

# MVEA Advocate

The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association

## MVEA's Position

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

May 2010

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*The* Executive Board, Bargaining Team and the Rep Council are working hard to settle Contract language issues and save positions. Your input on surveys has helped us to develop strategies for accomplishing this.

Following is information I provided to the Board of Education in open session so that they are aware of our position:

“MVEA leadership has focused this year on educating our members on budget issues. They know that there is a \$16 million deficit. They also know that they will have to sacrifice to maintain the essential components of the core program while balancing the budget. The Executive Board has given our Bargaining Team flexibility to develop interests to share with the District on how to

match the educational needs of the District with reduced revenues. Our team is well prepared to do this with the budget information presented at school board meetings and at the community budget forums. I urge the Board not to increase this deficit to \$19 million by agreeing to the expenditures included in the Ed Services plan. Our membership has indicated through surveys that these expenditures are not essential.

MVEA is hopeful that a settlement can be reached and ratified prior to the Board meeting on May 11. This would allow our members and the District to end this academic year on a positive note and prepare for a smooth opening for 2010-2011. This is what our students deserve.”



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We're on the web!  
MVEAinfo.com

# It Could Be Worse ...

By Ann Adler, CTA Executive Director

*As your* bargaining team moves toward a Contract, it is very difficult to fathom what has to be agreed to in order to keep the District solvent, provide programs for our students, and settle for something to which employees will agree. It is really tough! This state-caused budget crisis is incomprehensible especially in regard to its impact on our public school students and employees. Reality, however, is what it is. Educators and students are caught in a state financial crossfire that will, respectively speaking, continue to impact careers and student education indefinitely.

I applaud your Bargaining Team and your Executive Board because they have been making painful decisions as we move along in bargaining. No one wants to agree to less, but it is in no one's interest if the District becomes insolvent: not the students or the educators. You, of course, will have the final say in any ratification vote. I also applaud you for making hard decisions regarding class size, budget cut days, materials, people, and programs on the surveys you turned in. Those surveys have been the guide for your leadership as they have had to bargain less because of the impact to the District from the reduction in state funds.

Whatever the outcome, which will likely be a combination of budget cut days and an incremental rise in primary class size reduction over a multi year period to assure financial solvency and minimize RIFs, I can tell you unequivocally, it could have been worse. Your collective voice has been heard at the table loud and clear, and this has

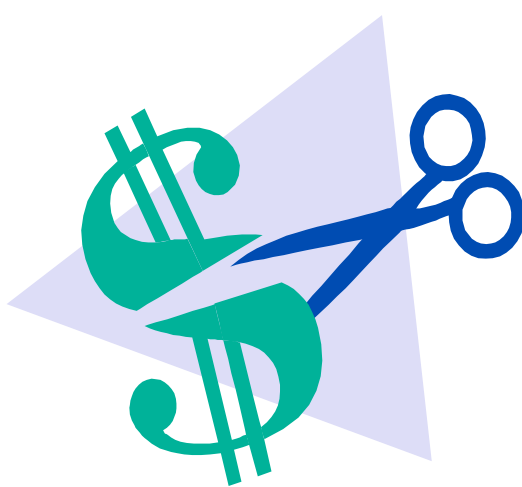
made a difference! MVUSD knows what "the union" is thinking. And since you are the union, your interests are part of any agreement that comes forward.

If you look around us, you will see educators settling for 6 and 7 budget cut days. You will see educators taking pay cuts in addition to the furlough days. You will see districts deliberately declaring impasse, bringing in a third party, moving through the process so the district can impose conditions. Our neighbor Alvord is a perfect example. The bargaining process has been exhausted, and the employees face the district imposing

6 budget cut days this year, 8 for 2011-12 and 8 for 2012-13! They are facing a pay cut in addition to that! San Juan Capistrano in Orange County is about to impose a permanent 10% pay cut. Educators face a strike there. Around us Alvord, Murrieta, and San Jacinto are at impasse.

The Negotiations Teams are attempting to review as many options as possible. (They have just completed option 67.) They are close. NO ONE, the Association or the District likes what we have to do. However, we are working collegially to restore language when there is money again, to plan for revenue contingencies, and to make a deplorable situation as palatable as possible.

