

# ACE ON TASK

## President's Message by Karen Houck

CTA has declared a State of Emergency on the budget. You will be hearing about this during the next few weeks. We are asking all educators to work together to "Force the legislature to pass tax extensions to prevent deeper cuts to schools, colleges and other essential public services."

CTA has scheduled a series of activities for the week of May 9-13 culminating with a group of educators taking over the State Capitol. In the Inland Empire we will have a rally at the Orange Show on Friday, May 13th. There is going to be a "clingy" in the next California Educator for you to put in your car window.

Here is a brief outline of the week's L.E.A.R.N. activities:

Monday, May 9th focus on LEGISLATIVE activities by calls, visits, emails and targeting key Republicans.

Tuesday, May 10th reach out to EVERY PARENT with phone calls, flyers, letters home, walking the neighborhoods and mall grade-ins.

Wednesday, May 11th is Day of the Teacher and we will APPRECIATE educa-

tors and ALLIES by partnering with PTA to thank educators, fieldtrips to fire stations and other ally activities.

Thursday, May 12th is to promote the need for REVENUE for schools and other essential public services by educating members and the community about tax fairness. CTA is promoting this as a "Refrain from Shopping" day.

Finally on Friday, May 13th it is NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL and we are declaring a State of Emergency. Members from throughout the State will be attending regional rallies to call upon legislators to protect public education. We look for ACE to have a large group at the rally!

Each year the San Geronio Service Center Council honors three members of each chapter with a WHO (We Honor Ours) award. The recipients receive a certificate and an owl statute in recognition for their dedication to their local. This year we will be honoring two outgoing board members and an incoming bargaining team member and new organizing chair. John Chovan has served as our Middle School Director and bargaining

team member, Steve Villa will be leaving our board as Elementary Director but he has agreed to continue as editor of our newsletter and Molly Green may be the newest member of negotiations, but she brings experience as site rep and was just named organizing chair. Congratulations to all three for being recognized for their service to ACE.

The Executive Board of Directors annual Retreat is scheduled for Saturday May 21, 2011. This is our opportunity to review the past year and set goals for the next year. Your reps have been asked to give feedback to our board on what we did well, what they would like to continue and what we could improve upon.

Over Spring Break our office was painted by a dedicated group of volunteers who gave up their vacation to help me. Our thanks goes to: Rebekah Acord, Tajudeen (TJ) Aiyeloja, Marcella Cook, Bill Kinder, Robert Lemoine and his daughter, Cristina and Adrian Puraci, and Arlene Roper.

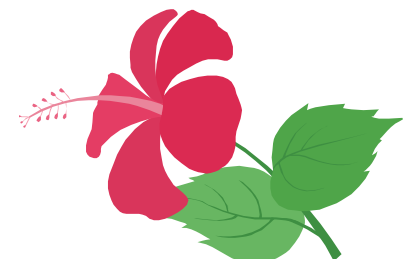
## Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

Issue 8

April 2011

### ACE Executive Board

President	Karen Houck
Vice President	Robert Lemoine
Secretary	Rebekah Acord
Treasurer	Arlene Roper
Elem Director	Bernadette Pedroza
Elem Director	Cristina Puraci
Elem Director	Steve Villa
Elem Director	Linda Placencia
Mid. Sch Director	Paul Lucero
Mid. Sch Director	John Chovan
Sr, High Director	Robert Moses
Sr, High Director	Marcella Cook
PPS Director	Georgene Dixon
State Council	Paul Lucero
State Council	Rebekah Acord
State Council	Dona Hines



## School Funding by Paul Lucero

After the March 3rd school board meeting, I can't help but think that in this time of economic hardship our understanding of school funding needs to be revisited. The main source of revenue for a school district is student attendance. The only way we can continue that revenue source is to keep teachers in the classroom. At the last school board meeting, I heard many of our school board members talk about fiscal solvency. Then, four of these same board members voted to decrease teaching positions by 103.11. I am just a History teacher, but I think the correct word for this situation is "ironic". How

are we supposed to keep our revenue up, with less teachers in the classroom? How are we supposed to keep enrollment up, when students will leave our district for neighboring districts who keep programs such as German, French, and Agriculture? How are we supposed to stay fiscally solvent with less students? Now, I understand that schools are not employment agencies, and if cuts need to be made then we must make them. However, given how schools are funded, I would think that any logical cuts would be made furthest from the classroom and school sites first.

To make it simple, think of it this way. School districts should be like a garden hose for tax dollars to be funneled into the classroom. In our case, this hose is severely kinked. Instead of un-kinking the hose, the district is blaming the garden for not watering itself.

As the parties responsible for getting the best opportunities for our students, we need to ensure that this process is not marred in pride, numbers, and politics. The fact is that we are in the people business, and people, no matter how hard we try, are not and will not be conformed to line items on a budget.

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## Health Care Reform Act: Dependents to Age 26 by Arlene Roper

As part of our contract, dependents enrolled in classes until age 25 could be covered on our Health benefits. The federal Health Care Reform Act that was passed just over a year ago modifies that. Now all children can be covered on their parents insurance until age 26. The Reform Act makes no stipulation on whether the children are enrolled in classes or even living at home. However, as the rules and guidelines have been written to support this Act there are some instances that you should be aware of. During open enrollment this year, if you have a child

that under age 26 you can enroll them on your plan. This includes Blue Shield and Kaiser; however, dental, vision and other insurances policies you may have through the district are not covered by the Health Care Reform Act. The Blue Shield MES Vision plan has stipulated that they will cover children to age 26 and since the Kaiser Vision plan is all rolled into one it most likely will also. When you enroll your children, the Benefits office will ask you to sign an affidavit that your chil-

dren are not covered under any other plan. In other words, if your children have coverage at their work, they cannot come onto our plan just because it has better benefits or lower co-pays. The Health Care Reform Act does say employers can make this stipulation. Overall, enrolling children from ages 18-25 will not affect our premiums and could help our utilization because this age group is generally considered healthy. Make sure you get in during open enrollment or you will need to wait another year.

