Fall is in the air and the holidays are just around the corner! This issue of The Communicator includes some artwork to get you through the holidays as well as some handy information for you to use as filler in your local newsletters or website. Also included in this copy of The Communicator is information about the WVEA Local Newsletter Contest. Locals are recognized each year at Delegate Assembly for their quality newsletter production. Start making plans to enter your newsletter!

PEIA Public Hearings Scheduled

It’s that time again! The PEIA Finance Board has scheduled 4 public hearings for the 2018-19 plan. The public hearings are scheduled for the following locations at 6 pm:

- November 6 at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown
- November 7 at the Holiday Inn off Interstate 81 in Martinsburg
- November 14 at the Tamarack in Beckley
- November 15 at the University of Charleston’s ballroom in Charleston.

Among the biggest proposed FY 19 plan year changes are: Moving from 10 salary tiers to only three, which determine an employee’s premium; taking total family income into account if an employee's spouse is also covered; and requiring plan participants to pay premiums by the person.

For instance, Plan A employees would pay $51 a month PER each dependent under age 21, $73 a month for each dependent over 21 and $146 to cover a spouse.

Pharmacy deductibles will be removed for active employees in plans A, B and D. But preferred brand drugs which now cost members $25 or $30 would require 30 percent co-insurance. That could lead to a $100 maximum cost for a 30-day prescription or a $200 maximum for a 90-day fill.

The finance board is expected to vote on the new plan Dec. 7. For more, please visit www.wvea.org.

Information for New Educators

WVEA has a section of their website dedicated to Early Career Educators (http://www.wvea.org/content/early-career-educators-0). The WVEA is here to support new educators in their career with everything from professional development opportunities to questions regarding rights and responsibilities…providing new educators with a community of educators that, as a member, they can access year-round.

Start out your career on the right foot and use these helpful resources to assist throughout the school year.
Need Professional Development for your School?

WVEA staff are available to provide Professional Development for your school. WVEA has a catalogue of available trainings listed on the WVEA Website - [http://www.wvea.org/content/trainings-presentations](http://www.wvea.org/content/trainings-presentations).

Simply contact your Organizational Development Specialist (ODS) to schedule a presentation.

American Education Week – November 13 - 17, 2017

American Education Week—November 13-17, 2017—presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. 2017’s theme will be reflected in special observances each day of the 2017 weeklong celebration:

- Monday, November 13, 2017: Kickoff Day
- Tuesday, November 14, 2017: Parents Day
- Wednesday, November 15, 2017: Education Support Professionals Day
- Thursday, November 16, 2017: Educator for a Day
- Friday, November 17, 2017: Substitute Educators Day

You can find resources, ideas and artwork for American Education Week at the NEA website - [http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm/](http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm/).

Are you on Facebook? Join WVEA there

You can reach the WVEA Facebook page by going to [www.facebook.com/dedicatedteachers](http://www.facebook.com/dedicatedteachers). In order to join, click the ‘Like’ button on the top of the page. Once you like us, you’ll receive the latest news and information sent automatically to your Facebook page. You’ll receive the latest statewide education news about issues that are important to you. Please share the site with your friends and encourage them to join.

Call the WVEA Help Center!

WVEA’s Help Center handles all types of questions. Simply call and speak to one of the Member Advocacy Specialists for any employment-related questions. They have expertise in school law statutes, state board policies and grievance decisions, which enable them to assist you with any questions you might have. You may call the toll-free number at 1.866.568.WVEA (9832) or send an email.

A link to the WVEA Help Center inquiry form can be found on the WVEA homepage at [www.wvea.org](http://www.wvea.org). Please be advised that the WVEA Help Center is a members-only service.

Keep Informed and Make Your Voice Heard

When it comes to public education, WVEA members are the experts, and they need to be heard. WVEA members are working together to provide a quality public education to every student regardless of the ZIP code.

Every student has a basic right to a great public education. That’s why our Association is about more than salary, rights, and benefits. We’re about creating schools and supporting educators who are growing tomorrow’s inventors, thinkers, artists and leaders.
WVEA's efforts are far more successful when members are informed and involved. Our collective voice affords us the strength to do more together than we can by ourselves. Our collective actions advance our profession and improve public education.

