



ASTA Action

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Dean Elder, President



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President's Report

Welcome back! I hope your summer was restful and rejuvenating!

It seems like last year was a continuation of a never-ending attack by the opponents of public education. Here are some events that occurred over the summer:

In one of the last acts of the term, the US Supreme Court denied a petition from plaintiffs in Friedrichs v CTA to rehear the case on which it had already ruled. The court refused and Friedrichs, as we know it, is dead. In a press statement following the ruling, Terry Pell, attorney for the losing side, promised to continue to look for opportunities to challenge unions and teachers rights.

In April, the CA Court of Appeals overturned the poor judgement of a lower court in the case of Vergara v State of CA. Vergara was a direct attack on teacher's due pro-

cess rights and seniority. Over the summer the CA Supreme Court refused to consider an appeal filed by the losing plaintiffs. However, even though Vergara is now dead, Assembly Member Susan Bonilla of Concord, proposed Assembly Bill 934 which would have legislated what the plaintiffs lost in the Vergara reversal. CTA mobilized over the summer and managed to stop AB 934 in the Senate Education Committee.

In June, Orange County voters elected to unseat OC Board of Education incumbent Robert Hammond in Area 1. The replacement of Hammond with ASTA-endorsed Becky Gomez removes the 3-2 pro-charter, anti-public education Board majority. Thanks to a county-wide effort led by a consortium of CTA locals, the OC Board can now shift their focus away from the destructive wackiness of the previ-

ous Board and become a true source of support for our public schools.

There are many avenues that special interest groups can take to attack our profession and our employment rights. AB 934 is a reminder that all local elections are important to us and that, whether we like it or not, our profession is a political one. This fall we have two board members running for re-election in the AUHSD, Proposition 55 which will secure funding for public schools for the next several years, and some local legislative seats that can make a difference. Watch for updates.

We have made some positive progress last year. Let's keep it moving forward this fall!

by James Goran,
Vice President (Dale)

Bargaining Update

I hope everybody had a nice, relaxing summer. Just like you, the ASTA bargaining, after a long break, will rush into action this school year. We will convene internally on August 29th to finalize our initial proposal that we will ultimately present to the District this fall. We are hoping to begin negotiations a bit earlier this year so it

can be completed in a more timely manner. Our goal is to sunshine our proposal to the Board in September. That means we could begin to bargain as early as October.

The ASTA bargaining team is James Goran (Dale, Ken Kanouse (Brookhurst), Grant Schuster (Dale), Cindy

Brazda (Anaheim), and Christie Bettendorf (Kennedy.) Lisa Eck, our CTA staffperson, will also be on hand to work with us, as will ASTA President Dean Elder. We are super excited and ready to go. Updates will come out when there is something to report. Hope you have a great year.



Anaheim BROS Receive CTA IFT Grant

by Ryan Ruelas,
CTA State Rep. (Anaheim)

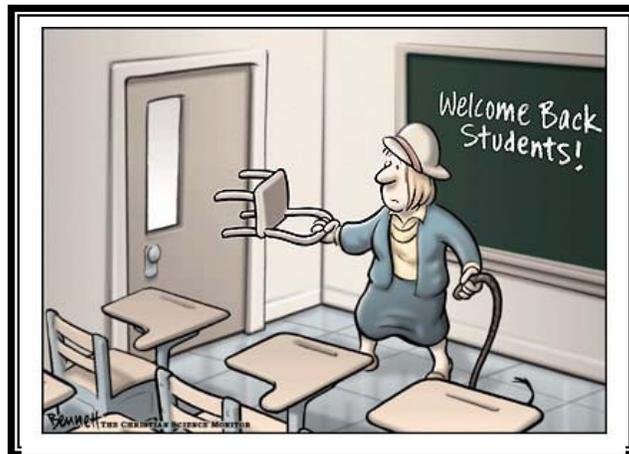
In 2009, a student-run organization was formed at Anaheim High School called BROS. The club's original objective was to increase the number of Chicano/Latino male students at the university level. Throughout the years, the mission of BROS changed; along with academic success, the importance of community service, civic engagement, and cultural pride were integrated into the organization and the pillars that define BROS. The success of BROS at AHS inspired Sycamore JHS to start a BROS chapter and Katella and Loara High Schools also have BROS.

