

# the CTA-ALCOSTA

Relay

A STATE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER FOR DISTRICT B & C  
MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## ✧ January 26 – 28, 2007 Council Meeting ✧

### COUNCIL ELECTS “DAVID & DEAN” AS CTA PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

*by Cindy Andre: San Ramon Valley Education Association*

One of the first orders of business was to open nominations from the floor for CTA President and Vice-President for the 2007-2009 term. There were no additional nominations from the floor, so Council voted to suspend the rules and vote by acclamation. David Sanchez, current Vice-President, was unanimously elected President.

Dean Vogel, current Secretary/Treasurer, was unanimously elected Vice-President. Both candidates enthusiastically accepted their

positions and promised to work diligently to continue to promote CTA policies and goals.

Elections for Secretary/Treasurer will be held during the March State Council meeting. Candidates for this position include Pixie Hayward Schickele, Tom Conry, Dan Vaughn, and Lynette Henley. Elections will also be held for CTA/NEA Coordinating Director and two of the three NEA Alternate Director Positions

### CTA REDISTRICTING UPDATE

*by Mary Jane Keogh, San Ramon Valley Educators Association*

The Representation committee completed its usual business Friday night of making committee assignments. Saturday and Monday, work focused on Redistricting Guidelines and formulating plans for Directorial Redistricting in order to be in compliance with guidelines from the National Education Association. Two plans for Redistricting were sent to the CTA Board of Directors as options for approval.



## Conferences & Activities

- CTA Urban Issues Conference:  
**February 23-25, 2007**  
–Long Beach
- CTA Read Across America: Get Jazzed About Books  
**March 2, 2007**
- CTA Equity & Human Rights Conference:  
**March 2-4, 2007**  
–San Jose
- CTA Good Teaching Conference:  
**March 9-11, 2007**  
–Irvine
- CTA Region 1 Political Academy:  
**March 22-25, 2007**  
–Santa Rosa

Contact your local chapter's leadership to find out if your local is sponsoring any members to participate.

## LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS SUPPORT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

*by Mike Noce: Mt. Diablo Education Association*

State Council passed the State Legislative Committee recommendations that two pieces of sponsored legislation regarding community colleges be made a top priority for our lobbyists in Sacramento.

Current law mandating that 75% of instruction be performed by full-time faculty is regularly bypassed by annual waivers signed by the Chancellor's Office. Proposed legislation would restrict this process.

Another proposed bill would require an audit to verify that 50% of all state funds for Community Colleges go directly to salary and benefits. Currently, this is not happening.

State Council also voted to support AB45 (Swanson); legislation that would immediately return the control of all operational areas except fiscal management powers to the Oakland School Board.

## YOUTH ACTIVISM AWARDS

*by Jacquelyn Smith: Pleasanton Teachers Association*

The Peace and Justice Caucus held its annual Youth Activism Award ceremony Saturday evening. The students honored included activists from San Francisco who convinced their School Board to restrict military recruitment on campus and eliminate high school ROTC programs. A student empowerment group, "Organize da Bay," was also honored and students spoke about their work on behalf of victims in Darfur, victims of violence in their communities and the desperate need for young people to unite against the forces of oppression, violence and discrimination.

The Rosa Park Award and Paul Mann Award recognized the life-long records of these activists who encourage others to take up the struggle. Peace clubs are sprouting up across the state and the Summer Peace Camp is looking for capable young people to learn more about waging peace. For more information regarding the Peace and Justice Caucus, please contact Mary Prophet at [mlprophet@earthlink.net](mailto:mlprophet@earthlink.net) or Andy Griggs at [andyCA@aol.com](mailto:andyCA@aol.com)

# STAR TESTING FOR SECOND GRADERS... AGAIN?

*by Cindy Crawford, San Lorenzo Education Association*

STAR Testing for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders may not be fading into the sunset. The Assessment and Testing Committee was informed of possible new legislation sponsored by State Superintendent Jack O'Connell to EXTEND STAR testing of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders past the current sunset date of July 1, 2007. Members should prepare for a possible letter writing campaign to our legislators to prevent the extension of the sunset if this legislation is created.

The Committee listened to a presentation by Deb Sigman, Director of the Standards and Assessment Division of the CA Dept. of Education, interspersed with opportunities for questions and answers.

## HOW CTA INFLUENCES STATE LEGISLATION

*by Lori Tewksbury, Acalanes Education Association*

State law; the education code in particular, regulates all aspects of how we educate students, our member's working conditions, and our compensation. As local Associations advocate for members at the local level, it is crucial that CTA advocate on behalf of members and students at the state level.

