



ACE ON TASK

President's Message by Karen Houck

Leaders have been busy attending a variety of conferences and trainings lately. This summer, the negotiations team and several others attended CTA's Summer Institute. This week long training offered strands on negotiations, leadership and communications. We expect to see the benefit of this training from the newly trained Sam Gallo, Dona Hines, Cristina Puraci, Carmen Vega, Mary Garrison, Russ Levine and Sanya Brown. With the bargaining cycle beginning again, this will definitely come in handy.

San Geronio Fall Leadership was another opportunity for site leaders and chapter leaders to advance their skills. This annual conference was attended by Gail Allmon, Debbie Cattano, Veronica Gonzalez, Mary Welch, Marcella Cook, Dona Hines, Cindi Viero, Joanne Smith, Robert Moses, Robert Ransdell, Esmerelda Shreiner, Kimberli Thompson, Alfredo

Arciniega, Steve Villa, Robert Lemoine and yours truly. In addition to the new rep academy, veteran leaders were able to learn about such timely topics as Race To The Top, advanced grievance training, elections training, conducting site meetings and a number of other timely leadership topics. Concurrently, CTA was offering a new training on GLBT that was attended by Rebekah Acord, John Chovan and Molly Green. GLBT focused on bullying, unconscious biases and prejudices as well as assistance in dealing with students who are GLBT.

Most recently, the Ethnic Minority Leadership Training was offered to all of our members who identify themselves as an Ethnic Minority. Nathan Underwood, Yogesh Sharma, Crystal James, Nadine Kelly, Esmerelda Shreiner, Kimberlie Thompson, Kristi Ward, and Myrna Cardenas attended the training. The event started with a reception that I attended to meet with their minority leaders. The next day was

a series of workshops and trainings focused on minority issues.

Next month, Rebekah Acord will be representing us at the annual NCUEA conference (National Council of Urban Educators Associations). This NEA event brings representatives from around the nation to discuss urban issues and get training to help with issues in large urban areas.

We are still accepting request forms for the spring conferences. We have a number of conferences that would benefit new or veteran leaders as well as educators who would like to hone their skills. Still available are Urban Issues, Equity and Human Rights, Good Teaching and Region 4 Leadership. The dates can be found on the CTA website and in your CTA calendar. The NEA/RA is in New Orleans and the election for delegates will be this spring.

Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

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ACE Executive Board

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We're broke with MILLIONS in the bank

by Robert Lemoine

Math word problem: 37 million dollars in the general fund (fund 01) bank account = being broke. True or false? Every logical person on the planet would obviously say false. The other people would say true, we will be broke in 3 years IF nothing changes and IF everything we PREDICT and GUESS will happen does happen. Oh, by the way, our predictions and guesses have been off DRASTICALLY every single year for the past 5 years. Now, just to prove our ludicrous argument, a power point must be made and a presentation given to the masses of HIGHLY EDU-

CATED and logical people whom we hold in such high regard.

In case the snow job the district is pulling has worked, there are additional facts and information. Currently, according to the documents that the District filed with the county for the 2008-2009 ending balance (unaudited actual report), there is more money in the savings accounts. In fund 67, a self-insurance fund, there is \$18,837,451! This is money that can be spent any way the District wants. In fact, the District does not even legally need to have a

single cent in this account! Last year, the revenue for this account was 3,020,824 million dollars. The expenditures for this account were 2,980,235. This account has grown severely over the last few years.

So, there is 37 million dollars in Fund 01 + 18.8 million dollars in Fund 67. Now, the new formula reads: 55.8 million dollars in excess = being broke. True or false? But, that's not all. Stay tuned to our next newsletters to read about even more exciting adventures of the broke District with millions of dollars in the bank account.

H1N1 by Steve Villa

With the flu season upon us, these tips are offered by CTA and the Center for Disease Control to protect yourself and others from the H1N1 flu virus.

1. Maintain a healthy lifestyle through rest, diet, exercise, and relaxation.
2. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner if soap and water are not available. Be sure to wash your hands after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
3. Avoid touching your nose, mouth, and eyes. Germs spread this way.
4. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough and sneeze into your elbow. Dispose of tissues in no-touch trash receptacles.
5. Keep frequently touched common surfaces clean, such as telephones, computer keyboards, doorknobs, etc.
6. Do not use other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment.



