

Tumwater Education Association

ADVOCATE

TumwaterEA.org

April 2026



Congratulations to our newly elected WEA leaders! President Janie White (middle), Vice President Tani Lindquist (left), and NEA Board Director Audra Shaw (right). Current WEA President Larry Delaney, elected in 2019, completes his term in July when the new officers take office. #WEARA26

WEA Election Results Representative Assembly Update

“The 2026 WEA Representative Assembly ended before midnight on Saturday, April 11. WEA Vice President Janie White was elected WEA president, and WEA-Sammamish UniServ President Tani Lindquist was elected WEA vice president. They take office in July. RA delegates also re-elected WEA-Eastern Washington UniServ President Audra Shaw to the NEA Board. Delegates approved a temporary three-year special dues assessment called the Public Schools Protection Fund. This temporary special dues assessment will ensure WEA continues advancing the priorities that matter most to public school educators, students and communities, including:

- Safeguarding educators’ rights to organize, collectively bargain and have representation, ensuring strong schools and a strong profession.
- Defending educators and their ability to speak without fear of retaliation.
- Protecting federal funds for public education.

Thanks for a great #WEARA26! We worked hard. We debated well. We took on the hard work of planning the work our union will engage in over the next year! Thanks for consistently showing up and staying engaged. Together we fight and together we win!”



SOURCE: WEA

President’s Corner

The challenges we face in public education regarding contractual implications are increasingly more complex as public education itself becomes more complex. Increasing opportunities for local presidents to connect and network leads to increasing opportunities for local association members to receive the benefits of that communication through shared bargaining strategies, collaboration of Union labor trends, and sharing of creative solutions to complex problems.

“As part of New Business Item 38 passed at the 2025 WEA Representative Assembly, local presidents now have access to more information and tools to better connect with one another and share information easily.

This includes a directory of local presidents’ contact information, as well as a way for leaders to share organizing ideas and events. The WEA Advocacy & Organizing Resources for Leaders SharePoint site provides this information. This site contains information for local leaders about bargaining, organizing and WEA Forward information and tools.

This new resource for networking and problem solving together provides an opportunity for local presidents across Washington State to stay in regular communication beyond just email and Zoom.”

SOURCE: WEA





Scholarship Program

Student Applications

Tumwater Education Association awards three \$500 scholarships annually to a graduating senior from A.G. West Black Hills High School, Cascadia High School, and Tumwater High School planning to major in education.

Students must complete a scholarship application and write an essay which answers the following questions.

- Why have you chosen to enter the education profession?
- What is your education goal?
- What steps do you intend to take to achieve your goal?
- What have you accomplished already to achieve your goal?
- Why do you need/deserve this scholarship?

The Association also awards one \$500 BIPOC scholarship annually. The Tumwater Education Association seeks to directly increase equitable access to post-secondary education of Black, Indigenous and People of Color. To support this aim it has created the Tumwater Education Association BIPOC post-secondary scholarship. This is available to all Black, Indigenous and People of Color graduating during the current school year within a high school at the Tumwater School District. One BIPOC scholarship will be awarded to one student selected from applicants who attend the three high schools.

Congratulations to last year's winners and good luck to this year's applicants!

WEA Membership

"If you're pursuing a career in public education, working in K-12, higher education, or have retired from the profession, there is a WEA membership type for you.

WEA Active: Available only to public school employees: teachers, [Education Support Professionals](#) and higher education faculty. If you are employed in public education in Washington state and represented by one of the more than 370 local associations affiliated with WEA, you can [enroll online here](#). Active membership is also available to certificated teachers and specialists employed full or part-time as guest/substitute educators. If you have questions about membership, check with your local president or contact your regional [UniServ Council office](#).

WEA Student: Available to individuals enrolled in an accredited School of Education program in Washington state. To join SWEA, [enroll](#) online or send [this completed form](#) with a \$22.50 check or money order made payable to Student Washington Education Association.

WEA Retired: As a member of WEA/NEA-Retired you remain a part of the nation's largest advocacy voice for public education. [Join or renew here](#)."

SOURCE: WEA

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Bargaining Update



The Association Bargaining Team members met on February 18 to develop the bargaining survey as a measure of member perspectives regarding the bargaining priorities for the Association. The team met again on March 26 to review the bargaining survey results and discuss the next steps for developing the initial collective bargaining contract proposal. The bargaining survey data will be shared at the Representative Council meeting on April 29.

