

# PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

September 2012

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

## From Molehills To Mountains

Too often members wait on some problem, such as a possible contract violation, in hopes that it will "go away." Very often these problems are more easily dealt with the sooner we address them. To that end, the district and the association have regular SEAT (Superintendent and Education Association Team) meetings to address the molehills before they become mountains. If you think there is a problem that needs to be addressed, contact your building representative or the CVEA office to make your concerns known.

*Steve*

## CVEA Webmaster opening

CVEA has a website located at [centralvalleyea.org](http://centralvalleyea.org). Josh Kaiel, who teaches at Opportunity Elementary, has been the webmaster for the last couple of years. He has decided to step down as webmaster. Many thanks to Josh for maintaining the site and preparing a major upgrade for it.

The position of CVEA Webmaster is open and does include a stipend. If you are interested in applying for the position, please send an email stating such to Steve Lalonde at: [cvea@aol.com](mailto:cvea@aol.com). If you have any questions call Steve at 926-0201.

## Building Rep Elections

The practice of building rep selection is usually NOT what it is called for in our Constitution and Bylaws. Just so you know how it is supposed to be done, here is the language:

### "SECTION VI - ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members of the Representative Council shall be elected by majority vote of a secret ballot following open nominations by the members of the organization within each representative unit."

I realize that most of the time it is a voluntary (or coerced) appointment. Each unit (Building) is entitled to one rep for every ten members, or major portion thereof. So if you have 26 members in your building you may have 3 Building Representatives. The Building Rep Council is the primary governing body of our association.

## Weingarten/ RCW Cards

Your Building Representative will be distributing the new Weingarten Cards after the September Rep meeting. The new cards have RCW language on the back concerning expelling a student from class.

## Benefits Fair

Health care costs continue to rise. Major changes are happening as a result of new legislation. What can you do to get the maximum benefit from your resources? Come to the Benefit Fair on October 10 from 4:00 to 6:30 at Central Valley High School Commons. Vendor representatives from the various organizations and companies that offer your benefit options will be present. Be an informed consumer. Come with your questions and learn what you can do to make the most of your money.



The Spokane Valley Tech groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 29th at 115 S. University Road. There was a large crowd of participants and onlookers as the districts involved described the plans for this branch campus of the Skills Center. Tours of the building to be remodeled were held at the end of the ceremony.

## Simple ways to promote public education

By: Shannon Rasmussen, Puget Sound UniServ  
It can get rather frustrating and

sometimes even downright upsetting when we hear the continual attacks on public education. We know that we have never worked more diligently and that our students have been at the center of the instructional decisions we make in our schools.

We would like to encourage you to take a couple of simple actions:

1. Share with your family and friends the good work that is happening in our schools. We assume that our families and friends know that we are doing wonderful work with our children, but specific examples will be shared with others. Tell specific stories about students who have made gains, an innovative lesson, a relationship you have developed with a child or parent in your school -- people connect to our stories and they are being bombarded right now with negative messages about our schools.

2. Work with your local to put in place a grass roots campaign to talk about what is RIGHT in education. We should be out in our communities - at PTSA meetings, School Board meetings, Chamber of Commerce meetings - talking about what is right in our schools. Our local plans can include participation in these meetings, letters to the editor and coordinated messaging.

3. Sign-up for online newsletters to get GOOD research (the articles are interesting and often talk about what we know is right for all children.) Having met recently with the researchers listed below at the fall conference of the National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA), I heard strong messages about how educators can reclaim their profession. The researchers indi-

cated that subscribing to their online newsletters and updates has a positive impact on this work, as membership means power. So, go online and sign-up for newsletters that talk about educating the whole child; some great examples are:

**\*National Education Policy Center.** Kevin Welner is the Director. To sign up for the email newsletter, scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your email address.

Most current online newsletter had articles titled, "Teachers Urged to Take Back Their Profession," "Tough Times Ahead for Public Education," and "Getting Teacher Assessment Right."

**\*Fairtest: The National Center for Fair and Open Testing.** Monty Neil is the Associate Director. To sign up for the email newsletter, enter your email address right at the top of the homepage, on the right side.

On the website right now, you will find articles about recommendations for the ESEA reauthorization as well as several fact sheets about the dangers of standardized testing.

**\*The Forum for Education and Democracy** -- to sign-up for the email newsletter, click on the "How Can You Help" at the top of the page, and choose "Subscribe to our Newsletter"

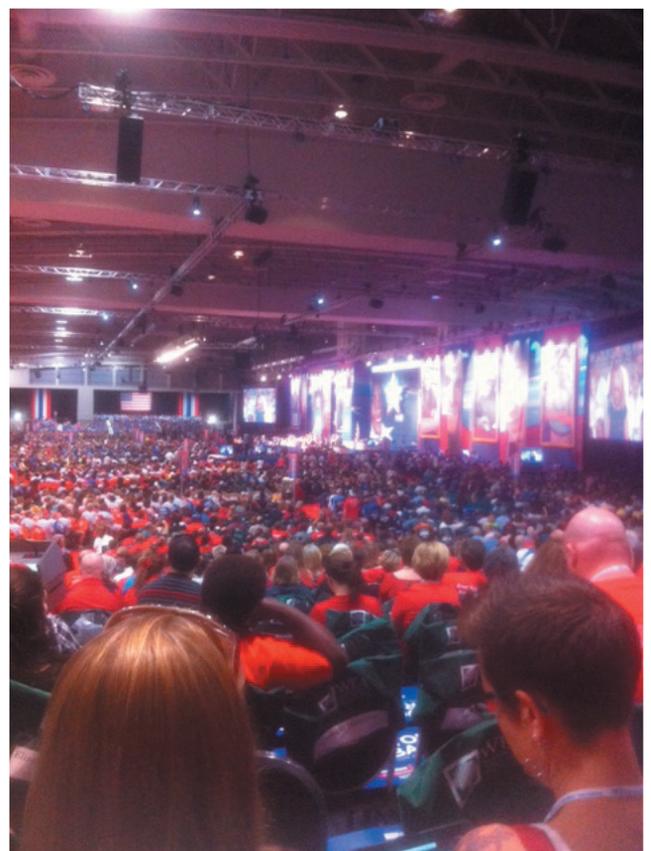
The website has information on teaching and learning, equity and access, and

governance policy.

We have two choices in regards to the future of public education -- complain that no one understands what we do and the impacts that we have, or educate the public. It is much more productive -- as well as affirming -- to begin being more vocal about all the positive things we have been doing for years.

## CVEA Proposed Budget

Your Building Representative will be receiving the proposed budget for CVEA for this year at the September Building Rep meeting (September 18.) The Rep Council will be voting on that budget at the October meeting. If you are interested in seeing that budget or have questions or concerns you want voiced, talk to your Building Representative.



A view of the NEA Rep Assembly in Washington D.C. from the back of the Washington State delegation.