State Council by Dona Hines

Much of October's State Council was focused on the Race to the Top proposal. Curriculum and Instruction is busy comparing the National Standards to the California State Standards. Since California has the highest educational standards, the only way we could possibly make any changes would be to lower them, which isn't likely to happen. It seems like a case of "Much ado about nothing" when it would cost more to implement the changes than the state would receive in stimulus money. A recent article in the [Dallas Morning News](#) (11/4, Stutz) reported that a study failed to show that merit pay for teachers (for the \$300 million spent on merit pay for teachers over the last three years) increased student performance. "There 'was' no systematic evidence that their Texas Educator Excellence Grant had an impact on student achievement gains." Isn't Texas

the same state as the NCLB president?

With so many cases of H1N1, a proposal was made by the School Safety/School Management Committee requesting President Sanchez to write to the Center of Disease Control, urging them to make school personnel a high priority group for receiving the vaccine since school employees have direct contact with students. We saw a very cute, informative video on how to prevent the spread of the virus which can be found at <http://neahin.org/h1n1/index.html>. It would be something everyone should see, but especially young students should watch since children are helping to give the tips on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Retirement Committee wants members to be aware that CALSTRS

is currently mandated to have three furlough Fridays a month. This means there is no service three Fridays a month, increasing workloads on Mondays, which means slower than usual customer service. The Retirement Committee also encourages members to read the California Educator's Guide to 403(b) and 457 Plans produced by CTA. The online version is available at www.ctainvest.org.

I enjoy representing you at state council and if there is anything on your mind that you would like me to address, please come to a rep council meeting and let the council know your concerns so they can tell me what action they would like to be taken. There are many guidelines and protocols that are required and if we don't take the proper steps, things don't get done.



HAVE A VERY SAFE AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING BREAK.

Delta Dental by Arlene Roper

Most of the employees in CJUSD use the Delta Dental Insurance as their Dental Plan. This plan covers up to \$2000 a year. Most people never reach that maximum; however, a few are starting to because of new procedures and advances in dental care. If you are one of those that are reaching that maximum, there are a couple of things you can do to help yourself. Delta contracts with dentists in two ways.

All Delta dentists are in the Premier network. 92% of the dentists in the state are in this network. But, only 48% of those are in the PPO network. About 60% of CJUSD employees see a PPO dentist. Why does it matter? What Delta reimburses under the PPO network is less than under the Premier network. That means the \$2000 will go farther with a PPO dentist. If you do hit the maximum, your costs will also be less. You can

find out if your dentist is a Premier or PPO dentist by going to the Delta website and looking them up. If you haven't been to www.deltadentalins.com recently, you might want to check it out anyway. Once you register you can print out new membership cards, see statements and sign up to have statements sent to you via e-mail. You'll find all kinds of information to help you and your family make wise decisions about your dental health.

ACE Calendar December 2009

Special Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Exec. Board Mtg.	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Rep. Council Mtg.	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	All Schools - Holiday Break this week				
27	28	All Schools - Holiday Break this week				

Welcome to Winter
 December 2-4: NCUEA Conference
 December 7: Exec. Board
 December 14: Rep. Council at Grant Elementary
 5:00 pm - Holiday Party at ACE Office
 December 21-31: BREAK!

School Board Members

School Board meetings are usually held the first and third Thursdays of the month. The agenda for the meeting is available on the Monday preceding the meeting. You can access it online on the District website www.colton.k12.ca.us. If you see something that needs to be addressed, let ACE know. The Board has been very willing to hear our opinions on how the Colton Joint Unified School District is operating. Stay informed, stay involved.

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

CONTRACT CORNER

Article 8: Hours of Employment 8.10 Calendar

According to our contract, "The District has the primary responsibility in developing a calendar." ACE has the right to negotiate the total number and distribution of workdays, including starting and ending dates, vacation periods, and holidays."

We have been working very hard to get an agreed-upon calendar out to you. Draft #2 is now available.

Make sure you see it and let ACE and the District know how you feel.

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