

# AWSP Membership: **THE MORE YOU KNOW**



By Your AWSP Membership Support Team:  
**Annalee Braley and Cris Sippel**

**S**erving as a school administrator is one of the most important, and sometimes thankless, roles in education. AWSP is proud to serve you as your professional association. Our mission is to support principals and the principalship in the education of all students.

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Membership in AWSP gives you instant access and fellowship with more than 3,800 school leaders across the state. Our programs and resources are specifically designed to help you manage your administrative duties and address the concerns facing today's building leaders. Members receive the latest information on trends, policy issues and events, both regionally and nationally.

AWSP Active membership is for principals, assistant principals and

others employed in professional work related to the elementary, middle level or high school principalship. Over 96% of Washington state's public school principals and assistant principals professional membership dues are billed to their school district as a benefit of their collective bargaining agreements. AWSP Active membership *automatically* includes membership in one of the state component (grade-level) groups (ESPAW, AWMLP, WASSP), and “full” membership in one of our national association affiliates (NAESP Active or NASSP Individual).

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

Through your affiliated “Active Membership” status with the National Association of Elementary School Principals or National Association of Secondary School Principals, you have \$2 million worth of professional liability insurance coverage, and a legal benefit fund that is built up at a rate of \$1,000/year based on **continuous membership**, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Each national also offer more benefits such as additional insurance coverage, various discounts, publications, and resources in addition to national advocacy on behalf of principals in the education of all students nationwide.

## **CHANGE OF STATUS FOR 2018-19?**

Have you recently changed jobs?

**A change to your position, school district and/or email address may mean a lapse of your AWSP membership status, and a monetary benefit loss through your national affiliate (NAESP/ NASSP) “continuous membership” legal fund.**

Automatic renewal of your AWSP membership is dependent on your current position and may not happen through the school district office. AWSP recommends that you inquire and inform district staff of your choice for professional memberships.

If you move from an elementary school to/from a secondary school, you can switch your national affiliation. As an AWSP member, your professional liability insurance coverage and legal benefits are transferrable between our national affiliates.

## **NO LONGER A PRINCIPAL OR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL? AN AWSP ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP MAY BE FOR YOU!**

As people explore different career opportunities, we've found it helpful

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to provide a variety of services to meet our members' needs. Remain active in AWSP through an *Associate membership*.

Many former principals now working in the educational field other than the principalship choose to retain AWSP membership through our Associate membership category for our robust array of member benefits. First-class professional learning opportunities, conferences to enhance leadership skills, award-winning publications and a wealth of resources to help you stay on top of policy, trends and best practices.

All AWSP member types are eligible for free professional advice from AWSP executive staff on employment-related issues. Our seasoned staff can help you navigate a thorny issue or offer a helpful second opinion. Our services are always confidential and respectful of all parties involved. Early counsel can not only save time and money; it might also save your career.

Associate members may choose to also retain their national affiliate membership. **Renew as either a NAESP Active or NASSP Individual member to retain your \$2 million liability policy and legal fees in the case of an employment-related civil suit which can only be activated if you retain your memberships.**

## STAY CONNECTED IN RETIREMENT

If you are no longer employed full-time in education, but you would like to stay involved in work you have a passion for, join AWSP as an Emeritus Member. Emeritus members are eligible for service on committees and short-term projects or programs, receive all publications, access to AWSP's website resources, as well as free registration to the annual conference.

**Combine your AWSP Emeritus membership with renewal in**



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### **your national affiliate as NAESP Emeritus or NASSP Retired to retain your professional liability and legal coverage.**

Although most members never utilize this benefit, members in need appreciate that these resources are available. You pay to protect your home, your car, your health care, and your family in the event of your death. Protect your livelihood in the

event of an unexpected job-related action that may arise after you retire or leave the principalship.

Questions about your options or eligibility? Please don't hesitate to contact AWSP – your AAA provider for professional services! ■

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Annalee Braley

Membership Coordinator

Meet Annalee Braley, AWSP's membership coordinator extraordinaire. Annalee is the AWSP Olympia office's resident historian, having been with us since 1989! Annalee first started with AWSP as the production room coordinator. Since then, she has been involved with Student Leadership programs, conference planning, AWMLP, and professional services support.

When Annalee isn't busy working through the numerous annual membership updates, processing membership billing or managing our database, she's helping members navigate their benefits and prepping AWSP ambassadors with tools to greet principals who are new to the profession. Needless to say, we truly couldn't do what we do without her! You can email Annalee at [annalee@awsp.org](mailto:annalee@awsp.org).



### STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Cris Sippel

Elementary Programs, Diversity & Equity, and Legal Support

Cris Sippel joined AWSP in December 2006. She holds a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Washington State University and a master's degree in public administration from The Evergreen State College. Cris's work influences many facets of AWSP — she is the elementary programs coordinator, diversity and equity committee support, and coordinator of the Washington School Principals Legislative Effectiveness Association (PAC).

When not in the office, Cris is busy engaging in shenanigans with her son, Ashton, and her wonder dog, Snort.

You can email Cris at [cris@awsp.org](mailto:cris@awsp.org).

