

PROBE

**Walla Walla Valley
Education Association**
President: Toni Lynn Steele
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Volume 2008 – 2009, Issue 4

February 2009

Special Election Issue

The following teachers are running for 2009 – 2011 WWVEA President. Elections will take place during the last week of this month, February 24 – 27.

Chris Blackman

I began helping the students in this district nearly 20 years ago as a volunteer for one of Sharpstein's first grade classrooms. Little did I realize that that would mark the beginning of my career as an educator. Since then I have had the pleasure of providing instruction to students from elementary through college age with a unique background in general and special education as well as school counseling and psychology. Additionally, I have been an energetic member of both Washington and Oregon's educational associations on a local and state level while maintaining an active role in the community. More personally, I have two children attending Walla Walla's schools and have a strong desire to work especially hard for the teachers who continue to make a difference in the lives of our children. A vote for me would mean a voice of advocacy for all educators. I look forward to serving you the best I can.

Tom Porter

I have been a secondary teacher for 19 years with the last 14 back home here in Walla Walla. I have taught both middle school and high school levels from Vocational education to Math, Science, History and the Arts. I am currently teaching pottery and GED Preparation Courses here at Lincoln Alternative High School. While teaching I have served as chairman of our school wide shared governance council, lead teacher at Opportunity Program and many coaching and district committee roles. My union involvement has been constant. I have served as a building representative for most of my 19 years and have actively participated in WEA Rep Assembly on both the East and West side. As a teacher and parent I understand the vital role that we as educators play in shaping our schools and community. I also understand how important it is for our union to be strong and resolute in helping our district strive toward fair and equitable working conditions. I look forward to supporting you as your new union president. 509-301-6466

Richelle Palmer

I'm proud to say that I have been in the teaching field since 1983. I've taught 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade; multi-age 1st-2nd grade; looped 2nd-3rd grade; 2nd grade inclusion classroom; ran two different TitleI/LAP programs; was a K-12 reading specialist and am currently the instructional coach at Pioneer Middle School where I am privileged to have a section of 8th grade Language Arts and 6th grade Social Studies. Prior to coming to work for the district in 2000, I was active in the Richland Education Association where I served for many years as building rep as well as having attended WEA Rep Assembly. I look forward to serving **all** members including those who have been in education for a number of

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years as well as those teachers new to our profession. I am currently on the bargaining support team and having received my administrative credential last summer, I am dedicated to making sure that our contract is honored by all parties as we face the challenges of today's educational world together.