Together we can be heard on the important decisions that affect education employees, our schools and our students. There are several ways to keep informed and make your voice heard:

**WVEA TODAY and other Association publications.** The WVEA TODAY is published regularly throughout the year and is also posted online. During the Legislative Session WVEA posts a daily Lobbyline to keep members informed of the day’s events and a weekly WVEA Legislative Update that recaps the week’s activities.

**E-mail blasts.** WVEA regularly sends out email blasts to members to make them aware of particular issues and to request some type of action. WVEA uses the email address listed in our membership database so please update any changes to your personal email address. You can update your membership information by completing the online form ([http://www.wvea.org/content/update-membership-info](http://www.wvea.org/content/update-membership-info)).

**Text/SMS alerts.** Particularly during the Legislative Session, WVEA uses texts to keep members informed of breaking news and important activities or to request members to contact legislators on important issues. **In order to join, text @wveatexts to 304-927-1461.**

**Social media.** WVEA is active on social media and uses the medium to post breaking or important news. “Like” WVEA on Facebook ([facebook.com/dedicatedteachers](http://facebook.com/dedicatedteachers)) and Follow WVEA on Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/wveatoday](https://www.instagram.com/wveatoday)) and YouTube ([https://www.youtube.com/user/WVEAUpdate](https://www.youtube.com/user/WVEAUpdate)). Please feel free to share WVEA’s posts with your social media network to help spread the word.

**WVDE policy updates.** Keep abreast of the latest from the WVDE by checking the ‘State Board Policy’ section of the WVEA website. You will find posts of the proposed changes to WVBE policies and provide links to make your voice heard on the revisions.

**Legislative contacts.** WVEA provides phone numbers and email links to contact your legislators ([http://www.wvea.org/content/house-senate-legislative-contacts](http://www.wvea.org/content/house-senate-legislative-contacts)) on issues of importance. Your legislators need to hear from educators on the issues that impact our public schools.

**WVEA website.** WVEA's website, [www.wvea.org](http://www.wvea.org), is also a good place to find breaking news in greater detail. [WVEA.org](http://www.wvea.org) is a 'responsive' site that will adjust to whatever platform you are using. While the look might be different on a mobile phone, a tablet or a computer, you will still have access to the entire site and all the content. A mobile app of the WVEA website is in the works and should be available later in the year.

**NEA's Legislative Action Center.** Check out the NEA Legislative Action Center ([http://edadvocacy.nea.org](http://edadvocacy.nea.org)) for analysis of federal legislation that affects educators and students. You can also access NEA's Congressional Report Card and the Ten Golden Rules of Lobbying, a list of great pointers on communicating with legislators. You’ll also find tips on drafting effective letters to the editor.
Send Us the Name of Your Newsletter Editor

Please let us know who your new (or continuing) editor(s) will be for your Association for the 2017-2018 school year. Please fill out the form below and return it to WVEA Communications so we have the correct name and address for our Communicator mailing list.

Deadline for entry is April 9, 2018

Mail entry form and 4 issues of your local newsletter published during the year to:

WVEA Communications, 1558 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311

2017-2018 Newsletter Editor(s)

County: ___________________________ Name(s): ___________________________
Name of Newsletter: ___________________________ Address: ___________________________
School Phone: ___________________________ Home Phone: ___________________________
New Editor(s): __________ Continuing: __________ Email: ___________________________

Mail to: WVEA Communications, 1558 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311

Newsletter Contest

Don’t forget about the annual newsletter contest. All you need to do is submit four (4) issues of your local newsletter for judging (along with the form below). All counties are eligible to participate. The competition is divided into (4) categories based upon the size of the local. Winners are announced at Delegate Assembly in April 2018. The contest runs from September through June. The deadline for entering this year’s contest is April 9, 2018.

County: ___________________________ Title of Newsletter: ___________________________
Editor(s) __________________________________________________________________________
Number of Issues published (Since August 2017) __________________________________________________________________________

CEA Category (check one)

___ Group 1 - up to 100 members
___ Group 2 - 101 to 200 members
___ Group 3 - 201 to 400 members
___ Group 4 - 401 or more members

Signature of Editor or CEA President: __________________________________________________________________________

Deadline for entry is April 9, 2018

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