

# The Value of Membership

Association membership — local, state, and national — has a value beyond compare. The strength and unity created by members working toward common goals represents the chance to do more for public education and students than could ever be done alone.

Joining the association means joining together with over 90,000 others in Washington and 3.0 million in the U.S. who have different ideas, opinions, and interests, but who all care about public education. The WEA represents employees in virtually every public school district in the state, and is the state's largest public employee labor organization and its loudest voice for public schools.

What does the Association do?

## **I. Meet and Negotiate**

- Bargains terms and conditions of employment
- Enforces negotiated contract (grievance process)
- Prosecutes unfair labor practice charges
- Defends academic freedom

## **II. Meet and Consult**

- Communicates issues via labor management meetings.
- Provides input into programs and services
- Helps identify and meet professional development needs

## **III. Political Action**

- Interviews and supports pro-education candidates
- Lobbies on education issues and legislation
- Sponsors and supports legislation and initiatives

## **IV. Community Action**

- Builds and supports coalitions of pro-education/pro-labor organizations
- Supports students and families through outreach opportunities
- Interacts with community leaders
- Promotes public education, teaching, and the Association with and through the media

## **V. Special Services**

- Makes available group purchasing (events, activities)
- Provides discount programs (phone, travel, online purchases, etc).
- Sponsors group-purchase insurances (life, home, etc.)
- Provides Dues Tab life insurance (free to eligible members)

## **VI. Member Representation Outside Bargained Contract**

- Represents non-contractual complaints
- Provides professional liability insurance (\$1,000,000)
- Provides additional liability insurance for Nurses and Therapists

## **VII. Member Counseling and Assistance**

- Assists with retirement issues and/or concerns
- Refers and assists on Workers Compensation and Disability
- Provides EAP Counseling for personal issues

## **VIII. Training**

- Trains leaders for building and cohort needs
- Provides training to members for NBCT
- Provides state and national conferences on educational and Association topics and issues

## **IX. Legal Services**

- Provides representation and funding in job-related legal actions
- Represents in dismissal and discipline actions
- Refers on non job related legal matters

## **X. Instructional and professional development**

- Counsels on credential matters
- Provides a variety of PD opportunities

## **XI. Communications**

- *NEA Today* and *WEA Action publications*
- Websites [www.wea-eastern.org](http://www.wea-eastern.org) ,
- [www.washingtonnea.org](http://www.washingtonnea.org), [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)
- Facebook/Social Media Presence