

# COMMUNIQUE

Newsletter of the Wenatchee Education Association

May 2018

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Check out the Wenatchee Education Association webpage [HERE](#).



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Pony to District Office

## ***Please plan to attend . . .***

### Wenatchee EA General Membership Meeting



Bargaining Update & Discussion

**Monday, May 21st**

**3:30-4:30**

**WHS New Commons**

Bargainers Eva Martínez, Monika Christensen and president Kris Cameron joined around 300 fellow union members at a post-legislative session bargaining training at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake on April 14th.



## **What do you say?**

### April Survey Results

- Should WEA call for arming teachers at school? 90.3% No
- Should WEA support a ban on assault-type weapons and high capacity magazines? 83.9% Yes
- Should educators be protected when dealing with age-appropriate LGBTQ content and issues? 80.6% Yes



### May Surveys

Please complete our annual LIT Survey - Look for the link in your email box. Please also respond to bargaining surveys promptly when you receive them.

## **Have a Side Gig?**

Do you have a home or personal business? We would like to feature it in our June issue of the Communique. We know some of you craft and sell products, market produce from your farms, have irrigation businesses, etc.

Please email Kris at [WenatcheeEA@gmail.com](mailto:WenatcheeEA@gmail.com) with details!

# Thank you WenEA Scholarship Grant donors!

New donors to our WenEA Scholarship Grant fund in 2017-18 will add over \$1100 annually to the fund. Our scholarship recipients for 2018 are:

## Cashmere High School

Shane McCormick – Dawn McCormick/WHS  
Danielle Monroe – Heidi Monroe/WSHS

## Eastmont High School

Jared Garland – Brian Garland/WSHS

## Wenatchee High School

Austin Blakney – Janelle Blakney/OMS  
Sophia Castillo – Megan Castillo/NBY  
Michael Dilley – Amy Dilley/WA  
Amy Graves – Wendy Graves/Castlerock  
Zach Hurt – Brock & Allison Hurt/PIO & Lincoln  
Tara McBride – Brooke Page/NBY  
Mally Morgan – Twila (& Chad) Morgan/SS  
Alea Neilsen – Russ Neilsen/NBY  
Collin Walsh – Tracy Walsh/WHS

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at their high school's senior night and at our year end celebration on June 5th.



Wenatchee EA cordially invites you to

*celebrate*

OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS  
and

RETIRING MEMBERS

TUESDAY

JUNE | 5 | 2018

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres & No-host  
Social Hour 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Program 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Chateau Faire Le Pont Winery  
1 Vineyard Way, Wenatchee

Please RSVP to Kris - WenatcheeEA@gmail.com  
Seating is limited.



BrookHartland.com

## WenEA Members Retiring in 2018



In order from upper left to bottom right: Cheri Dundas, Newbery; Teri Fink, District Office; Sandy, Harmening, Newbery; Johnette Hessburg, Newbery; Evelyn Kellogg, Foothills; Tim Lynch, Westside High School; Cheryl Martinez, Sunnyslope; Ron Reeves, Wenatchee High School; Peg Ronhovde, Westside High School; Soyla Smith, Newbery; Denese Sollom, Lincoln.

## Welcome to our newest Executive Board Member



The WenEA Executive Board welcomes our newly-elected secretary, WHS Social Studies teacher and building rep. Emily Wilson. This is her first year in the Wenatchee School District, and second year of teaching. She previously taught for one year in Lynchburg, Virginia.

About being a member of a union she said, “ When I came to Wenatchee School District I really felt like I had hit the jackpot. In my previous district in Virginia, we were paid MUCH less while being asked to perform weekly lunch duties, supervise after school activities, and attend out of school trainings- all for which we were not compensated. I truly value the emphasis and accessibility this district puts on professional development and extra pay stipends. As a new employee I feel that both my intellect and time are valued. These facts alone speak to the important work that WenEA does in our district. As someone who has seen what life can be like without a union, I am so grateful for the hard work of WenEA members who clearly value both teachers and education. While I still feel like I hit the jackpot, I now also understand that this is how education needs to be treated across the country. In my free time I enjoy hiking, climbing, and skiing in the mountains around Washington. I really still can't believe I live here!”

