

# PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

May 2013

12202 E. Main, Spokane Valley, WA 99206 • 509 926-0201 • FAX 509 891-9183 • cvea@aol.com • www.centralvalleyea.org

## Jeff Brown

Jeff Brown, past president and office manager for CVEA, passed away on April 24. Jeff contributed more than four decades of involvement and leadership to the Central Valley Education Association. After serving as president (1985-87 and 1995-2001,) Jeff took the position of office manager. He has mentored three presidents, and by taking care of routine functions allowed the presidents to concentrate on providing service to the members.

Jeff's extensive involvement in the association led to a wealth of knowledge on all facets of CVEA, including the historical background of the district, the association, and the contract. He was a great resource when dealing with situations and issues, not only from the historical perspective, but from a keen sense of what works and what is right.

Jeff taught English at University High School for 31 years in the same classroom. I was with Jeff on a number of occasions when past students would recognize him and tell him how much his classes helped them and how they enjoyed learning from him. He was a highly intelligent man with a calm and modest demeanor, and a great sense of humor. He will be sorely missed.

*Steve*

## WEA Representative Assembly

The WEA Representative Assembly was held in Bellevue at the Meydenbauer Center, April 25 through 27. Steve Lalonde, DM Freed, Brad Thew, Scott Knowles, Heather Graham, Cheryl Sampson and Monica Larson were in attendance. There were thirty new business items, five resolution proposals and four standing rules proposals. In addition, the assembly elected as the new President, Kim Mead, and as the new Vice President, Stephen Miller.

On Saturday morning, the assembly loaded onto a fleet of buses and went to Olympia for a rally to emphasize the need of the legislature to address the McCleary Decision of the State Supreme Court, which mandates that the state meet its constitutional duty to fully fund basic public education. The rally was awash in red shirts (Red for Ed), and was joined by the Governor and more than a dozen legislators. The Governor and several of the legislators spoke to the need to fund education.

Saturday afternoon we got back to the formal procedure of the RA and it continued until past 10:00 PM. We got back to Spokane at 3:00 AM on Sunday.

Next year the RA will be held in Spokane on April 3-5. That includes the first Saturday of Spring Break, so we will be looking for dedicated individuals to go.

## Notes on Evaluation

As we press forward on the new evaluation system, keep in mind that this process is mandated by the legislature. CVEA has worked with the district to implement the mandate which has not been easy as a result of the lack of information on a timely basis and a dizzying array of changes of direction and interpretation from the state. Legislators, OSPI, the state School Board, and the State Evaluation Steering Committee have all been influencing the path we are required to take. Change is seldom easy, and this change is such a huge departure from the current evaluation system, that it is taxing everyone significantly. The main thing to remember is that this is something that we must do. Thank you to all who have participated in the process of developing our district's efforts to meet the mandate.



## Website Update

The new website for CVEA has been up and running now for a couple of months. We have been maintaining both sites so far, but we are about to phase out the old website. The old website address is [www.centralvalleyea.org](http://www.centralvalleyea.org) and the new site is [www.centralvalleyea-com.webs.com](http://www.centralvalleyea-com.webs.com). There is a link on the old site to the new site. Please update your bookmark if you wish to have access to the new site. It is our intention to close the old site at the end of the school year.

Many thanks to the past web-master, Josh Kaeil and the current web-master, Colin Williams for their work on the sites. Feel free to contact CVEA for suggestions about site enhancements or any site issues.



## Legislative update

Well, here we are again. The legislature was unable to establish a budget, so they are headed into a special session. As it concerns public education, they seem to be trying to find a way to begin responding to the McCleary decision, but there is not much common ground as yet. The special session is scheduled to start on May 15th and will probably run the full 30 days allowed. This makes it difficult to make much progress on several of the issues we are trying to address in re-openers. (See Re-openers)

## Re-openers (Bargaining)

Your bargaining team has been meeting with the district team to address a number of issues identified during the full-open bargain last spring. We have reached tentative agreement on some issues and continue to work on others. Some have been waiting for clarification from the state. We will be trying to deal with two elements relative to health insurance where we are confident that we know what is being required. We have 11 pages proposed for evaluation.

Central Valley Education Association has an opening for a part-time Office Manager. Application deadline is June 3rd. Job description posted on our website. K-12 public school experience preferred.

## CVEA Executive Board

### President -

Steve Lalonde  
Office - 926-0201  
Cell - 842-6768  
email - [cvea@aol.com](mailto:cvea@aol.com)  
fax - 891-9183

### Vice President -

Scott Knowles  
Opportunity Elementary  
228-4550

### Secretary/Treas -

Vicki Arnold  
North Pines  
228-5052

### Elementary Rep -

Keith Hoekema  
Broadway Elementary  
228-4100

### Middle School Rep -

Monica Larson  
Evergreen  
228-4780

### High School Rep -

Vicky Jensen  
University High School  
228-5240

### Special Services Rep -

Heather Graham  
Liberty Lake  
228-4200 / 228-4300

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