

WYOMING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

**Officers**

Cody Jones, President  
Shari Carlson, 1st Vice President District No. 2  
Colleen Dubbe , 2nd Vice President District No. 8  
Allison Evans, Secretary/Treasurer District No. 12

**Board Of Directors**

Nicole Novotny Smith - District No. 1a  
Kirsten Anderson - District No. 1b  
Rich Barber - District No. 3  
Jared Bayles - District No. 4a  
Toni Hawks - District No. 4b  
Vacant - District No. 5  
Danielle Wieser - District No. 6  
Vicke Nelson - District No. 7  
Linda Park - District No. 9  
Vacant - District No. 10  
Roger Shanor - District No. 11

**District Representatives**

Monica Spradlin - District No. 1a  
Brian Wright - District No. 2  
Steve Nelson - District No. 7  
Vermona Peterson - District No. 9  
Deborah Rieff -District No. 12  
Jim “Woody” Evans - District No. 13  
Retired Chapter

**Ex-Officio Board Members**

Kristi Desch - WPEA/PAC Co-chair  
Danny Walker - WPEA/PAC Co-chair

**Staff**

Betty Jo Beardsley, Executive Director  
Patrick Wozny, Member Representative  
Connie Glassman - Contract Employee/Editor  
Dennis Grant, Attorney at Law  
Mitch Osborn, Attorney at Law

Recruit Members  
Earn \$\$\$

- Earn money by signing up new WPEA members.
  - Place your name in the upper right corner of the card of each new member you recruit.
  - Your name will be placed in drawing for \$250 for the most new members recruited in the first six months of the year.
  - A second drawing will take place for another \$250 for the most new members recruited in the second six months of the year.
- WIN \$250!!! SIGN NEW MEMBERS NOW!!!**



**May 17, 2018**  
WPEA Board of Directors Meeting  
Cheyenne Red Lion Hotel

**May 18-19, 2018**  
WPEA Delegate Assembly  
Cheyenne Red Lion Hotel

**May 18-19, 2019**  
WPEA/PAC Training  
Cheyenne Red Lion Hotel

**May 17-June 1, 2018**  
2018 Primary Candidate Filing Period

**June 4-22, 2018**  
WPEA/PAC Primary Candidate Interviews

**June 25, 2018**  
Primary Election Endorsement Conference Call

**July 6, 2018**  
Primary Election Absentee Voting Starts

**August 21, 2018**  
Primary Election

**November 6, 2018**  
General Election

APRIL  
2018



The Reporter

This Issue

Session Bills Followed P. 2  
56th Delegate Assembly P. 3  
Virgil M. Mann Award P. 3  
Day of Giving P. 3  
Board Elections P. 4  
LCSD #1 Negotiations P. 4  
WPEA Scholarship P. 4  
WEA/WPEA Reception P. 5

**Retirement**

HB0109 Public Employee Retirement Plan—Contributions passed in this Budget Session will increase contributions to the Public Employee Pension by 2 percent, split equally between the employees and employers in 0.25% increase over four years. This is a gradual increase making it easier for both parties to adjust. The bill was amended to allow employers to pay the full 2%.

HB0110 Wyoming Retirement Plans—Member Accounts—Account Refunds will keep more employer dollars in the plan resulting in lower contribution requirements. Refunds presently consist of the employee contributions plus interest, regardless of whether the employer picked it up.

A member who leaves service may seek a refund and then forfeits any future benefits from the pension. An non-vested individual will be refunded only contributions paid out-of-pocket plus interest.

Anyone who is vested and stays in the system will not be affected by this legislation which affects members hired on or after July 1, 2018.

**Thank You!**

The WPEA lobbyists would like to thank all the legislators who supported public employees by voting for their issues, protecting their benefits and for taking time from the busy schedule during this Legislative Session to visit with the WPEA lobbyists.

A special thank you to Ken Decaria who contracted with WPEA as a lobbyist for this Session and was invaluable in our lobbying effort.

Finally, a special thanks to all the WPEA members who attended the Legislative Reception sponsored by the WEA and WPEA. Our attendance was exceptional and your interaction with our guest Legislators represented our values well.

