

Good day fellow CTE Instructors,

First I would like to thank all of you who joined us at the Fall Technical Upgrade Conference in Lynnwood. We had a great time. I, for one, got a great deal of information and skills to add to my tool box of teaching tricks. If you were unable to attend on Thursday, you missed an amazing lineup of tours. We had tours for almost every one of the Technical Clusters within WASTS. I was fortunate to lead the aerospace tour which took us to two technical education programs and the Boeing 787 assembly plant. The largest building by volume in the world. Each of the six doors on the north side of the building is larger than a football field. You can put all of California's Disney Land inside the building and still have 19 acres left over. Our tour and social at the Diamond Knot production brewery was fun and informative. The master brewer gave us all a great introduction to zymurgy.

Technical upgrade sessions were varied and diverse. From automotive to construction to commercial art. Each of the 13 clusters were represented. It was a great conference and we hope you will join us next year.

One of the goals I have set forth this year for WASTS is to increase our membership. Not just so those of us who are members won't be so lonely, but for a greater good in mind. I have challenged the executive board to research developing a continuing annuity that will allow us the opportunity to provide ongoing scholarships to students desiring to continue in the CTE career track. We see the erosion of financial support with the elimination of the WAVE Scholarship and the flagging support of Perkins monies by the legislature. This idea can only be realized through expanding membership. We do not charge an annual membership fee, you automatically become a member of WASTS when you attend one of our conferences. We will accept donations to this cause if you are unable to attend our conference but still wish to support this endeavor. A \$25 donation will place you on our roster of active members and help keep you informed through our ongoing e-mails. I hope you will consider becoming part of WASTS, I have found it has the only conference that provides learning opportunities and educational sessions that directly address my classroom needs.

We are in need of leadership from the people who know the needs of our organization the best - you. There is no way any one individual can be well versed in the broad array of CTE programs represented by WASTS. Cluster presidents help us at the executive level stay in tune with our membership and make sure that your voice is heard by the leadership. We welcome Jill Van Berkom as our new WASTS secretary. She actively volunteered to fill the position which just became vacant. She is vibrant and energetic and I am sure she will bring renewed exuberance to the post.

Check the status of your cluster president at WASTS.us. If you have not heard from WASTS then we need a cluster representative for your career path. Please feel free to contact me for more information regarding your opportunity to become involved at WASTSpresident@wildblue.net. I want to be accessible to every member and will pledge to respond to every inquiry.

I look forward to the year before us and hope to get to know our membership on a personal basis. When you see me please say Hi! But help me by telling me your name with a hand shake.

Ken Toney
WASTS President 2010-2011
Commercial Graphic Arts
Davis High School
Yakima, WA