

# PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

February 2011

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PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A FOUR PAGE ISSUE

## C V E A E l e c t i o n s

### **CVEA EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS**

Once again it is time for CVEA elections to the Executive Board. Your Building Reps will be conducting elections for next year's officers. Thank you to those members who have chosen to devote their time to the Association and to public education. Those who are running for office are listed below along with information regarding experience and current assignment.

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Candidates for:

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

#### **Scott Knowles**

Scott has taught in the Central Valley School district since 1995 at South Pines in the SPACE program and now at Opportunity in the Able Learner Program. He has been involved in the association as a building rep, a delegate to the WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies, on the CVEA bargaining team and as a WEA lobbyist in Olympia where he has made several trips on behalf of the CVEA.

#### **SECRETARY**

#### **Wally Watson**

Wally has been teaching in Central Valley for 19 years. He is a graduate of E.W.U. with a BA in Secondary English Education, followed by a Master's in Curriculum Development from Lesley University. Wally has been a Building Rep since the early 90s, has served on the Benefits

Committee during that time as well. He has also been a WEA Uniserve alternate for 2 years, and worked as a volunteer at the 2010 WEA Rep Assembly. He was a ballot counter in the 2010 election.

#### **Mariann Torretta**

Mariann has taught special education classes for 31 years in Central Valley, six of those at Greenacres Junior High, three years at South Pines, 16 years at Adams, and the last 6 years at University Elementary. She graduated from Washington State

University in 1980. She earned her Masters in Literacy from Eastern Washington University in 1997. She has served as building representative for 2 years, attended WEA rep. assembly, and is currently serving as the secretary for CVEA. She enjoys cooking, traveling, walking her dog, kayaking, and reading.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL AT LARGE**

#### **Vicky Jensen**

Vicky has taught in CV since 1998. Prior to that she taught in Genesee School District in Idaho where she served on the bargaining team for two years. In Central Valley Vicky taught at Greenacres JH until reconfiguration when she moved to the high school level. She currently teaches Art at University High School. Vicky is Board certified and

teaches workshops for NBPTS and Pro Cert candidates for EWU and GU. She has worked for the WEA Speakers Bureau and was selected by WEA to serve on the Gonzaga University PEAB since 2005.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL AT LARGE**

#### **Monica Larson**

Monica has been in the District for 11 years and has been involved in WEA for 14 years. She was previously an association member for the mid-state area for three years until returning to Spokane in 2002. Monica has been a building rep at Evergreen since 2002 and attended the WEA Sparks conference in 2003. She is currently serving on the Team of Twelve bargaining team, has served on the Evaluation Review committee and has served as a delegate to the WEA/RA.

#### **ELEMENTARY AT LARGE**

#### **Keith Hoekema**

Keith Hoekema grew up in Spokane and has been a teacher in Central Valley School District since 2003. Currently, he is a fourth grade teacher at Broadway. Keith has been involved with union activities since 2001 when he was the Political Action Committee Chair for the island of Molokai. After arriving in Central Valley he was elected as a delegate for the WEA State Represent-

tative Assembly and as a member of the Bargaining Team of Twelve for the last three contract negotiations. He and his wife Mary, who is a first grade teacher at Ponderosa, have three children.

### SPECIAL SERVICES AT LARGE

#### Heather Graham

Heather Graham, RN, MSN has been a Registered Nurse for 13 years and has been working for CVSD as a school nurse since 2002. She has served as a Building Rep for 2 years.

WEA RA is being held in Tacoma this year. The following members are running for election to the CVEA contingent:

Scott Knowles  
Dale Bouge  
Martha Reese  
Jim Osmuss  
DM Freed  
Cheryl Sampson  
Vicki Arnold  
Wally Watson

### WEA REP ASSEMBLY

#### Dale Bouge

I worked at the RA in Spokane and have gone to RAs as a delegate before. I like to keep informed and help others to be informed.