2018 Legislative Session Summary

The 64th Session of the Wyoming Legislature is now part of history in the making for Wyoming but will be remembered by many as a roller coaster ride never coming to an end. There were 194 House Bills, 10 House Joint Resolutions, 121 Senate Files and 5 Senate Joint Resolutions which is a huge work load for a twenty day Budget Session.

WPEA lobbyists followed or had an interest in 48 bills (see list of bills on page 2 with their outcome). The General Government Appropriations Bill HB0001/SF0001 (Budget Bill) was the number one priority for WPEA.

**Budget Bill**

The Budget Bill during second and third reading amendments saw a number of attacks to health insurance. HB0001 Second Reading Amendment No. 54 sponsored by Rep. Marti Halverson (R) HD22 would have increased employee deductibles for health insurance by an amount equal to 10 percent of the employee annual deductible for 2018-2019 and for 2019-2020 a percentage equal to nine percent of annual deductible. The amendment failed following comments from Rep. Albert Sommers (R) HD20 who stated that insurance deductibles had already been increased. Rep. Donald Burkhardt (R) HD15 stated, “Don’t hammer state employees!” and Rep. James Byrd (D) HD44 stated, “They are not getting raises and yet you want to cut their benefits.

HB0001 Second Reading Amendment No. 43 sponsored by Rep. Halverson and Rep. Scott Clem (R) HD31 would have reduced the employer/employee split for insurance. The amendment would have change the State’s percentage from 85% to 84% from December 2018-November 2019 and to 83% from December 2019-November 2020. It included a reduction to 82% for 2021-2022. This amendment failed by a vote of 24 yeas and 32 noes.

HB0001 Third Reading Amendment No. 39 Rep. Clem sponsored to reduce the 85% employer paid health insurance to 84.5% from December 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020 and to 84% for the 2021-2022 biennium. This amendment also failed.

Second Reading Amendment No. 35 to HB0001 sponsored by Rep. Cheri Steinmetz (R) HD5 would have reduced the health insurance contribution for retirees from \$5.75 to \$5.18 in 2019 and in 2020 to \$4.66 the amount paid per month per year of service up to a maximum of thirty years for retirees who are Medicare eligible. The amendment would further reduce the payment in 2021-2022 to \$4.19 and \$3.77 respectively. Following efforts of WPEA lobbyists, Betty Jo Beardsley and Ken Decaria who visited with several House members explaining the impact to retirees, this amendment was withdrawn by the sponsor.

A Third Reading Amendment to SF0001 on the Employee’s Group Insurance directed the agency to examine and report on the feasibility and estimated savings resulting from increasing deductibles by \$1,000.00 under each health insurance plan option. The House did not support this amendment and it was deleted in the Joint Conference Committee.

**Veto**

Governor Mead signed House Bill 1, the budget bill, into law using his line item veto power to successfully strike eight issues. Of the eight issues vetoed, the House of Representatives attempted to override on four issues which all failed to received the required two-thirds vote.

Agency 001, Office of the Governor—This would have eliminated one full time position from the Governor’s office. Failed 31 ayes, 24 noes, 5 excused.

Agency 077, Enterprise Technology Services—Directs ETS to maintain, support, replace security and surveillance systems at the Wyoming Boys and Girls Schools. Failed: 19 ayes, 36 noes, 5 excused.

Section 312 Statewide employee reduction and budget reduction. This section was asking for 50 positions or resource allocations to be cut. Failed: 33 ayes, 22 noes, 5 excused.

Section 313 School Capital Construction—The footnote requires the board of land commissioners to evaluate potential land sales and exchanges and “find that the lands are not suitable as a location for the construction of an elementary, middle or high school.” Failed: 34 ayes, 21 noes, 5 excused.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wyoming Public Employees Association  
500 Randall Avenue  
PO BOX 2100  
Cheyenne, WY 82003

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cheyenne, WY  
PERMIT NO. 88

## DISTRICTS ELECTING BOARD MEMBERS

Three WPEA Districts are currently electing new Board of Directors and District Representatives.

