AWSP’s New Website
We just crossed the finish line on our new website, over a year in the making. You’ll notice a brand new look, improved navigation, the return of the AWSP Blog, content customized for you when you sign in, and now it looks as good on a phone as it does on a computer. If you find something needing a fix, or just want to give your feedback, we’d love to hear what you think. Email David@awsp.org to share your thoughts.

Making a Change Next Year? Let Us Know
If you will be retiring this June, changing positions for the 2018-19 school year, or leaving the field entirely, please let us know by filling out the form on our website; you’ll find it under Member Support. This helps to ensure your membership benefits continue for the new school year and your replacement gets connected with us, as well.

New Staff from West to East
AWSP and the Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL) are excited to announce three new staff members joining our team for the 2018-19 school year!

“509” DIRECTORS
AWSP is hiring two professional development directors to support the east side of the state. Scott Friedman has joined us and will be based out of Spokane. Scott is currently the director of teaching and learning in the Nine Mile Falls School District, where he was previously an elementary principal. He served as an AWSP Fellow for the 2014-15 school year, supporting the AWSP Leadership Framework on the east side of the state. Affectionately nicknamed “Easty” (as we have Scott Seaman on the west side of the state), expect to see him serving principals on the upper right quadrant of our state for years to come.

Thanks to some great collaboration with OSPI and a generous three-year contract, we also hired Gina Yonts. Gina spent the past 27 years working in Walla Walla Public Schools, the last 16 of those as an administrator. She brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and is an AWSP-trained principal mentor. She’ll continue to be based out of Walla Walla and will focus on serving the lower right corner of our state.

While both Scott and Gina will provide regional support, they’ll be a big part of our plans and help us serve all of our members statewide.

WASA Executive Director Bill Keim Retires
AWSP would like to wish our colleague, Bill Keim, executive director of the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) all the best in his retirement. Keim, 68, has led the association for the past five years. Prior to accepting the position of executive director with WASA, he served 11 years as superintendent of Educational Service District 113 in Olympia, including 40 school districts and 70,000 students. He has served as superintendent in the Mercer Island and Cascade school districts, having previously also held positions as curriculum director, principal, teacher, and several international experiences working to support children. Keim and his wife, Nancy, plan to remain in the Olympia area but are looking forward to having the time to travel. WASA will honor Keim, along with fellow colleague and retiree Gary Kipp at a special reception on June 25 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, in conjunction with Summer Conference.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR
AWSL is hiring Greg Barker to replace Susan Fortin as our student leadership director once Susan retires at the end of June 2019. Greg will shadow Susan for the year, learning the ins and outs of her unique role. He currently works at Snohomish High School, and has a long-standing history of involvement with AWSL and AWSP.

COMMUNICATIONS INTERN
Last but not least, we are excited to announce a new AWSP intern, Riley Podowicz. Riley joins us on a part-time basis and is a recent graduate of the University of Alaska, where she played volleyball and majored in communications. We are very excited to have her on our team!
Congratulations to the 2018 Principals of the Year

We’re excited to announce the 2018 Principals of the Year. They join our Assistant Principal of the Year, Tami Skillingstad from Westwood Middle School in the Cheney School District, to round out our lineup of exceptional leaders. Look for more about each of them and their accomplishments in our next issue.

Duolingo

Learning a second language isn’t easy. The crowd-sourced program Duolingo gives you the opportunity to translate real-world texts to your desired language of choice — Spanish, German, Brazilian, Italian, Russian, Japanese, Korean, to name a few. It can translate web pages and other documents into multiple languages and offers language courses at all levels.

As if that isn’t fun enough, Duolingo lets users earn points for correct answers, race against the clock, and level up. Many teachers around the world are already using Duolingo in the classroom.

Ready to learn a new language anytime, anywhere? Check out Duolingo and see if it’s right for you and your school!

Learn more at www.duolingo.com.

Did you know...?

There are 1,956 principals across the state. Can you guess what percentage of them have an assistant principal? Just over one thousand, 1,005 to be exact, have an AP. For the roughly 49 percent of you without an AP, it’s even more important to make sure you’re networked with other principals. Check out Scott Seaman’s article in this issue for some more information about joining a Networked Improvement Community.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:
Rick Stacy

Meet Rick Stacy. Rick recently retired on April 27th after 23 years of keeping our association viable and financially healthy. Aside from keeping enough money in the bank to keep us going, Rick also supported our technology needs. His impact on our association and principals across the state will be felt for many years to come.

Rick brought our office a witty sense of humor, great road trip travelling advice, and many delicious creations from his Big Green Egg grill. We will miss his fun stories and amazing cooking! Here’s to many adventures to come.