

MVEA Advocate

The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association

The Contract: The Tip of the Iceberg

By Ann Adler, CTA Executive Director

I applaud all of you who voted on the tentative agreement, whether you voted "yes" or "no", you were participating in your association activities and in a decision that impacts your working conditions. Let me try to shed some light on the Agreement and all that blends together to affect your working conditions.

The Contract: Much went into the tentative agreement upon which you voted. First, let me thank the Negotiation Team for its perseverance and skill in bringing you the best agreement the District would sign. Their strategy: 1) Follow the results of the survey. 2) Bring the deficit as low as they could before agreeing to any conditions. 3) Try to bring back as many people as possible while still following your survey wishes. It was hard. You were divided on all the issues, and even though there were some folks who wanted to take a pay decrease, that was not the majority of you. Your team developed option after option with the District. They questioned them about the Workers Comp Funds, the early debt payment money, the post retirement set aside monies, the categorical money, and so on. When the federal stimulus package information became known, your team presented the amounts and made suggestions on how to use that money to bring people back.

It was not until MVEA did an official "Demand to Bargain" on the stimulus money, that the District would really discuss it. Bargaining is a two way street, and it is always important to know that MVEA can only control its actions. In the end, both the District and the Association compromised to reach an agreement that spends down some monies while leaving some money should the state budget fall apart after the May 19 election or in the next year. Bottom line, in terms of bargaining, the agreement was the best that could happen given the economic uncertainties of the state.

Beyond the Contract: Knowing that there would have to be layoffs due to the declining enrollment, MVEA asked early and often to assess the possibility of a retirement incentive that would be cost effective and at the same time save jobs. As I write this, the numbers are VERY close. MVEA and the District extended the timeline for one week to pick up a few more folks. For those who find June 2009 and the incentive retirement money right for them, they leave knowing that they contributed to the education of many children and are giving their spot to someone who, because of difficult times, would not otherwise be able to stay next year. What a fine legacy!

Interventions and Organizing: The District is moving to expand intervention programs with some of the stimulus money. In bargaining, the Association proposed to make counselors and OCS programs a priority in bringing people back. The District would not agree. MVEA is incredulous that the District would cut the very people who do interventions with students while expanding intervention programs. MVEA encourages these people to make their voices heard to the School Board and the community.

May 19, 2009 Election: The election does impact you if the propositions fail, and the budget again falls apart. Sadly, there could be more cuts, as well as RIFs if that happens. If this worries you, please come make calls to the voters regarding this election. We need your help. Times are tough. As a native Californian, I find the state budget situation embarrassing and deplorable, but together, we can put each piece of the puzzle together until we are whole again: the Contract provisions, our retirees, the intervention piece and the election.

I want to conclude by saying how sad it is to lose even one of us. I read through all the RIF folders and saw what awesome people we have. My hat is off to you all. I hope to see you all back.

May 2009

Volume 19 Number 9

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We're on the web!
MVEAinfo.com

MVEA is Busy and Needs Your Help

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

The Executive Board and MVEA committees are working on the following activities:

- Ann Adler, Janet MacMillan and Connie Pruett are meeting with Human Resources on notifying RIFed teachers whose notices will be rescinded. This is an involved task because of credentialing issues and the collapsing of classes because of the decline in enrollment and the increase in class size at grades one through three.

- The **Bargaining Support Team** needs your help as they identify counselors, OCS, general education and special education teachers to speak at School Board meetings on the benefits of the counseling and OCS programs and EL specialists at the school sites.

- The **Membership Committee** has finished selecting high

school seniors who are recipients of the MVEA scholarships. Their next project is organizing a reception for educators who are retiring this year. Contact Jose Alcala at the MVEA office if you are interested in helping. Mark your calendars for May 29, 2009 for our retirement celebration. More information will follow later.

- The **Political Action Committee** and the **Bargaining Support Committee** are focused on the Special Election of May 19. We need you to join our phone bank any Monday through Thursday afternoon from 4:30 through 7:00. Remind your friends and relatives to **Vote YES on Propositions 1A through 1F.**

- **Executive Board Members** will be contacting Site Reps for information about site ELAC and SSC committees and procedures.

- Cathy Fulgenzi edits the **MVEA Advocate** each month. She has incorporated articles from members and would appreciate news of special activities at your sites. Send your information to her at MVEAInfo.com

- Harold Acord is meeting with members and Bob Crank to finalize pay issues.



Educator of the Month: Nicole Roy

Nicole Roy was MVEA's Educator of the Month for April. She began teaching sixth grade language arts and social studies at Sunnymead Middle School in 1993. During that time, she has nurtured students as they made the critical and often difficult transition from elementary to secondary education. Nicole fosters academic accomplishments as a path to build self esteem. She chairs the Renaissance Committee that organizes student recognitions and rewards. She ensures that many of her students qualify for those awards by engaging them in the learning process through discussion groups and hands-on activities.

