



NTEA Connection



NTEA Website: www.nteaonline.org

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President's Corner

January 2005

"Nominations are now being accepted for the WEA Representative Assembly ... and the NEA Representative Assembly ..."

Welcome back from a well deserved winter break. In just three weeks we will be half way through the school year, and for many of you, once again time to do grades. The days when doing report cards were simple, are no longer a reality. Your concerns regarding Skyward and grading have been shared with the administration. I appreciate those of you who have taken the time to provide me with detailed information as to the pros and cons of this system. The more information I receive from you, the better I can representing your interests and improve working conditions.

Continuing to represent your interests, our second bargaining session involved discussions on calendar, conferences, academic learning time, professional waiver days and late starts. Most of this information has come via your building representatives and many of you have e-mailed me personally. This has become an important source of information.

The school board held a work session on December 13, 2004 at which time the above mentioned topics were discussed. The calendar of the school year is continually in need of adjustment. The intent of the work session was to dialog and gain a clear understanding of what has been successful this year, and where we need improvement in regard to the school calendar.

Teachers are continually being asked to do more, often with less time and resources. Now it is time we ask for help from the school board and the administration in accomplishing these extra responsibilities. This year's implementation of the additional professional waiver days was an attempt to aid teachers with needed non-student time. The board and administration will now review the value of these waiver days when making decisions on next year's calendar.

We are now looking at another year, 2005. Keep in touch with your building representatives and I welcome your e-mails and suggestions. Access our website at www.nteaonline.org. Eventually I would like most of NTEA's communication to be delivered by means of this site. *Remember that working together we can make a difference.*

Nominations are Open for WEA and NEA RA

Nominations are now being accepted for the WEA Representative Assembly (to be held May 12-14 in Spokane) and the NEA Representative Assembly (to be held June 30 - July 6 in Los Angeles, California). Nominations will close at the February 16th Representative Council Meeting. NTEA is entitled to fourteen delegates for the WEA Representative Assembly and



four for the NEA Representative Assembly. If you are interested in running for either of these positions, please call Donna at the NTEA Office.

Plans 2 and 3 Retirement Members May Make Changes in January

During January 2005 eligible members will have the opportunity to make changes to certain plan selections.

Plan 2 to Plan 3

Eligible TRS, SERS and PERS Plan 2 members have the opportunity to transfer to Plan 3 during the month of January. For details, including eligibility criteria and tools to help you decide the best choice for your situation, please visit www.drs.wa.gov.

It's important to remember that the decision to transfer to Plan 3 is irrevocable -- once you make that decision, you cannot return to Plan 2.

TRS Plan 3 contribution rate

Also in January, TRS Plan 3 members will have the opportunity to change their contribution rate. Additional information about this option, including the required TRS Plan 3 Contribution Change Rate Form, is available on the TRS Plan 3 website at www.icmarc.org/plan3/trs/. The form must be completed and submitted to your employer by January 31.

Mark Your Calendars and Grab Your Hat for Read Across America

It's time to start planning for NEA's Read Across America 2004-2005 -- our 8th Year! Since 1998, NEA's Read Across America has been an open invitation for all of America -- young and old -- to celebrate and share their own reading adventures. Last year millions of people celebrated the joy of reading on NEA's Read Across America Day. We invite you to join us for the nation's biggest reading celebration! NEA's Read Across America knows reading is "Where it's Hat" and NEA is leading the nation in a multi-cultural, multi-hatted way!

Research has shown that children who read outside of school do better in school. So, we are expanding NEA's Read Across America to keep reading fun on the calendar 365 days a year -- while keeping the traditional celebration on Dr. Seuss's birthday as the culmination of a year long focus on reading.

The 2004-05 Resource Kit is newly designed, featuring posters full of reproducible items from logos and certificates to reading activities and bookmarks. We've also added a poster for teen readers, and a CD-ROM for NEA members. To request a kit, fill out NEA's on-line form, and remember to check regularly for updates. And don't forget, as a year-round program Read Across America offers resources for all ages, all year long. Explore this website thoroughly for a myriad of ideas and information.

What else is new from NEA's Read Across America? Sign up for a monthly E-newsletter and find out! When you fill out the on-line form, be sure to check "Please add me to NEA's Read Across America new monthly E-newsletter" (for members only).



"Money can fund education projects to develop ties between your community and a classroom, grade level, department, building, or district."

Want to Connect to the Community?

Do you have a great idea/project to connect school and community, but no money for funding? WEA Chinook has the answer! A Community Outreach Grant.



The WEA Representative Assembly has designated an assessment to promote community/school relationships. Money can fund education projects to develop ties between your community and a classroom, grade level, department, building, or district. The money must help members build connections with people external to their school/classroom, i.e., parents, community groups, or organizations.

Examples of projects previously approved are: Read Across America activities, family bingo night, volunteer recognition, family literacy day, mother-daughter book club, etc.

