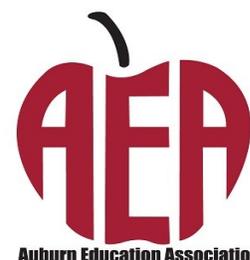


IN THE KNOW



Auburn Education Association

January 27, 2017

Pres Says...I Love My Job

By: Dianne Jordan, AEA President

I love my job for many reasons, the most important being all of the groups of people with whom I meet and with whom I work. This month has been especially remarkable.

I began the month at a presidents' training at WEA headquarters. Local presidents from all over the state attended. We learned about and then practiced being interviewed by the news media. I'm thinking the added focus on making sure local presidents are prepared for this, is because this is the session that the legislature must come up with a plan to address full funding of public education as provided by the McCleary case and later upheld by our Washington State Supreme Court. Big decisions must be made this session. WEA believes this will be a newsworthy topic, and that local presidents may be called upon to provide insight into the impact that the legislative decisions may have on our local districts. Public speaking is not my forte, and this activity put me out of my comfort zone but gave me another opportunity for growth.

Besides my regular monthly meetings with Executive Board and Representative Council, I also meet monthly with Dr. Spicciati. I enjoy our conversations about the happenings of the Auburn School District and the governmental decisions that impact us. Dr. Spicciati and I also serve together on the executive committee for the "Race to the Top" grant. After 5 years, this work will likely be completed by the end of this school year. The executive committee is composed of representatives from community based organizations, superintendents/administration, and union leaders who represent the seven districts involved in this grant. "Race to the Top" has provided me with an eye-opening opportunity to realize the educational innovations that funding can provide. I have also met some remarkable people who represent community based organizations. At our last meeting, one of those representatives shared a disheartening story. She was in traffic stopped at a red light and a stranger began tapping on her car window. Thinking he needed help, she rolled down her window and was immediately assaulted with profanity, and being told to go back where she came from. Her story brought tears to my eyes and gave me pause to wonder about our humanity.

On a more uplifting note, I proudly attended the "Public Education is a Civil Right" rally in Olympia on January 16th. Only 16 brave souls rode the school bus provided by AEA, and a few Auburn folks joined us at the Capital. What we lacked in numbers we made up for in spirit. As you've probably heard the crowd estimate was between 6500 and 6800. We were mighty, and made our voices heard. At January's Representative Council meeting, your building reps continued the effort from the rally by adding their voices - writing nearly 200 post cards to state legislators.

Last night, Thursday, January 26th, I participated in the second Auburn School District Strategic Planning Committee meeting. The group is composed of a broad base of ASD stakeholders. We're mapping out our district's plans for the coming years.

I also serve on the board of both Communities in Schools and Citizens for Schools. I feel fortunate to represent AEA and to have the opportunity to work with all of these amazing people whose goals are to make public schools the best that they can be.

I love my job! Thanks for working with me!

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Have you had the chance to check out the AEA poster yet?

Hopefully you will find it useful and learn of some services that are available to you with your membership. The posters should be posted in your buildings by now. If you have not seen it yet, contact your building reps to find its location.

Thank you!

A big thank you to the 16 teachers and families that braved the bus to attend the Rally at the Capital on Monday January 16th, 2017 . They estimate that 6500-6800 plus showed up that day to support Education.

We had the opportunity to hear from educators, students, civic leaders and those involved in education from around the state.

The message was clear: “Keep the McCleary Promise/Education is a Civil Right” and “Education is a Civil Right/Fully Fund Education/Smaller Class Sizes/Professional Pay”



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How to combat the winter blues

First off, acknowledge that the winter blues are real. Some of your students (or you) may feel sad, tired, lack energy or appear apathetic. Here are some ideas to help with those feeling and keep the classroom engaged.

Lighten up: Wear bright colored clothing, open your blinds, encourage colorful artwork (where appropriate)

Focus on the Positive: Try not to get sucked into the gloom of the weather and the long month of January. Put on a smile, it can be contagious. Ask students to list their positives.

Be Active: This is a challenge in a classroom. Remind yourself and your students to get out and get walking, play and move more.

Before we know it, Spring will be here!

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

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Shelley Warner / AHS

Career & Tech. Ed. Rep:

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Sooner or later....

Retirement; at some point that time will come to set down the class lists, grade book and curriculum planners. Yet the process of retiring can seem so daunting that another year of lessons doesn't seem so bad. You might question: is it the right time, have I saved enough to cover my expenses, do I have a plan for medical coverage, started a hobby, thought about how I'd spend my days? If you are a new teacher you might think that time will never come.

Some AEA members have expressed interest in a column dedicated to sharing retirement tips.

This first month we'll start with the DRS website. If you haven't already logged into the site, it is recommended you do so and set up an account / profile for yourself. Check the website annually for accuracy.

Logging into the website will give you the opportunity to use the Estimator—allowing you to put in your own numbers and dates to “play with possible dates”. The Estimator will allow you to get an idea when retirement might be possible with the financial security you want.

www.drs.wa.gov

Have something you no longer need?

Looking to sell an item or service?

We are starting up the “For Sale” section of the newsletter again.

Contact Lisa Spencer at:

office@auburnea.org or

253-804-6010

Newsletters are published on the last working Friday of the month. The deadline for submission is the Tuesday before.

So often you find
that the students
you're trying to
INSPIRE
are the ones that
end up inspiring you.

Sean Junkins

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February 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Exec Broad	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 School Board	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents Day	21	22 Mid-Winter	23 Break	24	25
26	27 Rep Council/ School Board	28				

February

- 6th Executive Board Meeting
- 13th School Board Meeting
- 20th-24th Presidents Day/Mid-Winter Break
- 27th Rep Council/School Board Meeting