

## Why is WEA Retired & NEA Retired important?

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While you are working, you belong to a bargaining unit that negotiates contracts for you, including working conditions, benefits, and salary.

### **As a retiree, who negotiates for you?**

You no longer belong to a bargaining unit. Statutes in the State Constitution determine the retirement allotment and benefits you receive. The only way there can be retirement reform is by the introduction of new legislation.

Over the past several years, WEA/WEA-Retired has initiated and been instrumental in the passage of major retirement reforms. These changes included:

- Representation on DRS Advisory Board
- Medical insurance through PEBB
- Representative on PEBB Board
- Pop Up
- Representation on ERBB Board
- Small modification in vested age for Plan 3
- 2018 Plan 1 COLA
- 2020 Plan 1 COLA
- Change in default for new hires from Plan 3 to Plan 2
- Modification of 2008 Early Retirement Factor ruling so TS Plan 2 and TRS and SERS Plan 3 members can substitute without losing defined benefit

Become a life member of WEA-Retired/NEA-Retired and be part of the efforts in the future retirement reforms.

How do you do that? You can join WEA Pre-retired while you are an active teacher, or you can join after you have retired. You can join by going to [washingtonea.org](http://washingtonea.org) and clicking on the membership button.