Membership Matters Book Drive

MEA’s “Membership Matters” Committee, has begun its 3rd annual Spring Book Drive. You can help! As you are cleaning out your classroom this Spring, please contribute to the MEA book drive box located at your school. The committee will coordinate a book “shopping” day in the Fall to help our new hires build a classroom library. If you have questions about this book drive you may contact our MM Committee Chairperson, Heather Craggs at craggshl@mukilteo.wednet.edu.

MEA Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of Mukilteo Education Association’s 2019 scholarships! There were many outstanding applicants. From Mariner, Antonio C. Alvarez is the recipient of the 2019 Joanne Brennan Memorial Scholarship for $1,000 and Jessica F. Lopez-Ramirez is the recipient of the 2019 Brad Agerup Memorial Scholarship for $1,000. From Kamiak, Zachary Stancik is the recipient of the 2019 Lois Jamieson Memorial Scholarship for $1,000 and Conor Quinn is the recipient of the 2019 Michelle Reichenbach Memorial Scholarship for $1,000. Thank you to the members of the MEA Scholarship Committee: Melissa Dahl (VO), Michael Peña (MA), Alexandria Johns (KA), and Kristen Kowalski (ACES). It is exciting to be able to help these Mukilteo students begin their post-secondary education!

Procedures for Transfers during the Summer

If the District has continuing positions available for transfer during the summer, they will be listed online as they become available. Employees wishing to apply for any of the posted vacancies must apply online no later than three (3) work days after the posting date.

When vacancies occur during the summer months, the following procedure, in addition to the other procedures outlined herein, shall be observed:

(a) Employees with specific interests in possible vacancies must notify the Human Resources Office of their interest in writing during the last regular week of school and in no event later than June 30. The notice shall include a summer address and telephone number as well as an alternative phone number where the employee can be contacted.

(b) When a vacancy occurs during the summer and an employee has expressed a transfer interest in a position similar to the vacancy, the Human Resources Office shall make all diligent efforts to notify the employee.

(c) The employee shall indicate to the Human Resources Office whether they are interested in the specific vacancy when notified. All interested employees will be considered for the position pursuant to the criteria outlined in Article IV, section 11.
Fourteen delegates from Mukilteo attended the WEA Representative Assembly in Spokane. This annual meeting, which has a look and feel similar to a major political convention, provides a forum where WEA members can collaborate, debate and vote. Members submit New Business Items (NBIs), New Resolutions or Amendments to Continuing Resolutions, Standing Rules, Bylaws, and the WEA Constitution, which, when passed, set the organizational priorities for WEA for the coming year. In addition, this year we elected new WEA officers. Your delegates represented you well, working until past 1:00 a.m. on Sunday to complete our business. Please make sure to thank them for this commitment. Below, they reflect on some of their favorite moments from this year’s WEA-RA.

**Phil Falk (PP)**  
**Speaker that moved me:** Kim Mead, WEA President. *Quote:* “…especially the WEA. We are now over 97,000 members.”  
**Favorite NBIs:** NBI 1 (WA-AIM Support) and NBI 15 (WaKIDS Review). These work towards getting rid of these two assessments.  
**Most touching moment:** Outgoing WEA president Kim Mead, one of our Pilchuck people, being recognized as a “big deal” for her accomplishments throughout her career.  
**Most enlightening experience when RA was at recess:** Walking to dinner I saw the local “furry people” of Spokane! I love the Music of RA that plays on the floor to keep us engaged and attentive!  
**Final thoughts:** I’m excited there are some powerfully energized people getting involved in public education!  

**Cable Smith (OE)**  
**Speaker that moved me:** Robert Hand (WA State Teacher of the Year). “The only ‘arms’ teachers need are the ones for hugs.”  
**Favorite NBI:** 12 (Water Quality for All in Our Schools). All kids deserve safe drinking water.  
**Favorite New Resolution:** 1 (Human Relationships and Responsible Technology Use). Human contact is necessary to learning; technology should not undermine that.  
**Best report:** The election results. We had to have run-offs – which made it extra exciting.  
**Best experience when RA was at recess:** Sleep!  

