

# FEAtures



The Newsletter of the Ferndale Education Association • Vol. 9, No. 6 April 30, 2005

**Jeremy Nolan**  
President  
**Candy Ford**  
Vice-President  
**Cherie Thomas**  
Secretary  
**Cheryl Frazier**  
Treasurer  
David Fayram  
Website Coordinator  
Donna Sargent  
Newsletter Editor  
Susan Gelhar  
Legislative Coordinator

## Negotiating Team

Bud Larson, North Bellingham  
Kris Skewis, Horizon  
Marilyn Rockwell, FHS  
Maggie Bagwell, FHS

## Building Reps

Beach Elementary  
Michelle Engels, Head Rep

Central Elementary  
Denise Smith, Head Rep

Custer Elementary  
Tracie Morris, Head Rep  
Diane Dodd

Eagleridge Elementary  
Candy Ford, Head Rep

Jerry Finkbonner  
Vicki Salisbury  
Linda Strand  
Sue Rutledge

Mt. View Elementary  
Cathy Cook, Head Rep  
Teresa Parke

Rocky Diaz  
Jan Lindsay

N. Bellingham Elementary  
Thirza Zagelow, Head Rep  
Christi Liese

Skyline Elementary  
Greg Hart, Head Rep  
John Cashmere  
Rachel Gordon-Mercer

Horizon Middle School  
Kris Skewis, Head Rep

Vista Middle School  
Brita Castleberry, Head Rep  
Gary Cocca

Ferndale High School  
Jenny Kubic, Head Rep  
David Peters  
Mike Smith  
Adam Goldstein (Windward)

## Representative Assembly promises lively new business discussion

by Donna Sargent

If area members' responses are any indicator, New Business Item No. 1 could be a hot potato at this spring's Representative Assembly.

The item, termed "Education Excellence Effort - Funding the Future of Our Schools," calls for a \$3/per month, 3-year assessment from members in order to accumulate adequate resources to provide quality school programs.

Objectives of the item are 1) to increase WEA members' professional status and job satisfaction, 2) to improve the quality of and access to public education for all students, and 3) to forge partnerships with parents, business, other unions, and community groups.

Elements of the "Education Excellence" effort include implementing an integrated team approach that combines various strategies "to focus on the long-term goal of persuading a critical segment of the public that school funding is inadequate, that increased funding for

schools will result in significantly improved school quality, and that increased funding for schools will strengthen our state's economy."

The agenda item was unanimously endorsed by the WEA Board of Directors at its April meeting.

At the Mock Assembly in Mt. Vernon on April 20, WEA president Charles Hasse said he believes we need to educate the public, so they will pass laws that are favorable to education. In spite of achievements such as the passage of I-728 and the reinstatement of at least an attempt at cost-of-living adjustments, indicators point to "inadequate resources to provide quality school programs."

One WEA member at the Mock Assembly commented that she was willing to give up a latte a month to help raise public awareness of education issues, while other members were not ready yet again to take

(Continued on Page 2)

## 2005 FEA Elections

\*\*\*  
**FEA Election Ballots are due  
to Head Reps no later than May 5.**

**Elections results will be announced  
by the Election Committee  
at the May 19 Rep Council meeting  
and published in the May issue of FEAtures.**

## FEA Website Address: [www.ferndaleea.org](http://www.ferndaleea.org)

### Articles worth reading in the April issue of *WE*

If you have a few minutes while you're waiting for your son, daughter, or spouse at the mall or doctor's office, this month's *WE* has some interesting and useful information.

The following articles provide information about issues about which we as teachers and professionals should be aware:

- "Budget plans restore I-732 COLAs, but fall short on other compensation priorities," Page 4
- "Budgets propose funding I-728" and "Pension improvements a key part of WEA's No. 1 priority," Page 5
- "State will adjust Pro Cert rules," Page 8
- "Wal-Mart is off the school-supply list," Page 16
- "Health Matters: Helping children cope with trauma," Page 19.

*FEAtures* is published 11 times a year, August through June, to inform Association members of FEA activities, negotiated policies and district-wide points of interest. Letters, guest columns, announcements, and story ideas are welcome.

