

IN THE KNOW



Auburn Education Association

February 2018

Pres Says....

The Freedom Foundation is out with a new tactic. They are sending emails to members who have previously been identified as possibly receptive to an anti-union message, asking them to join forces. The email is from Jami Lund, and he asks the recipient to send him their phone number so he can enlist them in efforts to fight against our union. The Freedom Foundations latest efforts are part of the national campaign by wealthy corporations and CEO's to rig the system even more in their favor by taking away our freedoms, including the right to join together and negotiate fair pay.

Please remember The Freedom Foundation is an extreme group whose purpose is to eliminate unions, including the WEA and Auburn Education Association. This group opposes all of the things we believe in: reducing class sizes, increasing educator pay, and amply funding public education. They lobby to weaken our collective bargaining rights. Further, its CEO has publicly stated its goal is to get rid of unions like WEA and "drive the proverbial stake through their hearts and finish them off for good."

Why should I be part of the union?

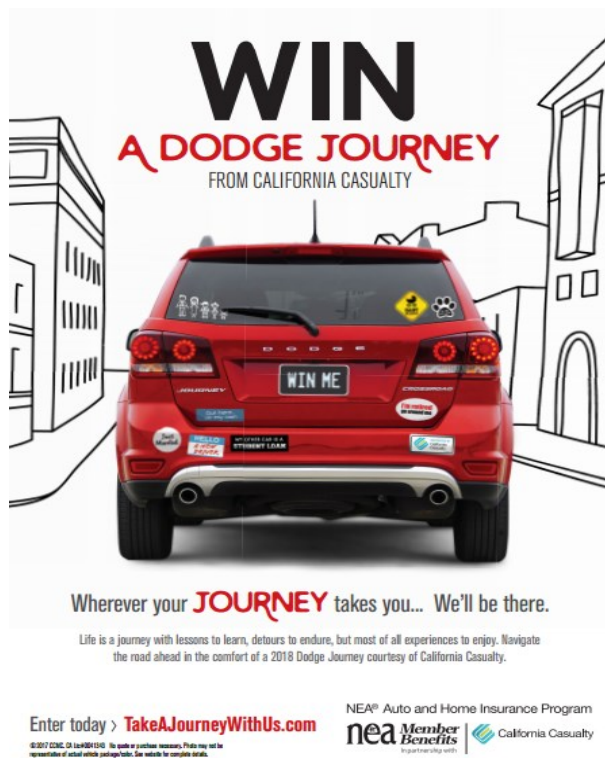
At the state level your union dues pay for lobbying to improve our pay and benefits and provide us with current information about education policy and practice.

At the local level your dues pay for negotiating contracts and protecting members' employment rights. We work to increase member salaries and address workplace concerns.

Together we are Union Strong!

Dianne sent this to me while she was off recovering from back surgery. I wanted to share it with you. Original source was an article Dianne read on Facebook, shared by a teacher in Texas. This article reflects Dianne's opinion and she understands that not everyone will share that.

