

MVEA Advocate

The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association

Welcome Back!

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

MVEA was busy over the summer break and would like to update you as we get started with the new school year.

Some RIFs Return

44 teachers and 9 counselors RIF'd this spring now have contracts for the 2010-2011 academic year. MVEA is monitoring the process to verify the order of return. Hopefully more educators will be called back when enrollment is verified in August. **It will be important for teachers to let their Reps know as soon as their class size exceeds the maximum allowed in the Contract. Your Reps have forms to let MVEA know. They will guide you in filing the class size grievance.**

NEA-Rep Assembly-You Were Heard

Fifteen MVEA members represented you at the National Education Association's (NEA) Representative Assembly in New Orleans from June 30 to July 7. They were **Harold Acord, José Alcalá, Denise Gonzales Chavez, Cathy Fulgenzi, Pat Fulgenzi, Ruben Goussen, Amy Hall, Janet MacMillan, Sharon Orme, Anne Prows, Connie Pruett, Leslie Ruiz, Mary Stafford, Bertha Thigpen and Katherine Underwood.** The major issue deliberated was NEA's strategies on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, commonly known as NCLB. The goal of NEA is to eliminate high stakes testing, sanctions and competitive applications for federal funds. Check MVEA's website or Facebook page for pictures from the event. If you would like to join our new Facebook page, send an email to cfulgenzi@mveainfo.com or [\[@mveainfo.com\]\(mailto:@mveainfo.com\) and they can send you an invite. Thanks to Denise Gonzalez Chavez, Cathy Fulgenzi, Patricia Gómez, Shari Shelton Geeson, Ruben Goussen, Laurie Russo and Laurie Warner for working on the Facebook project.](mailto:pgomez</p></div>
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Bills in Congress

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have considered bills to provide federal funding for education and other public sector jobs. **Katherine Underwood**, our representative to the NEA Board, has kept the Executive Board and the MVEA office updated on the status of these job bills. Thanks to all of you who called or emailed your legislators in support of the bills. Your voice does make a difference.

The School Board Acts

The School Board took action on July 13, 2010 to fund the language arts practice books. Thanks to **Cathy Fulgenzi, Terri Labik and Katherine Underwood** who spoke at the School Board meetings on this issue. The Board also took action to allow no waivers on required builders' fees.

Hiring For Vacant Positions

The hiring procedure has begun for Director positions in Human Resources and Special Education. Both Willie Hasson and Peggy Reed who held those positions retired at the end of the 2010 school year. The position of principal for Vista del Lago is being flown again. Dr. Nick Ferguson has been named Interim Superintendent for a period of six months. The search for a new Superintendent has begun. The Riverside County Office of Education is facilitating the process.

August 2010

Volume 21 Number 1



Inside this issue:

Welcome Back!	1
Computer Quiz	2
Thank You!	3
Important Dates	4

We're on the web!
MVEAinfo.com

The Computer Quiz—Check your knowledge...

By Ann Adler, CTA Executive Director

True or False?

1. I am upset over the way my administrator or colleague dealt with an issue. It is okay to send an email via District email with my opinion of this person.
2. I am active in the Green Party and want to share my feelings about the Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor.
3. I have some issues with one of my colleagues. It is okay to email my friends and let them know.
4. I have this great recipe for pozole that I want to share with everyone in MVUSD.
5. While the students are taking a test, I'm paying my bills online. It's okay because my students are busy.
6. I enjoy looking at websites. A few of them have unclothed adults. This is okay because I only do this when there are no children in my classroom.

If you answered "true" to any of these questions, you **crashed the computer quiz** and could be subject to discipline if you did those things or took similar actions. It seems like common sense, but some people just do not get it. Over the last 11 years we have had teachers dismissed and people disciplined for misuse of District computer equipment. Think of it as if you were using a projector to show personal DVDs or events that were not related to work. Further, remember that ***ANYTHING YOU DO ON A DISTRICT COMPUTER CAN BE ACCESSED BY THE DISTRICT OR EVEN WORSE THE POLICE***, should there be questions. Further, IMs, email and anything on the computer can be used in litigation as well. If you type it, it is in the hard drive even if you delete it. That includes *hits* to any website.

Information cannot be deleted by simply shutting down your computer. The only way to prevent detection of the content stored on the computer is by physically removing and destroying the hard drive. Computer logs can be created that show the date and time an Internet site was visited. Thus Districts can determine whether teachers accessed material when students could have been present and also if the hits were during work hours. Even unsuccessful attempts to visit sites blocked by a district's filtering system are indelibly recorded.

So here is the bottom line. District computers are **DISTRICT EQUIPMENT for DISTRICT BUSINESS ONLY** and using them for anything else **CAN**

get you into trouble-really...REALLY...REALLY!!! Please keep this in mind as you use the District's computer equipment and email system.

KNOW WHAT FACTORS DETERMINE PUNISHMENT

- Was the improper use during class time of the workday?
- Did students actually view any objectionable material?
- Was there personal contact with students via email?
- What was the frequency of the inappropriate computer use?

ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION!

