



Rainier UniServ Council Newsletter

HEA "IT'S TIME" RALLY! by Sue McCabe



On May 21, 2015 - HEA Members joined the more than 60 locals in the state-wide walk outs against the legislature in support of fully funding public education. It was an amazing Day of Solidarity in Action! HEA members stood together with colleagues, students, families, and other supporters to send a clear message to Olympia. Legislators need to keep their promises to fully fund public education! You can see photos of the day on the [HEA Facebook Page](#).

Well over 1,000 staff, students and families were out sign-waving at 7 sites throughout the community. Our community was overwhelmingly supportive! Drivers matched our enthusiasm with honks, waves, thumbs-ups, and fist pumps; supporters such as retirees and classified staff brought treats; the Starbucks employees at one site even sent out "make your own iced latte" supplies to us. It's clear that our community appreciates that we are fighting for the funding needed to provide the great education our students deserve.

HEA members were also out in force for the afternoon rally at Moshier Park. Members, along with families, marched or ran from different locations in the district to come together to join voices. HEA musicians set a festive tone for the rally. Music teacher, Thara Cooper, and her daughters opened with the national anthem. Inspiring educators, students, parents, and guests shared their stories. State Reps. Tina Orwall and Steve Bergquist urged us to keep up our efforts, saying that they are making a real difference in Olympia. King County Councilman Dave Upthegrove and Highline School Board President Bernie Dorsey were also in attendance, as was WEA Executive Director Armand Tiberio and Everett EA President Jared Kink.

Highline parent, Michelle O'Dell, spoke to the crowd. She was so moved that she tossed her speech aside and deeply thanked the teaching staff of Highline School District, honoring that for her, the teaching staff is the heart and soul of Highline School District.

MRHS student, Matthew MacDonald, spoke about the relationships that have mattered to him as a Highline student through the years. He is concerned about teachers leaving and honored his current teachers at MRHS, whom he considers his mentors and his friends.

HHS student, Dustin Carper, advocated for smaller class sizes! He hopes to join the teaching ranks in his future. He shared that all teachers need smaller class sizes to be able to reach every student.

Messages must continue to reach our state legislators! As they move into another "special session", let's make sure that they hear clearly that the will of the voters is to fully fund public education, including Initiative 1351 and the McCleary Decisions. Members can send emails using <http://ourvoicewashingtonea.org/> or call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. Then, we must continue to be active locally – attending School Board meetings, stepping up to help with HEA's Bargaining Support Team – advocating for local change and actions in support of Highline students and educators, as well.

We did this -- together! A huge thank you goes to everyone who stepped up and took on leadership roles to make the day a huge success! Appreciation goes to all who showed up with smiles, enthusiasm, positive attitudes and such great energy! Let's continue to build strength as we move forward working together on the behalf of all HEA members and Highline students.





Why I Walked —by Tabitha Plotke

When I was five, my parents took me on a march in Portland. I don't remember who was there, or what the speakers said, but I remember the energy when I heard everyone around me chanting and waving signs. Even though I was little, I knew something important was happening. Last Thursday, Highline took its Day of Action. It was a tremendous success. Teachers from Highline High School, Sylvester Middle School, and Gregory Heights Elementary gathered at Five Corners holding signs, waving at the cars that drove by, and reminding our community that it's time for to fully fund our schools. We were received warmly: people thanked us, waved, and honked. A fire truck signaled its sirens for us.

There were moments when we were giddily returned to childhood as we cheered for the big rig drivers who sounded their horns to show their support. We rallied at Moshier Park, sang, and cheered for the courageous students who spoke to us.

It was powerful, because it reminded me that we are not alone. Ours wasn't the only corner in red: there were six other sites where educators stood and waved signs, reminding the community that our schools deserve funding. And we stand with 65 other districts across the state who have chosen to walk out and stand up against the Legislature. Our community hears us. We are understood, valued, and supported. While

there were those who disparaged us, their negativity didn't hold us back. Instead, it spurred us on, because as educators, we know that many of those who try and dispute what we're doing don't actually fully understand what is at stake. Through our walkout, we did what we do best: we taught. We are taking something that could be an obstacle, and creating a teaching moment so that our community may learn and move forward.

