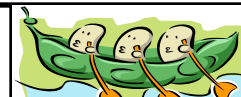


P.E.A. PATCH



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PEA

March 2015

Revenue solutions exist, but it takes leadership and vision

The state Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that the state was in violation of the constitution, and must take steps to fully fund education by 2018.

Despite that ruling, known as the McCleary decision, legislators have been dragging their feet on coming up with the funds to comply with the court's decision. Last year, the Supreme Court even went so far as to hold the Legislature in contempt of court, demanding that they allocate sufficient resources in the 2015 legislative session to comply with the ruling.

As a result, legislators have a contempt-of-court judgment hanging over their heads, but many are reluctant to consider new revenue sources.

Clearly, additional revenue is needed to not only fund the McCleary decision, but also I-1351, which reduces class sizes in our state's public schools. If, in one day, the Legislature can approve \$8.7 billion in tax breaks for Boeing, it can find the revenue to fund public education.

Governor Inslee has proposed two tax increases that will help make the system fairer while raising more funds for education and health and social services.

- A tax on capital gains. Washington is one of only nine states without a capital gains tax.
- A tax on big companies that pollute our environment.

Have an opinion on this? Be sure to let the governor and our legislators know. Go to www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org from your personal device during non-working hours and be heard.

Your voice is important!!

H&R Block can help make tax time less stressful!

NEA Member Benefits and H&R Block have joined forces to offer discounts and special pricing on tax preparation for NEA members.

To find an office near you, visit hrblock.com or call 1.800.HRBLOCK (472.5625)

Offer expires March 31, 2015. Take advantage of the special tax savings for NEA members. You will also find special pricing on software and online programs listed for NEA members.

Peninsula Education Association – Affiliated with Washington Education Association & National Education Association

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Visit Peninsulaea.com

March: Comes in like a lion out like a lamb

Red Cross Month	March 2. Reach Across America
Irish American Heritage Month	March 8 Daylight saving time
Music in our Schools Month	March 11 Johnny Appleseed Day Grading Day
National Middle Schools Month	March 17 St Patrick's Day
Women's History Month	March 19 Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
Youth Art Month	March 20 First day of spring
March 21 Baha'I New Year's Day	
	International Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 30 Extended Day Conferences (Elementary)	

Retirement in your future?

If you see retirement in your near future, there are a few things you might want to plan before you reach that last day.

- Make an appointment with the Department of Retirement Systems to go over your service credit and years of experience. It is a good idea to check the accuracy of your records.
- Payroll staff can help in reviewing your sick leave cash out, VEBA, COBRA medical and optional benefits.
- Tentative date of Saturday May 2 for a VALIC workshop on Social Security options, details will be forthcoming.

What is WEA-PAC?

WEA-PAC is a political action committee founded to help elect pro-education candidates to the state legislature and state offices, regardless of their party affiliation. WEA-PAC is supported by voluntary contributions from WEA members, usually through a payroll deduction of just \$2.25 per month.

Candidates endorsed by WEA-PAC go through a rigorous questionnaire and interview process to ensure their positions are in line with WEA's legislative agenda. Once endorsed, candidates receive financial as well as member volunteer resources to help with their campaigns for election.

Check with your building rep for more information on WEA-PAC and how your voice can be heard. Being as busy as we all are this is an easy way to have our voices heard in Olympia.

Additional information can be found at www.ourvoicewashingtonea.org

Did you know...

The legislature has granted more than 640 tax exemptions over the years, and that more than 75 of them were passed AFTER the state was sued for failing to fully fund public education?