**Leslie Dodson (PP and SL)**  
**Speaker that moved me:** Kim Mead. *Quote:* “The most important word in the working class is ‘solidarity’.”  
**Favorite NBI:** 62 (Four Day Work Week). I appreciated the debate over how to increase members’ job satisfaction, and how to help districts who are currently making cuts to save money.  
**Favorite New Resolution:** 1 (Human Relationships and Responsible Technology Use). #ThomGarrard  
**Most touching moment:** The tribute to outgoing WEA President Kim Mead. She is nothing short of amazing!  
**Funnest quote:** From a delegate admiring a Kent member’s dinner “Hey Kent… where’d you get the chicken?”  
**Best experience when RA was at recess:** There were several! Sobia sharing her BBQ chips with me, dancing the night away with Anna, our MEA dinner at Steam Plant, and spending time with old friends while making new ones.  

**Kali Dunton (LS)**  
**Speaker that moved me:** Kim Mead, WEA President. *Quote:* “When will we be done with our work advocating for kids? Never.”  
**Favorite report:** WEA-PAC – Pilchuck has the largest PAC membership in WEA!  
**Best thing heard on the big screen:** Governor Inslee, in a videotaped message to the delegation: “Early to bed, early to rise, work like h*ll to organize!”  
**Most touching moment:** Kim Mead’s farewell address, in a videotaped message to the delegation: “Early to bed, early to rise, work like h*ll to organize!”  
**Final thoughts:** It was great meeting other bargainers from locals across the state; and getting ideas for contract language to support students in crisis.  

**Alexandria Johns (KA)**  
**Funnest remark at the microphone:** “If you heard my jokes before, please pretend to laugh so I feel better about myself!” –Daniel Harada  
**Favorite NBI:** 23 (Access to Multicultural Books). There was a hot debate about this NBI. Making sure we have diverse books for our diverse students is important for helping everyone feel like they belong. I’m glad this was referred to committee for careful consideration.  
**New Resolution:** 3 (White Supremacy Culture). It is important for WEA to take a strong stance against white supremacy and the hate white supremacy represents negatively affects our members and our students.  
**Best experience when RA was at recess:** Getting to know new members and first-time delegates. I was able to learn about their passion for education and making our union great.  
**Most touching moment:** When staff were thanking Kim Mead for her service and revisiting her history in WEA, “big head” print outs of Kim’s face and hairstyles throughout the years paraded in front of the delegation. It was a great way to honor Kim, especially through some humor.  