There are two ways that CTA is involved with enacting state laws through the legislative process. Most commonly, CTA state legislative advocates (lobbyists) will identify pending bills that CTA should take a position on (support/approve/watch/disapprove/oppose). These bills are directed to the appropriate state council committee for review. The State Legislative Committee will then rank the legislation in order of priority that the entire state council approves. This process allows our Legislative Advocates to work officially to get legislation passed or tabled. State Council committees can also recommend that the State Council approve sponsoring legislation about an issue and then our state legislative advocates will work to find sponsors (legislators) who will write or propose legislation that we want passed.

## CTA State Council Committees:

- Alternative Career & Technical Education
- Assessment & Testing
- Budget
- Civil Rights in Education
- Communications
- Credentials & Professional Development
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Early Childhood Education
- Elections & Credentials
- Financing Public Education
- Language Acquisition
- Negotiations
- Political Involvement
- Professional Rights & Responsibilities
- Representation
- Retirement
- School Safety / School Management
- Special Education
- State Legislation
- Student Support Services
- Teacher Evaluation & Academic Freedom

## CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

*by Bryan Blattel, Newark Teacher's Association*

The C & I committee recommended that CTA President Barbara Kerr write a letter to Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell requesting that the Department of Education adhere to Ed. Code regarding the use of adopted instructional materials in II/USP and PI schools. These schools may use non-adopted materials as needed. We have work in progress regarding language on Standards Based Instruction. We are attempting to add that standards should be based on research excepted by educational and scientific communities at large. Much discussion is still needed. We are working on policy regarding student achievement based on factors other than assessments. C&I concurs with the Alternative, Career & Technical Education committee to maintain joint CDE/DMV control over Drivers Education course. C & I concurs with the Civil Rights in Education committee to address the high number of young males of color incarcerated who are denied access to education. We meet again in March to continue our work.

## SB 1133 SETTLES CTA V. SCHWARZENEGGER LAWSUIT

*by Keith Pickering-Walters, Livermore Education Association*

When the Governor broke his promise to education and failed to pay back the money he borrowed from Proposition 98 funding, a lawsuit was filed by CTA to recover the \$5 billion that should have gone to California's schools. A settlement was reached in May, 2006 and realized in legislation. The legislation, Senate Bill 1133, has been titled the *Quality Education Investment Act of 2006*. The money was originally borrowed in 2004 and in July of 2007 (over three years later) schools will begin seeing the money.



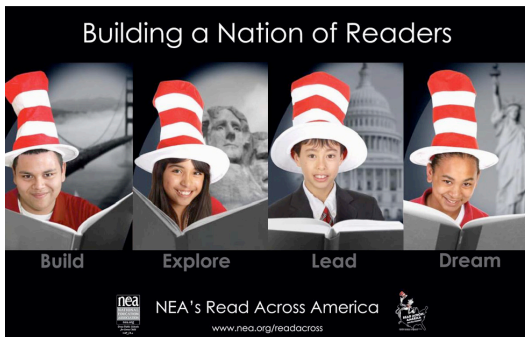
This historic legislation is important because it not only pays back the “broken promise” over the next seven years, but it also demonstrates a shift in educational fiscal philosophy. Legislators are beginning to learn what educators have known for a very long time: equality is not always equitable. The Quality Education Investment Act of 2006 (QEIA) will provide funding to 500-600 of the 1,680 schools who received an API score of Decile 1 or 2 in 2005. School Districts with one or more qualifying schools must complete a short application to be considered to receive funding. If a school is selected, (at least one school from every county in CA) they must agree to update their School Plan to focus on instructional improvement, participate in the K-3 Class Size Reduction program, and reduce class sizes in grades 4-5 by at least 5 students or reduce them to 25 students - whichever yields the

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## COUNCIL ELECTS NEW CTA MINORITY-AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER

*by Kathy Running Horse Wells, Mt. Diablo Education Association*

At the January State Council, great changes took place in the composition of the CTA Board of Directors. For the first time in CTA history an American Indian, Marty Meeden (Paiute/Washoe), was elected as the Minority-at-Large Director to the CTA Board of Directors. Marty is a teacher with the Palmdale Elementary Teachers Association. He has been in local, state, and national union and community leadership for many years. His election means that a strong voice will advocate for important issues in many diverse communities in California.



The two CTA Minority at Large Directors' positions were added to the Board to ensure that our diverse ethnic communities were represented on the Board. The second Minority at Large Director is Lynette Henley. Together these Directors advocate for issues and concerns brought forth by our ethnic minority members, they serve as liaisons to the Board for the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee, and fulfill all the other duties required of CTA Directors as well. With strong leaders like Marty and Lynette, CTA is in very good hands.

## RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

*by Sally Mills: Contra Costa County Office of Education: Special Education*

Ongoing discussions took place in the Retirement Committee regarding the value of maintaining the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) as a defined benefit plan rather than a defined contribution plan which is extremely risky to our members.

Members should have received literature from STRS in January regarding benefit information. There is a June deadline for responding.



New beneficiary options available on the STRS website beginning January, 2007. Two new options have been added: a 75% modified benefit plan has been added to the 50% and 100% plans. Visit [www.calstrs.org](http://www.calstrs.org) for more information.

At the national level, members should be keeping an eye on the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. Members can access further information at [www.socialsecurity.gov/wep](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/wep) and [www.nea.org/socialsecurity/gpowephistory.html](http://www.nea.org/socialsecurity/gpowephhistory.html).

## SB 1133

*continued from page 4* smallest classes. Schools must also ensure that each teacher is NCLB-compliant, must provide high quality professional development to staff, and have a counselor to student ratio of 1:300 if the school is a high school. Additionally, schools must employ teachers whose length of service is equal or greater than the average teacher experience in the school district.

School districts must exceed their Academic Performance Index (API) growth targets, but will be able to average their growth over the first four years. Schools participating in this program will receive an additional \$500 per student in grades K-3, \$900 per student in grades 4-8, and \$1,000 per student enrolled in grades 9-12. Funded schools will also be exempted from many of the categorical funding requirements allowing them more flexibility in how they structure their budget.

More information can be found on the MyCTA portion of the CTA website. If you have not yet registered to access the MyCTA portion of the website, you will need your CTA membership number located on your CTA card or address label of your California Educator Magazine.

### CTA Members Login

Username:

Password:

Remember me  [Sign In](#) >>

[Register for MyCTA](#) >

[Forgot your password](#) >

CTA members: Login to MyCTA to access information about professional development, training sessions, conferences, scholarships and a host of CTA Member Benefits programs that are available only to you.

## MASTER TEACHERS ON VIDEO

*by Steve Butler: Alameda County Office of Education*

Teachers working as Master Teachers/supervising teachers are being asked to please support their teacher candidates in fulfilling their videotaping requirement for their credential.

As of January 1, 2007 members are no longer required to complete 150 growth hours for the renewal of their credential. Credentials must be renewed on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing website at:

<https://teachercred.ctc.ca.gov/teachers/RenewableSearchProxy>

There has been a dramatic increase in teachers being arrested for D.U.I. (Driving Under the Influence). Members need to be aware that any arrest will be reported to C.C.T.C and they will inform the personnel department in your school district. Driving Under the Influence is dangerous to your health and your career.



# QUALITY EDUCATION INVESTMENT ACT ASSISTS SCHOOLS WITH GREATEST NEEDS

*by Tim Sbranti, Dublin Teachers Association*

Last year, CTA worked with Senator Tom Torlakson (D-Antioch) to pass monumental legislation that will help close the achievement gap in California. This legislation (SB 1133) settles the lawsuit that CTA won against Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger after he refused to repay the billions he borrowed from schools in 2004-05 and repays public schools all of the money he owed under Prop 98.

Nearly \$3 billion will go to K-12 schools with API scores in the bottom two deciles for reducing class sizes, improving teacher and principal training, securing qualified teachers in core subjects, providing more collaboration time, hiring more school counselors, and giving local districts the flexibility to support programs that best fit the needs of their students. Community colleges will also receive a portion of the funding to expand career and vocational education.

Although the primary focus will help schools that are serving a higher percentage of low income, minority, and English learners, all schools should check their eligibility and apply to the program through the California Department of Education. Approximately 1/3 of eligible schools in the state will receive funding this year, as \$500 million is expected to be available.

In total, the \$3 billion repayment will take place over a seven-year period. CTA decided to focus the payments towards the schools of greatest need in an effort to show how real results can occur when adequate and equitable resources are committed towards helping our students.

CALIFORNIA  
TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION



*Every child deserves a chance to learn and no child succeeds alone*

Government Action

Issues in Education

News & Publications

Membership

Parents & Community

About CTA

My CTA

## CTA WEBSITE GOES PRIVATE

*by Keith Pickering-Walters, Livermore Education Association*

Last August, the CTA website was relaunched with a new “member’s only” section entitled MyCTA. The CTA website is organized with tabs in the header. Clicking on a certain tab, like “Issues in Education,” will bring you to an area full of current information on a variety of issues that we deal with such as Charter Schools, Assessment, Health Care and School Funding. By registering on the website using your membership number, you will have access to information such as political issues, internal policy, member-only scholarships, surveys and other items available only to members of the California Teachers Association. Sign up today!