

NORTHSHORE NEWS

April, 2006

NORTHSHORE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Issue 8



NSEA Calendar

April 2006

- ◆ April 17th: Tax Day
- ◆ April 17th: Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-5:30 pm BHS Library
- ◆ April 21st: NSEA Nominations Due

May 2006

- ◆ May 1st: Exec Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ May 7th-13th: Teacher Appreciation Week
- ◆ May 8th: Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-5:30 pm BHS Library
- ◆ May 9th-11th: NSEA Elections
- ◆ May 22nd: Exec Board Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ May 29th: Memorial Day NSEA Office Closed
- ◆ May 30th: Non-Student Day

June 2006

- ◆ June 1st: Retiree Reception, 3:30 pm, Administration Center
- ◆ June 19th: Last Day of School
- ◆ June 20th: Teacher Work Day
- ◆ June 28th: Summer Academy Begins



Don't Sign Away Your WEA Membership!

The Evergreen Freedom Foundation (EFF) regularly sends out a mailing to WEA members in the spring, asking educators if they want a "rebate" on a portion of their union dues. While the rebate sounds very appealing, members who sign up may also be severing their membership with WEA, leaving them unprotected by union services such as legal representation.

If you receive a mailing from the EFF offering any kind of refund or rebate, READ THE INFORMATION CAREFULLY and make sure you know what you are signing. Too many members find out too late that they have given up their WEA membership when they never meant to.

WEA-RA Update



NSEA delegates Peggy Sherman and Katie Droudahl enjoy some down time at WEA-RA.

The 2006 WEA Rep Assembly (held in Tacoma this year) has come and gone and now the real work to implement our decisions begins. As usual, RA was filled with great dialogue involving key issues. Our "Take The Lead" campaign was a major area of focus this year. During break-out sessions, Reps shared stories depicting how "46, 42, and "Dead Last" affects them in their professional lives. Later, Reps committed to working on their local "Take the Lead" efforts in coming months. NSEA members will be hearing a lot more about this major WEA initiative to improve school funding in Washington state.

Reps approved a short-term dues assessment to deal with Indoor Air Quality issues in our schools, which are taking a toll on educational employees and students every day. Spirited debate swirled around the issue of the True Rule of 90. After much debate and amendments, RA delegates voted to push for the "True Rule of 85" instead, which means when an employees' age combined with years of service equals 85, the employee becomes eligible to retire.

Perhaps the most important New Business Item (NBI) at RA focused on compensation. Sponsored by Kevin Teeley, Chair of the Compensation Strategy Planning Group, the measure called for additional compensation for school employees who earn certification for their various job classifications and offered some criteria for future alternative compensation packages. These recommendations will go to WEA lobbyists as priorities for the 2007 legislative session.

Rousing guest speakers included Governor Christine Gregoire, who kicked off the RA by expressing her support for education improvements in Washington state. Senator Maria Cantwell spoke of the fight to restore education monies cut by the Bush Administration. And Bill Gates Sr. spoke to WEA-PAC members about the need to reform Washington state's tax structure. Gates gave one of the clearest explanations of regressive taxation that I have ever heard. His impressive and telling charts will be linked to the WEA web page. I encourage you to view them.

If you have never attended RA, I urge you to run for a delegate position next year! The assembly will meet in Tacoma again in 2007 and you will have the opportunity to shape the direction of our association as we move through some pivotal years ahead.

Tim

EFF Loses Again in Supreme Court Case

WEA's recent state Supreme Court victory is complicated, but one thing is clear: WEA does not spend non-members' fees on candidate contributions or ballot measures.

"...there is no indication or argument that WEA is compelling non-members to support political activities or preventing non-members from asserting their First Amendment rights," the Washington Supreme Court ruled.

Since the ruling, the Evergreen Freedom Foundation has tried hard to cloud the issue in the media and in e-mails to WEA members. EFF's spin is designed to cause confusion and doubt. Yet in its latest spam e-mail, EFF got one thing right: "...unions cannot spend dues on politics if a teacher objects."

That's true, and it's why the Supreme Court ruled in our favor.

At issue is a state law governing how WEA spends agency fees collected from educators who have chosen not to join the association but who are required to pay their fair share for contract representation. The court struck down the state law because it conflicted with an existing federal law, which WEA follows.

