

## **Why is W E A-Retired/N E A-Retired important?**

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. Statues 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 and WEA-Retired have initiated and been instrumental in the passage of major retirement reforms. These changes included:

- Representation on Department of Retirement Systems Advisory Board
- Medical insurance through Public Employees Benefit Board
- Representative on Public Employees Benefit Board
- Pop Up - Possible Pension adjustment due to spousal death
- Representation on Employee and Retirees Benefit 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 TRS Plan 2 and TRS and SERS Plan 3 members can substitute without losing their defined benefit

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

Because you will be joining NEA-Retired, you will have access to all of the opportunities offered through NEA Member Benefits. Those Benefits include offers on travel, merchandise and insurance, including liability insurance.

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 [www.washingtonea.org](http://www.washingtonea.org) or [www.washingtonea.org/retired](http://www.washingtonea.org/retired) and click on the membership button.