



ACE ON TASK

President's Message by Karen Houck

Accountability. We in education are all too familiar with this word. We are held accountable not only for our actions, but those of our students under NCLB. For years we have been told that we need to raise test scores without teaching to the test, provide a balanced curriculum for our students so they can be global citizens, comply with recommendations from outside consultants and still maintain our ethical standards. One of my favorite quotes expresses this so well...

"We, the unwilling, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much, for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing." -

-- **Mother Teresa**

We are being pulled in so many directions it is easy to see why many teachers are leaving the profession voluntarily. Now that test prep season is upon us, some educators are tempted to abandon all curriculum except what is going to be tested. We need to make sure that test prep overload doesn't occur so our kids aren't burned out by the time

testing begins. A balanced curriculum with consistent schedules and routines will help keep the anxiety level down for all of us. We not only have to hold ourselves accountable, but our administrators as well. If you are being asked to do something that doesn't seem right, ask for an explanation. We are hearing about new mandates that are being attributed to DAIT which turn out to be incorrect. The DAIT plan is available at each site and should be reviewed if you are being told it is from DAIT. Questions need to be answered and not brushed off or viewed with suspicion. After all, we should have the same goal: doing what's best for kids.



Congratulations to the certificated employees being recognized for perfect attendance on April 23rd at the District Board Room. The honorees are: Ritta Aros, Ricky Berndt, Charlotte

Bogner, Laura Brothers, Alfred Campa, Michael Crawford, Angel Delgado, Mark Doman, Debra Garrett-Murphy, Rose Gallagher, Robert Gerard, Elliott Glass, Steven Goodyear, Cesar Gutierrez, Sharon Halter-Day, Keysup Hong, Martha, Housel, Stanfield Janek, Earnest John, Theresa Johnson, Pricilla Jow, Launa Kennedy, Robert Larivee, Andrew Lesko, Danny Lewis, Hanping Liu, Robert Meyers, Robert Montano, Daniel Morse, Chris Neiman, Stephan Otteson, Jonathan Owen, Robert Ransdell, Arnold Rodriguez Jr., Belen Rubio, Celia Salazar, Debra Sanderson, Elsa Seipp, Victoria Sexton, Alisa Shockney, Nathan Underwood, Kathy Walck, Dorothy White, Sharon Yang.

Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

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ACE Executive Board

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Sr, High Dir	Marcella Cook
PPS Dir	Georgene Dixon
State Council	Paul Lucero
State Council	Rebekah Acord
State Council	Dona Hines



Executive Board by Rebekah Acord

One of the functions of the Executive Board of ACE is to build community relations. Over the years, this has been done mostly during times of crisis. Recently, some of the Executive Board members including President Karen Houck, High School Director Marcella Cook, PPS Director

Georgene Dixon, and myself attended a training seminar in San Diego. We spent 3 days learning more about how to get our communities involved and working with our association to improve the education of our students. It was a rewarding training. Another training that was held was the CTA

Political Academy. In this training we held a mock election and our association along with a few neighboring associations won! This also was a great training. We are planning community events and will be giving updates at Rep. council. We still would love to get your input.

State Council Meetings by Paul Lucero

At the last two State Council meetings, I have had some very interesting conversations with our fellow teachers from across the state. These conversations have ranged in topic; however, one common thread pulls them all together. The common thread is our agreement that the general public in our state and country is, for the most part, detached from the realities of the public education system. For almost a decade now, the public has been told that our schools are failing children. The media, and many politicians, have made it a point to continue these thoughts through campaigns and reports that hinge on showing test scores and “investigative reports” that are one-sided and never discussed in depth.

After the January session of state council, I went to a couple of family events and asked some of my

own family members questions about their perception of education. Almost all of them believe that our schools are in trouble. The concerning part is, none could sight specific reasons, except for their knowledge that test scores are low. I then asked if they knew what the test scores meant. This led to blank stares and no responses from just about everyone. I then told them that because of these test scores, that no one really knew any specifics about, our schools are being forced to cut electives and spend money on remedial programs, consultants, and more tests that simply take the creativity and fun out of school. After these enlightenment sessions, another common thread was found in a question posed to me...Well what is your idea to make this right? This was a tough question and I was honest in saying that I did not believe there to be one answer.

