

President's Report

March 2011

Budget News

Our K-12 schools have already taken more than \$18 billion in cuts over the last three years. That's nearly \$3,000 per student. More than 1 million students are losing up to 5 instructional days as districts struggle with budget shortfalls. In our own district, it is being proposed that we reduce our work year by five days, eliminate our non-student days, and our buy back days.

More than 30,000 educators and 10,000 other school employees have been laid off over the past three years. Thousands of new pink slips for educators are being issued by the March 15 deadline. California ranks at the bottom of all 50 states in the ratios of teachers, school counselors, librarians and nurses to students.

California can't balance its \$25 billion deficit on cuts alone. The Governor's proposed budget is a balanced approach that cuts \$12.5 billion in state spending as well as extend current revenues. No one will pay higher taxes than they are now. It's a five-year extension of certain taxes that Californians have been paying since 2008. Without the temporary tax extensions, we will lose even more – more than \$2.3 billion more according to the Legislative Analyst Office. If lawmakers won't extend these taxes, they should let the people vote on it. Brown has called for a special election in June.

If you have family members or friends who live in legislative districts that are represented by a republican, please urge them to contact them and ask that they let the people have a voice. Remember to wear RED on Tuesdays and and your VEA BLUE on Wednesdays.

Special Education

VEA is working with the District in seeking a reasonable resolution to the District's desire to implement a learning center model at the secondary level. VEA recognizes that what may work well & has a lot of buy-in at one school site, may not be the case at another. Therefore, we believe that before any type of program that so drastically changes the working conditions for our unit members is implemented, it needs to be bargained. However, it is also not the intent of VEA to stymie efforts of those school sites that wish to move towards the learning center model in the 2011-12 school year. VEA believes that there is language in the contract that allows for this & encourages unit members to use Article 10.1.11.3 to implement this program. Article 14, Exception to the Contract, may also be used. Call me if there are any questions regarding this process.

Grievance Panel

As reported in last month's "President's Report," the Grievance Panel was able to develop recommendations on two grievances, which were subsequently presented to the Executive Board for approval. The Executive Board approved the recommendations from the panel. Additionally, two other grievances presented at the first grievance panel have been approved to move to arbitration. These two grievances deal with docking of sick pay and paying back the District on sick pay overages.

While these two grievances are being moved to arbitration, VEA will continue to work with the District in reaching an agreement that is amenable to all involved.

No Changes to Pay Cycle

In a meeting held with the District, VEA was informed that the District is pulling its original proposal to change the payroll frequencies for current unit members on 11 and 12 month pay cycles. Unit members on these pay cycle frequencies will not have any changes and will remain "status quo."

Employee Assistance Program

Reminder that VCUSD offers the Employee Assistance Program that is available for employees through MHN. Their contact information is members.mhn.com and register with the access code: WISE or they have a toll-free number available 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 800.227.1060.

Your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential service available to you and your family, and is a program designed to help with emotional health issues and everyday challenges. Your EAP is easy to use and paid for by your employer. It may include:

- Consultation and counseling sessions with an emotional health provider
- Programs and tools, tips, and resources for healthy living
- Information and assistance with relationship issues including marital or partner, parent-child and work relationships
- Work & Life services for legal, financial, pre-retirement, child care, elder care and tax issues

VEA Scholarship Information

The application for the VEA scholarship is on the website & can be requested from your site rep. Deadline to apply for a scholarship for a graduating high school senior is Friday, April 22nd. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting the first week of May to pick scholarship winners. The scholarship amounts vary depending upon the number of quality applicants that are received. Scholarship recipients will be announced at the May Rep Council meeting.

President's Schedule – February 2011

<i>Day</i>	<i>Event</i>
1	Meeting at the DO
2	Breakfast with Board President School Board meeting
3	School Site visit @ Bethel School Site visit @ Peoples
7	Meeting at the DO
8	CTA Organizing meeting Meeting at the DO Bargaining Team meeting
9	School Site visit @ Peoples
10	Rep Council
11	School Site visits @ Beverly Hills, Steffan Manor & Federal Terrace
12	"I Can Do It" training at CTA Office
14	Meeting at the DO
15	United Workers for Local Government meeting
16	Meeting at the DO School Board Meeting
17	Meeting at DO February Social @ Chevy's
18	School Site visit @ Vallejo High School Site visit @ Franklin Middle
23	Meeting at DO with Dr. Damelio & Superintendent Gonella
24-27	NEA Pacific Region Leadership Conference
28	School Site visit @ Franklin Middle School Site visit @ Solano Middle Meeting at SEC Office - Cordelia