

OEA Speaks

OLYMPIA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
1619 STATE AVENUE NE, OLYMPIA, WA 98506
PHONE: 360-742-0828 WEBSITE: WWW.OLYEA.ORG
EMAIL: JODI.BOE@WASHINGTONEA.ORG



President's Corner – November 2022

As a member of OEA you are eligible to represent us at both the state (WEA) and national (NEA) assemblies. This is a good way to get involved for an intense but finite amount of time. You get to know other OEA members on a new level and meet members from all over our state and/or country. If you are a civic minded person and have never had the opportunity to practice democracy with a large group, you should give one or both of these assemblies a try. Many of us on the Executive Board and Building Reps started our increased involvement in the union by attending an assembly. If you have no interest in attending, please participate by voting for your OEA representatives in January.

You can nominate yourself between the November 16th Rep Council through the January 18th Rep Council. There is a google form link for each assembly. If you want to nominate yourself, see my weekly email for a link. The membership will vote on these positions in January.

OEA Timelines for assemblies:

- November 16th - nominations open
- January 18th - nominations close
- Electronic ballots will go out soon after nominations close and will be open for one week
- WEA Assembly - April 13-16 Spokane, WA

- NEA Assembly - July 2-6 Orlando, FL

Jodi Boe, President
Olympia Education Association

WEA Rep Assembly

As a delegate at the WEA Rep Assembly, you will determine the direction our union will take over the course of the next year. It is a time to celebrate accomplishments and tackle issues. We exercise our democratic rights in support of improving public education and our union. You will debate (or listen to debate), vote on new business items, attend caucuses, attend socials, and vote for WEA leadership.

We can send 11 members to Spokane. Our BI-POC goal from WEA is three members. We have rented a van and will drive from Olympia. If you choose to drive your own car, OEA will not reimburse you for mileage. You will need to miss two days of school, April 13th and 14th. OEA pays for your substitute. We will leave the morning of Thursday, April 13th and return on Sunday, April 16th. OEA pays for your double occupancy hotel room. If you wish to not have a roommate you pay approximately \$120 per night. OEA provides you with \$200 for meals.

NEA Rep Assembly

The NEA Representative Assembly is the largest democratic deliberative assembly in the world. During this annual meeting, our members help set policy and chart the direction of NEA business through participation on various committees, constituencies, caucuses, and leadership groups.

We can send 4 members to NEA-RA in Orlando, Florida. OEA will give you a \$3000 stipend. You reserve your own airplane ticket and hotel room. WEA does reserve a block of rooms and can help you secure a roommate if you choose. Whatever is left after airfare and hotel, is for your meals.

VEBA Results

Thank you all for your participation in the VEBA vote this year. Both questions received a majority “yes” vote and passed.

1. Should the Olympia School District offer VEBA to retirees, requiring that sick days be cashed out and placed in a VEBA account?

378 responses 93.92% Yes 6.08% No

2. Should the Olympia School District offer VEBA to pre-retirees, requiring that all sick days over 180 in number, as well as personal leave over 6 in number, be cashed out and placed in a VEBA account?

378 responses 91.27% Yes 8.73% No

Do you need an Attorney?

If you need a lawyer, WEA provides members with attorney services at a discounted hourly rate for personal legal matters that are not employment related. Participating attorneys will provide each member with two 30-minute consultation sessions during each school year period. These two free consultations are taken separately and deal with two different questions.

This benefit allows you to discuss your problem with an attorney to determine whether you need additional legal services. (Some restrictions may apply.) If you need additional services and your problem falls within any of the areas listed below, the attorney’s fees are discounted 30%:

1. Real Estate Matters
2. Wills and Estates
3. Domestic Relations
4. Consumer Protection
5. Traffic Violations (including DUI)

The participating attorney closest to our area is Thomas Baldwin (253-864-7800) and the law office is in Puyallup. When calling, please identify yourself as a WEA member.



Inclement Weather Contract Language

Article III

Section 11 Inclement Weather

In the event of snow or other such natural events, teachers will make an effort to get to school on time and to meet the scheduled work time requirements. If unable to get to school on time teachers must arrive one half-hour prior to the arrival of students. If the employee cannot travel to school safely, he/she may choose to utilize emergency leave. Teachers who work less than full time and have their day extended due to schedule changes as a result of inclement weather will 1) either be paid at their per diem rate for the time extended or 2) be allowed to arrive after the normal school start time to make up the difference. Payment for time must be approved by the building administrator.

If school is cancelled due to weather, we have one built-in make up day, May 26th. If we have more than one snow day, additional days will be added to the end of the year. There was some discussion about switching to remote teaching/learning in lieu of snow days. There are many circumstances that make that difficult: age of students, access to internet and/or electricity for both students and staff, the unpredictability of weather in general, and the fact the OPSI requires at least 70% of a day to be “face to face” in order to count. The last part rules out sending home asynchronous lessons to be done at home.

Finally, if school has a late start and you are unable to make it due to weather, the emergency leave is taken from your sick days.

Quick Guide to Unlocking the Full Potential of your NEA Membership

1. **Start by registering on the site: www.neamb.com/START Or just scan this QR code:**



Questions: Ask-us@neamb.com

Or call 800-637-4636 M-F 8 am – 8 pm, Sat 9 am -1 pm

2. **If you already have an account, sign in with your personal email address and NEA Member Benefits password.**
3. **If this is your first visit, click "Register Now" and complete the process with your name, address and date of birth and click "Create Account." This is how we verify your membership.**

STAY IN THE KNOW

Here are the top six ways to save money and maximize your membership

- Make sure you've named/updated your beneficiary for the NEA Complimentary Life Insurance Program. This is an automatic benefit of membership with up to **\$150,000** of coverage provided at no cost to you by the NEA Member's Insurance Trust and issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America.
- Check out the NEA Travel Program to browse discounts on car rentals, hotels, resorts, cruises and more. Members **get \$500** Travel Dollars to get the best prices on travel.
- You or a family member struggling with student loan debt? Run your numbers for **FREE** with the NEA Student Debt Navigator and find out if you can reduce your monthly payment and which federal programs work best.
- Check out the NEA Discount Marketplace to find exclusive deals and **earn cash** back from over 3,500 top retailers and online stores nationwide.
- Time is money. Make sure you're getting the best deal on auto/home insurance. Spend 15 minutes to get a quote and you'll **get a \$25 Gift Card**. This offer ends 12/31/2022.
- Sign up for the NEA Member Giveaway for a chance to win one of ten \$50 Gift Cards. Our way of saying thank you for being a member.