I was proud to stand with my colleagues on Thursday, and am proud to continue to stand with the WEA as we fight to provide our students with the type of strong, supported education that is their right.

In solidarity,

Tabitha Plotke





Renton's Afternoon of Action-by Andrea Sylvester

Thursday May 28th was Renton EA's day of action. I personally have worked for Renton School District for 8 years. As locals around the state have rallied to send the all-important message to Olympia, I also attended both the sign waving and the rally as a direct action in my community, to help our voters see the state is still not doing their job. I believe that this event was very well received by those involved and by

those who observed. Several news reporters where there with cameras talking to many of our members while others were getting "honks for teachers" as cars drove past. It was hot, we sang, chanted and had a blast. And all for the kids. I want a COLA, but even more I want my students to receive the AMPLE funding they deserve to keep them thriving throughout their formative educational years. Even the kids who

were coming back from their track meet were hollering in appreciation and support while we stood in the Renton Piazza and heard from administrators, parents, teachers and students about the issues that *could be fixed* if the Legislature would commit to their PARAMOUNT DUTY.

**It's TIME!
To FULLY
FUND OUR
SCHOOLS**





Summary of New Business Items and Resolutions

New Business Items (NBIs)

Accepted

- NBI A: True Cost of Testing
- NBI B: Coordinated Compensation Efforts
- NBI C: Educators Not Spies
- NBI D: Crisis Response Team
- NBI E: Communicating the Rights of Students, Parents and Educators Regarding Standardized Tests
- NBI F: Small/Rural Professional Development
- NBI G: Small/Rural Professional Release Grant
- NBI 1: School Safety Day
- NBI 2: Support for 8th Annual Northwest Teaching for Social Justice Conference
- NBI 4: Educators Refuse Toxic Tests for Their Own Children
- NBI 6: Future Educator Connection Conference
- NBI 7: Join the Washington State Labor council
- NBI 10: To Waiver, or Not to Waiver...That is the Question**
- NBI 12: Representative Assembly: We Are WEA!**
- NBI 13: Strengthening Our Education Message Throughout the Political System**
- NBI 14: Legislative Protective Measures for Students' Education**
- NBI 15: Consciously Speaking your Conscience
- NBI 18: The Time Is Now: Widespread Strikes
- NBI 19: Becoming a Political Candidate
- NBI 20: Current Test Research**
- NBI 21: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Material, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC) Funding
- NBI 23: Classroom Videotaping
- NBI 24: Pre-Mature Retirement
- NBI 25: The Collection of Data on the Cost of Testing
- NBI 30: Oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
- NBI 31: Local President communication
- NBI 32: Endorsement of One-Day Walkouts
- NBI 33: Retain Educators in Protected Classes
- NBI 34: Get Big Money Out of Elections
- NBI 36: Survey Educational climate of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Allied Concerns
- NBI 37: Publicize WEA Opposition to Developmentally Inappropriate, Inconsistent Tests
- NBI 38: Planning an Internal Political Program for WEA Members

NBIs in bold were submitted by Rainier UniServ Council delegates.

Defeated:

NBI 11, 17, 26, 27, 28

Withdrawn:

NBI 3, 5, 8, 9, 16, 29, 35, 39

Referred to committee:

NBI 22: Encourage the Development of Alternative metrics to High Stakes Testing

To view the entire report go to:

<http://washingtonea.org/content/docs/gov/2015rasofareport.pdf>

Voting Results

WEA President
 *Kim Mead 97.20%
 Write-in: 1.14%
 No Vote: 1.66%

WEA Vice President
 *Stephen Miller
 86.39%
 Write-in: 9.59%
 No Vote: 4.02%

NEA State Director Position 1

*Ted Raihl 95.81%
 Write-in: 0.52%
 No Vote: 3.66%

NEA State Director Position 2

*Martha Patterson
 68.82%
 Phyllis Campano
 30.45%
 No Vote: .73%

Constitution & Bylaws
 Amendment No. 1

No: 53.05%
 Yes: 42.61%
 No Vote: 4.34%

*Successful
 candidates

Did you know...

In 1918 the WEA Representative Assembly was cancelled due to a flu epidemic that raged through our state.