The ballots for the Director and District Representative in District 3—Laramie, Elk Mountain, Rawlins, Saratoga and District 4a—Evanston, Kemmerer, Rock Springs have been mailed. District 7—Lander, Riverton, Dubois is still accepting nominations for both positions. The Credentials Committee will count those ballots and announce the new Board members in the next Reporter newsletter.

Board Districts 5—Torrington, Lusk, Wheatland, Guernsey and District 10—Sheridan, Buffalo Director and District Representative positions are still vacant with one year remaining in the term. If you are interested in representing the members in those districts, please contact the WPEA office at 635-7901 or email [wyo.public.employees@att.net](mailto:wyo.public.employees@att.net). Board appointments can be made to fill these positions.

Board of Directors and District Representatives are the voice for public employees statewide. The Board of Directors attend quarterly meetings, make policies, and attend meetings with public officials and the Governor when necessary. The District Representatives assist the Board member and are voting delegates at the Annual Delegate Assembly.

# 2018 Legislative Budget Session Bills

The Wyoming Public Employees Association's team of registered lobbyists followed the action in both Houses to see what amendments were made, what votes were taken, who actually supports public employee issues and those who voted against us. WPEA worked on forty-eight bills in this session.

Any session a number of bills do not reach the floor either killed in committees or do not receive the required 2/3s majority vote to bring it forward.

In order to make reading the information user friendly, we have listed the bills that WPEA lobbyists followed according to action taken on them.

### SESSION BILLS NOT CONSIDERED FOR INTRODUCTION

HB0068	Unemployment compensation-seasonal employment	Barlow	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0083	School superintendent salary	Stith	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0102	Wyoming retirement plans-contributions	Jennings	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0116	State government manager/employee ratios-report	Edwards	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0139	Wyoming retirement plans-incentives funded	APPROPRIATIONS	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0171	Minimum wage	Byrd	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0174	Statewide lodging tax	MGT COUNCIL	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0180	School finance amendments-5	Clem	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0184	Sales and use tax rate	Dayton	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0188	Consolidated department of health and family services	Larsen	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0193	Retirement income security task force	Zwonitzer	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HJ0006	Term limits	Gray	H Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote

### SESSION BILLS FAILING TO RECEIVE 2/3s VOTE REQUIRED FOR INTRODUCTION

HB0074	Investments task force (Passed House)	APPROPRIATIONS	S Did Not Consider for Introduction Vote
HB0087	Departments of health and family services-combined	APPROPRIATIONS	H Failed Introduction 37-23-0-0-0
HB0150	State sales tax enforcement	Burkhart	H Failed Introduction 28-31-1-0-0
HB0166	Distributions from LSRA and other state funds	Wilson	H Failed Introduction 35-23-2-0-0
SF0076	Attorney general-elected official	Bouchard	S Failed Introduction 12-18-0-0-0

### SESSION BILLS FAILING DURING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

HB0012	Speeding fines amendments	JUDICIARY	H Did Not Consider in CoW
HB0030	School finance amendments	EDUCATION	H No report prior to CoW Cutoff
HB0038	Election offenses and penalties	CORPORATIONS	H Did Not Consider in CoW
HB0049	Unemployment compensation exemption-seasonal employment	LABOR	H Did Not Consider in CoW
HB0053	State educational program	SCHOOL RECAL	S Died in Committee
HB0067	Campaign finance revisions	CORPORATIONS	H Did Not Consider in CoW
HB0135	Housing authorities	Schwartz	H postponed indefinitely
HB0146	Equal pay-penalties	Connolly	S Did Not Consider in CoW
HB0185	Distribution of investment income	Harshman	H No report prior to CoW Cutoff
SF0028	School finance-health insurance	EDUCATION	S Died in Committee Returned Bill Pursuant to SR 5-4
SF0091	Government contracts-labor organization	Anderson	H Postponed indefinitely
SF0112	Retirement center and pioneer home	APPROPRIATIONS	S 3rd Reading: Failed 14-16-0-0-0
SF0117	School finance amendments-3	Peterson	H Postponed indefinitely
SF0121	State funded capital construction-2	APPROPRIATIONS	S Postponed indefinitely