MVEA strongly advises members to err on the side of caution. While on school premises, do not open your e-mail inbox or other messages, enter chat rooms, or open Internet sites unless you have absolutely no qualms about the principal/school district seeing anything that has ever been accessed. **Read the District form you signed, and follow its provisions while at work.**

If you believe that district administrators are monitoring the contents of your computer or that you are otherwise under surveillance for using the computer inappropriately, you should immediately contact MVEA for a possible referral to a CTA lawyer.

Use common sense, and when in doubt, don't do it!

- Before you send an email **FROM** a District computer, ask yourself, the following questions:
 - Could it be a problem if this email is forwarded?
 - Is the content of this email personal or political?
 - Do I care who sees this email?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, don't send the email!

- Before you **READ AN EMAIL FROM** a District computer, ask yourself the following:
 - Do I mind if the District looks at this email?

If the answer is "yes" don't use the District computer to read your email. Use your own computer at home.

3. If you are sending an email to MVEA on a union issue, please send it from your personal email to ensure confidentiality.

Thank You!

By Mary Stafford, MVEA Member and Teacher at La Jolla Elementary

Editor's Note: Mary Stafford was a first time delegate to the National Educators Association Representative Assembly held during the first week of July in New Orleans. For video and other information about the Representative Assembly, go to NEA.org.

Esteemed Colleagues,

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as one of your representatives at the National Educators Association Representative Assembly (NEA-RA). It was a wonderful experience and a serious responsibility. I learned a great deal about our leadership, and their goals, both at the state and national level. I'd like to share some of what I learned with you.

First, let me begin by explaining what the NEA-RA is. There are many misconceptions among our members about the purpose of the RA. It is NOT a conference as we understand that term. Ask any teacher what a conference is and you will hear something like this: "A conference is an opportunity for educators to receive training in a specific area. It is an opportunity for professional development." Our experiences in conferences usually involve a trainer who has developed special knowledge and skills, relating to education, which are then shared with those who attend the conference. We leave a conference with new tools and skills that can be applied to our classrooms and our students. The Representative Assembly is completely different. At the RA, elected representatives of our association gather to conduct the annual business of the National Educators Association. Each representative has a voice in determining how we want our union to conduct itself in the upcoming year. Issues are brought forth, debated, and voted on to guide our NEA leadership as to the direction our members wish to take. We have the opportunity to discuss and amend existing by-laws, to vote on new members to the various committees and



boards, and to bring new business items to the attention of the body. This is how and where our voices are heard!

It was amazing to me how much access we, as local teachers, have to the leaders at both the state and national level. In all honesty, I had begun to believe that no one really cared about what teachers had to say about education. Decisions are made by legislators that have no understanding of public education, as it is experienced at the local level. From our local school board, to our state representatives, to the national level, decisions are being made that impact each of us, yet I felt no one in the position to make these decisions was listening to us. My experience at the RA changed that. Our CTA and NEA leaders are very much in touch with the struggles we face. And they are busy lobbying on our behalf!

It was a relief to know that our concerns are known, understood, and represented. I had the opportunity to speak personally with David Sanchez, our CTA President, and Dean Vogel, our CTA Vice President, and I am encouraged and confident in their efforts to support educators. Our NEA President, Dennis Van Roekel, gave an inspiring address, and provided excellent leadership throughout the Assembly. His knowledge of both local concerns, and the national political environment, is an invaluable resource for promoting the importance of excellent public education. These people, along with many other leaders, have my full confidence as they move forward to lobby for the concerns of public educators and the students we serve.

There was so much I experienced that I'd like to share with all of you. It is important to me that all of us keep informed, to the best of our ability, as to the work being done on our behalf. In that regard, it is my hope to continue to communicate with you regarding the business of the Representative Assembly in upcoming issues of the Advocate. Thank you again for the privilege to represent you.

**The Official Publication
of the Moreno Valley
Educators Association**

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*Moreno Valley Educators Association is an organization of professionals which serves as a powerful **voice** communicating the needs of Educators and students to the district, parents, and community in order to establish a **positive** school environment and build **quality educational programs**. The Association will continue to **protect the rights** of Educators, and thereby students, **by promoting equity and human rights.***





Important Dates:

- **August 9** Back to Work!
- **August 10** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **August 11** First Day of School for Students
- **August 18** Rep Council mtg. @ 4 p.m.
- **Sept. 6** Labor Day
- **Sept. 11-12** Site Rep Fall Leadership Conference
- **Sept. 14** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **Sept. 28** School Board meeting @ 7:00



August 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9  <i>Back to work</i>	10  <i>School Board</i>	11  <i>School Starts!</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18  <i>Rep Council</i>	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MVEA Executive Board:

President	Janet MacMillan	Director of Member Services	José Alcalá
Vice-President	Connie Pruett	Director of Political Action	Anne Prows
Secretary	Peggy Murphy	Co-Director of Elementary	Patricia Gómez
Treasurer	Tom Weir	Co-Director of Elementary	Omar Tinoco
Executive Director	Ann Adler	Director of Middle School	Mike Sorter
Director of Contract Maintenance	Harold Acord	Director of High School	Juanita Quiroz
Director of Communication	Cathy Fulgenzi	CTA State Council Members	Harold Acord, José Alcalá, Janet MacMillan, Connie Pruett
Director of Human Rights	Danny Alvarez	CTA Board Rep. District O	Mikki Cichocki
Director of Instruction & Prof. Dev.	Sharon Orme	NEA Director District 11	Katherine Underwood