

ASSOCIATION NEWS



WEA

Southeast

November 3rd, 2015

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Benefits of WEA Membership!!

If you are new to the Washington Education Association (WEA), you might be curious about what your membership entitles you to receive!

- ◆ Economic benefits through your local's contract negotiations
- ◆ Protection of member rights
- ◆ Professional development support
- ◆ Legislative representation & information
- ◆ Legal assistance with job-related issues
- ◆ Voice & vote in association decisions
- ◆ Publications
- ◆ 1 million in liability coverage
- ◆ Life Insurance
- ◆ Member benefit discounts
- ◆ Legal Assistance and/or discounts for legal services for personal matters (Attorney Referral Program)
- ◆ Home & Vehicle Insurance Programs



Thursday and Monday November 5th & 9th – Kennewick EA Building One-on-Ones, Staff and Governance

Thursday and Friday, November 5-6th – WEA Executive Committee Meeting

Friday and Saturday, November 6-7th – WEA Board Meeting, Federal Way

Monday, November 9th – 1-2:30PM WEA-Retired Meeting, Council Office

Wednesday, November 11th – Veteran's Day – WEA Offices Closed

Thursday, November 19th – 1:30-4:30PM – Local President Training, Council Office

Thursday, November 19th – 5:30-7:30PM – Council Meeting

Thursday and Friday, November 26-27th – Thanksgiving Holiday – WEA Offices Closed

Monday, November 30th– 4-7PM Council Office-Building Rep Training

Meet your 2015-2016 WEA Southeast Executive Board & Staff!

David Campbell (Kennewick EA, Council President)

I am originally from Yakima, WA, and graduated from Eisenhower High School. I have earned degrees from Yakima Valley Community College, Central Washington University, Washington State University and Heritage University. In my 20 plus years teaching, I have taught in Yuma, Arizona, in Granger, WA, and have spent the majority of my teaching career in Kennewick School District, mostly at Kennewick High School, first teaching Special Education Resource Room, then moving to Social Studies.

I have been involved with the Association for most of my teaching career, having been a building rep, bargaining team member, vice-president of my local, vice-president of the Council, and finally, serving this year as your council president. I am happily married, with 2 children, one a senior and the other a freshman at Kennewick High, this year.

LaDonna Sterling (Richland EA, Council Vice-President)

Every day I go to work and am proud to be among the brightest, most creative, compassionate, courageous, hard-working people I have ever met -- teachers! I have had the privilege of representing and working with teachers from small rural communities where teachers do everything, to urban schools in high poverty areas where teachers are the lifeline to children. I have spent 28 years as a Special Education teacher, Title I, LAP/ELL teacher, and WEA representative at the local, regional, and state levels. It is challenging, but most rewarding!



Ken Hays (Richland EA, At-Large Executive Board, Position #1)

I grew up in a fervently pro-union household. My father was a Business Representative and Financial Secretary for the Seattle District Council of Carpenters. I hold a B. S. degree in Labor Relations and Human Resources Management. Since 2009, I've been a K-5 Special Education teacher in the Richland School District. Previously, I taught Business and Marketing (CTE) courses at Walla Walla High School. I have an M. Ed. in Literacy from WSU. Currently, I'm on leave from teaching as president of the Richland Education Association (2014-16).

I'm a member of the NEA-GLBT Caucus and a volunteer with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

When not working, I can usually be found at home with my husband, Josh Westbrook, and our two dogs, Rocco and Addy.



April Miller (Pasco AE, At-Large Executive Board, Position #2)

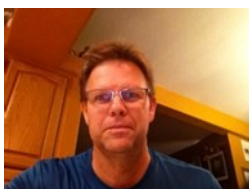
I was born and raised in Richland, moved to Spokane for 13 years, and then was hired on as a teacher in Arizona for 4 years. I came back to Richland in 2011.

I am currently teaching in Pasco School District at Emerson Elementary. This is my 5th year teaching first grade. I also taught 2nd grade in Yuma, Arizona for four years. I recently completed my Masters in Literacy and have my Bachelor's in Elementary Education and Child Development with a minor in Early Childhood Education.

I have been a building rep for Pasco Association of Educators for 3 years and have attended WEA RA once as a guest and last year as a first time delegate. This is my 2nd year on the WEA SE Executive Board. I have a 7 year old daughter named Sydney and we enjoy discovering new places, road trips, and learning.

Richard Dexter (Columbia EA, At-Large Executive Board, Position #3)

Richard Dexter has taught for 24 years at Columbia school district. He has been in union leadership for over 8 years and been CEA president for 4 years. He has been an at large rep for the Southeast Uniserv Council for 2 years. He has been married for 27 years with 3 children, Forrest 20, Marisa 22 and Katlin 24.



