

# PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

September 2013

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## CVEA President election

We are heading into my fourth and final year as CVEA President. It has been, and will continue to be this year, a real adventure. It has been at times exciting, challenging, and interesting and at other times... well... tough. I will continue to give it my best efforts as we go through this year. We will be bargaining a full-open contract, electing new officers, and trying to navigate the un-funded and under-funded mandates coming out of Olympia. There is much to do, and I look forward to working with our members in doing that work.

Vicki Arnold from North Pines has already announced that she is running for president and I encourage anyone else who wishes to run for any office to advise CVEA as soon as possible. Because we no longer have Jeff to train a new president, I will provide all candidates for that office opportunities to job shadow in order to become familiar with the work and responsibilities of the position. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

*Steve*



The following is a partial reprint of this article from the welcome back newsletter because of the significant change and importance of this information. Several members have indicated that the online tools are very helpful in making their insurance decisions.

## 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 regard-

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

## Scott Knowles accepts WEA staff position

Scott Knowles who has been Vice President of CVEA for three years has accepted a staff position with WEA. He is based at an office in the WEA Eastern Washington office on Montgomery and will be working with locals across the state helping to build organizational capacity.

Scott sent a statement to be included in this newsletter:

**“It’s been a real honor to represent CVEA members for the past several years as a member of the CVEA Executive Board, a Bargaining Team member, a WEA member lobbyist, and as a WEA Board Director. While it is difficult to leave Central Valley after nineteen years of teaching, I’m excited to assist the many hard working WEA members throughout Washington State, and to help create better schools for students and teachers. Thank you for twice electing me as CVEA Vice President, and for giving me the opportunity to represent our members across the District, and best wishes as you begin the new 2013 school year.”**

## WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies for 2014

The governing body of the Washington Education Association is the Representative Assembly. This body meets once a year to elect officers, debate and vote on new business items and position statements, and attend to the organizational business of the Association. You elect these representative. The good news is that we can send 13 representatives to this year's assembly and it is being held in Spokane. The bad news is that the assembly runs from April 3 though 5 this year, and that bumps into Spring Break.

The NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Denver July 1 through July 6. We don't know how many candidates we will be sending this year, but it is the last official function of the outgoing president and the first for the incoming president. We should be sending at least one more representative.

Please consider if you would be interested in representing CVEA members at either of these important events. We will be electing representatives as well as officers in January (or before if we have to send the Representative list to WEA sooner than that.)

Brad Thew, Monica Larson and Steve Lalonde were the NEA RA representatives from CVEA



Above: The WEA Representative Assembly went to Olympia on Saturday morning to rally and meet with legislators concerning education issues and funding.



Brad Thew listens to debate among the 12,000 educators during one of the NEA RA sessions in Atlanta, Georgia this summer.



## Spokane Valley Tech Up and Running

Congratulations to the CVEA members (and all of the rest of the staff) at Spokane Valley Tech and the Learning Academy. Central Valley School District has demonstrated once again that public education does provide innovative instructional opportunities to meet the diverse needs of students within the public school system. We can be proud of the many avenues we provide to students in getting a quality education.

### CVEA Executive Board

#### President -

Steve Lalonde

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#### Vice President -

Vicki Arnold (interim VP)

#### 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 -

Wally Watson

University High School

228-5240

#### Special Services Rep -

Heather Graham

Greenacres/Liberty Lake

228-4200 / 228-4300