The Court ruling is a major defeat for the anti-public education Evergreen Freedom Foundation, which initiated the court case five years ago. It is the third time in recent years that the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of WEA members and against EFF.

Washington Attorney General Rob McKenna has said he will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, but it is unknown whether the court will hear the case.

Stress Reduction Tips

The "s" in Spring often stands for "Stress." But rather than just grit your teeth and put up with it, you can help yourself and your colleagues deal with work challenges as get through the rest of the school year. Here are some things to try:

- ◆ **Communicate with each other**
You might be faced with the same problem as many others in your building or department. Share your issue and ask for advice.
- ◆ **Ask for help**
As the poet said, "No one is an island" and educators LOVE to help. Ask for assistance if you need it. Then be prepared to offer a helping hand to a colleague in need.
- ◆ **If you don't have one, create a secret pal program.**
- ◆ **Hold a monthly potluck or social in your building**
- don't forget to honor birthdays
- ◆ **Ask your students to write a "thank you" note to a teacher they had in previous years and pass those notes on to your colleagues.**
- ◆ **Support each other in enforcing school rules**
No one wants to be the "bad guy" while everyone else looks the other way.
- ◆ **Share contract information**
If someone's rights are being violated, help them look up contract language for assistance or work together to approach your administration for a reasonable solution.
- ◆ **Hold a "Friday Function" off campus to socialize, share ideas, and vent.**



- ◆ **Ask for help**
As the poet said, "No one is an island" and educators LOVE to help. Ask for assistance if you need it. Then be prepared to offer a helping hand to a colleague in need.
- ◆ **If you don't have one, create a secret pal program.**
- ◆ **Hold a monthly potluck or social in your building**
- don't forget to honor birthdays

Classifieds

Wapato Point Timeshare for Sale: Four weeks per year \$4,500. Sleeps 5, 2 baths, 2 TVs, etc. Great waterfront location, private, with easy access to the water. Corner split level unit with a deck off the living area and private patio. Awesome views and close moorage. The weeks rotate every year. Every 5th year you will have a 5th week for free. Quarterly dues are \$388. Call 425-483-0776 or email jshoe_bothell@hotmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

Cabo San Lucas Vacation Rental: Pueblo Bonito Rose or Pueblo Bonito Sunset. 5 star resort sleeps 4 to 6 people. \$600 to \$800 depending on size of unit needed. For an extra exchange fee of \$129, the location could be changed to Mazatlan, which is also a 5 star resort. Contact Lynn Piscitelli (425) 788-6953 (home) or (425) 381-1122 (cell).

Want an opportunity to continue to help students while making extra money? Academic Link, an area enrichment center is hiring tutors to work one on one with students in all subject areas. We connect students who want to learn with teachers who want to teach. Call 425-827-8137 or write jan@academiclink.us.

Free Training for Members

Does your staff want to learn some time management strategies? How about a history of unions? Managing stress? Or maybe learn more about their contract? Or something else? Your union leadership can provide FREE training on a variety of topics...and cookies are always provided!

Contact the NSEA office for more information.

Northshore News is a publication of the Northshore Education Association. NSEA is the bargaining agent of the certificated staff of the Northshore School District.

7104 NE 181st Street, #106
Kenmore, WA 98028
Phone: 425-486-7101
Fax: 425-486-7154
www.northshoreea.org

Tim Brittell, President
nseapres@washingtonea.org

Kathy Rose, Vice President
Woodin Elementary
krrose@nsd.org

Kelly Allen, UniServ Rep
kallen@washingtonea.org

Lydia King, Administrative Assistant
lking@washingtonea.org

NSEA Executive Board
Annette Loy, Secretary/Treasurer
Kokanee Elementary
aloy@nsd.org

Gail Barnfather, Northshore JH
gbarnfather@nsd.org

Kathy Haugen, Bothell HS
khaugen@nsd.org

Steve Johnson, Shelton View Elem
sjohnson@nsd.org



We're Online!

At www.northshoreea.org, you will find:

- ◆ Bargaining updates, including electronic copies of *Focus On Bargaining*
- ◆ NSEA scholarship information
- ◆ Special Ed advice outlining your rights with special ed students
- ◆ Moving Packet which includes information on what the contract says about moving to a new room or building
- ◆ And much, much more!

Check it out today.

www.northshoreea.org