### SESSION BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

HB0001/	General Government Appropriations	APPROPRIATIONS	Governor Signed HEA No. 0062 with Line Item Veto
SF0001			Governor Signed HEA No. 0023
HB0002	Election law violations/penalties/enforcement	CORPORATIONS	Governor Signed HEA No. 0007
HB0004	Investment of state funds-amendments	CAPITAL FINANCING	Governor Signed HEA No. 0018
HB0032	School finance-major maintenance formula	SCHOOL FACILITIES	Governor Signed HEA No. 0017
HB0033	School finance-capital construction amendments	SCHOOL FACILITIES	Governor Signed HEA No. 0048
HB0036	Move over requirement	TRANSPORTATION	Governor Signed HEA No. 0061
HB0040	Election Code revisions	CORPORATIONS	Governor Signed HEA No. 0005
HB0088	State construction department-amendments	APPROPRIATIONS	Governor Signed HEA No. 0065
HB0109	Wyoming employee retirement plan-contributions	APPROPRIATIONS	Governor Signed HEA No. 0010
HB0110	Wyoming retirement plans-member accounts	APPROPRIATIONS	Governor Signed HEA No. 0067
HB0194	State funded capital construction	APPROPRIATIONS	Governor Signed SEA No. 0021
SF0031	Veterans' skilled nursing center	TRANSPORTATION	Governor Signed SEA No. 0052
SF0046	Elections-notices and resolutions	Case	Governor Signed SEA No. 0055
SF0072	School finance recalibration-transportation	SCHOOL RECALIB.	Governor Signed SEA No. 0062 with Line Item Veto
SF0116	Retirement income security task force-2	Anderson	Governor Signed SEA No. 0070
SF0120	Government efficiency project	MGT COUNCIL	

# WEA ~ WPEA Legislative Reception

February 18, 2018 ~ Old West Museum



Governor Matt Mead speaks with WPEA Board President Cody Jones (center) and Board Member Rich Barber (left) during the annual WEA WPEA Legislative Reception held at the Old West Museum.



State Auditor candidate and WPEA member Jeff Dockter (right) and wife, Jenny (center) also a WPEA member, visit with WPEA Board members Steve and Vicke Nelson.



Rep. John Freeman and Rep. Stan Blake catch up at the Legislative Reception.



From left to right are Legislative Reception attendees Rep. Dan Kirkbride, Jan Stalcup, George Powers, Marguerite Herman, Milward Simpson and wife, WEA Board member Amy Simpson and Rep. Jerry Obermueller with his back to the camera.



State Auditor candidate Jeff Dockter visits with WPEA members Monica Spradlin, Roger Shanor and Roger's wife, Marcia Shanor.



WPEA Board Member Craig Spradlin, WPEA Executive Director Betty Jo Beardsley visit with Senator Cale Case.



WPEA attorney Dennis Grant with Board member Rich Barber, member Jenny Dockter and Board members Joe McCord and Linda Park.



Wyoming Retirement System Director Ruth Ryerson visits with WPEA Board member Joe McCord.



WPEA LCSD No.1 Board member and First Vice President Shari Carlson and Board President Cody Jones.



# WPEA 56th Annual Delegate Assembly PAC Training May 18-19

Cheyenne is the site of the 56th Annual Delegate Assembly May 18-19, 2018 at the Red Lion Hotel (formerly the Radisson) on Fox Farm Road. The WPEA Board of Directors will meet on May 17, 2018 beginning at 10 a.m. for their second quarterly meeting. The Board meeting will continue on Friday, May 18 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. followed by the beginning of the 56th Annual Delegate Assembly at 10:30 a.m. Thursday evening will kick off the activities for the 2018 campaigns with a hospitality room for fundraising, fun, refreshments and socializing. Registration will be from 5-6 p.m. on Thursday for early arrivals and continues Friday morning from 8 a.m. until the Delegate Assembly begins. The staff will report on the Legisla-