The staff at Sunnymead recognizes Nicole as a leader as well as a master teacher. In the past, she has served on the master schedule committee and as grade level/team lead and categorical facilitator. Her principal, Lilia Villa, reports that Nicole's insights and recommendations carry significant weight. Nicole's colleagues value her also as a friend

and mentor. Her interpersonal skills are such that she can offer guidance and direction while affirming the strengths of those she coaches. This role became formal when Nicole was selected by the District as a BTSA Support Provider guiding new teachers in the journey to refine their craft and complete all requirements for a clear credential. UCR hired her to assist Korean exchange students as they completed projects for their masters in second language acquisition.

Nicole has a life away from Sunnymead. She is married with two young boys and spends weekends as a baseball mom. She likes scrap booking and reading in her spare time.



We Honor Ours (WHO) Awards

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

The San Gorgonio Service Center Council of CTA recognized three MVEA members for outstanding contributions to the Association and its members at a banquet on Friday, May 8, 2008.

Andrea Chouinard has been active in MVEA as a site rep, Director of Instruction and Professional Development and Co-Director of Elementary. Her initial interest in working with the Association was to ensure that her site had accurate information and that the Contract was followed by the administrator. In addition to that, she organized inservices for teachers on classroom management, was the force behind Read Across America and visited sites to explain the Association's position on the budget. Andrea has served on the Executive Board for almost twelve consecutive years. One of Andrea's ongoing and most appreciated contributions has been to provide food at all Executive Board meetings.

Ruben Goussen initially became involved with MVEA because of the need at his site for additional collaboration time. He was elected to the restructuring committee and prepared all materials to keep his staff informed and involved in the process, which resulted in a Flex Wednesday schedule. Ruben really shined as an emerging leader, however, as Moreno Valley Unified issued 263 RIF



notices to members. He kept all his colleagues informed of the ramifications of the RIF at his site, including staff and parents. Ruben was at the forefront on Pink Friday, ordering tee shirts and a banner for our rally. He is currently working with the Bargaining Support committee to contact speakers for board meetings and organize our next event.

Patricia Gomez is an emerging leader in MVEA. Site

issues, such as restructuring to allow more time for collaboration, initially motivated her to become involved with the Association. She was responsible for ensuring that the administration followed Contract language as the staff voted on a Flex Wednesday schedule. Her colleagues recognized her contribution and nominated her for the District leadership award. Patricia's sensitivity to the plight of the fourteen members RIFed at her elementary site again demonstrated her leadership ability. She responded immediately to the Pink Friday web site, organized members and parents to attend and speak at School Board meetings, ordered tee shirts, and was a key committee member in planning our March 13th Pink Friday rally. Patricia continues to work with the Bargaining Support committee and communication to the sites.

Congratulations to Andrea, Ruben and Patricia who made a difference for all of us!

Taking Student Attendance is for Your Protection!

By Connie Pruett, MVEA Vice-President

I think we all agree that taking student attendance on a daily basis can be a boring nuisance at best and a logistical nightmare at worst, especially if you don't have a computer in your room to use. It is so easy to put it off and even forget about doing it; maybe even deciding to do it once a week because it is easier. But did you know that you are legally responsible for your students during the time they are assigned to

you? If you do not mark a student absent, you maintain that responsibility for them...yes wherever they are and whatever they are doing. You can be sued, lose your job, and/or your credential depending on what occurred while the student was absent.

Let's say a student is gone on Monday and you only do attendance on Fridays. Your student decided to go to the beach instead of school. Worst-case scenario, they are involved in an automobile

wreck, a drowning accident, or some kind of violence. If the parents choose to, they can hold you responsible for that incident since you did not mark their child absent that day. Going in the next day and doing it does not release you from your liability.

Most of the time, things like this do not happen, but they could. Protect yourself from a liability lawsuit. Make your job a safe one. Take attendance EVERYDAY!

**The Official Publication
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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:

- **May 6** Executive Board meeting @ 4:00
- **May 12** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **May 13** Day of the Teacher, Rep. Council meeting @ 4:00
- **May 19** Election Day—
Vote Yes on 1A-1F!
- **May 25** Memorial Day Holiday
- **May 27** Executive Board meeting @ 4:00
- **May 29** Retirement Celebration!
- **June 2** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **June 3** Rep. Council meeting @ 4:00

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6  Exec. Board 4 pm	7	8	9
10  Mother's Day	11	12  School Board 7pm	13  Rep Council 4 pm Day of the Teacher	14	15	16
17	18	19  Election Day	20	21	22	23
24/31	25  Memorial Day	26	27  Exec. Board 4 pm	28	29  Retirement Party	30

MVEA Executive Board:

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