I don't like to stir the pot. I prefer to stay light-hearted and post pictures of my kids, their many animals, and the funny stuff my first grade babies say. But this teacher has been up since 3:30 this morning unable to stop thinking about how utterly broken America's education system is today. In my opinion, the recent school shootings are not a product of gun legislation, mental health issues, or even family dynamics. I think it's a product of our education system. Kids are being pushed to and beyond their limits. Pre-K is the new kindergarten. Kindergartners go to school all day with no nap, no time for snacks, VERY limited time for play, and are being pushed to read on a first grade level by May or are otherwise considered low-performing and in need of intervention. 1st grade is the new 2nd grade, and so on. The days of enjoyable learning are gone. Teachers are being forced to teach to a test. Yeah, yeah, yeah, administrators across the country will try to say otherwise, but let's face it, assessment drives instruction and if kids don't score well on a test, it's ultimately the teacher's fault for failing to teach what they need to know on that test. So what gets pushed to the side? Science, social studies, play time, learning to get along with each other and solve problems, art, music, and good old fashioned fun. What is the consequence? A dramatic rise in behavior problems, apathy towards education, and a surge in disrespect for adults. I remember in kindergarten being able to put on a smock and paint at an easel just for the fun of it. I didn't have to write about what I painted, didn't have to research paintings similar to mine. I was developing fine motor skills and learning about the world around me. I don't know how long our recess was, but I remember in fourth grade a group of girls and I taught ourselves double Dutch jump rope. We worked and worked and worked at it for what seemed like weeks. Our teachers gave us time and space to do that and we found out what hard work and determination could get us. I think I grew up to be a pretty decent person and so did those kids I grew up with. I love to read and write, and while math is not something I enjoy doing in my free time, I can figure out how much a 20% tip is and how many feet of lumber I need to buy for my raised bed garden in the spring. The days of developmentally-appropriate learning are either non-existent or cut short because it wastes valuable instruction time needed to ensure our kids master what a bunch of yahoos in Austin say they should be able to master. Maybe all these low-performing students, teachers, and schools aren't really low performing. Maybe the standards have been raised so high that they're unattainable for our kids. I'm all about high standards and holding our kids accountable for doing their absolute best, but at what point do we need to step back and say, "Wait a dang minute. Maybe this isn't the kids' fault or the teachers' fault, or the principals' fault. Maybe the standards are too high." When teachers are subjected to ass-chewing sessions about how the endless hard work, passion, and love they put into their students every day isn't good enough, maybe the problem isn't the teachers. When principals are being forced to give those ass-chewing sessions and stay holed up in their offices doing an absurd amount of paperwork to justify what they and their dedicated teachers are doing everyday to make a difference in the lives of each kid on their campus, maybe the problem isn't the principals. When students are being forced to learn what their growing brains aren't ready or able to process yet, and then labeled "tier 3" or "at risk", maybe it isn't the students' fault. No wonder these kids are snapping! They are being pushed to the breaking point by state and government policy makers who are saying they aren't good enough. They are being forced to choose a major and decide what they want to do in life when they are in the 7th grade! They can't show animals, be in a cosmetology class, AND take a cooking class, because that's not on their "degree plan". Isn't that what school is for? To learn about different things so that you will find what you're passionate about? Let kids be kids—yes, I know they can probably be taught calculus and how to do a successful heart bypass surgery in 5th grade, but WHY? Why do we have to push them to the point where they hope to get the flu so they don't have to go to school for a week? Why do we have to push them to the point where they can't take it any longer and become a story on the 5 o'clock news? Anyway, I've been writing this for two hours and I could go on for another two (thanks to my fabulous writing teachers in a small town called Carrizo Springs, Texas who let us write for 45 minutes straight about whatever was on our minds instead of a stupid writing prompt). Guns have and will always be around. Mental health has and will always be an issue. It seems to me that our education system is the one thing that's changed so drastically, and coincidentally, so has school violence. We need to clean house in Austin and Washington and do what's in the best interest of the kids so we don't have to worry about gun legislation or mental health legislation for 8 year olds.



As a busy educator, your journey through life offers new adventures at every turn: enriching students, finding work/life balance and giving back to your community.

We appreciate all that you do!

Our Wherever Your Journey Takes You...We'll Be There campaign gives educators-like you- the chance to win a new 2018 vehicle and ride in style courtesy of California Casualty. [Click here to enter!](#)

2017-2018

AEA Officers/Executive Committee:

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Dianne Jordan

AEA Office / 253-804-6010 or
pres@auburnea.org

Vice President:

Paul Cooper / Olympic MS

Treasurer:

Steve Goliff / LeaHill

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Anne Clark / Mt. Baker MS

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Special Education Rep:

Elaine Hogg / AHS

Career & Tech. Ed. Rep:

Jim Wickens / ARHS

ESA Rep:

Deb Landis / AMHS

Sooner or later....

Retirement in your future?

April 27th and 28th the AEA will host the Spring Retirement Seminar.

Some of the topics covered are:

*Social Security
Medicare
Healthcare
Long Term Care
VEBA
Financial Planning
Estate Planning
Deferred Comp
Staff Retirement
And much more!*

Space is limited to 30 people.

RETIRING?????

Are you planning on retiring this year and haven't turned in your paperwork? The Auburn School District begins actively pursuing teachers for the 2018-2019 school year as early as March by attending hiring fairs. They can not look for candidates for your positions until your paperwork is submitted.

If you aren't planning on returning next year the AEA encourages you to submit your paperwork prior to the April 1st deadline.

This will help us to be in a position to recruit the best teachers to fill your spots next year. Help keep Auburn Strong!

Dianne Jordan

WEST AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL – COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Students at West have stepped up to help other students that are in need this school year. The leadership class came up with the idea to start a clothing and food drive to help anyone that could use the help. They have been collecting donations of gently worn clothes, shoes and accessories in their classroom over the past month.

The class has now taken over a storage closet near the commons in the school and have been opening it to any student that would like to see if there's anything they could use. In looking at the selection there are many items available. "I think it a great idea, because there are students here that might need help," said senior Jocelyna Jorbon.



If you have some gently worn clothes, shoes or accessories that you can contribute, please drop them off at West Auburn High School's office.

AEA Office

1802 A Street SE, Suite B

Auburn, WA 98002



UniServ Director: Debbie Bickert

Field Assistant: Kim Thomas

Field Assistant:

March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Exec Board	6	7	8	9	10
11 	12 School Board	13	14	15 LMT	16	17 
18	19 Rep Council	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 School Board	27	28	29	30	31

March 2018

- 5th Executive Board Meeting – AEA office
- 11th Spring Ahead, set your clocks forward one hour
- 12th School Board Meeting – Admin Building
- 15th LMT
- 19th Rep Council – Rainier Middle School
- 26th School Board Meeting – Admin Building