Thoughts From a New Delegate by Caitlyn Morrison

At first, I was not sure that I wanted to put my name in the hat to attend WEA RA. The delegates that had attended before raved about their time, however, I was unsure that I understood all of the acronyms, vocabulary, processes and procedures in order to attend. In any case, I decided to go and was very impressed after attending my first time. After just the first couple of hours I felt comfortable. My experience was completely positive, I felt like all of the things I care about were finally being discussed. Many of the topics I am most passionate about had action around them, which was so inspiring to hear. As a teacher, I constantly feel frustrated with things I seemingly have no control over. Representative Assembly made me feel that I had power and my colleagues and I are moving forward on important educational issues that teachers face every day. The connections I made at Representative Assembly also made me realize what a wide network of support I have throughout the state. WEA RA was a wonderful experience; I am inspired and motivated by the work of other locals throughout the state and by the work of the WEA. I am excited to attend again!

Did you know....

That the Washington Education Association is a representative democracy. The people you elect to represent you vote on your behalf at the Assembly.

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Council President-2015-16
Jeb Binns
Council Vice President-2015-16
Becca Ritchie
WEA Board Members
Deb Strayer
MaryJo McLaughlin
UniServ Directors
Elizabeth Beck
Alan Sutliff
UniServ Field Assistant
Lori Fleck
Newsletter edited by
Becca Ritchie

Did you know...
Information was found
at [History: A WEA
Timeline](#)

Legislative Updates:
[Http://
ourvoicewashingtonea.org](http://ourvoicewashingtonea.org)

Upcoming dates:
NEA RA July 1-6

Message from your RUC President



What a busy quarter here in Rainier! Your Rainier delegates were hard at work on your behalf. At the annual Representative Assembly (RA) we authored,

moved, debated and passed many items in support of our members, especially in the areas regarding the over testing of our children, and encouraging our members to be more politically active. Over 50% of your delegates stepped to the microphones to share your voice. The other large chunk of RA dealt with the lack of action in Olympia. Our delegates joined thousands of others on the steps of the capital demanding that the legislature fulfill their Constitutional duty to amply fund public education.

Additionally during RA the delegates were wowed with the prospects of a day of action and we linked up live via video with Burlington EA to support their rally and lent our voice to theirs. And the rest, they say, is history!

On May 21st the HEA staged a one day walkout compete with seven packed street corners with sign wavers, a 6K run (one K for each year we have not had a COLA),

and three marches to a rally held on Mosier Field. Over 1,000 members turned out, wore red, and lent their voices to the cause of fully funding education. The following week, the REA and RESP held an after school sign waving event and rally in downtown Renton. The event had lots of support from teachers, support professionals and central office administrators.

I'm proud of the local actions we have undertaken in Rainier. The local leaders have done a fabulous job staging quality events in a very short timeline. But we are not done. As we enter this second, and even more special special session, we cannot let our foot off the gas. We must relentlessly press our legislators and not allow them to kick this can down the road again. Please head to ourvoicewashingtonea.org and keep the pressure on. It's Time to Fully Fund Public Education!

In Solidarity,
Jeb Binns
President, Rainier UniServ

Dinner with Dorn by Keitha Bryson WEA Retired

State Superintendent Randy Dorn was invited to speak with the Rainier UniServ Council retired teachers at a dinner on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. Superintendent Dorn answered questions including:

- How do we get the legislature to properly fund public education, consistently, without a state income tax?
- Corporate reform of public education. Is this good for public education?
- Common Core. What did OSPI have to agree to and is it worth keeping?
- Standardized testing:
 - From a parents and student view and their right to "opt out".
 - From a teachers' standpoint and lack of validity for tying student test scores to teacher evaluation.
- Proposal to hold teacher prep colleges responsible for the performance of their alumni's k-12 students test results.

At the end of the presentation audience members were given time to ask questions. Superintendent Dorn spoke about the need to pass SB 2214, which would change the current End of Course exam requirements for graduation from high school. Tomie Leeds, a junior from Rogers High School in Spokane, spoke to the superintendent about the need to change the End of Course exams so that students would not be denied the right to graduate from high school based on a single test score.