

State of the Union Address:
Revision July 28, 2013
PSE President Kim Wilson
July 28, 2013, Spokane, Washington

Hello delegates, alternates, honored guests and staff,

This is my first state of the union address as your President and I am deeply honored to have been given the opportunity to serve as your president for the past year.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and I look forward to taking on every challenge PSE is faced with.

This year's conventions theme has been "TOGETHER. WE CAN!"

I am sure you have felt the energy and power of coming together as union brothers and sisters. That energy and power is the strength of our union. Our Union is STRONG!!!

Standing together in Olympia, we received a large down payment for better education here in Washington. For once in a long while, things are finally looking better for classified employees in Washington State.

But PSE isn't stopping there. A down payment isn't good enough.

Last year, classified voices *were* heard, however, we NEED to be LOUDER.... WHAT DO WE NEED TO BE? (**LOUDER.....**) We NEED to be STRONGER..... WHAT DO WE NEED TO BE? (**STRONGER!!!!!!.....**) I believe that PSE can be louder and stronger

Never before, have we needed the strength and unity of our fellow brothers and sisters as we do now.

During my campaign last year, I promised to build more member involvement because I **STRONGLY** believe in the fact that PSE is a Member led Union...

If you participated in any of these next PSE events, please stand up as I call them out and remain standing... Member organizers..... NEA ESP Conference.... Latino Conference in Chicago..... Member Leaders in Action/Member Resource Center design teams..... Washington DC Lobby Days.... Served on a State Committee..... Joined in the Tele-Town Hall call..... Provided input in any of the PSE surveys this past year..... was a team leader or one of 150 members that rallied together in Olympia for PSE's first April Week of Action..... Came to Olympia for the 2013 Legislative Conference... the LTE classes here on Thursday..... a First-Timer to convention.... And last but NOT least... if you are here at this year's 2013 PSE Convention to lead our union into the future, PLEASE STAND UP.....

Together we did a lot.... So give yourselves a round of applause... (Applause)....

This year we solved a lot of puzzles...

As I look out from this stage, I see many familiar faces, faces of close friends, new friends, and passionate leaders. And Although I love seeing all these faces, I want to see more of them. I want to see more active members.... More members uniting and energizing our union, members speaking up for the rights of working people, the right to have a living wage.... I **KNOW** PSE can be stronger.

This all starts at the chapter level. A few words of encouragement, maybe saying, "together we can"; spend a few minutes of your time and invite a member to a meeting. Persistence in this case is key. I wish I could say success comes over night; it comes with persistence. And if we are persistent in getting more members involved we **WILL** continue to become **MORE** successful.

I have spent this last year traveling across the state trying to meet every member I could. I traveled from Neah Bay, to New Port, to Vancouver and the Tri-Cities and many places in between.....

I did this because I want to meet every member in this union. I want to try to shake as many PSE members' hands as I can. I want to make sure every member in our 26,000+ member strong union who are currently engaged in their chapters, have the tools they need to be successful and provide the tools needed to those that are not engaged in their chapter.

Sadly though, I can only engage so many members. I can only speak into so many microphones and my car can only legally travel 70 miles per hour along I-90.

I want you to recall the moment you first got involved with PSE. You probably weren't elected as a chapter president, treasurer or building representative right away.

Another member probably convinced you to attend a chapter meeting. That member probably also took you under his or her wing and helped guide you through your first few months as an active PSE member. Or maybe attending convention is your first real experience being involved... either way, each of you took the time to be here this weekend in Spokane....making decisions leading PSE into the future.

This is the kind of grass roots growth that PSE needs.

I love seeing all 600 of you every year during convention, but imagine if this convention hall had 1,200 PSE members.

And the next time PSE takes over Olympia I want the campus to be crawling with PSE members..... (pause)

Last year, delegates at convention helped me get elected. Now, I'm asking for your help once more.

I'm personally challenging each and every one of you to engage ONE new UN-ACTIVE member in our union.

And NO we all work with students here and I know all the tricks.... SOOO the person sitting next to you does not count.

If you're in a chapter that has 30 active members, and over the course of this next year each one of those 30 chapter members gets one more un-active member more involved. Even if it's as small as coming to a meeting and helping out with a "stuff the bus" campaign or running a ticket booth for a few hours, that chapter now has 60 engaged members.

Now when that chapter goes to the bargaining table, or organizes an event. That chapter will be twice as strong and twice as effective.

The stronger our chapters, the stronger our union, the stronger our union, the more respect classified employees will earn and most importantly, the better education in Washington will be.

This doesn't need to be a dream. It can become a reality.

The positive changes in education we could make are limitless.

I have never had more faith in this union and the strength of its members than I do now.

I hope you accept my challenge and tonight when you travel back to your home, take with you the strength, energy and unity from this weekend; take it with you with pride and courage to engage your members in your chapter and lead your chapter into the future.

(Walk over place final puzzle piece in puzzle)

Together, we completed this puzzle.

Together, we can find a solution for any puzzle.

And together, we can earn the respect classified staff workers deserve.

TOGETHER, WE CAN! And TOGETHER, WE WILL!

Here's to a stronger 2013-14, Thank you!!!