

Action Line

A Publication of the Vancouver Education Association

January 2011

Inside this issue:

- **Check out the NEA website**
- **Offers for members**
- **RA elections**
- **Write-in election for WEA RA**
- **VEA calendar items**
- **Deduct your dues**
- **Pre-retirement seminar**

**Vancouver
Education
Association**

**2509 Broadway
Vancouver 98663**

**Phone:
360-695-3397**

**Fax:
360-694-8337**

vancouverea.org

VEA values

There is no doubt that these are extremely difficult times for public education. However, difficult times give us an opportunity to reflect on what is truly important.

VEA's leadership team is working to clarify what we value as an organization. Getting 1300 people to agree on everything we do is always a challenge, but if we decide together what we want for our students, it will guide our work as we tackle the difficult road ahead.

Some ideas from rep council include:

- Enough time to plan a quality experience for our students
- More time teaching and learning than testing
- Fewer new programs and more time to get good at what works
- Time during the day for students to have a quality education experience
- Honoring experience

Start talking with you colleagues about what we should be working for. Share your ideas with your building rep.



Negotiations commission

The goal of any representative association is to reflect all of the membership when it bargains with the district. For the past several years, VEA has had a powerful team that has worked hard on your behalf.

Unfortunately, those team members only represent a portion of our membership. In order to create the most positive learning environment for our students, we need a broader group of members to advocate for our students at the bargaining table.

Bargaining and maintaining the agreement between our members and the district is a primary function of our organization. We can't do it without you.

Please consider being part of the process. We are much stronger with all your voices.

[Apply](#) be part of the commission. Your answers to the questions can be short. No experience is necessary. We will train you. The [application](#) process is simply to let us know a little more about your current skills and available time. Use a district mailer and send your application to the VEA office.

Executive Board

President

Ann Giles
VEA office

1st Vice President

Bradford Williams
Columbia River

2nd Vice President

Carol Sandison
Columbia River

3rd Vice President

Fern Tresvan
VSAA

4th Vice President

Katy Peppers
Jason Lee

Secretary

Leslie Morrison
GATE

Treasurer

Linda McGee
Gaiser

Primary Trustee

DeeLynn Durgan
Walnut Grove

Intermediate Trustee

April Reyes
Minnehaha

Middle School Trustee

Susan VanHouten
Jason Lee

High School Trustee

David Tubb
Hudson's Bay

Specialist Trustee

Mona Rominger
Lake Shore

WEA Board Director

Lynn Maiorca
Gaiser

Bargaining Chair

Patsy Hansen
Washington

WEA-PAC Coordinator

Lynn Maiorca
Washington

Staff

Executive Director

Roy Maier

Administrative Asst.

Bonnie Larson

Office Asst.

Sandy Kokko

Check out the NEA website

The NEA website is full of information and help for educators. Check out some of these links.

Don't have time to read NEA's magazine? Get the best of *NEA Today* stories, news, educator tips, and classroom management features, plus immediate access to online extras, delivered each month to your e-mail inbox by signing up for the [NEA Today Express](#) e-zine.

Join education's top [bloggers](#).

Search hundreds of [archived classroom tips](#) by keyword.

Dealing with [bullying issues](#)? NEA has tip sheets, a video about how teens deal with bullying and other issues, and a list of resources to help educators make their classrooms and schools safe for everyone.

Want to green up your curriculum with [environmental lesson plans](#)?

NEA has resources!

NEA thinks educators should earn professional pay. Learn more about their [salary campaign](#).

Have you heard of "[value-added modeling](#)," the latest fad formula for using student test scores to rate teachers? It's intended to measure the growth of students in your classroom, but a panel of America's top researchers recently found that those scores vary wildly from year to year – hardly a reliable measure of teacher quality, and neither a fair nor accurate way to judge your work.

Learn more about NEA's activism on key issues facing their 3.2 million members and read what those members have to say about the current events that affect them at www.neatoday.org.