As I have reflected on this question I have come up with some ideas. I do know this state and country needs to decide on a better gauge of our education system rather than just tests. If we don't find a new gauge, then we will have a generation of students that are wonderful at taking tests, but have no real life skills. I know that taking a student who is struggling in one subject and simply increasing their exposure to it, is not remediation and could be considered torture. I know that taking electives from students who need a creative break will cause more students to leave rather than stay. Finally, I know that if we continue to let non-educators educate the public about their school system then we will continue to have the educator's voice taken out of education.

ELECTIONS ARE HERE! ELECTIONS ARE HERE!

No, not the special election that the Governor has called to help balance the budget!

It is time for our annual ACE elections!

Have you been wondering what you can do to help out in your union?

Have you been wanting to do your part?

Do you feel a calling to do something more to make your union stronger?

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!

There are numerous position that are open this year including Treasurer, Secretary, Elementary Director, Middle School Director and High School Director. There are numerous benefits including a wonderful leadership experience, an in-depth insight as to how our union functions, and a stipend. Elections will be held this week, so make sure to vote. Ballots are due Monday, April 27th! Contact your site rep or the ACE office for more election information.

Retirement Dinner by Georgene Dixon

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, MAY 29th

"One hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, how big my house was, or what kind of car I drove. But the world may be a little better, because I was important in the life of a child."

- Forest Whitcraft

FIRST ANNUAL ACE RETIREMENT DINNER

ACE will be hosting its first gala event honoring this year's retiring teachers on May 29th at the San Bernardino Hilton. The evening promises to be a dazzling one complete with a scrumptious buffet, lively entertainment and a few surprises.

Our theme for this year is

"Puttin' on the Glitz". Cost is \$25.00 per person. Our retirees plus one will be guests of ACE.

So, dust off your dancing shoes and start practicing your best moves, because this will be a night of celebration and camaraderie with your peers. Your site reps will be receiving information regarding ticket sales in the near future. Remember; mark your calendars...Friday, May 29th at 6 pm. See you then!!!

State Council by Rebekah Acord

The last CTA State Council meeting in Los Angeles was very eventful. First of all, after much debate the council voted to support Propositions 1A through 1E. According to CTA President David Sanchez, these propositions are necessary for the good of both students and teachers. They are

controversial, because they do raise taxes for a period of time. Secondly, a new Secretary-Treasurer was elected. Her name is Gail Mendes and she is the past president of the Richmond teacher's association. The next meeting will be held over the weekend of May 15th. It should

prove to be an eventful weekend! If you feel strongly about any issue and would like to have your voice heard at State Council, feel free to contact your State Council Representatives. We are Rebekah Acord, Paul Lucero, and Dona Hines.

Say What? by Arlene Roper

Did you know that education professionals have one of the highest rates for hearing loss? Almost 70% of classroom teachers and 80% of other educators say that they are adversely affected by a high level of noise in and around classrooms. These rates are higher than those of other characteristically noisy professions such as mechanical industries. In all fields, 65% of people with a hearing loss are below retirement age. 90% of hearing loss

is not covered by most medical plans including Kaiser and Blue Shield. Hearing aids and other devices are very expensive and the costs are completely out of pocket while the devices must be replaced every few years. The High Desert Inland Employee Employer Trust has just adopted a savings plan called **EPIC Hearing Health Care**. Blue Shield members will have access to a National Network of Ear

Physicians and Audiologists, reduced pricing on all major name brand hearing aid products and related services and access will be available to the extended family including parents and grandparents. There are NO premiums to the member or to the District. This program will begin on July 1, 2009. Blue Shield members will be receiving more information in the coming months so be sure to *listen up!*

ACE Calendar May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Softball Game	4 Exec Board	5 SERP Papers Due	6	7	8 WHO Awards Night	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15 State Council	16 State Council
17 State Council	18 Rep. Council	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29 Re- tirement Banquet	30
31						

Special Events

- May 1: May Day payday!
- May 3: Softball Game
- May 4: Executive Board Mtg.
- May 5: District SERP Papers due
- May 8: We Honor Ours (WHO Awards)
- May 15-17: State Council
- May 18: Rep Council Meeting
- May 25: Memorial Day
- May 29: Retirement Banquet - Hilton Hotel 6 pm

Teacher for a Day

Last month, administrators came to certificated classrooms to teach again for one day. It was a good way to see what constraints teachers have to work through in today's culture. Thank you to everyone who participated, especially our Superintendent.



Human Resources Director Ingrid Munsterman participates with Charme Zumfelde in the Teacher for a day program.

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

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