

Cross Currents

Mukilteo Education Association | October 2022 | MukilteoEA.org

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Preparing to Bargain

We are a little more than a month into the school year. While there certainly have been some challenges, it feels very much like a more typical start of the year. We have seen issues related to Special Education, changing enrollment patterns, and classified staffing shortages. MEA is working with MSD to address these concerns. MEA will continue to monitor the staffing shortages and will work with the district to address shortages over the coming weeks.

Remember, the previous staffing MOAs expired at the end of last school year, and we are now following the main CBA for covering classes. For information on covering classes, please refer to [CBA Article 8.3 'covering classes' on page 53](#).

As you recall, last year we ratified a one-year contract extension. This contract extension launched several committees that are currently working, or preparing to work, to address various issues related to the upcoming bargain, including school counseling, special education, equity, and the culture and climate survey. This year we will negotiate a full contract agreement, expect information from MEA in the next month or so on how we will be soliciting input from all MEA members and the timeline for the bargaining process.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out with your questions or concerns.

Upcoming Dates and Calendar

October 28 – Waiver Day

November 11 – Veterans Day

From [Appendix I](#) (p. 119)

Appendix I - Employee/District Time Allocation for 2022-2023			
School Year Dates:	K-5	6-8	9-12
Friday October 21	Employee-Directed	Employee-Directed	Employee-Directed
Friday October 28	District 3.5	Waiver Day: 30 Minute Lunch	Employee 3.75
Friday November 4	Report Card Prep	Employee-Directed	Report Card Prep
Friday November 18	Employee-Directed	District/Principal	Employee-Directed
Friday December 2	Employee-Directed	Report Card Prep	District/Principal
Friday December 9	District/Principal	Employee-Directed	District/Principal
Friday December 16	Early Release Half Day		

For the **grading calendar**, please see [Appendix K](#) (p. 121)

Student Loan Information – Deadline Approaching

Please [CLICK HERE for an updated fact sheet](#) from NEA about both the Biden Administration Student Debt Relief plan, and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) waiver.

The following was sent by Pilchuck directly to your home emails on 10-12:

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Waiver is Ending!

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) is *different* from the one-time loan relief up to \$20,000 recently announced by the Biden Administration. PSFL is a program for people who work in public service in federal, state, tribal, or local government, or for a non-profit organization.

The temporary Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) waiver, which has delivered \$10 billion in loan forgiveness for public-service workers over the past nine months, is set to **expire on October 31, 2022**. This waiver expanded which loans and payments are eligible for forgiveness. Prior to this waiver, 90% of applications were denied! If you have student loan debt, this is the time to look into applying for PSLF. [PSLF Explainer in 30 seconds - YouTube](#)

How can you learn more:

As an NEA member, you have several options.

1. Go to [Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\) Help Tool | Federal Student Aid](#) Log in with your Federal Student Aid ID (or create one) and make sure your contact info is up to date. Use help tool to navigate your eligibility.
2. Go to [NEA Student Debt Navigator powered by Savi | NEA Member Benefits \(neamb.com\)](#). This tool (Savi) is free to NEA members for one year. Using Savi will provide you with a higher level of assistance than navigating the process on your own via the help tool linked above. Also, see attachment for NEA Student Debt Navigator flyer.
3. Get additional information, resources, and FAQs from NEA. [Navigate Your Student Debt | NEA](#)

Retirement Sessions (Pre-Retirement)

Pilchuck will be offering three pre-retirement seminars (Taking Charge of Your Future) this fall.

Please [download, print, complete and mail the registration form](#), if you'd like to attend.

Our seminars are open to Pilchuck NEA/WEA/Local EA members only, and are held Wednesday or Thursday evenings (5:30-8:30 p.m.) and all-day Saturday (9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with a lunch break) via zoom.

The Fall 2022 Seminar Dates are:

Thursday, October 20th and Saturday, October 22nd, 2022

Thursday, December 1st and Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

Wednesday, January 11th and Saturday, January 14th, 2023

Some of the subjects covered include Retirement Plans I, II and III; Social Security/Medicare; estate planning; health/medical insurance; PERS and TRS; and transitions (working to retirement).

Each seminar is limited to 25 people. These seminars fill quickly, so please be sure to [register early](#) and indicate your first and second choice for the session(s) you would like to attend.

[Download registration form](#) and get started.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Shelly Lamb](#) at Pilchuck or call 425-258-3697.

Retiring This Year?

