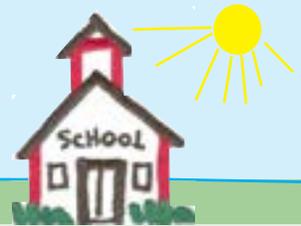


PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

November 2013

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Thanksgiving

As I reflect on this season, I realize that I am thankful for so many people, places and things in my personal life, and that I have much to be thankful for in my professional life as well.

I am thankful that I was able to start my teaching career in 1972 in Glenwood, Washington, a small logging community on the edge of the Yakima Indian Reservation. It was a wonderful experience in cultural diversity.

I have been blessed to be in the Central Valley School District since 1984. More recently I have had the good fortune to serve as the President of CVEA. I have enjoyed working with so many dedicated and talented educators. There have been many times when the support of the members of this Association has made it possible to survive some pretty rough events.

As I work through this last year of my career in education, I will continue to appreciate the opportunity to work with you to make education for our children the best it can be. Thank you for all you do!

Steve



CVEA Elections

December usually begins the election process for CVEA, but because the WEA Representative Assembly is earlier this year, we have to have our elections a month earlier. Nomination forms are available now for anyone wishing to run for office. In December, candidates can submit biographies and statements for the January newsletter. There will be a General Meeting to allow candidates to speak on January 21, before the Building Rep meeting. The ballots will be provided to Building Representatives at the January 21st meeting with the deadline for returning those ballots being January 29th. The ballots will be counted and the election results announced by February 3rd. Those elected will assume the duties of office on July 6th.

The positions open for election this year include:

- President
- Secretary
- High School Representative
- Middle School Representative
- Elementary School Representative
- Special Services Representative

In addition to the officers, we will be electing Representatives to the WEA Rep Assembly and the NEA Rep Assembly. The WEA RA is April 3, 4 and 5 in Spokane. The NEA RA is July 1 through

July 6 in Denver, Colorado. We can send 11 members to WEA RA and have 1 open position to NEA RA.

If you have any questions about the process please contact the CVEA office at 926-0201.

WANT REIMBURSEMENT?

If you want reimbursement for supplies and tuition in your January check, the deadline is December 1. Forms are available online at MYCVSD forms page under Business Services.

1. On MyCVSD, click on Forms on the left green menu bar.
2. Then, click on link under Business Services.
3. The Supplies and Tuition Reimbursement (CVEA) form is under Accounting and Accounts Payable.

To check the available balance of your funds use the Employee Supplies Report which is located on MyCVSD under Employee Self Serve.

1. On MyCVSD, click on Employee Self Serve on the left green menu bar.
2. Enter Employee ID and Password as instructed.
3. Click Go on the Employee Supplies Report.

If you have questions, contact Martha Poffenroth @ 228-5465 or Birgit Hodgson @ 228-5464.

Retirement Seminars: They fill up fast!

The WEA Retired Retirement Seminars will be available again this year. They will be doing four sessions and will fill them on a first come, first served basis. I will get the flyers out (probably through Building Reps) just as soon as I get them and it will be up to those of you who are interested to make your reservations as quickly as you can. Each session will have a separate flyer, and you cannot register for a session until that session's flyer is released.

The presenters are retired teachers who volunteer to do these sessions, so we need to take good care of them, so we can continue to have these seminars.

The retirement seminars presented by WEA Retired will be held on the following dates:

- Dec. 6 -7 – WEA Retirement Workshop
- Jan. 10-11 – WEA Retirement Workshop
- Feb. 7-8 – WEA Retirement Workshop
- Feb. 28- March 1 – WEA Retirement Workshop
- March 21-22 – WEA Retirement Workshop – Tentative, not confirmed

These are Friday evening and Saturday all day. The Friday schedule runs from 3:30 until 7:00 and the Saturday schedule is from 8:30 until 4:00. Friday starts that early because the presenter from the Social Security Administration is required to conclude by 5:00 by Department mandate. Watch for the flyers to register.



Why Our Union Matters

By: Teri Staudinger, WEA-Southeast

Lately, there has been an onslaught of teacher bashing, primarily focused on how the union protects “bad teachers.” A chief complaint is that the union, blamed for student failure, is a group of obstructionists, desperately clinging to the status quo and standing in the way of true educational reform. The neo-reformers claim that eliminating tenure and bargaining rights, linking salaries to students’ test scores, firing bad teachers (i.e., teachers whose students do not pass the standardized tests), and closing “failing” public schools to institute corporate-sponsored, non-union charter schools will “fix” the problems in education. These thinly veiled attempts at union busting by corporate-financed groups even have some of our own members asking the question, “Why do I need a union?”

So let the truth be heard. Teachers are continuously being asked to do more with fewer resources and without additional compensation. Without a union, teachers would be at the mercy of the times and whatever corporate-sponsored plan comes down the pike. The union is our voice, spoken in unison. We need a union because the rights and benefits we have are not gifts from generous school boards or

the Legislature; they were won through the hard work and sacrifice of WEA members who believed in the right to dignity and a voice in their profession.

Despite having a collegial relationship with many school districts, our contract rights and benefits are contentious. There are new issues that arise which require our current members to stand together and keep the commitment of those who went before them. Complacency is not an option. Dedication and unity are required to further improve our profession and our public schools.