**But without your voices  
and your union,  
IT COULD BE WORSE!**



# MVEA Attendance Committee Meets

By Harold Acord, MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

*In response* to direction from MVEA's Site Rep Council, MVEA has formed and instituted an Attendance Committee with the goal of improving MVUSD students' attendance. The committee consists of the following members: Harold Acord - Chair, Denise Gonzalez, Patricia Gómez, Amy Hall, Omar Tinoco, Linda Williams, Alan Aab, Bev Scott and Judy Ball. At our meeting, the committee devised a plan to improve student attendance in Moreno Valley. The plan consists of the following:

## **EDUCATE! ENCOURAGE! ENFORCE!**

### EDUCATE! –

- Parent/Community Flyers
- Back to School Night (Members include attendance in Power Points and other presentations, Educate Public about Short Term ISP)
- Get Press Enterprise to Write an Article about the Importance of Attendance
- Invite all Sites to Attend a Town Hall Meeting on Attendance
- All Levels and Department to Educate Students, Parents and Employees about the Importance of Attendance

### ENCOURAGE! –

- Site Level Attendance Incentives (Monthly and at End of Year)
- T-Shirts
- Contests (Including Coinciding with CBEDS)
- Good Attendance Reward Parties

- Movie Passes
- Drawing for Good Attendance at all levels to Include many prizes even up to a Free Car for Seniors with Perfect High School Attendance.
- Monthly Rewards for Good Attendance
- "These Kids Rock!" on Moreno Valley Channel 3 (Use our TV Productions class to highlight kids at all levels with good attendance)

### ENFORCE! –

- District Policies (Including Short Term ISP)
- SARB
- Community Liaison (or Have a Member do Attendance Follow up at Elementary as Adjunct Duty)
- Analyze Attendance Patterns around Holidays, etc (Did OCS loss Make Attendance Drop?)

The Committee will meet again soon to finalize timelines and logistics for the plan.

If you have an idea for increasing attendance please let MVEA know either through a phone call to MVEA, District snail mail, or an e-mail to [hacord@mveainfo.com](mailto:hacord@mveainfo.com). We can all be part of the solution. Let's work together to effect a positive change in our District and for our students here in Moreno Valley.



# First Political Action Training Held

By Connie Pruett, MVEA Vice-President

*Following* the Rep Council meeting on April 14th, the first Political Action Training was held at the Moreno Valley Recreation and Conference Center.

After an Italian dinner was served, Roz Jones, our District 'O' Association for a Better California (ABC) committee member spoke to our members about the recommendation process for political offices. She explained that local elections, such as School Board and bond measures, were the only type of elections covered by the ABC Committee. State government office recommendations are the purview of the State Council. Assembly recommendations first go to the CTA Service Center Councils for approval, and then to CTA State Council for the final recommendation vote.

Next, Anne Prows, MVEA's Director of Political Action, introduced MVEA's Political Action Committee. She gave preliminary information on our School Board race and how the Committee was moving through the process of recommending people.

The last speaker was Katherine Underwood, our NEA Director from District 11. She spoke about political action at the national level. She explained that none of our dues dollars can be spent on national politics. The NEA Fund for Public Education gets all of its money from voluntary contributions from the members.

MVEA is proud of our members and the Executive Board who attended the training to receive a clearer understanding of the political process.

## Did You Know?

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

*Teacher Safety,* Article XII, of the Collective Bargaining Agreement covers student discipline, safety reports, unsafe working conditions, environmental conditions, the District Safety Committee, communicable diseases and TB tests.

There is also a section on personal property. Unit members at times may be reimbursed by the District for damaged personal items. Included is reimbursement of up to \$250 of the deductible on your insurance policy if your vehicle is maliciously damaged while in the parking lot during the scope of your employment. The reimbursement will not be paid if the vehicle is

damaged in a collision or if parts of the vehicle are stolen.

Recently MVEA lost a grievance mediation on the reimbursement of a deductible.

MVEA learned from the District's data that no payments have been made if a vehicle was damaged by another car hitting it. However, data also showed an inconsistency in the amount of reimbursement.