**Kaley Mitchell (VO)**  
**Speaker that moved me:** Estefa Gallardo, explaining how anyone voted into WEA Exec Board should be speaking to the importance of equity in all levels of education. *Quote:* “Sorry #NotSorry.”  
**Favorite NBI:** 30 (LGBTQ+ Training Modules). This spoke to me due to my work as an ally of the LGBTQ community.  
**Best New Resolution:** 3 (White Supremacy Culture). This spoke to the belief that to achieve racial and social justice educators must acknowledge the existence of White Supremacy Culture. I appreciate how WEA Resolutions are speaking to white supremacy and naming the “elephant in the room” so to speak.  
**Favorite report:** WEA Membership Report. I am excited WEA Membership is up even after the Janus decision, largely due to the hard work and advocacy of educators. However, I hope everyone realizes that we need to continue to increase membership because other states have reported that fighting bills like the Janus decision only get more difficult with time.  
**Most touching moment:** This year is President Kim Mead’s last year as MEA president. I loved when members spoke about her service to our state at all levels of advocacy. They told a story about how President Mead was arrested for her sit-in to fight for immigrant rights. She is a very big deal! I was so excited because I had the privilege in meeting Kim in the elevator for a one-on-one conversation while I was headed to the gym and she was headed to the convention center. I walked into the elevator and was immediately star struck. She is a hero to me.  
**Best experience when RA was at recess:** I enjoyed our time having a team dinner at the Steam Plant restaurant. It was a time for us to celebrate each other, our local union accomplishments, and to get to know each other.
Molly Addicott (PP)
Speaker that moved me: Kim Mead, WEA President. Quote on patriarchy: “Each time we see someone denied something, pushed down, or otherwise treated unfairly …and we do nothing, we are sending a message to the students we serve.”
Favorite NBI: 56 (A Crisis of Disrupted Learning in Washington State). I wish our district had to accurately account for the number of “incidents” that have occurred in our classrooms. Also, NBI 15 (WaKIDS Review). WaKIDS is an assessment that demands too much of our Kindergarten teachers, and it needs to go away.
Favorite New Resolution: 1 (Human Relationships and Responsible Technology Use). My relationships with students and the development of their social skills is more important than 1:1 Chromebooks.
Most interesting report: Elections Report. Larry Delaney is the new president! Woot!
Best experience when RA was at recess: Alyssa –our fabulous waitress –chasing Kali down the street to return our forgotten phone.
Funniest quote from the microphone: “I am not currently on the Supreme Court, but I wish I was because it would be better …in my humble opinion.”

Fiona Rimstad (PP)
Favorite NBI: NBI 15 (WaKIDS Review). As a Kindergarten teacher, I’ve found the WaKIDS assessment a worthless and time consuming assessment that needs to be eliminated.
Favorite New Resolution: 1 (Human Relationships and Responsible Technology Use). Human relationships are necessary to learning.
Favorite report: WEA-PAC – Pilchuck has the highest percentage of members in the state. If you’re not a member, please join.
Most touching moment: Celebrating the last WEA-RA for Kim Mead was fun and memorable. Thanks for 6 great years, Kim!
Best experience when RA was at recess: Spending time with my fellow delegates from Mukilteo – a great group of educators.
One more thing: Being present and involved in the election of our new WEA President Larry Delaney was exciting!

Sobia Sheikh (MA)
Funniest statement while moderating debate: “That is not a question. That is a statement but thank you for sharing.” – Kim Mead
Favorite report: Pilchuck is #1 and Mukilteo is almost in top 10. We’ll get there next year.
Most touching moment: Farewell speech for Kim Mead by Jared Kink, Justin Fox-Bailey and Kathie Axtell. I will miss her humor at RA. The big wine glass full with farewell messages was a really great idea. Kim has been an inspiration and she has pushed me to find my voice and use my voice to advocate for our students and teachers.
Best experience when RA was at recess: Watching Avengers Endgame, hanging out with friends, and the Mukilteo EA Dinner!
Final thoughts: There was one interesting moment when a candidate took credit for Mukilteo’s success on bargaining for salaries. I’m glad we elected Larry Delaney for President, and the first Black Vice President in WEA’s history.

Nardos Habtemicael (CH)
Speaker that moved me: Kim Mead, WEA President. Quote: “I was told I might want to wait to run for my local union presidents’ position because I had children. If I’d been a man do you think I would have been discouraged for that reason? …I need you to know …discouraging anyone from doing something they have a passion for based on their pronoun, their sexual orientation, gender identity or based on their skin color is just wrong!”
Favorite NBI: 23 (Access to Multicultural Books). If you know me, you know this is something I want every school and district to work on. I was happy to hear there were others fighting to get this done statewide.
Most interesting report: Election Results. This was a very close and interesting election. Larry Delaney was elected as our new President and Janie White was elected the very first Black Vice President in WEA history.
Most touching moment: The slideshow and farewell Pilchuck did honoring Kim Mead was very well done. It was touching, funny and just a great way to show her how much everyone has appreciated her work as WEA President. I especially loved the BIG POSTERS of her Head and her many hair styles over the years.
Best experience when RA was at recess: Watching Avengers Endgame on opening night 😊 I’m a proud Marvel nerd!