Visit [Education Votes](#) to share your story and read about actions you can take to make sure your voice is heard on the issues that matter to educators.

Many people point to Finland as the world's top success story in student achievement. Actually, Finland achieved this status by doing the [opposite of what's done in America](#). And read a [related story](#) explaining even more.

Offers for members

VEA members have many friends who want to help them through generous financial offers. We'll continue to make you aware of these friends throughout the year.

Gillespie Dentistry and Guardian Insurance have partnered to become preferred providers, which translates to discounts for VEA members and their families. Gillespie Dentistry will host an open house on Friday, January 28, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. for VSD employees, family members, and guests. [Read the attached letter for more information.](#)

Dick Hannah Motors offers an employee corporate benefits program for VSD employees that allows them to purchase new vehicles at fleet pricing and used vehicles at the lowest pricing within 150 miles. [Read the attached flyer for more information.](#)

WEA approved Valic financial planner Cassie Johnson offers WEA members free financial advice related to saving, investing, planning, and retirement. She can be reached at cassie.johnson@valic.com.

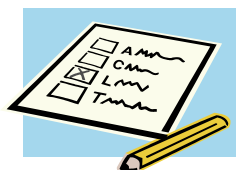
[NEA Member Benefits](#) and [WEA Member Benefits](#) offer too many discounts to list here. Visit their websites and check them out.

Representative Assembly elections

VEA members will soon receive ballots to elect delegates to represent them at the 2011 WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies.

What will happen in the education community in the coming years? Taking direction from the delegates, the RAs set policies, goals, and priorities.

Candidate statements are on the [VEA website](#).



Write-in election for WEA RA

VEA is allocated 22 seats at the WEA Representative Assembly, but only 19 members submitted candidacy forms, leaving three unfilled seats. This is a perfect opportunity for write-in campaigns and we encourage interested members to pursue that possibility.

To be elected as a write-in candidate, the member must approve having his/her name written in. If you want to support someone via the write-in process, simply enter his/her name on the back of your ballot.

Calendar items



January 10
Gyroscope applications due

January 11
Executive Board

January 17
M.L. King Day

January 25
Executive Board

February 1
Rep Council

February 8
Executive Board

February 10-12
Gyroscope

February 21
Presidents' Day

February 22
Executive Board

March 1
Rep Council

March 8
Executive Board

March 17-19
Sparks

March 18-19
Pre-retirement seminar

March 22
Executive Board

March 25-26
PoliSparks

Deduct your dues

Getting ready to do your 2010 taxes? You can deduct most of your association dues from your income tax. The dues deduction amount is as follows:

1.00 - .76 FTE	\$879.04
.75 - .51 FTE	\$695.32
.50 - .26 FTE	\$444.52
.25 or less FTE	\$227.76



Please remember that your 2010 dues for income tax include eight months at the 2009-2010 rate (January through August) and four months at the 2010-2011 rate (September through December).

If you have changed FTE from last year or if you only worked a portion of the year, your dues will be different. You can either calculate from the chart below, or call the VEA office for assistance.

Monthly dues deduction

	<u>.76-1.0 FTE</u>	<u>.51-.75 FTE</u>	<u>.26-.50 FTE</u>	<u>.25 or less</u>
09-10	73.09	57.58	36.96	18.94
10-11	73.58	58.97	37.21	19.06

Pre-retirement seminar

Whether you are one, three, five, or even ten years from retiring, it is not too early to begin planning for your retirement. Sign up for the VEA-sponsored pre-retirement seminar that will be held March 18-19.

The workshop, which is put on by WEA-Retired, runs from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday and from 8:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday. The workshop is appropriate for VEA members in all three retirement systems, Plan 1, 2, or 3.

The fee is \$30 for WEA members, \$20 for a spouse, and \$20 for WEA pre-retired members. The fee covers all materials, a snack on Friday evening, and a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday.



Space is limited. Call the VEA office or e-mail [Bonnie Larson](#), for a registration form. Or download a registration form from the [VEA website](#). Registration will be on a first-paid basis.