Pilchuck UniServ Council is offering a two-session mini workshop geared for getting you out the door and on your way into retirement. Sponsored by Pilchuck UniServ Council; Presented by WEA-Retired.

There are two options:

Thursday, November 3rd and Thursday, February 2nd

Saturday, November 5th and Saturday, February 4th

Please [download, print, complete and mail the registration form](#), if you'd like to attend.

Discounted Husky Tickets for Members

From the University of Washington ticket office:

Thank you for all the work and effort you put into improving our children and communities! Take a Saturday to enjoy some discounted Husky Football Tickets on us! Use the following link for discounted tickets for the Colorado game on November 19: [UW Football - Teacher Appreciation Special! - Purchase Link](#)

MEA/WEA/NEA Member Resources and Benefits

From the NEA Member Benefits Team: Welcome back to school! Periodically, we will be sharing ways to help you make the most of your membership. Our association cares about you and your family. Our aim is to support you in many areas of your personal and professional life. We want to keep you informed, engaged, and supported with information and resources to help at every stage of your life and career.

But first things first! Every member should do these **three things** immediately:

1. Visit www.neamb.com/connect: This is the gateway to all your Association benefits.
2. Click the BLUE “Register Now” link so you’ll be recognized to receive special discounts and important benefits information.
3. Name your beneficiary for your no-cost, **Complimentary Life Insurance**: Click the “Register your beneficiary” button. It’s so easy!

Connect to Your Benefits:

- Go to www.neamb.com/connect and scroll down to the bottom of the page to discover even more benefits for you and your family. It’s a new school year—make the most of it!!
- The NEA Mental Health Program is a popular mental health support app provided by Sanvello, with millions of users nationwide, that helps educators cope with everyday stress and anxiety, especially in light of the challenges caused by the pandemic. Great news! **Your first year’s enrollment in the Premium version of the app is being provided at no cost to you.** Be sure to access effective tools for stress reduction, meditation and even regular support groups.

Free Professional Development for Members (including clock hours!)

Please check the list of courses on the WEA website frequently. There are three places where you can find free courses:

[Main WEA Professional Development Page](#)

[Special Education Support Center \(SESC\) Page](#)

[Asynchronous Courses Training Page](#)

WEA’s Inclusionary Practices Project (IPP) is providing 24 professional development courses with up to 318 clock hours possible including 60 hours of STEM. We have fifteen new courses including eight courses designed for coaches and mentors. These courses were created with

flexibility in mind. You can start at any time and move through the course at your own pace. **The courses are free, provide clock hours, and available to all!** The list of courses is below.

Important Deadlines

Monday, May 29th, 2023 | Last day to register for a course

Monday, June 5th, 2023 | Last day to complete courses and submit assignments

Courses

- Behavior Intervention Strategies to Support Students through Inclusive Practices
- Coaching and Mentoring for Equitable Educational Outcomes
- Coaching and Mentoring for Specially Designed Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms
- Coaching and Mentoring for the Successful Inclusion of Students with Significant Disabilities
- Coaching and Mentoring of Inclusionary Behavioral Strategies
- Coaching and Mentoring Universal Design for Learning
- Data Collection in the Inclusive Classroom
- Data Driven Instruction for Coaches and Mentors
- De-Escalation and Behavior Modifications
- Effective Co-teaching Strategies for Inclusion
- Empowering Educators - Using Explicit Instruction in the Inclusive Classroom
- Facilitating Co-Teaching: Supporting Mentors and Coaches w/Inclusive Practices
- Facilitating Explicit Instruction for Coaches and Mentors
- Foundations for Equitable Inclusive Education
- High Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms
- Intelligent Lives: An Inclusionary Practices Journey
- Programming for Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) in Inclusive Classroom
- Standards-Based Grading that Promotes Equity and Inclusion
- STEM for Primary (K-6) Educators
- STEM for Secondary (6-12) Educators
- STEM Integration and Inclusionary Practices
- STEMizing your Instruction
- Successful Inclusion of Students with Significant Disabilities
- Universal Design for Learning

Updating Contact Information

If you need to update your contact information, please contact Kali Dunton, MEA's wonderful Administrative Assistant, and she can update your records. Her email is KDunton@washingtonea.org (she is cc'd on this email).

Be Aware of Phishing Scams

WEA just informed locals that there have been reports of WEA members in Clark County being contacted by phone by someone claiming to be updating WEA membership records. WEA does not, and will not, contact you by phone to update your membership records. If you receive any call like this, please contact MEA immediately so we can report this to WEA. Again, if you need to update your contact information, please contact Kali.