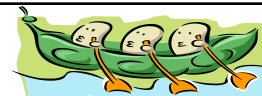


# P.E.A. Patch



Volume 33 Issue #1

September, 2014

## Welcome Back!

Dear Members,

Welcome to yet another fantastic school year! As I visit each building these first few days I am so proud of all the hard work you all do for our district and our students. Your professionalism, welcoming of new students and new staff, the positive comments from parents and administrators are hallmarks of your dedication.

Our advocacy for our students, ourselves, our colleagues and our profession builds the association focus. Our working conditions are the learning conditions for our students. I could not be more proud of the excellent work we do in the district as association advocates. I look forward to continuing to serve as President with the help of your Executive Board and your Representative Council this the final year of my term.

I wish each and every one of you your best teaching year ever!

Jim Falcocchio

### Important Dates

Monday September 15 **Rep Council**  
Sept 15-Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month  
Sept 17- 23 Constitution Week  
September 22 First day of Fall  
September 24 Rosh Hashanah begins  
September 24 WEA Olympic Council Meeting  
Benefits Handbook ...coming your way soon  
**BENEFITS FAIR Sept 18 PHS**

### Bargainers Working for YOU!

Your PEA Bargainers are still working, via the District Association Committee (DAC), on the secondary co-curricular stipends. They will be discussing this at our September DAC meeting. Work on elementary stipends will continue as the year progresses. Thank you bargainers for your work!

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) Bookman (Gig Harbor High School)	530-1400
Treasurer	Karin Ashabraner (Goodman Middle School)	530-1600

Visit [Peninisulaea.com](http://Peninisulaea.com)

## Reasons to be a Building Rep

As a building rep you :

- Keep members informed on the educational issues being discussed on the local and state level.
- Answer questions about planning time, class size, duty free lunch and collaboration time.
- Explain how you receive your ERS and BPD dollars.
- Advocate for your building, department, specialist group to bring issues to DAC.
- Support other staff members by participating in a meeting with a building administrator or supervisor.
- Be a conduit of information for association leadership to get your voice heard.

This is your association and your advocacy is important. Representative Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the HBHS Commons at 4:15. Meetings usually last a good hour, generous snacks are served, guest speakers, important information is given and gathered. This is a great opportunity to get your taste of association work.

Each building is permitted one rep per ten staff members. It is important to note that all members are welcome to attend meetings and voice their concerns and opinions.

**If you cannot be a rep please attend the 10 minute meetings held in your building after each Rep meeting to get association information. YOU are the association!**

## Pension Plan Choice for Newly Hired Educational Employees

As a new hire, you must return the provided Member Information Form to our employer within 90 days from your first date of hire. If you do not make a decision within 90 days from your first date of hire you will automatically default to enrollment in Plan 3. Once you select either Plan 2 or Plan 3 you may not be able to change plans at a later date. While Plan 2 members are allowed to switch later to Plan 3, for those first enrolled in Plan 3 the decision you make is irrevocable, so be sure to carefully weigh your options.

Plan 2 is a fully Defined Benefit plan, which means the pension benefits from that plan are guaranteed for your lifetime based on a specific formula. Plan 3 is a hybrid Contribution component which provides a benefit based on the level of your personal contributions and the returns from those investments.

The Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) has information on their web-site that should answer many questions. The DRS web-site can be found at: <http://www.drs.wa.gov/>

**NEA MEMBER BENEFITS:** Auto Purchase Advantage Program, NEA ID Theft Protection Program, NEA Long Distance, 1-800-FLOWERS, Costco Membership Discount, NEA Hearing Aid Saving Plan, NEA Vision and Prescription Saving Plan, Jenny Craig, NEA Educational Programs for continuing learning.....**neamb.com 1-800-637-4636**

### Good News!

1. You received a raise this year. The contract we negotiated with the district call for one more ERS day. For the 2014-2015 school year your ERS is calculated by multiplying your per diem rate by 20.
2. The Washington State Supreme Court ruling means more money for public school this year
3. More money should be coming in the 2015 legislative session. That is, unless the Legislature defies the Supreme Court and fails to make progress on fully funding basic education .
4. 1351 made it to the November Ballot. Due to your support in gathering signatures, the class - size reduction initiative I1351, will be up for a vote on November 4.
5. Our schools are very successful! Although Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, revoked our “ No Child Left Behind” —all because of his misguided and erroneous personal belief that teachers should be evaluated on their student’s standardized test scores...and declared our schools a failure, every measure shows we are resoundingly successful. In fact, just last spring many Washington schools received Achievement Award for excellence.

### Turn in those credits!

If you are planning on making an educational advancement on the salary schedule turn in those credits now.

Even if you don’t think you have enough credits it is important to turn in your credits since it may generate additional salary money from the state that is added to our local salary schedule.

### Missing your WEA calendar?

In order to save on costs, WEA decided that pocket calendars would not be sent to members this year. We were able to get a limited supply to give to members who want one. If you would like to have a 2014-15 WEA pocket calendar, call the PEA office 851.8710.

### Not sure where to turn?

Employee Assistance Program 1.800.424.4039....[MagellanHealth.com/member](http://MagellanHealth.com/member)

This negotiated benefit affords you confidential consultations giving you access to a wealth of Resources to help reduce stress, strengthen relationships, increase productivity and improve your quality of life. There should be a packet of information in your staff room.

**WEA Professional Development Network.....Programs and Courses**

**[www.washingtonea.org/pd](http://www.washingtonea.org/pd)**

*Let us never be betrayed into saying we have finished our education: because that would mean we had stopped growing .*