Like all student-run organizations, BROS is self-funded. Throughout the years, the young men have done countless fundraisers to finance the various field trips they

take to visit different universities here in CA. However, I am proud to say that BROS received an IFT grant sponsored by CTA for the 2016-2017 school year. The project is entitled, "Students Leading Students: Creating Change in Anaheim," and will include the high schools and junior high schools on the east side of AUHSD. In this project, students from AUHSD will be paired with students from AESD and will serve as mentors to the elementary students, provide them with tutoring at least twice a week, and work on projects that address issues, such as bullying, that significantly impact students at all levels but are extremely difficult for students at the elementary level to endure. Once a month, student leaders from BROS and/or other student run organizations from Savanna,

Katella, Loara, and Anaheim will meet at the AE office to address issues impacting their respected school sites, the city of Anaheim, and national issues, in order to come up with solutions to these problems.

AHS' BROS has big plans for this grant and we are excited about the vast amount of opportunities this money can provide students to create change at their schools, AUHSD, AESD, and the city of Anaheim. We are thankful to CTA for this opportunity and I encourage all of you to check out the IFT website at <http://www.teacherdrivenchange.org> and see if you or your students could also benefit from such grant.



CTA Summer Institute Report

by Geoff Morganstern,
Treasurer (Brookhurst)

This August I attended CTA's annual summer institute at UCLA. I participated in the community engagement strand where I got to know teachers from across California. All of us know that teachers in public schools and in our associations can help make our students' education more equitable and effective. Going beyond our classrooms, however, our associations should be building relationships and collective responsibility by identifying shared concerns with our communities. If we build a large base of community relationships, we will be prepared for collective action in our neighborhoods. Building relationships with our communities will help us to take advantage of opportunities and meet challenges.

Strong community organization begins with relationships. These relationships are face to face, on the ground relationships. They form the social capital that is the foundation of the power in community organizing. Effective community relationships are built through relational conversations. We practiced these conversations throughout the week at Summer Institute, and they proved to be the bedrock of successful organizing. The key to creating successful relational conversations is using our personal narratives to evoke shared emotions and identities. In other words, we need to "keep it real" to build these bonds in our schools and communities. When these types of bonds are established, associations will be prepared for organizing.

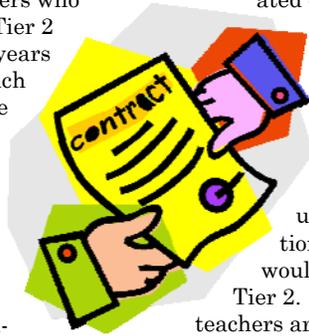
Power mapping was an essential activity we learned in order to identify community partners and necessary political or social allies. Power mapping begins with the question, "Who stands to gain?" Answering this simple question will help us seek out those individuals and organizations to build the critical mass needed for effective change in our communities.

As educators we are no longer an island unto ourselves. What we do in our communities will have a huge impact on our school sites. Let's get involved!

Know Your Contract: Tiered Evaluation

by Dean Elder,
President

Article 12.2 allows veteran teachers who meet certain criteria to move to Tier 2 status and be evaluated every 5 years rather than every 2 years. To reach Tier 2 status a teacher must have received satisfactory evaluations for the past two evaluation periods, be a permanent teacher, have completed 10 (ten) years or more of certificated service in the District, and hold an appropriate credential. A teacher *does not* have to be evalu-



ated during their tenth year to move to Tier 2. When a teacher accepts a position in the AUHSD, that teacher ideally should be evaluated in years 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. After the satisfactory year 10 evaluation, if all other conditions are met, the teacher would automatically move to Tier 2. In many cases, however, teachers are not evaluated on the

ideal schedule and may end their tenth year with their last evaluation having been in year 9 or even year 8. As long as all of the other conditions are met, at the completion of a teacher's tenth year in the District, that teacher automatically moves to Tier 2 *regardless of when the last evaluation occurred.*

Ballot Initiatives You Should Know

by Christie Bettendorf,
CTA State Rep. (Kennedy)

I attended the June CTA State Council as Alternate and sat on the Political Involvement Committee. The focus of the committee's work was to recommend initiatives for CTA support. I first met with the Initiatives Subcommittee to decide what initiatives to bring to the whole committee for discussion and a vote. Despite there being a large number of initiatives on the ballot for the November election, the strategy adopted by the committee was to make Proposition 55 a priority. After much debate and discussion on the main floor, the State Council, made up of hundreds of teachers, voted to support the following propositions:

Prop. 58: The California LEARN Initiative

The California Language Education, Acquisition and Readiness Now (LEARN)

Initiative will increase opportunities for California students to become proficient in English as their primary language while also having the chance to learn in other languages. Currently, the demand for multilingual programs can't be met, resulting in waiting lists for multilingual schools. Research shows that elementary school is the best time for students to learn languages, so this proposition would increase the number of schools that offer multilingual programs to younger students.

