

Hello delegates, alternates, honored guests, and staff.

What a year it has been. It feels like just yesterday I was up here addressing you for the first time.

Last year, our convention theme was "TOGETHER. WE CAN!" Today I'm proud to announce that TOGETHER, WE DID, because WE ARE PSE.

Together every classified education professional across the state helped educate Washington state students from the preschooler's beginning their education journey to young adults extending their education opportunities. TOGETHER WE DID THAT!

Last year PSE delegates voted to make some sacrifices to strengthen our union.

Delegates voted to do this despite the tough times we have faced the last few years.

Yet, within one year, I'm happy to report that we're seeing results from your sacrifices.

Some members are finally seeing money come out of Olympia and some districts are finally providing COLAs. Maybe it hasn't made it to your district or university, but believe it will and when it does...together with you... PSE will make sure it does.

Our legislative council, PSE members and staff are constantly knocking on lawmaker's doors making sure they provide proper funding to education. This year, we had more than 100 members attend PSE's legislative conference. The Olympia campus was covered with blue PSE shirts that weekend. You couldn't turn a corner in the capital building without seeing a PSE member. It was an amazing sight.

But what makes this even better, is the blue wave of PSE members that keeps on going.

The next month more than 60 PSE supporters marched in a meeting room and supported PSE's paraeducator bill 6129 during an education committee hearing. Sitting there, banding together, UNITED. There were so many PSE members in the house reporters were forced to stand in the back because their usual seats were filled.

I listened to story after story after story of heartfelt experiences explaining exactly why for students true success paraeducators must have better support. It was great to review and see so many PSE members on TVW...

Again within a couple of weeks PSE members reappeared in Olympia to support the parabil again.

Then finally in March because of your hard work we got SSB 6129 to pass.

In the next few years districts will have to take drastic new steps to implement an innovative and first of its kind statewide program to properly support paraeducators.

PSE hasn't stopped there, we're still monitoring progress on this bill and have reached out to paraeducators to have a voice on the subcommittee work groups to move this forward and make sure this program is done right.

PSE members helped create and push this positive change in Washington state's complete education. Because of you, PSE is making sure paras get the support they have wanted and needed for years.

PSE classified employees are not stopping there either.

Classified employees across the state are leading the charge to help make sure class sizes are lowered and classified employees are properly supported so we can continue to support students.

This April we sent out action packets to every PSE member with a petition. I'm happy to announce, as you heard earlier, we received armfuls of petitions with hundreds of signatures back to the state office. I was there a few weeks ago when we personally delivered the petitions to the Secretary of State's office. There was a U-Haul full of petitions - many of them were yours.

Because of classified employees I-1351 will be on the ballot this November for Washington state voters to vote on. Voters will hopefully speak up and support reducing class sizes, and increase classified support.

Classified work isn't just making sure computers are plugged in, papers are organized and filed and floors are mopped. Classified work is about having a clean safe and secure environment so our students, our future get the BEST education.... the education THEY DESERVE!

We work hard to continually make progress for students as well as classified employees. Classified work advances student's lives and every year we help make education here in Washington state better.

Please join me in applauding classified employees for a wonderful 2013-2014 school year.

PSE is strong because of you. PSE will continue to grow and lead the charge to make progress in education.

No matter the decisions your board makes, to be a true member led union that must include all of you! Take ownership in your union, not just attending convention. Be an active participant and a part of the successes.

Be informed and educated on the happenings of PSE and continue to challenge yourself to stretch a little more every day. Encourage others to be involved and that will inspire your own personal growth.

To all members not here today and those in the room that have accepted my challenge over the past two years doing an amazing job for your union brothers and sisters and believe in the union fight of a living wage for all workers please stand up

To all of you in the room willing to continue my challenge. Take a leading role into our future please stand

If by chance there is anyone left sitting. One of those standing will challenge you to do more.

And those who are still sitting please stand in unity.

Thank you. Please be seated.

I want to thank all of you for caring about your union and our future as classified employees as well as our future as Public School Employees of Washington union it's in all of your hands.

I want to extend a very, very special thank you to someone that is a life member a past president and currently our Executive Director who also has a passion for PSE and our members. And over the years since he has been in this position, has done an amazing job to help guide and recommend to the board of directors to get us to where we are and I look forward to where he can take us.

No matter the perceptions of some that the board of directors has any issues, they are all here because they care and because you elected them to lead our organization... No matter our challenges, I have valued and am so very proud of the work our board of directors has done. I ask you all, Board of Director's to move forward listening and HEARING our members, ALL member voices ...

I take with me from the past two years so much love, personal growth and a hope for our future.....

My passion, fight for our rights and my PSE blue heart will NEVER die... It lives on because of YOU and almost 27,000 members.

Thank you for the last 22 years of being part of a great union and thank you for the most rewarding past two years of my life.