



# NEWS UPDATE

JANUARY 21, 2016

## **Freedom Foundation wants to take away your power.....**

The Freedom Foundation (formerly the Evergreen Freedom Foundation) is a far-right, anti-union, anti-government group that wants to cut off your ability to influence educational decisions that are made in Olympia and Washington D.C. The foundation, funded by ultra-conservative billionaires like the Koch brothers and heirs to the Walmart fortune, recently launched a campaign to get WEA members to resign their memberships. Their goal is to weaken our union to the point where we are ineffective in advocating for public education and for our students. Ultimately, they want to take tax dollars and privatize public education in the form of vouchers and charter schools. They see billions of dollars that are spent on public schools and they want a piece of the action for themselves. **We** are the biggest obstacle in their way, and they want **us** out of their way.

Tom McCabe (NO relation to Sue McCabe), CEO of the Freedom Foundation, said last May that, "whatever you're doing, stop what you're doing and make sure the focus is on unions – defunding them, marginalizing them, dismantling them – all of that." The Freedom Foundation wants to defund HEA.

On Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, the United States Supreme Court heard the case that is critically important to the future of the unions in the U.S. The case, Friedrichs vs. California Teachers Association, will determine whether or not unions can continue to collect a "fair share" representation fee from teachers who don't want to join the union. In California, Washington and many other states, teachers can choose not to join the union, but they still have to pay their "fair share" for the union representing them. The idea is even if a teacher decides not to be a member of the union, that teacher still receives all the benefits the union negotiates for its members. In Friedrichs, the plaintiffs want to not have to pay that fair share fee, but still receive the benefits the union negotiates ---- for free.

Here's a one and a half-minute video clip that illustrates the concept perfectly - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5JMGx9FXxA>

If the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down fair share laws in states like Washington, it will mean that any union member could decide not to pay any dues but would still get everything the union negotiates for everyone else. It's no surprise that the financial backers of the Friedrichs case are the same ones who are funding the Freedom Foundation's attack on your union.

# Information and News you need to know

## Is your certificate expiring?

Did you know that maintaining your certification is your responsibility? That also means that you are responsible for the renewal of your teaching certificate.

OSPI has set up a new online procedure where educators can manage their certifications and endorsements. The OSPI e-Certification service enables educators to:

- ◆ Apply for credentials online
- ◆ Monitor application status
- ◆ Receive expiration and renewal reminders
- ◆ Print Certificates
- ◆ Update contact information

OSPI provides online training and information about the e-Certification service. Educators can access these at this link.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/Certification/e-Cert/>

Certificated staff with an expiration date of June 30, 2015 on their certificate must start the renewal process ASAP to guarantee maintenance of a valid certification before the certificate expires. Do not wait until the last minute as you might not be able to complete the requirements prior to the expiration date. **YOU MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE CLASSROOM WITHOUT PAY IF YOUR CERTIFICATE EXPIRES.**

Continued.....



## HEA OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

### President

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### Vice-President

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Madrona (206) 631-4100

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Thara Cooper  
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## National Board Certified Educators

National Board Certified teachers (NBCT) are still required to renew their certificates prior to the expiration date. Being a NBCT does not change your responsibility for renewing your certificate.

## Benefits of Collective Bargaining

**Then:** Teachers with families had no insurance pool to help with the cost of covering the high rates. Teachers had to choose between a large out-of-pocket expense or not insuring their families.

**Now:** Teachers working 1.0 FTE can access the insurance pool to get help with the costs of insuring a family. Each year, once open enrollment has ended, all unspent state allocation dollars are placed in the benefit pool to be used for medical premiums.

## Calendar of Events

**January 20** HSD School Board 6 pm Chinook

**January 22** Pizza N Politics 4 pm Proletariat Pizza

**January 26** School Board Listening 6:30 pm

Boulevard Park Public Library

**January 27** HEA EBoard Meeting

**January 29** No School/Non work day for secondary

### WEA Board Directors

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