



A Note from Our President

I can't believe it is June and the school year is almost up! It's also the first year of my Presidency and what a year! I want to thank all the members who corresponded with me this year---who helped and guided me and to whom I helped and guided. We are in this together!

We had a great WEA Rep. Assembly (RA) last month! Over 1,100 delegates from across the state were here in Spokane. I want to thank all the Spokane Delegates (47) for attending and giving your input into the process. We heard from Gov. Gregoire, Bill Gates, Sr. and our NEA President Dennis Van Roekel. Dennis gave an amazing inspiring speech that made us all proud to be in the profession of education. It was the first time that anyone remembered a NEA President attending our state RA. If you have that need for someone to pump you up on those days when you don't think you can do it anymore, try to catch a speech by Dennis! He will inspire you, I promise!

Special thanks to Debby Chandler and her team for taking on the challenging role of chairing the RA and all the hours they put in to make it so successful. I would also like to thank Georgia Morris and Barb Cantlon! They rounded up 90 students from their schools, Westview and Balboa, for the opening of RA. Picture 90 kids holding candles and singing, "Light One Candle!" It was awesome! Thank you again Georgia and Barb!

Moving on, as most of you know, I signed "Race to the Top" (RTTT). It was probably the most difficult thing I have had to do all year. It was not an easy decision but after discussing it with our SEA Executive Board and looping out to Building Reps., it is what we had to do. I know some of you are not happy with the decision but we felt like we had to be part of the conversation and not have something done to us. The one saving grace (and the only way I would sign it) is that we have 90 days this fall to work out the plan with the district bargaining in "good faith." If SEA or the District can't come to an agreement then we can pull out - no RTTT plan and no money. (Please look for more information about RTTT in this newsletter.)

As I end this column for the school year, I want to wish the best to all of our retiring members. As of this writing, 112 members, both certificated and classified, are retiring! I had the privilege of attending the District's Retirement Dinner last month at Rogers and it was with pride that I stood up there and read some of our retiring member's accomplishments over the years. It made me feel very humble and so very thankful of the years they have served our community and our kids! I salute you, Retirees! Please celebrate the coming years, enjoy yourself and take care.

Please let me know if I can do anything for you over the summer. *SEA Now* will be back in September. Have a GREAT summer and stay safe.

- *Jenny Rose*, President