#### Martha Reese

I would like to continue to represent CVEA at the state level. I would appreciate your vote.

Association involvement:

- Building Rep
- Bargaining Team Member
- Grievance Chairperson
- Fringe Benefit Chairman
- WEA-EW, Ex. Bd. Secretary
- Rep to WEA-RA, NEA-RA

#### DM Freed

I started out as an elementary teacher in Boise. I am currently a counselor at Liberty Lake Elementary. I have been with CVSD for 15 years. During that time I have worked as a counselor at all three levels: Elementary, Middle School and High School. My CVEA experience includes: 14 years as a Building Representative, 10 years as WEA-RA delegate, 1 year as an NEA-RA Delegate, 1 time on the team of 12 bargaining committee, five years of attending UniServ Meetings. I've received training at WEA Legal in Seattle. It would be my pleasure to continue to serve our members at the WEA-RA. Thank you.

#### Cheryl Sampson

This is my 16th year as a School Nurse in CVSD, working at almost all of the buildings for at least a year. I have been on the Team of Twelve for the last 2 CVEA contracts and have been a Building Rep at the LTC for a year and for the past 2 years at the Early Learning Center. I volunteered for 1 WEA Rep Assembly and attended as a delegate for the one last year. I am interested in going to the Rep Assembly again this year to represent the interests of the ESAs (Educational Staff Associates – the nonteacher certificated staff in the district).

#### Jim Osmuss

Please consider me for the position of WEA-RA Delegate, 2011. I have been teaching for Central Valley School District since September of 2001, at Adams Elementary since 2002. Currently, I teach 5th grade. I have been the Building Co-Representative for Adams over the past four years. I attended the WEA-RA in Spokane, 2010. I was introduced

to the procedures and proceedings. Please consider me for this year so I can broaden my experience base and best represent our Central Valley School District members.

NEA RA is being held in Chicago this year. The following members are running for election to the CVEA contingent:

Scott Knowles



#### WEA-Retired

Kit Raney, WEA-Retired President

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.

(cont. on page 4)

**The following are statements  
submitted by candidates running  
for office for the Central Valley  
Education Association.**

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**Scott Knowles**

*for CVEA Vice President*

Hello, I am Scott Knowles from Opportunity Elementary and I am running for vice president for the 2011-2012 school year. I am in my sixteenth year of teaching in the Central Valley School District. During that time I have taught second through sixth grade at both South Pines Elementary and Opportunity Elementary schools. I am currently teaching in the Able Learner Program for Gifted and Talented students. I am a graduate of the Central Valley school system and a lifelong resident of the Spokane Valley. Some of my recent CVEA experience includes: three years as a building representative, serving as a delegate to the WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies, several lobbying trips to Olympia on behalf of the WEA, serving on the CVEA contract bargaining team, and serving as the CVEA representative on district level interview teams.

**Wally Watson**

*for CVEA Secretary*

I want to represent you for the purpose of our union. The purpose is clear: support you on the issues of wages, hours, and terms of employment here in Central Valley. With the changes to education on the horizon, these are the issues that will become paramount. I will keep these the focus.

**Mariann Torretta**

*for CVEA Secretary*

Being more involved with the CVEA this past year has been a great learning experience. It's been

a great opportunity to be the secretary this school year. I believe that it's important to keep a special education representative on the board. I have the experience of working with general education teachers and special education teachers for 31 years. I would be honored to continue to be involved and to represent elementary, as well as special education teachers.

**Monica Larson**

*for Middle School At Large*

My name is Monica Larson, and I have had the pleasure of representing you as the CVEA Middle School Representative for the Executive Board for the past 3 years.

I have been involved in the union ever since I began teaching, 13 years ago.

To give you a little background of who I am. I began teaching in Grandview, Washington. While teaching fifth grade at McClure Elementary, I became involved with the union.

Because I was born and raised in the Spokane area, I wanted to return to my family. I got the opportunity in 2002 when I was hired at Evergreen Middle School in the Central Valley School District, where I still teach today.

Because I feel that the union is so important to us all, I continued with the CVEA in Central Valley as a building representative. In 2008, I became the CVEA Middle School Rep. for the Executive Board.

By being involved in our union, I have had many opportunities to represent different aspects of CVEA. Some highlights are:

- 2005-2008 Bargaining/negotiation teams for the team of 12
- 2005-2006 Teacher Evaluation Committee
- 2008 NEA (National Education Association) to the National Rep

Assembly

- 2010 Bargaining/negotiations team for the team of 5
- 2010-2011 TPEP (Teacher Principal Evaluation Pilot) for the new evaluation instrument for 2013 in Washington State.

I've also attended several WEA Rep Assemblies as well.

I'd like to thank you for putting your trust in me concerning issues that directly effect teachers' rights. I look forward to continuing the work, and to further serve as your Middle School Representative for the Executive Board.

I will continue to give to you what I've given the past 13 years, which is a 110%.

**Keith Hoekema**

*for Elementary At Large*

I have been involved with CVEA the past 5 years as a member of the Bargaining Team and as a Building Rep. This year I feel that it is time for me to step up and become more involved, so I am running for the Elementary position on the Executive Board. I hope you will consider me when you vote in the upcoming election!

**Heather Graham**

*for Special Services At Large*

I have been the building representative for Greenacres Elementary for the past 2 years. I stepped in last year to be a building rep for a couple of reasons. First, no one else was able to help and our building rep. at that time needed some help. Second, I wanted to get an idea of how my union dues were being spent and what the union was doing to represent the unique perspective of ESA's (Educational Staff Associate) in the district.

I recently attended a Building Rep training meeting with our UniServ

representative. This was an invaluable experience and helped me to better understand the role of building representative. This training also provided information on how to be a good advocate for union members.

I want to serve on the Executive Board as the Special Services Member-at-Large so that I can advocate for the ESAs, a small, but important, group of union members.



### WEA-Retired (cont.)

- 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" and WEA -Retired "We-too". Thus, you will be able to keep up on the current issues of concern to your colleagues and remain an informed education voter.
- You're 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.

ance 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.

## IMPORTANT!

### CVSD EMAIL IS PUBLIC

This is just another reminder that ALL of your cvsd.org email is public record and NOTHING is private. Please consider this when writing emails.

### CALENDAR

- February 25 ballots counted
- February 28 candidates notified
- CVEA Exec. Bd., March 1, 4:00, CVEA office
- SEAT, March 8, 3:45, LTC
- WEA-EW Rep Council, March 9, 5:30, WEA-EW bldg
- CVEA Bldg Rep mtng., 4:00, Cuppa Joe's

### CVEA Executive Board

#### President -

Steve Lalonde  
Office - 926-0201  
Cell - 842-6768  
email - cvea@aol.com  
fax - 891-9183

#### Vice President -

Scott Knowles  
Opportunity Elementary  
228-4550

#### Secretary-

Mariann Torretta  
University Elementary  
228-4650

#### Elementary Rep -

JuneCunningham  
Liberty Lake Elementary  
228-4300

#### Middle School Rep -

Monica Larson  
Evergreen  
228-4780

#### High School Rep -

Vicky Jensen  
University High School  
228-5240

## Elections Committee to be formed

We would like to form an elections committee to be charged with election process and counting ballots. Ideally the committee would be comprised of three or four members with one being Elections Chair. The Chairperson is an appointed position as per the Constitution and Bylaws. The Chair would work with the President to form the committee.

We have had such a committee in the past, so this is just an effort to re-activate said committee.

This is a great opportunity to be involved with your Association without a large time commitment. If you are interested please contact the CVEA office and let us know. Anyone running for office would not be eligible to serve on the committee.

Thanks, The CVEA Executive Board