Teri Staudinger, (Kennewick EA, WEA Board Member)

I was born and raised in Kennewick, and taught 4th grade for 21 years at Hawthorne Elementary School. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Eastern Washington University, and received my Master's in Education from Heritage University. In 2006, I earned my National Board Certification (Middle Childhood Generalist). I am currently working on my NBCT renewal.



My father was a union man, and taught me to have strong union values. So,

when I became a teacher it was only natural that I would become involved in union activities. I have held numerous union leadership positions- on the national, state and local levels. Currently I proudly represent over 1000 teachers as the elected president of the Kennewick Education Association. I also represent the Southeast council on the WEA Board of Directors.

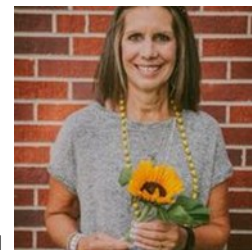
Margo Piver (Walla Walla Valley EA, WEA Board Member)

I am a librarian at Walla Walla High School and have been involved in union work for as long as I can remember. I enjoy helping my members and working on their behalf to make our schools a great place to work and learn. Currently I am the Walla Walla Valley Education Association president, working with Walla Walla and College Place school districts. I am also on the WEA-SE Board of Directors, the WEA Board of Directors and the WEA Executive Council. I thank you all for your support in electing me to these board positions and as an NEA delegate and have worked hard to represent you in those capacities. Feel free to



Denise Hogg (Kennewick EA, WEA-PAC Chair)

As your WEA-PAC Manager and member of the SE Executive Board, my goal is to represent all educators from our area. I have been teaching since 1980, with all of my experience being in Kennewick, SPED, kindergarten and currently I am the ELL Specialist for my building. I have been active in the UNION/Association since 1980. I have been a building rep. for over 30 years; in addition, I have served on numerous committees and elected positions for both KEA and WEA-SE. I have seen many changes over the years, but truly believe WE together can make a difference for the future of America. We need to stand strong together and seek to get pro-education officials elected at all levels. Every part of our profession is affected by politics, and we have the responsibility to speak up and educate those in those elected positions. This next year is going to be huge and we need to be involved to get pro-education people elected across the state of Washington. WEA-SE has a goal of adding 500 new WEA-PAC members this school year. If you are NOT a member, please look for information to be coming through your local or contact me anytime for information and membership information. Make your voice heard.



Michelle Joy (Southeast Field Assistant)

I've worked as a field assistant at WEA-Southeast for 18 years as of October 20th. I have enjoyed working with many local leaders, members and council staff these past 18 years and am looking forward to many more opportunities to do so!

Before WEA-Southeast I worked as a medical transcriptionist, a database clerk at Kaiser Hanford, and handled accounts payable/receivables as an office manager for Randolph Sheet Metal, a union sheet metal shop that was in Pasco. I am a Kennewick High Graduate, a Columbia Basin College Graduate (AAS in Computer Science) and have been in the Tri-Cities since I was 8.

In my personal life, I enjoy running in organized 5ks/10ks/Bloomsday, and am married to my best friend (21 years in February), and I have a daughter, and 3 granddaughters--2 of which attend Lewis and Clark Elementary in Richland. I also enjoy DIY projects and collecting/enjoying Washington wines!



Bridget Steen (Southeast Field Assistant)

Hello! I moved to Tri-Cities at the age of 10 from Chicago. I'm a Richland High graduate. I attended the University of Washington after high school and transferred my junior year to Central Washington University where I received my BA in Elementary Education. I substitute taught for a year and during that time held a second job with Red Lion Hotels where I fell into accounting. I really enjoyed it and eventually became the Controller at the Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center. After new ownership took over I was ready for a new change and wanted to get back to a career involving education. That's where the WEA Southeast opportunity came in and after a year of being with Southeast I have never enjoyed my work and colleagues more. Other things I enjoy are puns, laughing, traveling, reading, being with friends, my boyfriend, my brothers, my family, and a good drink! Cheers!

**Steve Lindholm (Southeast UniServ Rep)**

As the second newest hire for WEA Southeast Uniserv Council, I have been asked to write an introduction to those I represent: my name is Steve Lindholm and I come to WEA Southeast from Moses Lake where I taught English for nearly 20 years at the high school. In addition, I served as Moses Lake's Co-president for six years, lead bargainer for four years, and I also served on North Central's Executive Board as Vice President for four years. My passions in union work are centered around member advocacy and bargaining.

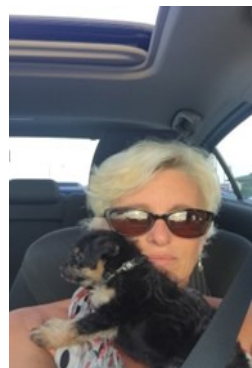


In my non-union life, I am a happily married husband with a wife (Kate) that teaches in Moses Lake, two boys, Patrick 18, and Braydon 15. Together we enjoy the outdoors, camping, hunting and fishing, etc. My family and I also enjoy our gentleman's farm and spending time with grandparents and friends.

