

PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

September 2013

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Welcome to our new staff members,
and welcome back to our continuing staff members.

Here we go...

Once again we take a deep breath and dive in. Hopefully you are rejuvenated from the summer break.

Your CVEA Executive Board met on August 21 to prepare for the new school year. The Board has prepared a budget proposal to be presented at the September Building Representative meeting and considered for adoption at the October meeting as called for in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Your NEA Delegates attended this year's Representative Assembly and their reports included in this issue.

The open enrollment period for insurance sign-up or changes has been moved up, and the next article addresses that. There will be additional changes forthcoming in regard to insurance that are mandated by legislation. We continue to work to mitigate the negative impacts these changes will have on our members, but there will be impact.

The new laws require that ALL members getting insurance benefits pay some of the monthly premium, even if their premiums are below the per-member allocation. The Rate Stabilization Fund is essentially depleted, so the full increase in insurance will be reflected in your new premiums.

The final state budget coming out of the second special legislative session did reinstate the 1.9% lost two years ago. That amount will be reflected in the salary schedule. TRI-money, however, will be reduced as a result because we got the 1.9% back from the district last year by adding it to the TRI with the agreement that it would revert if the state restored the 1.9%.

Critically Important! Open enrollment changes

Open enrollment has changed to August 26th through September 30th for coverage effective November 1st. As a result, premiums will change with October's payroll. During open enrollment, employees can easily change carriers and coverage. Outside of open enrollment, a qualified status change or life event is required.

All enrollment and changes for WEA Select benefits must be done online through Your Benefits Resources (YBR) at <http://resources.hewitt.com/wea>. You will be prompted to create an ID and password. Assistance is also available through the WEA Select Benefits Center at 1-855-668-5039.

It is critical to review and verify your benefit coverage and dependents on YBR. In addition, Payroll requires a copy of the Successfully Completed confirmation for any YBR enrollment or changes. YBR open enrollment ends September 30th 11:59 pm CST not PST.

Please contact Payroll regarding forms for any enrollment or changes for non-WEA benefits. For example, the Group Health medical plan Employee Enrollment and Change Form.

The Benefits Fair will be held Thursday September 12th from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the University High School Commons. This is an excellent opportunity for employees to learn more about available benefits. Many benefit providers will attend to answer specific questions.

This article is a reprint from last May's newsletter in order to accompany the following article on the NEA Representative Assembly which occurred the first week of July.

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 McClery 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

addressed 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.

NEA RA: Atlanta

Atlanta was in the midst of record setting rainfall and flood warnings while the NEA Representative Assembly was in session. It literally rained every day that week. That made it a little easier to stay inside the huge convention center with approximately 13,000 other educators doing the business of the NEA.

For the most part the delegates kept their focus on education issues even though (as always) there were delegates who brought their non-education issues to the

body. Those were generally rejected.

The deliberations included 93 new business items, 17 Legislative Amendments, 9 Resolutions Amendments, 8 Standing Rules Amendments, 4 Constitutional Amendments, 5 Amendments to the Policy Statement on Charter Schools, 1 Amendment to the Policy Statement on K and Pre-K, and the election of several candidates to the NEA Board of Directors. Next year will be elections for NEA Officers which should be pretty interesting as most current offices have reached their term limits.

One special event for the Washington State delegation was the recognition of the National Teacher of the Year, Jeff Charbonneau, from Zillah, Washington where he teaches chemistry, physics, and engineering. He is a dynamic speaker and individual and received a prolonged standing ovation for his speech to the assembly.



President Barack Obama, with Education Secretary Arne Duncan, honors 2013 National Teacher of the Year Jeff Charbonneau, State Teachers of the Year, and Principals of the Year, in the Rose Garden of the White House, April 23, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

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