tive Budget Session, LCSD No. 1 contract negotiations and organizing. Lunch will feature a guest speaker ... Following lunch we will be selecting county PAC chairs, reviewing WPEA/PAC by-laws and discussing the PAC 2018 election schedule. A Gubernatorial Candidates Panel discussion including a question/answer period highlights the afternoon. Candidates will discuss several questions presented by the PAC Co-chairs Kristi Desch and Danny Walker. They will be allowed to discuss their candidacy as well. The 56th Delegate Assembly Banquet is the feature of the evening including a special speaker. The Virgil Mann Award will be given for an individual's dedication to the success of public employees which

honors an outstanding WPEA. Other awards and door prizes will be presented. Saturday the WPEA/PAC breakfast opens with a guest speaker. The endorsement process will be discussed by the PAC officers. Training workshops will include candidate questionnaires and the candidate interview process run twice so all in attendance can participate in both trainings. This is vital information to assist everyone as we are headed into a very busy 2018 election campaign season. You don't want to miss this! If you are not a voting delegate and would like to attend all or some of the activities on May 18th or 19th, contact the WPEA headquarters to reserve a seat. Seating is limited.

## Seeking Nominations For Virgil Mann Award

Each year since 1996, WPEA has recognized an individual with the Virgil M. Mann Award. A long-time WPEA member and activist, the award was established by the Mann family to honor an outstanding WPEA member. Mann recognized that public employees should stand up for themselves, their families and the vital work they perform for the state. Nominate an individual for the Mann Award. Describe why you believe this individual deserves the award and include leadership accomplishments, Delegate Assembly, PAC, and in recruiting members. Submit by May 18, 2018 to WPEA, PO Box 2100, Cheyenne, WY 82003 or email [wyo.public.employees@att.net](mailto:wyo.public.employees@att.net).

## CHEYENNE COMMUNITY - 13TH ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING

This year the Day of Giving Board is asking two things of area residents: First, please mark your calendar for May 10 and 11 and come out to the Kiwanis Community House in Lions Park, either on the 10th with your children to donate non-perishable food, personal care items, and craft items to help kids in need in Cheyenne OR on May 11th to give the same basics as in the Youth Event and to give in additional ways such as dropping off medical supplies and equipment and leftover medications. Second, if you cannot come out to either of these events, please extend an act of kindness to someone on each of those two days and help us spread the spirit of giving everywhere! Giving is an act of

kindness, doesn't have to cost anything, and can make somebody's day better in a matter of seconds. You might give a colleague or teacher a well-earned compliment, bake cookies and go on "cookie calls" around your office or neighborhood, or pay for the order of the car behind in the drive thru (and ask the clerk to give that next order any change left). You could visit someone who is lonely or needs a good listener; help a neighbor with grocery shopping, lawn raking . . . You will be joining in the spirit of the Day of Giving and building a sense of warmth and community in your world! As an extension of this spirit of giving, we encourage communities across the state to make Saturday, May 12, a Day

of Service. This is a time for Scout troops, youth groups, 4-H Clubs, neighbors, or classes to help in the community or neighborhood. They might clean out a winter's worth of trash and tumbleweeds from a fence or hedge; help a neighbor who struggles with home maintenance by hauling trash, trimming shrubs, or fixing a gate; pull weeds in a park or clean up a roadway. In Cheyenne, the City is hoping you will help on one of their properties by registering with Sam

Payne, Parks Manager, at 637-6433 or [spayne@cheyennecity.org](mailto:spayne@cheyennecity.org). Follow us on our website [www.cheyennedayofgiving.org](http://www.cheyennedayofgiving.org) and/or Facebook (Cheyenne Day of Giving) to find out how to share your 'giving experiences' with the media and area residents! For more information, call Greta Morrow at 635-3943 or email [cheyennedayofgiving@gmail.com](mailto:cheyennedayofgiving@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you!