**Submittal Instructions:** Send items to Donna Sargent, *FEAtures* Editor, Ferndale High School, x9359, [dsargent@ferndale.wednet.edu](mailto:dsargent@ferndale.wednet.edu) or David Fayram, *FEA Web-site* Editor, Ferndale High School, x9267, [dfayram@ferndale.wednet.edu](mailto:dfayram@ferndale.wednet.edu).

Please submit copy electronically on Microsoft Word. Deadline is the third Friday of each month.

## Funny things kids say . . .



At the private school where I used to teach, a bunch of home-schoolers have their kids tested annually. The teachers always refer to the tests as the "Iowa" tests because of the company that makes them.

One morning I observed a home-schooled little girl being dragged down the hall by her mother on the first day of tests and crying.

Her mom asked her to straighten up, telling her that there was no reason to worry about taking the tests.

At this point, the little one wailed, "But I don't know ANYTHING about Iowa!!!"

(Keep smiling through rest of the testing marathon!!)

## Representative Assembly, continued

money from their own pockets to fund what should be the WEA's and the state legislature's responsibility.

Other items slated to be determined at the Rep Assembly on May 13-14, include Testing and Accountability, Decal Distribution for Unification, Credentials Review, "Medicare for All," WEA Memorial, National Board Certification Compensation, Support for Members with Work Environment Concerns, and UniServ Boundaries.

Over a thousand WEA members serving as representatives for their organizations will convene in

Spokane for the 85th Annual Representative Assembly, May 12-14. These representatives are charged with setting policy and direction for the coming year.

Delegates to the Assembly from FEA include Cathy Cook, Mountain View; Marilyn Rockwell, FHS; Rocky Diaz, Mountain View; Thirza Zagelow, North Bellingham; Judy Trauth-Thomas, Central; and Donna Sargent, FHS.

If you have input concerning agenda items, please contact one of these representatives to share your views or to obtain more information.

### REP COUNCIL SCHEDULE

**May 19 4:30 p.m.**

**Location to be announced**

### EXEC BOARD SCHEDULE

**May 5 4:30 p.m.**

**Planning Meeting:  
June 2**

## It's Your Government

### Make Contact!

#### **US Senator Patty Murray**

173 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D C 20510-4704  
D.C. Office (202) 224-2621  
Seattle Office (206) 553-5545  
senator\_murray@murray.senate.gov

#### **US Senator Maria Cantwell**

717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D C 20510  
D.C. Office (202) 224-3441  
senator\_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

#### **US Representative Rick Larson**

1529 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D C 20515  
D.C. Office (202)225-2605  
rick.larson@mail.house.gov

#### **Governor Christine Gregoire**

www.wa.gov/governor (360) 902-4111  
GovernorGregoire@Governor.wa.gov

Go to: [washingtonea.org](http://washingtonea.org)  
and click on "E-mail your legisla-  
tors" to find out who your repre-  
sentatives in the state legislature  
are (My Elected Officials).

Other topics included on  
the legislative page are "Search  
Local Government," "Issues and  
Legislation," "Congressional  
Delegation," and "Media Guide."

To e-mail WEA lobbyists,  
or to find compensation and  
education statistics, click on the  
links under "Spotlight."

Washington state's legisla-  
tive hotline, at 800-562-6000, is a  
quick, toll-free way to contact our  
legislators and voice support or  
opposition to legislation.

**Shop Ferndale!**

*Support the people who  
support us.*

## *\$100 allotments used for FEA PR*

The FEA Exec Board and Rep Council have approved a \$100 allotment for each school in the Ferndale District to be used for public relations efforts. If your school hasn't made plans to use these dollars, contact your head rep with your ideas.

Plans made so far include speaker Ruth Parker at Beach Elemen-

tary in January and a March "Breakfast for Books" in honor of Dr. Seuss.

Horizon Middle School members have purchased window stickers: "Students, Parents, Teachers: Together We're Better," and members at FHS have purchased a half-page in the yearbook.

See your school FEA reps for more information and input.

## *Gregoire funds initiatives: WEA members urge Senate to do better*