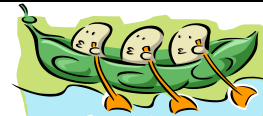


P.E.A. Patch



Volume 32 Issue #9

MAY, 2014

Annual election for VEBA

VEBA is a tax-free health reimbursement arrangement that we must vote on each year. We vote annually to determine participation in these programs.

1. A yes vote on annual sick leave contributions means that folks with more than 180 days of accumulated sick leave can cash out that leave,, placing those funds into their VEBA account. They can then use those funds for health care expenses. However, it is an all-or-nothing proposition: EVERYONE who has more than 180 days of sick leave has their excess leave placed in a VEBA account There is no time limit using these funds.
2. A yes vote on retirement or separation from service means that those folks retiring (or leaving PSD) would have their sick leave by back placed in a VEBA account. But, again, it means EVERYONE retiring or leaving has their funds placed in VEBA.

These are TAX-FREE and provide a great way to put away money toward future medical expenses. You will see the ballots in your boxes in the coming week.

Call the PEA office (851.8510)

How far have we fallen?

Washington State is often compared to Massachusetts—both are similar in size, demographics economic base and rigorous learning standards. Research by the Washington Association of School Administrators, show where Washington’s per-student funding stood in 1995 in relation to the national average, Massachusetts and consistently low-ranked Alabama.

In 2011 (the most recent statistics available) the national average for per-student funding soared to \$ 2, 501 above Washington. Massachusetts jumped from \$288 per student above Washington in 1995 to \$3865 above Washington in 2011. Even historically low-funded Alabama surpassed Washington—from \$728 per student below us in 1995 to \$697 above us in 2011.

On January 9, the Washington State Supreme Court ordered the Legislature to submit a comprehensive plan by April 30 indicating how they will fully fund our public schools by 2018.

The Court, like all of us, has had enough of delays and excuses. It is time for the Legislature to obey the Washington State Constitution and give us the resources we need to provide a high quality public school education for all the students in our state. Our students deserve nothing less.

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

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| | | |
|----------------|---|----------|
| President | Jim Falcocchio | 851-8710 |
| Vice President | Carol Rivera (Goodman Middle School) | 530-1600 |
| Secretary | Jennifer Prince(Gig Harbor High School) | 530-1400 |
| Treasurer | Karin Ashabraner (Goodman Middle School) | 530-1600 |

Signatures needed for class size reduction

We can do better! Washington ranks 47th out of 50 states in class size, and our students are suffering. Our class sizes, caseloads, and staffing levels are completely unacceptable. Despite the State Supreme Court's 2012 McCleary decision, our class sized and staffing levels have not yet improved. Our students can't wait any longer.

Initiative 1351 will phase in reduced class and increased staffing over 4 years. The initiative was filed by **CLASS SIZE COUNTS**, an organization comprised of parents, teachers, and community leaders.

For more details look for your edition of WE 2.0 and read the back of the petition or go to the *CLASS SIZE COUNTS website*. *Building reps have further information..*

WEA has a new Professional Development network

The new 2013-14 Professional Development Network is just getting off the ground and is now available to members. If you follow the steps below, you can become familiar with the current registration process:

1. Click on the PD Network logo on WEA's home page or go directly to [Professional Development Network](#).
2. Click on the link that says, [WEA Professional Development Interest Form](#)
3. For the next couple of weeks. The link will take you to a log-in page. After that point, you will go directly to the member interest form. The username and password are ...Username: demo Password: demo.
4. It will take a few moments to load, but you will be taken to the member interest form.
5. Fill out the form (the member ID is NOT required) and click on the "submit " button.
6. Check your email for a message from the Network.

Over the next several months, more course offerings will be posted, and online tools will be improved.

GREAT PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION!

ANNUAL PEA GOLF TOURNAMENT

*Next in importance to freedom and justice is public education,
without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently
maintained.*

James A. Garfield

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

Who Was Bill Simpson?

There have been a few inquisitive members interested in knowing who Bill Simpson was and why does P.E.A. give an award in his name to one of its members.

This is a very good question being that there are many new P.E.A. members and young staff members not aware of the history behind this award.

Bill Simpson was a dynamic middle school math teacher. He worked at Goodman when that school was where the current Harbor Ridge is now. This was in the late 60's and early 70's when teachers across the state were fighting for their collective bargaining rights.

Around the state associations were just being formed with the exclusive purpose to represent teachers. In the early 60's the WEA represented superintendents, principals and teachers. A sense of unionism was being born and these entities formed separate associations.

Bill Simpson was instrumental in the development of the Peninsula Education Association as we have today. He served the association as president, treasurer and bargainer fighting for class size, better working conditions and increased pay and benefits. He inspired others to join the new association and to serve it as a way to build unity and collective power.

Unfortunately he died suddenly in the early 70's and the members created the William (Bill) F. Simpson Award for Outstanding Service to the Peninsula Education Association in his memory to inspire others to become association leaders. His wife Bobbie, worked at the ESC for many years following his untimely death and is still part of the Gig Harbor community. This award has been given in his memory since 1972.

**VEBA BALLOTS WILL BE IN YOUR BUILDING SOON
WE MUST VOTE EVERY YEAR
SEE BUILDING REPS FOR BALLOTS
THIS IS A GREAT BENEFIT TO OUR RETIRING MEMBERS**

Reminders:

1. **Saturday at the Galaxy Theatre.....show your support**
2. **Class Size Counts.....see your building reps**
3. **PEA Golf ...entry form next page**
4. **Bill Simpson nomination form....turn pages.**

ANNUAL PEA GOLF TOURNAMENT

John Leverett Memorial Tourney

What: 9 Hole Scramble
When: Friday June 6, 2014
Where: Horseshoe Golf Course
Time: 4:30 pm
Entry fee: \$40 Per Player

Includes green fees for 9 holes, cart for every two players, hamburger buffet, prizes, and one beverage coupon.

4 persons to team which includes 2 carts..teams may be all female, all male, or mixed.

OPEN TO ALL Peninsula School District present and past employees, spouses, and friends.

Prize categories and hole assignments will be distributed prior to the tournament

For additional information contact Jim Falcocchio 851.8710 / president@pea.comcastbiz.net

Entry form:

Return to the PEA office with entry fee no later than Friday May 30, 2014.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PENINSULA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Team Members:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Bill Simpson Award Nomination Form

Nominations are open for the Bill Simpson Award. This award is given to a member of the Peninsula Education Association who over several years has made significant contributions to the Association. Any member giving substantial service to the Peninsula Education Association is eligible.

If you wish to nominate someone, please fill out this form and return to the P.E.A. office by June 11, 2014.

Nominee _____
School _____

Reasons for nomination: