



W|A|S|T|S

Washington Association for Skilled and Technical Sciences

Presidents Newsletter – March 2010

Welcome to the March edition of the Presidents Newsletter. As we draw closer to our second fall conference that will be held in Lynwood this year in late October, we took a hard look at the conference comments and we are making every effort to address each one. I think you will all be very happy with the modifications we're making to make the next conference even better. As your board members work extremely hard to meet your needs, we can not do it alone and need your help. We still need many leadership positions filled. Many cluster president positions remain open and we need you to help inject fresh blood, enthusiasm and ideas to make your cluster and the association better. Your association is only as strong as the membership's involvement.

As we draw closer to the WA-ACTE Summer conference and the WASTS Fall conference, I challenge all of you to talk to your colleagues and inform them of what your association does for you and the membership. Invite them to join their appropriate professional organization, whether it is FACSE, WITEA, WAVA, or WASTS it's important for our colleagues to join and

participate. As you all are well aware of we are living in very interesting times and the strength of our organizations lie in its membership. The economy is at an all time low and education may not be the state's number one priority as our legislators try to find "creative" ways to balance the budget. There fore it is imperative that we have a collective voice as educators. One of the many mutual benefits that our organizations provide is legislative advocacy. The larger our collective numbers are the louder and stronger a voice we have in Olympia and WA-ACTE acting in our behalf is our voice. So talk to your colleagues and motivate them to join not only their professional organization but also join WA-ACTE!

As promised every newsletter I give you a chance to get to know who your board members are. This newsletter you get to meet Mr. Mike Fawcett the IT Cluster President and Mr. Ken Toney the Art, A/V and Communications Cluster President. He is also the current President Elect.

Mr. Mike Fawcett: IT Cluster President

I have been a CTE teacher in the Auburn School District since 1995. Prior to that I was a Navy

Pathway Cluster Presidents:

Arts, A/V Tech, & Communications

Ken Toney

Toney.Ken@YakimaSchools.org

Architecture & Construction

Rich Marshall

marsharf@hsd401.Org

Educations & Training

VACANT

Government & Public Administration

John Reid

john.reid1@mepcom.army.mil

Health Sciences

VACANT

Information Technology

Mike Fawcett

mfawcett@auburn.wednet.edu

Hospitality & Tourism

Laura Tarp

Tarpl@svsd410.org

Law & Public Safety

John Anderson

AndersonJA@mukilteo.wednet.edu

Manufacturing

VACANT

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

Fred Donaldson

fdonaldson@auburn.wednet.edu

Submariner for twenty-five years, many of them spent training young sailors. As the cluster president in the Information Technology area for the past few years, my current goal is to help us become a Professional Learning Community. We are a large cluster with great diversity of assignments. From A+ COMPTIA to CISCO, C++ , JAVA, Security, Electronics, Web Design, Robotics, and much more, we have a huge segment of teachers around the state that can benefit from being a Professional Learning Community (PLC) together. My goal is to see us with at least four sub-clusters in the IT area, filled with leaders that can help plan our Fall conference this year to be even better than last. With the talent in our cluster, we can move forward and help all of us to be better than ever. We can have a state-wide resource pool to draw on and contribute to as a PLC. Let's get involved and take the IT cluster to the next level and be something we can benefit from and give back to....

Mr. Ken Toney A/V cluster president and President Elect

Greetings one and all, my name is Ken Toney. I teach Commercial Graphic Art at A.C. Davis High School in Yakima and I am your current President Elect. I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to work with such a prestigious group as the technical educators that make up WASTS, much less have the privilege to lead. I thank you for your confidence and will strive to live up to your expectations as President for 2010/2011. As a fledgling association, WASTS has every opportunity to become a driving force in education in Washington State. Career and Technical Education fills a void regular education cannot. Many times I have seen students struggling only to become

involved in a future career track and excel in their regular studies through the new found interests their CTE studies present.

The growth of our organization is paramount. We have 300+ active members at present, but state wide our potential is at or near 1,200 educators. I challenge each of us to spread the word about WASTS. Our web-site is a very valuable resource - yet to meet its full potential. Our conferences feature technical upgrades that are targeted specifically to assist in your personal development and classroom success. The cluster presidents are your conduit to voice your concerns and issues to the full body. The past presidents and I want this organization to be a valuable resource that can, and will, play a vital role in your future as an educator. My ear is always open and I value your input and opinions. I may be the one called upon to pilot this vessel we call WASTS, but we will all arrive at our future ports of call sooner if we each take an active role as we chart our course. I look forward to meeting every member and representing your views and concerns to better our association.

The following is a brief (I guess that's up for debate) bio so you can all get to know me as we make this transition in leadership.

In 1964 while in 4th grade, one individual placed me on a track that would shape my future for ever. She was 5 foot 1," retired, red headed Marine Drill Sergeant from Maine. Having taught twenty years of general education, she was asked to become the traveling elementary art teacher for the entire district. She ran a tight ship but if you were motivated, the entire world was at your disposal - no medium was out of bounds. It was my opportunity to "try it all" and I flourished as an artist.

When I graduated from high school, I had set my sites on being

an educator. I loved music and art and planned to teach, half day art - half day music, in a small district somewhere. I received partial scholarships and a grant, but did not have the financial power to cover the missing monetary support needed to enroll at CWU. I chose to take classes at YVCC for two years and then transfer. Due to scheduling procedures, I was placed in classes that, unbeknownst to me, would not transfer. After attending for two quarters and finding out my classes would not help in my future goals, I walked into my counselors office, slammed all of my books on her desk and said " I quit - YOU ARE STEALING MY MONEY!" and stormed out. As I walked across the parking lot I said to myself "Well, I guess I'll never be a teacher" and went in search of a job.

Briefly bouncing around, I first landed in sales positions selling tools, then chocolate for a national foods company. Several years of living in a motel soon convinced me that I needed stability in my life. I changed directions and went to work for an advertising agency as an account executive - though I really wanted to be on the art staff. Soon I was the acting creative director for the agency, having a ball and loving every minute.

Three years later I started my own agency and built a nice client list. Being sole proprietor is not what it's cracked up to be. Not only are you the salesman, artist, accountant, book keeper, janitor, office manager - etc, you eat what you kill and you better hunt every day because you will soon get hungry.

As a very young businessman I accepted risks that only time and experience would teach were not prudent. I was offered a position of promotions marketing director at the local ABC television station and jumped at the stability that it offered.

Quarter of a decade passed and I ended nose to nose with the operations manager so I left to become marketing director for the White Pass Ski Area. My job was to develop on site activities both during season and off season. My five year stint was filled with fun but lean in financial rewards. I accepted a one year contract for the NBC television station to get myself back into the advertising world.

After the year, I secured a job as a staff graphic artist for USWest Direct, the yellow pages. Here I received training in computer generated art and again flourished. I won several national awards and moved upward in the company. Many changes came about in the corporate structure and eight years later it was time to pursue my own business once again.

After nine years of successfully building my business, I was approached by a close friend and educator saying "You'd be a great teacher, they are going to hire an art teacher at the local alternative school and I put your name in."

I laughed and said "How can I be a teacher I didn't finish college?"

"Ever hear of a VOC teacher" he replied, "do you have 12,000 hours of professional experience?"

I chuckled "Sure, I work every minute of the day, I'm self employed."

My dream of being a teacher from 1973 had just surfaced again and I pursued it. I interviewed and went to work as a commercial visual arts teacher six weeks later.

That was eight years ago and I have enjoyed every moment of the experience. I tell my students that they should never give up on their dreams, sooner or later opportunity will knock - be ready.

I love being a teacher and I will continue on this path as long as I am allowed to, but just turning 55, I only wish I had more time to spend with the leaders of our future.

Thank you,

Ken Toney
Commercial Graphic Arts
Department Chair
A.C. Davis High School
212 S. 6th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902
1(509) 573-2734 desk, 1(509)
949-3337 cell, 1(509) 966-5848
hm,
school e-mail:
toney.ken@yakimaschools.org,
personal e-mail:
ktoney@wildblue.net