## Things That Make Me Go Hmmm ... by Bernadette Pedroza

At the March 3rd School Board Meeting, Mr. Jim Ayala recommended approval of Action Item B-5 Approval of Purchase Orders (ironically on the same night Board President Pat Haro, Robert Armenta, Frank Ibarra, and Roger Kowalski voted to lay off 103 certificated staff). The School Board voted to approve this item. One of these purchase orders was Purchase Order #113086 for \$855,000 for the THINK TOGETHER Program out of the general fund. Prior to the school board's vote, Mr. Ayala warned of "deficit spending", "Negative Cash Flow", "Uncertain Financial times" etc, yet, he recommended approval of the PO that is funding THINK TOGETHER INC.

If you go to any school site that has the THINK TOGETHER program, you will find that non-credentialed personnel staff it with minimal college units. Their "site program managers" are NOT teachers, yet are paid comparable to a teacher's daily rate. The bulk of their "instructional time" is spent having snacks, playing outside, Friday Pizza Parties, "Success Time" (time

where students can not ask for help w/ homework), and "Enrichment" (Free time). Teachers and Administration at sites where this program is taking place are very critical of this program. THINK TOGETHER was presented as a program to help raise student test scores by providing "intensive intervention". Hmmm... last time I checked, FREE PLAY WAS NOT A HEAVY HITTER STANDARD!!!

Hmmm.. What could CJUSD do with \$855,000? Well, I'll tell you... \$855,000 could save approx 15 teachers or 4 nurses or 7 counselors. Not to mention the fact that 14 Admin Furlough Days saved CJUSD approx \$750,000, so basically, the savings from Administrative Furlough Days is going to fund the THINK TOGETHER Program (until the district is reimbursed, whenever that is). At the meeting, Asst Sup. Mollie Gainey-Stanley informed the board "the state will reimburse the district". After the Board Meeting, Board Member Kent Taylor came up to a group of teachers and said, "those funds are guaranteed by the state

because they are voter approved." Really, Mr. Taylor, Prop 98 was voter approved and look what happened to that. Mr. Ayala pontificates at all of his site budget presentations (as well as at board meetings) that during this time of fiscal uncertainty no money, even from the state is a sure thing, Mr. Taylor, this means even "guaranteed voter approved monies" from the state.

Hmm.. A solution to this current "deficit spending" that CJUSD apparently has been doing for a while is to make sure that CJUSD has a structured Program Quality Review (PQR) Protocol process for all expenditures over a certain amount. The district would have to gather concrete data of a program's effectiveness. I feel if CJUSD had a protocol in place and it yielded authentic results, CJUSD would find that the THINK TOGETHER program will not help to get us out of PI Status nor is it a good use of District money. The money from the general fund would be better spent on quality programs such as Cal Safe, tennis, counselors, nurses, and teachers.

# ACE Calendar May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Exec Board	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Race to Nowhere	10	11 Day of the Teacher	12	13 WHO Awards	14 ACE Retirement
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 ACE Retreat
22	23 Rep Council	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Holiday	31				

## Special Events

- May 2: Exec Board Meeting
- May 9: Race to Nowhere Screening
- May 9-13: CTA State of Emergency Activities
- May 11: Day of the Teacher
- May 13: San G WHO Awards
- May 14: San G Service Center Council
- May 14: ACE Retirement Dinner
- May 21: Exec Board Retreat
- May 23: Rep Council/Celebration

## School Board

Thanks to all of you who have been attending the last few school board meetings. We have had great speakers educating the board on the importance of the different programs offered in the district and the services provided. It would be great for the board to hear from parents and community members on how their children have benefited from these programs and services. Our organizing team is busy preparing more literature to help educate you and the community on the issues under discussion. If you would like to join the organizing team and help, contact us.

## Member Benefits

Your membership in CTA entitles you to a number of additional benefits. TSA, a subsidiary of First Financial Credit Union, offers discounted tickets to a variety of savings for Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Legoland, Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, Pirates Dinner Adventure, Movie Tickets (AMC Cinemas, Regal, Edwards, United Artist and Pacific Theaters), SeaWorld, Universal Studios Hollywood, San Diego Wild Animal Park and San Diego Zoo. Also available are See's Candy Gift Certificates. For a complete list of availability, prices, and service charges, call (800) 537-8491 or visit their website at [www.tsaspecialservices.com](http://www.tsaspecialservices.com)

## Negotiations Update

The ACE negotiations teams are busy with the next bargaining cycle. We have two different teams to handle the two types of negotiations going on right now.

First we have contract bargaining. This team will negotiate the collective bargaining agreement (contract). We will be sun shining our articles at the April 21st and May 5th board meetings. The district will finish sun shining at the April 21st board meeting and then we can schedule dates and start passing language.

Our second team is MOU and Demand bargaining. They handle issues not currently in the contract. This year we are discussing the 2009-2010 SERP, Autism Authorization and RIF process.

Both teams will be sending out "From the Table", an update on the progress of negotiations. Contract bargaining is on blue paper and MOU bargaining is on teal. If you have questions, comments or concerns about the status of negotiations, you can ask your rep or contact ACE.

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