



NTEA Connection



NTEA Website: www.nteaonline.org

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President's Corner

March 2005

Welcome back from a short, but well deserved break!

Dr. Koval and I are currently making building visits, and listening to input concerning our district, effective schools, and calendar and conferencing issues, just to mention a few topics. We are visiting all schools and grade levels and it is important to note that the basic issues are the same throughout our district.

It has become painfully evident that many of us have lost our sense of humor due to mounting, increasing demands. While looking for that sense of humor, I ran across the following airline mechanics log:

After every flight, Quantas pilots fill out a form, called a "gripe sheet," which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight.

Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Quantas' pilots and the solutions recorded by maintenance engineers. By the way, Quantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident. (P=The problem logged by the pilot.) (S=The solution and action taken by mechanics.)

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

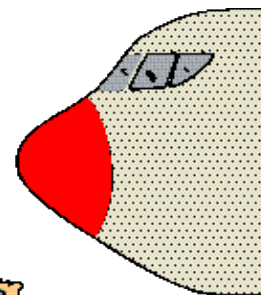
S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

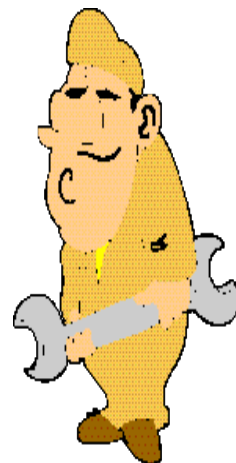
S: That's what they're for.



"It has become painfully evident that many of us have lost our sense of humor due to mounting, increasing demands."

"Gregoire supports funding voter-approved COLAs for public school employees."

- P: Suspected crack in windshield.
- S: Suspect you're right.
- P: Number three engine missing.
- S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.
- P: Aircraft handles funny. (I love this one!)
- S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.
- P: Target radar hums.
- S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.
- P: Mouse in cockpit. (This one's great, too!)
- S: Cat installed.
- P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.
- S: Took hammer away from midget.



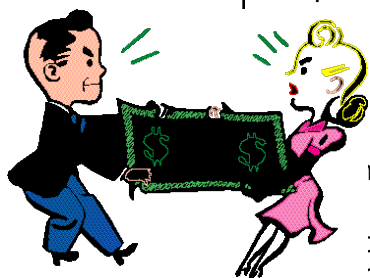
If only we could solve all the educational issues with humor!
Remember that working together we can make a difference.

Compensation / School Funding

Thank Gregoire for supporting our COLAs -- Governor Chris Gregoire says she plans to release a budget after March 17, which is when the next state revenue forecast is scheduled. One thing is certain: Gregoire supports funding voter-approved COLAs for public school employees. At the WEA-PAC convention last spring, and in her inaugural speech last month, Gregoire pledged support for educator cost-of-living adjustments.

Gregoire deserves credit for taking such a strong stance in support of improved compensation. With the state facing a large budget shortfall, insuring funding for I-732 will be crucial.

WEA members who wish to thank Gregoire for supporting our COLAs can either call the Legislative Hotline at 800-562-6000 or e-mail her via the WEA web www.washingtonea.org. Open the link "WEA Legislative Action Ce



Elections Coming Up!

Elections for the WEA and NEA Representative Assembly will be held the week of February 28 - March 3, 2005. Please be sure to return your ballots to your building representative by Thursday, March 3, 2005.

Nominations will open for NTEA officers and UniServ representatives at the March NTEA Representative Council Meeting. Think about running for office this year! Are you interested in participating on a committee? Contact the NTEA Office for more information.

Quote for the Month

"This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

"WEA is launching this ... system as ... one of the tools that your WEA Board of Directors and your elected Representative Assembly Delegates will use as they create future policy."

Can You Hear Me NOW? WEA Online Survey

You are invited to share your valuable opinion by completing an all-member, online survey. WEA is launching this sensing system as one way to hear your voices. It is one of the tools that your WEA Board of Directors and your elected Representative Assembly Delegates will use as they create future policy.

The survey is available beginning Tuesday, March 1, for three weeks. Access it by going to www.washingtonea.org/mysurvey/.



As a WEA member, you are part of a 77,000 plus organization of people who value education. We come from many towns, cities, states and even countries. We bring our life experience from many different backgrounds. We vote (or we don't vote) for different candidates and we have a wide variety of opinions. And with all of that diversity, our common thread is that we value education.

As a member-driven democracy, it is our duty and our privilege to work together to meet our needs. Do your part to make sure we hear your personal opinions and concerns. Please take time to share your voice with us.

We hope this survey will be one step in connecting with members and developing a sensing system that identifies issues and expectations so we can work together to reach our collective goals.

This new sensing system will only be as strong as the number of members who participate. We can hear you wherever you are and we encourage you to participate.