Prop. 52: The Medi-CAL Funding and Accountability Act

This act will help maintain billions of dollars in federal funding to support health care for low-income children and seniors. California has received more than \$18 billion in federal funding, and this will end

in 2017 unless Prop. 52 is passed. Prop. 52 will benefit children, who account for more than half of all Medi-CAL users, more than any other group in California.

Prop 55: The Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act

This act will maintain the current income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians. If not passed, estimated funding cuts are at \$4 billion, primarily to education, in the first year alone. This proposition contains strict language that ensures funds are designated for classrooms. Facing a severe teacher shortage, the continued funding from this revenue stream will ensure that quality teachers are hired and class sizes are reduced.

What About Class Size?

by Julie Nielsen,
CTA State Rep. (Cypress)

Restorative Justice was a big topic at this year's NEA Representative Assembly. The idea has been around for decades, yet brought to the national spotlight because of the report by the ACLU, "The School to Prison Pipeline (SPP)". School districts are focusing on traditional discipline practices that are deemed punitive and zero tolerance policies that do not allow students to have second chances.

Across the nation our colleagues are responding to the change, but the frustration lies in one area. Where are the resources? We are going to the trainings. We are creating new policies. We are doing the work

we always do to take care of our students. However, restorative practices are NOT the only issue according to the ACLU report. There are causes to the SPP and the very first one addressed is over-crowded classrooms. Too many students are slipping through the cracks because they are in large classes and teachers do not have the ability to closely monitor them.

Basically, the ACLU points out the very thing teachers have been saying for eons—smaller class sizes allow for better education. Most studies agree that good pedagogy includes the idea that students who struggle have a better chance of success if

they have more quality time with their teacher. The class size issue also addresses another important aspect - safety and security of students. Students struggling academically are more likely to slip through the cracks. If we want to restore justice to these children, put them in classes where teachers have the plenty of opportunities to tend to their needs. That is an important step on the way to ensuring that every student can have equal access to education and opportunity.

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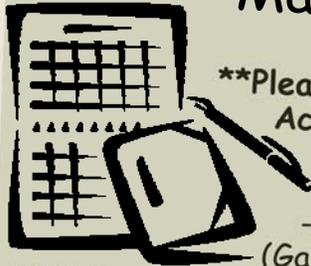
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Mark Your Calendar!



****Please watch for ASTA Campaign Activities coming this Fall!****

-CTA Leadership Conference (Palm Springs) January 6 to 8, 2017

-CTA Good Teaching Conference (Garden Grove) March 3 to 5, 2017

-NEA Representative Assembly (Boston, MA) June 30 to July 5, 2017

-CTA Summer Institute (UCLA) July 30 to August 3, 2017

Any ASTA members can receive weekly updates to keep you informed of current issues and events.

If you are interested in receiving the ASTA Weekly Update, please inform your site reps.

Support for Proposition 55

A CTA Publication

The following article is taken from a recent CTA Bulletin.

Prop. 30, passed in 2012, helped public education recover some of the funds it lost during the recession by allowing districts to hire more teachers, faculty and education support professionals, brought additional books and supplies directly to the classroom, re-opened school libraries, and improved student access to community college courses, while at the same time helping to stabilize California's budget.

California continues to lag far behind the rest of the country in education funding, ranking 46th in per-student spending. Governor Brown's 2016-17 budget forecasts show that unless we extend the tax on the wealthiest Californians, our schools and colleges will come up \$4 billion short in the first year, and the state budget will face a nearly \$4 billion deficit.

Our students cannot afford another round of drastic cuts that would mean less money each year for lowering class sizes, providing a well-rounded education, supporting professional development, keeping school libraries open, and ensuring students have access to higher education.

Proposition 55, the Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act is not a tax increase, but maintains the current income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians and only affects the top 2% of earners in the state and will automatically expire after 12 years.

Prop. 55 is expected to raise \$8-11 billion a year that will go directly into a special fund that supports K-12 schools and community colleges. By helping the state maintain and fund critical resources for public education, the measure also provides funding for other essential services like health care for low-

income children and seniors. Up to \$2 billion a year will go to health care for low-income children and their families. Prop. 55 includes strict accountability provisions and will not permit any of the funds to go towards bureaucracy or administrative costs. The funds will be used to help students by reducing class sizes, updating textbooks, hiring new educators and keeping tuition costs from skyrocketing. The money is also subject to audits by the State Controller.

