

HEA President's Report
January 2010

Happy New Year!

Pacific Region Leadership Conference

This annual Conference (held this year in Reno on March 19-21) is sponsored by NEA and is for the purpose of familiarizing members with the organization and the issues and challenges we, as association members and leaders, are facing. It is always inspirational and informative. We have enough funding to send 11 HEA leaders. There are 6 executive board members who wish to attend. Executive board members, as the elected leaders of HEA are given priority for Leadership Conferences. This will allow for 5 association representatives to attend. Please contact Donna McPherson at dmcpherson@washingtonea.org to indicate your interest in attending. If more than 5 reps submit their names, we will put all names in a hat and draw 5 names. Please indicate your interest by emailing Donna ASAP and no later than January 31st.

WEAPAC Drive

We will begin our annual WEAPAC member sign-up drive beginning January 11 and ending on May 31st. James and I will be "differentiating" our support for schools based on last year's drive. At the January rep council meeting each school will be asked to set a WEAPAC goal for themselves based on their current staff participation. Tracking of progress and incentive details will be presented at the rep council meeting on February 1st.

Election of Delegates to the 2010 WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies

Nominations are open beginning January 11th through February 1 for the election of open positions for both Representative Assemblies. The WEA Rep Assembly will be held in Spokane, WA on May 13-15th, and the NEA Assembly will be held in New Orleans on July 1-6 this year. There are 14 hold-over positions for WEA RA this year, leaving 7 open positions. There are 9 hold-over positions for NEA, leaving 4 open positions. **Be sure to fill in the nomination form if you wish to be elected and encourage others at your work sites for nomination as well. All nomination forms are due by the closing of nominations at the February 1st rep council meeting.** The election timeline document gives all the pertinent information, including names of hold-over delegates.

Executive Board Attends Poverty Institute in Portland

In mid-December six of eight of our executive board members attended a workshop on poverty presented by Dr. Donna Beegle. She is a highly experienced author, public speaker and trainer who as a migrant laborer grew up in generational poverty. Her mission is to educate professionals who have an opportunity to make a difference in breaking the cycle of generational poverty. The HEA executive board has approved my proposal to seek a \$15,000 grant from NCUEA which, if granted, would allow us to bring Dr. Beegle to Highline. With 61% of our students qualifying for the federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program, we believe that Highline teachers need useable knowledge and strategies that could help us to serve many of our students who are currently falling through the cracks due to a lack of awareness of "poverty as the unspoken diversity issue". More to follow.

Rainier UniServ Council Search for New Office Space

Based on the market, lack of safety, and space constraints, the Rainier UniServ Council Board of Directors approved our request to begin looking for a more suitable office space for our operations. After an almost 3 month search, we have found two suitable locations and have authorized a real estate agent to negotiate on our behalf. One location is more desirable than the other and we are hoping that negotiations go well enough to allow a move to the place where our needs will best be met. In the meantime Phyllis Silling, president of the Council, and I (vice president) have scoured the Council budget and are preparing a proposal for the other local presidents and board members who volunteered to be a part of the process. Highline EA pays one-quarter of the rent and operating costs for the office, **our budget is healthy and a move such as this would not severely impact our bottom line**. The Council pays one-half of the rent and operating costs, so the decision making process will likely be focused on the Council's support. I will keep HEA members adequately apprised as we get more clarity regarding the impact of the projected costs.