Why Join WEA-Retired

By: Kit Raney, WEA-Retired

When you think about retirement, most likely your thoughts are about how many years until you can retire, your pension, or healthcare options. You should also want to think about WEA-Retired, that you can join NOW, which is working for you NOW, and is the only retired organization that is affiliated with WEA and NEA.

By joining WEA-Retired/NEA-Retired now, while you’re still an active association member, you’ll become a pre-retired member and receive publications from NEA-Retired and WEA-Retired. You will also be protected from any future dues increases. And, when you do retire, your membership will move seamlessly to that of an active member of NEA-Retired and WEA-Retired.

- Membership in WEA-Retired/NEA-Retired keeps you a part of the largest profession/union advocating for public education and the welfare of its workforce.
- You will always be eligible to use WEA/NEA member benefits.
- You will have opportunities to work in partnership with WEA and NEA members to improve retirement benefits for both retirees and active members.
- WEA-Retired and NEA-Retired members can help with your planning for your retirement.
- As a WEA-Retired member you will continue to receive NEA “Today”, WEA “We”, NEA-Retired, “This Active Life”

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Like a Thanksgiving Turkey, We're Stuffed...

...full of students. Portables have become necessary in several locations to accommodate the growth in student population, the decrease in first grade class size, and the increase in all-day kindergarten students. In most buildings in the district, we are out of room. While the state works to reduce class size through all grades over the next few years, as a result of the McCleary decision, the problem will continue to get worse. It is obvious to the stakeholders involved in education in Central Valley that we must address the need for more capacity sooner rather than later.

Class Size Does Count

Pressure is mounting on legislators to make more progress in responding to the mandates of the State Supreme Court in the McCleary decision. The deadline for fully-funding public education is rapidly approaching (2018) and the progress is far from proportionally appropriate.

In 2009 leg-

islators passed
E S H B



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2261, a reform bill which established a bi-partisan Quality Education Council (QEC). This Council was charged with identifying the minimum elementary, middle and high school staffing ratios necessary to provide students the opportunity to meet rigorous state standards.

As part of the McCleary Decision to mandate funding improvements, the state supreme court has ordered the state to implement ESHB 2261 by 2018-including the legislature's own class size recommendations.

Studies from Tennessee, Wisconsin and other states demonstrate that students assigned to smaller classes in K-3 do better in every measurable way. The Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education, concludes that class-size reduction is one of only four, evidence-based reforms proven to increase student achievement. The conclusion was reached following rigorous, randomized experiments – the “gold standard” of research.

Despite the fact there have not been the type of large-scale, randomized experiments in middle and upper grades that have been done in the early grades, numerous studies indicate that smaller classes in upper grades lead to achievement

gains and lower dropout rates. One comprehensive analysis found that smaller class size is the only objective factor positively correlated with student achievement. Moreover, student achievement gains were more strongly linked to class size reduction in the upper grades than the lower grades.

Research has shown that no particular threshold must be reached before students begin to benefit from smaller classes. Any reduction in class size increases the probability that students will be focused and positively engaged in learning.

Those students who benefit most are those who often need the most help. Researchers have found that children from poor and minority backgrounds experience twice the gains from class-size reduction as other students. Though minority students benefit the most from smaller classes, they are more likely to be enrolled in classes of 25 or more. And the gap in class size between schools with high- and low minority populations has increased in recent years.

Economists have detailed the benefits of smaller classes, concluding that they far outweigh the costs. Smaller classes result in higher graduation rates and higher post-secondary educational attainment. This, in turn, results in higher earnings, less reliance on welfare and lower rates of incarceration.

Public health researchers even project that small class sizes result in reduced health care costs and greater longevity.



Happy Thanksgiving



and WEA-Retired "WE-Too". Thus, you will be able to keep up on the issues of concern to your colleagues and remain an informed education voter.

- Your retired membership will allow you to remain active in governance as long as you are not an administrator at the time of your retirement. You can continue to contribute actively to your profession locally and at state and national levels.
- You will have friends at state and national levels to network with about your education and retiree interests.
- If you choose to substitute when you retire, you will continue to be covered by the NEA liability insurance you now have as long as you maintain "continuous" membership. Becoming a pre-retired member ensures no lapse in membership.
- You will remain one of the 3.2 million NEA/WEA voices advocating for students, public schools and the welfare of retirees.

Retire from your position, not your profession. For \$450 you become a lifetime member of NEA-Retired and WEA-Retired. It's very easy to join. You can join using your credit card by going to www.washingtonnea.org/retired/join. You can also join by check for the full amount or by making 10 payments of \$45. Some districts will do payroll deduction for the 10 payments. For a membership form and/or more information, please contact Stacia Bilstrand at 360-482-2431.

**CVEA Executive Board
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Secretary/Treas -

Vicki Arnold
North Pines
228-5020

Elementary Rep -

Keith Hoekema
Broadway Elementary
228-4100

Middle School Rep -

Monica Larson
Evergreen
228-4780

High School Rep -

TBD at Nov. Bldg Rep

Special Services Rep -

Heather Graham
Greenacres MS/Lib. Lake
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