## LCSD#1 Contract Negotiations Started

All three Units in Laramie County School District No. 1 represented by WPEA have already participated in the Interest Based Negotiations (IBN) process prior to the start of contract negotiations. The Laramie County School District management has always been fair in their efforts to support District employees and though they will likely have a more limited budget this round, the good will and trust which has been developed over the past years should allow everyone to discuss what changes to contracts are necessary and/or possible. Funding cuts in the legislative session will impact the 2018-2019 school year. In part to

address the funding cuts, LCSD #1 offered a one-time early retirement bonus payment to retiring employees of 25% of current placement salary, including years and education, less any differential pay or any other extra pay. Requirements for the early retirement include 20 years of service the with LCSD #1 or meet the rule of 80 (years of service added to current age). Also offered was a retirement insurance incentive which required meeting the rule of 85 and 10 years of continuous service. These two incentives were offered only for the 2017-18 school year. The window to participate in the both incentives closed on March 8, 2018.

With the school negotiation process up and running, the early retirement incentives will help with funding in the future contracts. The retirement and health insurance increases will certainly be topics of discussion. Each unit has determined their needs and wants prior to starting the Interest Based Negotiations process. On April 24, 2018, the Custodial Unit negotiations are 8 a.m.—12 noon and the Nutrition Unit negotiations 1 p.m.—5 p.m. at Laramie County Community College. The Technical Support Services Unit will hold their negotiations on May 3, 2018 again at LCCC. Good luck to all the Unit members involved in the negotiation process!

## WPEA SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The annual Wyoming Public Employees Association scholarship application is available. This is a financial award based on skill, scholastic ability, financial need, community service and employment plans. The scholarship is for the 2018-2019 school year. WPEA members, their spouses, and/or their dependents are eligible to receive the scholarship. Application forms for the \$500.00 scholarship are available by contacting the WPEA office. The deadline for submitting the forms is June 15, 2018. The application must be completed by the student and include transcripts, a written summary and financial information. Applicant criteria includes being currently enrolled or accepted for study at an accredited two or four-year college and registered in a higher education program leading to a degree. The scholarship selection committee will meet and present the finalists to the Board of Director's during the conference call on June 25, 2018. The winner will be notified immediately following the vote by the Board of Directors. Contact the WPEA headquarters for the applications at (307) 635-7901 or email [wyo.public.employees@att.net](mailto:wyo.public.employees@att.net)

## WPEA POSITION VACANCY/CAREER OPPORTUNITY

**Position: Organizer/Member Representative**  
**Cheyenne, Wyoming**  
**About WPEA**

Wyoming Public Employees Association/SEIU Local 1990 is an organization/union representing Wyoming State Employees and Laramie County School District No. 1 Classified Employees. WPEA represents employees by lobbying for salaries, benefits, and workers interests; negotiating school district contracts; providing membership grievance representation; recruiting new members; and by supporting the election of friends of public employees.

**POSITION SUMMARY**  
The ideal organizer/member representative will have experience as an advocate and have excellent people skills, research and writing skills; carry out membership growth/recruiting, building leaders/volunteers; research issues and concerns of public employees.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**  
\*Recruiting members  
\*Group presentations, communication with members/Board  
\*File and represent members in grievances  
\*Attend Board meetings; annual/special meetings

\*Perform other duties as required/assigned by the Executive Director  
**SALARY/BENEFITS**  
**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**  
Salary is dependent on experience with increases offered based on membership growth. A generous benefit package with health/dental insurance, retirement, and paid sick/vacation leave. Travel is required within the State of Wyoming; occasional weekend work may apply.  
**Contact:** WPEA, PO Box 2100, Cheyenne, WY 82003 or email [wyo.public.employees@att.net](mailto:wyo.public.employees@att.net)  
Position Open Until Filled

~ **WPEA** ~  
**Fighting For Your Future!**

**PerksCard Network**  
Welcome to the Wyoming Public Employees Association Perks program. Our merchant network can save you thousands of dollars annually on dining, local attractions, travel shopping, gift cards and more!  
**Getting started is easy and FREE!**  
Visit: <https://discounts.perksconnection.com>  
Click "Activate Your Account Now" and fill in the required fields.  
Group code: WPEA18

~ **SIGN** ~  
**A NEW MEMBER TODAY!**