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The Probe

“All students have the right to be taught by caring, committed and qualified teachers...”
— WEA Student Bill of Rights



The faces of the Freedom Foundation: (top row) Jeff Rhodes, Jim Johnson, Maxford Nelson, (bottom row) Boaz Crawford, James Abernathy and Jami Lund

The Freedom Foundation: Who They Are and Why They Fight Against School Funding

Among the most active anti-teacher organizations in Washington and Oregon is the Freedom Foundation. Their stated goal is “to reverse the stranglehold public-sector unions have on our government.” That means they want to strip away our rights to collectively bargain and to deplete our membership to the point where we can no longer afford to fight for our students or our members.

They launched a campaign last year to target smaller school district associations trying to convince teachers to leave their unions. And they do so while posing as someone pretending to be fighting for working families.

But actions speak louder than words. What they have done is to aggressively oppose higher pay for educators, smaller class sizes, increased funding for public schools, local collective bargaining, and fair, comprehensive teacher evaluations.

The Freedom Foundation is well-funded and not going away soon. [Read more...](#)

Events Calendar

WW School Board Meeting

Tues. Oct. 4 @6:30 p.m.
Anne Golden Boardroom

Exec. Board Meeting

Mon. Oct. 17 @4 p.m.
WWVEA Office

WWVEA Social

Thursday, Oct. 27 @4 p.m.
Jacobi’s Restaurant

Building Rep Council

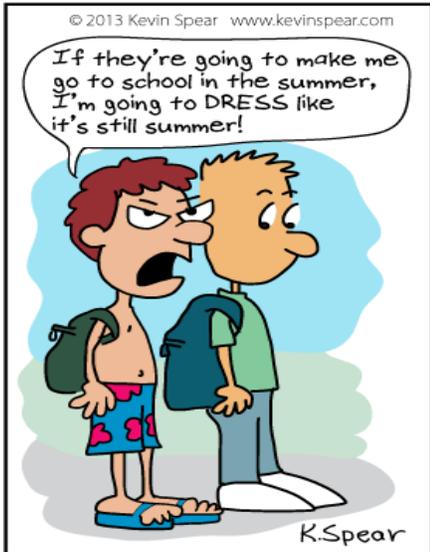
Mon. Oct. 24 @ 4 p.m.
Green Park Elem. Library

CP School Board Meeting

TBA
Davis Elem. PD Room

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Know Your Contract — Walla Walla: Perpetual Calendar Language to be Clarified

Last fall, after the perpetual calendar language put the end-of-the-year date at June 20, teachers in Walla Walla questioned whether or not that made good sense, and ultimately voted to name June 15 as the latest that the school year should ever end. The district agreed, and that Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was officially added to the negotiated agreement last May. School will end this year on Thursday, June 8.

With that settled, WWVEA members and other stakeholders will be asked this fall to clarify when the school year should *begin*.

In order to end school prior to June 15 in 2018, for example, the school year must start prior to Labor Day Weekend in 2017. However, the contract language is not specific as to precisely which day that should be.

You should receive a survey via email in the upcoming weeks. Now is a good time to give the question some consideration.

“When school starts in August and we get to June, I wish we could just keep school going all summer long!” — Said No Teacher Ever

WWVEA Purpose

1) To develop and promote a continuing program to improve:

- Salaries
- Fringe benefits
- Working conditions
- and Instruction

and to do so through collective bargaining.

2) To unify and enable members to speak with a common voice on matters pertaining to the education profession and to present their individual and common interests.

3) To hold property and funds and to employ a staff for the attainment of these purposes.

Board Member Selected — College Place: Robert Holm to Serve Remainder of Term

The College Place School Board interviewed Robert Holm and Becky Samitore-Durand Tuesday evening, ultimately choosing Holm to step in for the remaining term of Troy Fitzgerald, who resigned last month.

Questions from the Board ranged from what the candidates knew about the College Place School District to how they felt about people’s rights to protect themselves. Candidates were also asked whether they would “tell it like it is” or be “politically correct,” and if they felt the rights of one person superseded the rights of the many.

Mrs. Samitore-Durand introduced herself as the mother of four College Place students and someone who has been “involved heavily in the schools my children attend.” She added that she volunteers regularly and often play the role of conduit between parents and the schools. She also has served as a Parent Teacher Association member and is married to Davis Elementary teacher Darin Duran.

Mr. Holm acknowledged that he did not know much about the schools in College Place, but said that he wanted “to help bridge the gap between what (Adventists) know and what they don’t know with what you guys are doing here.”

Mr. Holm said that his experience as a student and an educator has been in the private schools, but that he would like to become “a big part of the community.”

The term for which Mr. Holm will serve will come up for re-election in the fall of 2017.

Helpful Links

WWVEA ONLINE

- [Facebook](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Constitution & Bylaws](#)

CONTRACTS & CALENDARS

- [WW Salary Schedules](#)
- [CP Salary Schedule](#)
- [Leave/TRI Days Explained](#)
- [WW School Calendar](#)
- [CP School Calendar](#)
- [WW Neg. Agreements](#)
- [CP Neg. Agreement](#)

WEA & NEA ONLINE

- [WEA-SE Uniserve Website](#)
- [WEA Website](#)
- [WEA-PAC Pulse Newsletter](#)
- [NEA Website](#)

Are You Registered to Vote?

