My name is Sean Foster. I am currently in my 11th year teaching and my 7th year (of many more) teaching here in Washington. I have been involved in the union since I began teaching in Idaho and I now proudly serve as the Vice President of the Sumner-Bonney Lake Education Association as well as Secretary for the Puget Sound UniServ Council. I have served as a local VP in Idaho, MAC chair for SBLEA, and I have been honored to serve as a State and National representative in Idaho, Washington, and for NEA. I proudly participate in labor and social justice organizing around the Puget Sound Area as well, focused mainly on aid for our unhoused neighbors, tenant organizing, anti-fascism, and refugee resettlement. People who know me know that I bring passion and dedication to the project of unionism and organized labor both in my day-to-day work as well as in my personal life. This work truly motivates me as I believe that organized labor is the force that will - and truly the only force that can - change our country and world for the better. Thank you for reading.

Daniel Harada

My name is Daniel Harada and I currently am working as a teacher librarian in Federal Way. Before serving in the library I worked as a 2nd and 5th grade classroom teacher. I have been a member of the board for the last few years and hope to keep representing PSUC at the state level. I have been an active member at the local, regional, state, and national level and hope to keep being able to highlight the amazing work we are doing and bring back more ideas to improve upon the work we are doing. I thank you for your support!

Charnjit Dhoot

Charnjit (Char) Dhoot Administrative Secretary for Student Health Services. Support with budget, hiring, on boarding, training, staffing, payroll etc. Assist with student immunization and any other health issues. I am in the union because I believe in unity and it's power for betterment of all working class people. I can be reached at 360-980-2704 or email: chardhoot@gmail.com

Meesh Vecchio

Meesh Vecchio is in their 20th year as an educator, currently serving as the Seattle EA Vice President, and formerly a special education teacher and reading specialist. These experiences in the classroom and working in union have informed their contributions to WEA: attending WEA and NEA RAs, actively participating with WEA caucuses, and supporting statewide collaboration to fund to special education. Meesh has prioritized membership, organization, and strengthening our collective power. Uplifting the voices of members across Seattle and working across our councils ensures we address our strategic goals: promoting legislative funding for public schools, fighting back against professional and personal attacks on educators, and targeting the systems of marginalization, white supremacy, and oppression that disempower our communities within labor and education. Beyond their work in Seattle and Washington EA, Meesh is an advocate for collective liberation. This has driven them to unapologetically support our movements to Teach Truth and expand Ethnic Studies. They have collaborated on curriculum with Seattle Public Schools and within communities of educators through Washington State Ethnic Studies Now and the Black Prisoners Caucus. They have built and protected community resources for LGBTQ+ youth and adults, particularly focusing on mental health and substance abuse. In alignment with WEAPAC and beyond EA efforts, they have advocated for progressive taxation of the wealthiest business and Washingtonians and supported grassroots movements to bargain for the common good and increase unionization of workers, to fight exploitation and strengthen our collective voice.

Elizabeth Ward-Robertson

My name is Elizabeth Ward-Robertson, who enjoys working in service of others. I am running for Re-Election to the WEA Board. I am an Education Support Professional who is committed to serving members including raising the issues & voice of all our ESP's across the State. As a WEA board Director, I will be dedicated to the work of our union as well as be committed to upholding our organization's values, operations, and fiscal responsibility with an equitable lens. I welcome and appreciate having your vote.

(Candidates were not required to submit a statement or picture)

Katie Haynes

Ellen Simonis

I have been teaching since 1985. I taught in Oregon for 10 years before moving to Washington in 1995. I settled in the Columbia River Gorge, teaching in Wishram for 7 years before being hired in Trout Lake, where I have spent the last 22 years. My time in WA has been in small rural schools, but the bulk of my time in Oregon was spent in a large urban school - so I have worked in both environments. Having worked in both states has also given me a deeper appreciation for the importance of a strong union at all levels.

WEA Olympic UniServ Council

WEA Board Director Nominees

Saralyn Pozernick

I currently serve as the President of the Sequim EA, which is a position that has shown me the power of a unified union. I am running for the WEA Board of Directors because, as a full-time teacher and part-time local president, I see and experience the issues WEA members face every day. I am committed to representing the members of the WEA Olympic Council by supporting policies that emphasize teacher well-being and build bridges between front-line WEA members and the WEA leadership. I would be honored to have your vote.

John Richardson

I have been on the board for the past two years. I am concerned about the direction of WEA. If feel that the leadership in WEA needs to listen to the wants and needs of the members. I will work hard to make sure your voice is heard if elected.