

ACE ON TASK

President's Message by Karen Houck

At the September 16th school board meeting, ACE was accused by Special Education Advocate and County School Board Member Gil Navarro of being an evil organization with racist teachers. Our school board did nothing to shut him down or even refute what he said about us, so I reminded them of who ACE is. We are the representative body of the certificated non-management employees of the Colton Joint Unified School District. We do not recruit members off the street or solicit from other employee groups.

So... IF we are racist, let's examine who is responsible for that. We were hired by the Assistant Superintendents of Human Resources: Rocky Jordan, Danny Carrasco,

Jim Downs and currently Jerry Armendaraz.

We were approved for employment by the governing board with some notable members like Ray Abril, Don Alvarez, Pat Nix, Dorthea Cooley, Maria Lopez-Carson and currently, the seven sitting there today. Then after being hired, we have been trained to work in the schools by the Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum: Nancy Norton, Pat Gopperton, Angelia Wyles and currently Mollie Gainey-Stanley. We have also been evaluated every two years by their highly trained site Administrators.

So...IF racist teachers exist in their schools, the school board has themselves and the administrators they have hired to blame. I also told them if they believed what was said

about us, then they needed to take a better look at their practices and if not, then **START STANDING UP FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES WHEN THEY ARE BEING UNJUSTLY ATTACKED!**

I can't count the number of times a parent or community member was whisked away because they were negatively commenting on one of the administrators or school sites in the district, but when an entire employee group is under attack, they just sit there rocking away in their chairs letting Gil go on and on. We need a school board who will protect its employees and not one who condones this type of behavior.

Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

Issue 3

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ACE Executive Board

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In Search Of.....the Lost PPS Audit by Georgene Dixon

After nearly a year of discussion with district administrators regarding the concerns of PPS staff members and almost five months of PPS staff speaking at Board meetings, Board President Mel Albiso ordered that an audit be conducted to determine the "state of the union" at PPS and, once and for all, reveal the truth. That was last May. In June, right before the last days of the school year, a representative from Total School Solutions came to PPS to spend 2 days interviewing personnel and gathering information for the "audit". The auditor informed us that Colton contacted TSS and told them that this was an urgent request that needed to be

done in 2 weeks time. We later learned that the cost of this "rush" audit was \$26,000. That's right, \$26,000 for one person to spend 2 days asking questions that we already had the answers to....and had already provided that information to the district and the Board. Somehow, even though they tell us we're broke, they managed to find \$26,000 to pay for what they already knew.

Well, now it's October and I haven't seen or heard anything about any audit or report from Total School Solutions. I've asked everyone.....my boss, her boss...and several Board members. No one knows where it is... no one has seen it. It's curious

to me that a document so important and so crucial to the future of PPS is still missing in action. Where is this audit???

Mr. Albiso, do you know where it is? If so, please let us know, so we may read it and learn what conclusions were drawn from this independent company and how it will affect the operation of PPS. I think we have a right to know.....oh, and in your search for the audit, let us know if you find the report from the DOJ....I think that one's missing too.



Visits to the Urgent Care and ER by Arlene Roper

One of the frustrating things for members is finding an Urgent Care that is open when they need it on the weekends or at night. Although 24 hour Urgent Cares are out there, they are few and far between. When care is needed we often go straight to the Emergency Room which leads to a much higher co-pay (unless the patient is admitted) and higher health care renewals. Some medical groups and insurance carriers are requiring members to go to the Urgent Care and get an authorization to go to the ER. Under the new federal health care law, medical groups and insurance companies may no longer require an Urgent Care visit before the ER. In addition, there

can be no difference in the co-pays to an out of network ER. The new law is good for members needing care but will likely cause increased costs that insurance companies will "try" to pass on to us. If you can go to an Urgent Care please do. Locate your Urgent Care facility and know its hours. You can also call your doctor's office after hours service or the Nurse Help-line. After hour calls are directed to an on-call physician who can sometimes call in prescriptions if needed. A good relationship with your doctor helps by-pass some of the red tape. Saving ER costs will help us all as we try to keep our health care premiums low.

Proposition 24—CTA Campaign 2010

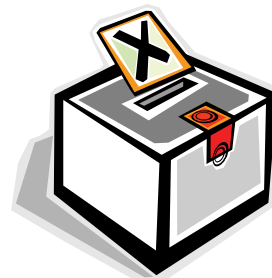
Proposition 24, the Tax Fairness Act, keeps corporate taxes at their current level, protects schools and keeps teachers in the classroom. And don't let the other side tell you this will affect small businesses. Prop. 24 keeps corporate taxes exactly where they are today and prevents \$1.3 billion in tax breaks to 2% of California's largest corporations and oil companies from kicking in next year. In the wake of \$17 billion being cut from our schools and colleges over the past two years, The Tax Fairness Act would save 25,000 jobs for teachers,

nurses and firefighters, and prevent another \$600 million in cuts to the education budget.

Join this important effort to repeal special tax breaks for big corporations that don't create or save a single job in California. A Yes vote on Proposition 24 prevents \$1.3 billion in budget cuts to schools and public safety, and saves thousands of much needed jobs.

Proposition 24, the Tax Fairness Act, prevents tax giveaways to large corporations that won't create a single job in California.

- **Proposition 24** does not raise taxes on businesses.
- **Proposition 24** prevents more budget cuts to schools and public safety, and saves thousand of much needed jobs.
- **Proposition 24** repeals a shady backroom deal between Sacramento politicians and big corporate lobbyists.



5 Minute Retirement Check

by Steve Villa

For those who suddenly feel the urge to retire and are curious about their ability to retire, the NEA website, www.nea.org offers a *5 Minute Retirement Checkup*. You can find this easy to take quiz on the NEA homepage under NEA Membership Benefits.

A few minutes of your time will give you a quick and easy appraisal of your retirement plan. The checkup tells you where you are and where you need to be. Answering four quick questions will give you a retirement savings snapshot to see if you are on track to meet your retirement savings requirements. Plus you will be offered additional

planning resources if you need them.

You are asked 1) your age, 2) current individual annual income, 3) how much you currently have saved for retirement and 4) your current monthly retirement savings contributions. The final window will show you where you are and if you have any savings gap. Don't bury your head in the sand. Remember knowledge is power.



ACE Calendar November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Exec Board	2 Election Day!	3	4	5 EMLD	6 EMLD
7	8 Rep Council	9	10	11 Holiday	12 Recess	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Recess	23 Recess	24 Recess	25 Holiday	26 Holiday	27
28	29	30 ALCO Uniserv				

Special Events

- October 22-24: State Council
- October 29-31: GLBT Conf.
- November 2: ELECTION DAY!
- November 5-6: EMLD Conf.
- November 15-19: Elem teachers off track
- November 22-26: schools closed
- December 1-4: NCUEA
- December 4: Colton/Bloomington Parades
- December 13: Holiday Party

California Casualty

Attention all ACE Members,
Here is an opportunity for you to take a moment to look into the Auto and Home Insurance policy that is offered by California Casualty. Currently if you call in to the toll free number, Ca. Casualty is offering a \$15.00 gift card to Staples just for comparing your auto rates with ours. We at California Casualty want to thank CTA members for all your efforts by giving you a gift card that will help you with supplies for your classroom or for yourself personally.

We look forward to speaking with you soon. For more details please check out the flyer sent with your representatives. You may contact **1-866-387-3228 and press 2** to connect with the quoting department.

Laura O'Connell

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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