Anna Blankinship (VO)
Speaker that moved me: I loved Estefa Gallardo’s passion for all historically oppressed populations.
Favorite NBI: 50 (LGBTQ+ Training Modules) because it creates training modules led by local WEA members and 75 (Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Educators Through Gender Inclusive Language) because it deals with inclusive language around gender (allowing titles such as ‘Mx.’) Gender is not a binary.
Most interesting report: Elections Report. The passion and excitement of the election was huge for me! There was a lot at stake –especially the vision of our leadership.
Best experience when RA was at recess: Going out on Thursday night with Leslie and DANCING till the band stopped; I saw some funky moves! And …the team dinner at Steam Plant! Always a highlight! The camaraderie is so valuable to me!
Final thoughts: I love to come to Spokane. It has its charm and there are so many great places to eat and hang out. I also love connecting with the Mukilteo team and doing the work of democracy and advocating social justice!

Melissa Caldwell (OP)
Speaker that moved me: Estefa Gallardo. Quote: “If you cannot answer what a candidate has done to disrupt institutional racism, or homophobia …then they should not be on the board.”
Favorite NBI: 23 (Access to Multicultural Books). Representation is vital for our kids, their experience at school, and a healthy self-image. Our schools and libraries need to continuously cultivate libraries that reach and represent all students –not just some. No child should feel like the “other”.
Best New Resolution: 3 (White Supremacy Culture). One cannot continue (or even begin) their equity work and advocacy if they do not acknowledge the injustices of centering white culture as the ideal.
Best experiences when RA was at recess: Spending time with MEA delegates at Zola’s happy hour.
Experience as a new delegate: I’ve learned so much about the democratic structure, about union solidarity, and our union’s immense support for students of color, students with disability, and our LGBTQ community. This experience has given me hope in our power as educators!
Governor Inslee Signs Ethnic Studies Bill

Over a year ago, at the 2018 WEA-RA in Spokane, delegate (and MEA Executive Board Member) Michael Peña moved New Business Item 18: Ethnic Studies, articulating the positive impact that Ethnic Studies courses have on student academic engagement and personal empowerment. NBI 18 was consequently passed by the delegates. This legislative session, WEA worked to support legislation that required OSPI to develop Ethnic Studies curriculum. Legislation was introduced in both chambers – SSB 5023 was sponsored by Senator Hasegawa, and Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self, a WEA member, sponsored the House bill. Michael’s advocacy in encouraging the development of ethnic studies curriculum, and his commitment to putting our union at the forefront of this issue, earned him an invitation to the SB 5023 (Ethnic Studies) bill signing.

MEA Membership Matters

It has been another great year of camaraderie at our Membership Matters events! See below for events in June. And don’t forget - Our MEA Book Drive is underway! Thank you for thinking of our new teachers when you are cleaning your rooms this spring and through the beginning of the next year.

**LAKE 22 Hike and HH**

**Saturday June 15**

10:00 a.m.

We will be meeting at the Lake 22 Trailhead for the 2.7 mile moderate hike to the lake. We’ll then head to Playa Bonita in Granite Falls on the way home for some refreshments.

**WEA: Seattle Pride Parade**

**Sunday June 30 (plan on arriving in downtown Seattle around 9:00 am)**

Join educators, families, students, and allies from all across our state for the historic 50th anniversary for Stonewall! For the fourth year in a row, our WEA contingent will be standing up for our public schools and union to be safe, welcoming and affirming for all students and educators.

**RSVP and Details:** WEAPride19

**Book Drive**

We all know how important it is for teachers to have a library full of books. As you’re cleaning up your rooms for summer... Please keep your eyes out for:

1. Duplicate books
2. Books you are no longer using
3. Books that don’t work for your grade level

If you find any of the above please put them in the box! We will be reshipping them to new Mukilteo teachers in the fall. Thank you!

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