Retire / Rehire Clarification

Since the legislature passed a retire / rehire bill several years ago, there has been confusion and speculation surrounding this bill. Currently, there is movement within the legislature to rewrite this bill allowing only certain subject areas to be on a retire / rehire (1.0 FTE) status.



A retired teacher has always been able to retire and work part-time for the state or a school district, even prior to the retire / rehire bill. Currently, a retired individual can work up to 867 hours and not have it affect their retirement status. This is equivalent to a .6 FTE teaching position.

To learn more about reemployment issues, write: Department of Retirement Systems, Attention: Teachers' Retirement System, PO Box 48380, Olympia, Washington 98504-8380, telephone 1-800-547-6657 (toll-free); or in the Olympia area (360) 664-7000, or e-mail recep@drs.wa.gov. The DRS website is www.drs.wa.gov. Please include the following information written correspondence:

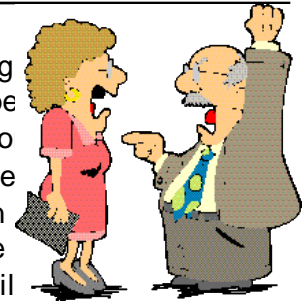
- System and Plan
- Social Security Number
- Mailing Address
- Daytime telephone number.



"Do you have a great idea/project to connect school and community, but no money for funding?"

Association Leadership Training

WEA Chinook is sponsoring a training for building representatives and other local leaders. Participants will be provided with the skills and practice necessary to be an anchor in a positive, proactive, problem solving approach to grievance processing. If you are interested in becoming more active in Association work, this training is for you! The training will be held on Tuesday, March 29th, at the WEA Chinook Council Office, 5200 Capitol Blvd., Tumwater, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. with dinner provided. Three clock hours are available. Please contact Lori at the WEA Chinook Office at 360-943-1776 or lbowen-nadeau@washingtonea.org to reserve a place. Lori needs your RSVP by Wednesday, March 23.



Looking for Funding for A Community Project?

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 annual dues 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 approached 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.



52 Ways to Help Your Child Learn Available

The Washington Education Association has provided NTEA with copies of their booklet, *52 Ways to Help Your Child Learn*. This helpful booklet suggests activities for parents and children and ways to encourage learning. Copies are also available in Spanish and Russian and can be distributed to parents during parent-teacher conferences. If you would like to have the booklets for your conferences, call the NTEA Office.



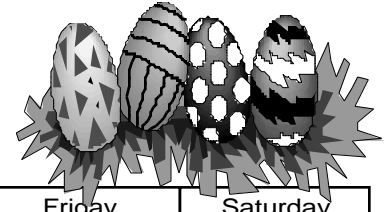
The River Ridge Theatre presents *West Side Story*, March 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12. Five faculty members join the student actors in the River Ridge High School Theatre production. General admission is \$8.00 and curtain is 7:30. Call 412-4837 if you have questions.



At the end of January we discovered a **key** left in the OEA/NTEA/TEA Office. The key is on an aqua colored, coiled wrist cord. It has the letters "C" and "M" listed on it and "do not duplicate." If the key is yours, please call the office at 352-5220.

Washer and Gas Dryer -- Sears Kenmore ultra fabric care, heavy duty, extra capacity plus. Eight years old in great condition. Owners manual and accessories are included. Dryer is set up for Propane, but easily converted to natural gas. Cost: \$225 for both. Call 866-7807 or 870-0218.

Trampoline - good condition - Cost: \$75.00. Call 866-7807 or 870-0218.

March 2005



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Supt/Pres. Visit Chinook 7:30 1	Supt/Pres Visit Nisqually MS 7:45 NTEA Exec. Board NTEA Office 4:00 2	3	4	5
6	Contract Admin. 4:00 School Board 7:00 7	Supt/Pres Visit NTHS 7:30 8	Supt/Pres Visit L. Hawk 7:45 Effective Schools Training 9	PEAC Meeting WEA Chinook 5:30 Effective Schools Training 10	Teacher Professional Day <u>No Students</u> Effective Schools Training 11	Effective Schools Training 12
13	School Board Community Meeting District Office 12:00 14	Supt/Pres Visit Lacey 8:00 Bond Meeting NTEA Office 6:30 15	NTEA Rep Council Bower Center 5:00 School Board Community Input Meeting NTHS Commons 16	St. Patrick's Day Supt/Pres Visit Meadows 8:15 17	End of Trimester 18	19
First Day of Spring  20	School Board 7:00 21	Supt/Pres Visit RRHS 7:30 Sev. Oaks 3:30 Bond Meeting NTEA 6:30 22	Supt/Pres Visit Mt. View 8:00 23	Conferences No Students WEA Chinook Rep Council 5:30 24	Good Friday 25	26
Easter 27	28	Supt/Pres Visit Lakes 8:10 NTSEF Meeting 6:30 29	Supt/Pres Visit Pl. Glade 8:15 30	31	