The team will meet again on May 4 to review and finalize the initial contract proposal before presenting to the District. The scheduled bargaining dates with the District are May 12, 15, 20, and 26.

In addition to meeting with the District for collective bargaining, TEA met with PSE, TAP, and TOPA on April 13 to develop a coordinated bargaining strategy this year. The bargaining units will negotiate their own contracts but will partner to develop strategy.




WEA Children's Fund Support

RA Delegates Raise Money


“WEA RA delegates and WEA Children’s Fund supporters showed up in a big way at RA this year, raising a whopping \$53,115 in two-and-a-half days — the largest amount raised in recent years. Thanks to your donations, the fund will be able to make a difference in the lives of even more students. We send our deepest gratitude to all of our donors, and a special shoutout to our top contributors: WEA Southeast (\$10,500), WEA Fourth Corner (\$10,000) and Pilchuck (\$4,419). If you have questions about the WEA Children’s Fund or would like to make a donation, please visit the [WEA Children’s Fund web page](#).

The Children’s Fund, a registered 501(c)(3) foundation, helps make sure all Washington state children thrive in school, regardless of their family income. The fund reimburses WEA members in public education who purchase shoes, clothing, and school supplies for students who need them. Members are allowed to purchase up to \$100 for a student who is in need of any of the above supplies. In the 2024-2025 school year, over 1,000 students were helped by the Children’s Fund.”

SOURCE: WEA



“While grades keep going up, up, up in high schools and colleges, other measures of achievement are not.”



Grade Inflation

NEA Today Article Highlight

The following excerpt is from the NEA Today article titled *Yes, Grade Inflation Is Real. But Is It a Real Problem?* Please visit the following website to read the full article.

[NEA Today Grade Inflation Article](#)

“The most common grade today in U.S. high school and college classrooms is an A, according to the College Board. And it’s not because all students are above average. Even as grades go up, student achievement—as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress—is going down.

The cause is ‘grade inflation,’ or the common, decades-old practice of handing out A’s for lesser work, due to constant, consequential demands by students, parents, and administrators. Grade inflation is prevalent—but does it really matter? New research says it may. A study co-written by a University of Texas at Austin economist found that high school students who experience more lenient grading are less likely to pass subsequent courses, to graduate from high school and go to college, and will earn significantly less money over the course of their lives. Still, many educators say the outrage around grade inflation is misplaced. It’s just another way to vilify educators, pile on “kids today”, and distract public attention from real problems.”

SOURCE: NEA TODAY

Everyone Belongs @Your School Library



AASL School Library Month Celebrating 40 Years

“School Library Month is the American Association of School Librarians’ celebration of school librarians and school libraries. Every April school librarians are encouraged to host activities to help their school and local community celebrate the essential role that strong school libraries play in transforming learning. The AASL efforts for a national School Library Month were spearheaded by Lucille Thomas, chair of the School Library Media Month Committee. Thomas was appointed by President Judy King in 1983. Their work came to fruition on April 1, 1985, when AASL officials, local and national dignitaries got the first School Library Month off to a rousing start with a ceremony on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol.

AASL School Library Month Resources

Equity and access ensure that all community members can freely use library resources and services by dismantling systemic barriers and creating inclusive environments that support learning, growth, and empowerment for everyone. Intellectual freedom is a basic right in a democratic society and a core value of the library profession. Intellectual freedom empowers individuals to form their own ideas and opinions through free and open inquiry. Sustainability means making choices that are environmentally responsible, economically sound, and socially equitable to ensure library resources and services remain effective now and into the future. The public good is rooted in improving society and safeguarding access to education, literacy, and intellectual freedom. Libraries play a fundamental role in democracy by supporting an informed, connected, and empowered citizenry.

The association works to increase public awareness of the value of libraries and librarians, to promote state and national legislation beneficial to libraries and library users, and to supply resources and support to local library advocates. Diversity is reflected in the association’s commitment to recruiting people of color and people with disabilities to the profession, and to the promotion and development of library collections and services for all people. The association provides opportunities for the professional development and education of all library staff members and trustees. It promotes continuous, lifelong learning for all people through library and information services of every type.”

SOURCE: AASL