The election is less than two months away, including some state races critical to public education. Is your voter registration up-to-date?

It turns out that a lot of people are not registered voters. It's not that they didn't intend to register when they moved, – it's just been that life is so busy and they didn't know where to go to get registered.

You can quickly become a registered voter.

Just click on [this link](#) to get started. Complete it online or send it in the U.S. Mail before the October 10 deadline.

You'll be all set for November!

WEA: 'Education is a Civil Right in Washington

The state constitution is clear: For Washington's 1.1 million public school students, amply funded public schools are a civil right, regardless of a child's ZIP code or family background.

In the 2012 McCleary decision, the Washington Supreme Court ordered the state to follow the Constitution and to provide ample funding for basic education by a 2018 deadline. Since then, the state has made some progress on funding needs like buses, utilities and supplies. But the state

has made little to no progress on the investments that will make the biggest difference for our kids, including smaller K-12 class sizes and competitive compensation to attract and keep great educators.

As this winter's pivotal legislative session approaches and with the 2018 deadline looming, below are the WEA's recommendations for fully funding basic education as required by the McCleary decision.

- ***Fund smaller class sizes in every grade level and additional support staff as required by I-1351***
- ***Fully fund competitive, professional base pay and benefits to attract and keep caring, qualified teachers and support staff, and maintain flexibility for school districts to negotiate additional educator pay to meet local needs.***
- ***Fund 10 days of professional development for teachers and job-specific training for educational support professionals***
- ***Fund the full cost of supplies, curriculum, operating costs and transportation, and make sure all schools are equipped with modern technology.***
- ***Fund specific student needs, including special education, gifted, learning assistance program, and transitional bilingual education for English language learners.***
- ***Fully fund school construction to modernize existing schools, build new schools and expand classroom capacity.***
- ***Protect levy funding and preserve local control of public schools.***

Are You a Veteran Teacher in WW or CP?

Do you remember starting your career in education and not even knowing what to ask because there was so much you didn't know?

Eventually, you learned...and you learned a lot.

Here is your chance to impart some of your sage advice to some of younger teachers, as well as some veterans who are new to the area. We'll publish bits of advice in upcoming issues.

- How to prepare for observations?
- What to never, never, ever say to a parent?
- How to deal with stress and burn-out?
- Where in town to buy the best donuts and get the best haircuts?

Email your advice to wwveakeith@gmail.com and we'll publish it here!

WWVEA Marketplace: For Sale or For Free

Marketplace

Marketplace Ads are run in The Probe in the order received.

Your ads:

- must be 200 characters or less (45 words)
- run for 1 week unless otherwise requested
- are subject to approval of the WWVEA Executive Board and may be edited for length
- should be sent to Keith at wwveakeith@gmail.com.

FREE (Sample ads...awaiting real ones to be submitted)

Ads in this space. Think of those first-year teachers who can hardly afford a toaster, and you have THREE of them. Use this format: 200 character limit or 45 words. See fake examples below. Keith Swanson wwveakeith@gmail.com

Sofa & oversized chair, cream leaf inlay, great condition if you don't look at all of the grape juice stains. Pictures available. Ima Spiller 509-555-1234.

FOR SALE (Real ad from a teacher below! Check it out!)

2004 Olds Alero sedan. Red, 3.4 V6, 4 sp. auto. 205k. New front brake pads, wheel bearings, rotors. Freshly changed oil. Runs/drives well. Text Caleb Condie at 509-301-8057 for more info.

TRAVEL (Real ad from a teacher below! Check it out!)

ITALY 2017! Hundreds of WWPS students have traveled the world with our District teachers. Now it's your turn! This is an all-inclusive ADULT trip June 13-27, 2017. 15 days from Bellagio-Lake Como, to Capri on the Amalfi Coast. Discounts through 9/30. kstucker96@gmail.com for more info <http://kerritucker.grouptoursite.com/>

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WWVEA EXEC. BOARD

Pre-2 (WW)

*Not yet filled

3-5 (WW)

*Nilda Williams

6-8 (WW)

*Lance Longmire

9-12 (WW)

*Lori Dohe

SPED (WW)

*Debbie Bailey

Specialists (WW)

*Not yet filled

Pre-3 (CP)

*Meg Berg

4-8 (CP)

*Ryan Blake

9-12 (CP)

*Not yet filled

WWVEA Officers

*Keith Swanson

*Mario Uribe

*Ted Knauft

WWVEA HEAD REPS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Berney Elem.

*Ryan Van Dyke

Blue Ridge Elem.

*Jeremy Hubbard

College Place HS

*Jessica Hand

Davis Elem.

*Marcie Anderson

Edison Elem.

*Mario Uribe

Garrison MS

*John Buissink

Green Park Elem.

*Loretta Wright

Head Start/ECEAP

*Candy Anderson

Lincoln HS

*Stephanie Gomsrud

Pioneer MS

*Debbie Bailey

Prospect Point Elem.

*Leah Taylor

Sager MS

*Ryan Blake

SEATech

*Jeffrey Townsend

Sharpstein

*Rob Griffith

Walla Walla HS

*Andrew Gomsrud

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

WW Negotiations

*Stephanie Gomsrud

CP Negotiations

*Ted Knauft

Nominations/Elections

*Toni Lynn Palmer

Financial Review

*Ted Knauft

Special Events

*Mario Uribe

WWVEA Scholarships

*Ted Knauft