The first four and half years have gone quickly, and with all that is before us, time will continue to move quickly! I hope to be involved with the continued efforts to improve the professional lives of our members.

Edna Jenkins (Southeast UniServ Rep)

When the opportunity to apply for the WEA Southeast UniServ Representative position occurred—I jumped at the chance to work in the council. Prior to relocating to the Tri-Cities, I lived in Lynden, Washington for 18 years. While there I worked for Fourth Corner, a com-degree in Political Science from Western Washington University and was employed by Bellingham Technical College as the Financial Aid Coordinator for 5 years. I soon became involved in my local association (Bellingham Educational Support Team), where I served as the Associations grievance chair and bargainer. Prior to that period I was employed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Seattle District Office for 8 years, where I also served as a union steward for AFGE (Federal employees union).



Both of my grandfathers were local presidents in the steel industry and my father is a member of a local pipefitters union in Pennsylvania, so having that familial background --union values and work are not a choice, they are a way of life. My husband Rocky and I have 3 adult daughters, a grandson, and two adorable dogs.

Jim Gow (Southeast UniServ Rep)

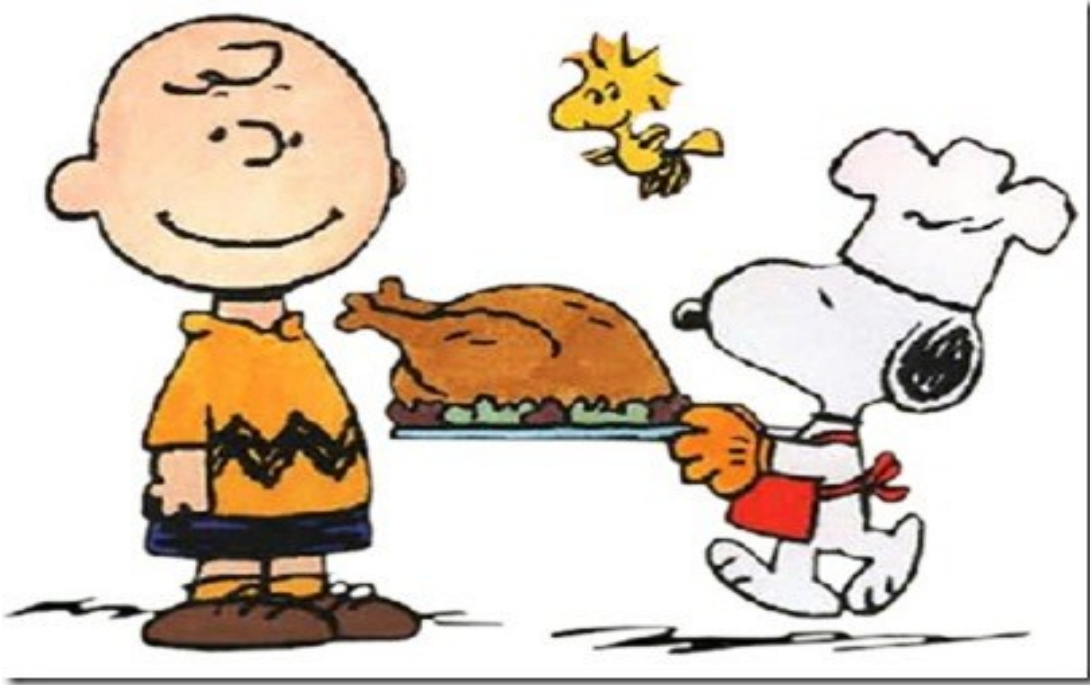
I am Jim Gow. November will begin my eighth year as a UniServ Representative at WEA Southeast. My active participation in WEA, however, goes back over twenty years. I grew up in a strong union town, Butte, Montana, so I was pleased to join the Student WEA chapter at Eastern Washington University during my teacher program. I was a building rep my first year as an elementary teacher in Lake Stevens, Washington. Throughout my fourteen years teaching there I held many positions in the union including bargainer, vice president and president.

I've always believed in the right and the necessity of workers organizing to ensure they have a voice in their workplace. With public education facing so many challenges, I am proud to have the opportunity to stand with our members and local leaders in the fight to make schools a better place for educators and students.



Debbie Kibling (Pasco AE, Council Secretary)

Debbie's bio and picture are currently unavailable. Hers will be included in the next newsletter.

***A Last Word . . .***

These days, WEA is seeking to become a provider of meaningful, relevant Professional Development for all our members. Please click on the link below to take a quick survey to help your Association provide the PD you want to have. Again, Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter,

As educators, whether PreK-12 certificated or ESP, you have professional development needs arising from the challenges of your profession. Please tell us about your needs by taking approximately 10 minutes to respond to this survey.

Dave