To apply, call the NTEA Office or go to www.wea-chinook.org for more details and an application form.

Gary Brown Scholarship Fund

As you may know, NTEA lost an Association colleague and office partner when Gary Brown, the Olympia Education Association President, passed away in December. As a memorial to Gary, a scholarship fund has been established. If you would like to contribute, please send donations to "Gary Brown Scholarship Fund" in care of the NTEA Office.

WEA-Retired Offers Four Scholarships

WEA-Retired is offering four \$500 nonrenewable scholarships for the purpose of aiding WEA members (certificated, classified, and SWEA) in enhancing skills in specific education areas and/or attaining a teaching certificate. Please request a form (as easy as sending a postcard with your return address) from the WEA-Retired Scholarship Committee at 51 SE Bayview Lane, Shelton, WA 98584 and indicate at that time whether you are 1) certificated, 2) classified, or 3) a student WEA member.

You may also go on-line at www.washingtonnea.org and follow the link to scholarships to obtain the appropriate form and further information that will be required.

Don't delay! The completed form and application letter must be received by April 15, 2005. Recipients will be notified by phone by May 17, 2005.



NEA Member Benefits Provides January Website Giveaway

Start a New Year's nest egg with a \$200 U.S. Savings Bond courtesy of NEA Member Benefits! NEA members can register anytime during the month of January 2005 in the "Free Giveaways" area of the NEA Member Benefits Website (www.neamb.com) for a chance to win one of three \$200 U.S. Savings Bonds. Giveaway entry begins on January 1, 2005 and ends on January 31, 2005. No purchase is necessary to enter.



"WEA provides members with attorney services at a discounted hourly rate for personal legal matters that are not employment related."



Horace Mann Scholarship Program Funds Children of School Employees

Children of school employees may apply for the Horace Mann Scholarship Program. The criteria are:

- You must be a child or legal dependent of a U.S. public or private school employee.
- You must have at least a "B" grade point average
- You must be an entering freshman in the fall of 2005 at a two- or four-year accredited college or university from which you can earn an associate's or bachelor's degree.

To apply on-line log on at www.horacemann.com. Each time the website is visited, students must update their application by clicking on the web browser's "refresh" or "reload" button. Applications are due March 15, 2005. The scholarships include: one \$15,000 award (payable over four years); one \$10,000 award (payable over four years); and ten one-time \$2500 awards in select markets.

Do You Need An Attorney?

If you need a lawyer, WEA provides members with attorney services at a discounted hourly rate for personal legal matters that are not employment related.

Participating attorneys will provide each member with two 30 minute consultation sessions during each school year period. These two free consultations are taken separately and deal with two different questions.

This benefit allows you to discuss your problem with an attorney to determine whether you need additional legal services. (Some restrictions may apply.)

If you need additional services and your problem falls within any of the areas listed below, the attorney's fees are discounted 30%:

- Real estate matters
- Domestic relations
- Traffic violations (including DUI)
- Wills and estates
- Consumer protection

The participating attorneys in our area are Clint Morgan (357-5700) and Ralph Smith (352-2282). When calling, please identify yourself as an NTEA member.



Call Pat at 753-5154 for: Thule roof rack with 2 bike racks (tilt-up front tire stays on) and ski rack. Cost: \$225.00. Men's Descente powder suit. Never worn. Black with blue, red and silver accents. Fits 5'10 - 6'0" and 165-200 lbs. Cost \$1200 -- asking \$350. Men's dry suit - Harvey's Rubatex. 7 mm. Relief zipper and hood. Kevlar kneepads. 5'10" plus -- 175-200 lbs. Cost: \$500. Assorted dive gear available.

Call Dolora at 867-4963 for: Washer/dryer; oak twin bed with bookcase headboard and under bed drawers. Children's clothes and crib bedding.

The River Ridge High School Theater is presenting *Broadway Celebrations*. The show is a compilation of scenes, monologues, dances, and songs from plays and musicals that have appeared on Broadway. This show serves as a fund-raiser for the theater group to attend a competition in Nebraska. It will run January 6, 7 and 8th. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.

January 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	HAPPY NEW YEAR!					New Year's Day Kwanzaa Ends 1
 2	School Resumes School Board 7:00 3		NTEA Executive Board 4:00 4	Legislative Reception WEA Chinook Office 5:00  6	Librarian's Meeting 7:00 a.m. Joint Housing 12:30 7	
	9 NTPS / NTEA Bargaining	10 NTSEF Meeting 6:30		11	12	13
	14	15		16	17	18
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day IO SCHOOL	NTEA President Meets with Supt. Koval School Board 7:00	NTEA Rep. Council District Office Boardroom 5:00			
			National School Nurse Day		End of Quarter/ Semester	
	NTEA President Meets with Supt. Koval					