

# WEA Board of Directors Report

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WEA Fourth Corner  
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## It's time to **Take the Lead**

As reported to the WEA Board, this summer was spent moving forward several **Take the Lead** projects and preparing for the upcoming school year. The WEA activities and actions include:

**Take the Lead** direct mail piece-mailed to 120,000 pro-education voters.

29 participants trained at WEALA (WEA Leadership Academy) in August to strengthen leadership skills and prepare them to better carry **Take the Lead** messages to members and the public.

August **Take the Lead** Institute to help teams of people advance the campaign back home.

**Take the Lead** vignettes on KOMO TV featuring our own Shari

Ludden from Stanwood/Camano Island EA.

Reinstated KIRO Radio Seahawks network program with **Take the Lead** messages which will run throughout the Seahawks' season.

Produced **Take the Lead** video vignettes featuring our members sharing their numbers and stories, some in Spanish, to be shared during the Central Washington fair. Produced an abbreviated **Take the Lead** brochure to appeal to multiple audiences beyond our membership.

Coordinated a higher education public poll to ensure that **Take the Lead** is a K-16 funding campaign.

Continue to develop **Take the Lead** materials as requests arise.

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### Special points of interest:

**Take the Lead Talks**-Join the new conversation on school funding. **Monday, Oct. 2, 7-9 p.m.** Everett High School, 2416 Colby Avenue

- The outcome of two Seattle education measures, **I-87 & I-88**.
- **Cross-Cultural Competency Trainings are available starting this winter for locals or uniserv councils.**

## “Washington Learns” Completes Draft

The **Washington Learns** task force created by Governor Gregoire, released a draft report of their work. They have held a series of public meetings to receive input which included a September 20th hearing at the Skagit Valley College. Written testimony may be submitted until September 25th. **Washington Learns** has almost finished its work and will present its final recommendations in November of this year. For detailed information, log on to

[www.washingtonlearns.wa.gov](http://www.washingtonlearns.wa.gov)

## Possibility of WEA to also include Early Childhood

The WEA Board of Directors approved a proposal for **Early Childhood Education Center** organizing. The American Federation of Teachers/Washington (AFT) requested to have the WEA join, as full partners, in this statewide organizing effort and campaign.

Unionization of child care educators presents several challenges and will require considerable research and legal work.

As stated in the report on **Licensed Child Care in Washington State, 2004**, it was estimated that 165,680 children were in licensed child care

and 118,700 were in center based care. Child care centers in Washington employ 22,300 people and grossed \$668 million dollars. Teacher pay at centers averaged \$10.06 per hour. Forty-eight percent of the employees at child care centers are teachers.

## WASL Update.....WASL Protest

*“I don’t have any brilliant schemes today, but I know we have a challenge.”*

*-Terry Bergeson  
Yakima Herald,  
June 9, 2006*

The WEA Accountability Task Force gave an update to the WEA-Board on the released 10th grade WASL scores. It was reported in June by OSPI that 45.1% of the 10th graders passed all three subject areas.

According to the September 8th OSPI press release, they are now reporting 51.8% of the 10th graders have passed all three subject areas. This new number excludes 12,000 students in the equation without clari-

fying the specifics.

Juanita Doyon, Director of PEN (Parent Empowerment Network ) gave a presentation to the board. She can be contacted online at [mothersagainstwasl.org](http://mothersagainstwasl.org) or par-

## Coordinated Bargaining Program

The WEA Board of Directors approved a recommendation to renew and revitalize WEA’s commitment and support for a statewide Coordinated Bargaining Program. The purpose of coordinated bargaining includes;

To maximize strength (power) at the bargaining table

To create better communication processes between locals

To raise the bar on common goals

To place greater pres-

sure on school boards and, ultimately, the legislature to “do the right thing”

Locals have been asked to negotiate a common contract expiration date for August 31, 2009.