Kris Cameron and Brenda Hargraves were re-elected to third and final terms as president and middle school representative respectively. Elected to positions in which they served this year as appointees were Eva Martínez, vice-president; Jake St. John, high school representative; Lizbeth López Vásquez, elementary representative positions #1.

## WenEA Represented at NEA Hispanic Leadership Conference

In April, WenEA Elementary Representative Rosie González represented Wenatchee at the National NEA Hispanic Leadership Conference held in San Diego, California. She said of the conference, “ It was an amazing experience and I met other amazing Hispanic educators from around the country. At this conference I learned of the importance of making my voice heard, especially as an educator of color, not only for me here in Wenatchee, but for my colleagues around the country as well. Many colleagues are the only educator of color at their school and need our support. My voice might not always be heard, but through my actions and leadership I will set an an example of what hard work and taking brave leadership roles can accomplish for my colleagues as well as my students. They will see that they can aspire to achieve their goals and higher education regardless of their cultural background.”

“I also learned about and will begin to have courageous conversations about how our local district and building administrators can support teachers who interact with students and parents who speak a second language. Parents who might not speak English still want to support their child’s learning, but often cannot due to language barriers. We need to discuss how to give parents strategies, support, and encouragement to be partners in their child’s learning regardless of language barriers. Another brave conversation we need is how to provide the same professional development for both languages offered in our district, including time for bilingual teachers to meet, collaborate, and create resources that aren’t as easily available as those in English.”



*Rosie is pictured second from the right with NEA State Director for Washington, Miguel Saldaña; NEA president Lily Eskelsen García (red top); and other conference attendees.*



## President's message



What it is about spring that makes time seem to go faster? At work, tasks and projects seem to multiply beyond the capacity of our days, and at home, weeds seem to appear overnight! For those of you who are suffering the loss of precious instructional time to proctoring tests that aim to reduce our kids to numbers on a page - keep up the fight to provide them an environment that honors and nurtures their humanity.

I hope you will all make plans to attend our General Membership Meeting to receive an update on the progress of our bargaining team. Successfully bargaining in the new legislative funding climate will be a heavy lift and take the efforts of everyone. We've experienced what good things come to those who stick together. We'll see you on Monday, May 21st at 3:30 in the WHS New Commons.

All WenEA members are invited to our Year End Celebration on June 5th. We heard from our retiring members that it can be a bit overwhelming to attend events in their honor hosted by their buildings, the District, and WenEA. To simplify their lives we are teaming up with the District to host our events sequentially on the same evening. This year we will be sampling some delicious food in a new venue for us - Chateau Faire Le Pont Winery. Last year in lieu of speeches, we played a Kahoot "quiz show" game to guess information about our retirees with a prize for the winner. It was great fun and our scholarship recipients always remind us of why we do this work. Event details are explained in the invitation on page 2. We hope to see you all there!

**Thank you to our WenEA Members who devoted many hours to doing important committee work this year! Committee work isn't glamorous, but it's important and we're grateful for your efforts!**



### **VSP Reimburses Members for Out-of-Network Services**

Earlier this year when several members were reimbursed at out-of-network rates for vision services at Confluence Health, it was discovered that Confluence Health and our vision provider, VSP, had been unable to reach terms to bring Confluence in-network for our vision insurance. VSP has agreed to pay the difference for in-network coverage for all claims submitted by March 15th. Members should make their future provider choices with the knowledge that vision claims for services provided at Confluence Health will be reimbursed at out-of-network rates. For a complete listing of in-network vision providers create an account at [wea.vspforme.com](http://wea.vspforme.com) or call 800-877-7195.

### **Welcome Wenatchee Valley Technical Skills Center Instructors**



Certificated instructors at the Wenatchee Valley Technical Skills Center (WVTSC) have voted to be represented by WenEA and become official employees of the Wenatchee School District. Ten certificated educators at the Tech Center have been unrepresented by a union and are officially employed by North Central ESD. The vote was conducted by the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC). We welcome them to the team and look forward to working with them.

### **[Legislative Scholars Program](#)**

Click the link above for more information.