If your car is damaged in the parking lot by key marks or broken windows, follow the guidelines in Article XII of the Contract. Contact your Site Rep for assistance and let the MVEA office know so that you can be reimbursed for up to \$250 of your loss.

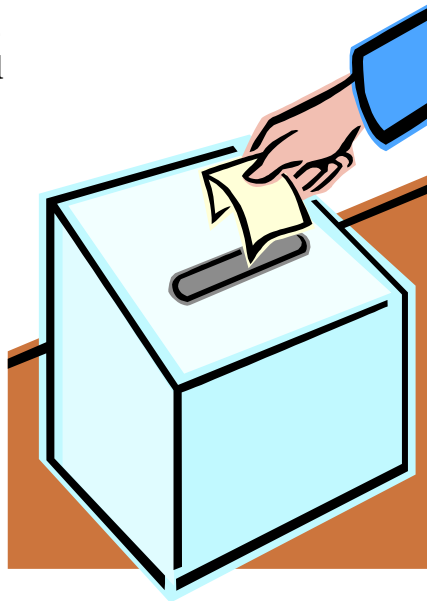


# May MVEA Elections

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

The following MVEA officers and Executive Board members will be elected this May:

- MVEA President
- MVEA Vice-President
- MVEA Secretary
- MVEA Treasurer
- Director of Contract Maintenance
- Director of Elementary
- Director of IPD



Any MVEA member can run for an office. You should have received a Declaration of Candidacy form in your box by now. These forms are due in the MVEA office by 5:00 PM on Friday, April 30. Call the office if you need these forms.

In addition, all sites are responsible for electing their Site Reps for the 2010-2011 academic year during the month of May. This year's Site Reps will be organizing the election with the assistance of your Site Election Committee. See your Site Rep for the timelines for your site's election.

## Thank You!

By Kathy Parrish, Co-Director of Elementary



*"Appreciation can make a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary."* - Margaret Cousins

To our Site Reps...

Thank you for keeping our members informed by attending monthly Rep Council, holding informative 10 Minute Meetings, and supporting our friends and colleagues by encouraging "Pink" days at your sites.

To ALL MVEA Members...

Thank you for keeping informed by attending site meetings, giving feedback to your reps, sharing your opinions on surveys, attending rallies and School Board meetings, and especially, being patient with the process of collective bargaining.

*So allow me ...*

To those of you on MVEA Committees...

Thank you for the hours you have invested, your expertise, and commitment to keeping the best interests of our members always reflected in your recommendations.

**One voice can make a difference and it might just be yours!**

# CTA State Council Report

By Katherine Underwood, CTA State Council Rep. to the Board

*The most* recent meeting of CTA State Council was held from March 26-28, 2010 in Los Angeles, California. The members of State Council took action to approve the following Statewide Candidate recommendations for the June, 2010 Primary:

- Edmund G.(Jerry) Brown Jr. for Governor
- Gavin Newsom for Lieutenant Governor
- Dave Jones for Insurance Commissioner
- Tom Torlakson for Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Chris Parker, State Board of Equalization, Second District
- Jerome Horton, State Board of Equalization, Fourth District

Action was also taken to approve the recommendation of candidates for State Assembly, State Senate, and Congress. Several local races are:

- Joe Baca for Congressional District #43
- Bill Hedrick for Congressional District #44
- Steve Pougnet for Congressional District #45
- Jose Medina for Assembly District #64
- Carl Wood for Assembly District #65

Other actions of State Council included taking an Oppose position on Proposition 14, Elections: Open Primaries, and to have CTA President David Sanchez write U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan expressing concern about the hasty process that has been foisted upon the 188 California schools that are eligible for School Improvement Grants (SIG). CTA will furthermore, lobby our elected leaders to adjust timelines to allow teachers and parents to give meaningful input and make informed decisions.

There was a very thorough report of the plans that CTA is formulating in order to change the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to legislation that will assist schools in ways that have been proven to be effective for students. CTA will be providing teachers and other educators across the state with as much information as possible regarding the ESEA/NCLB "Blueprint" to educate membership about the damaging effects it would have on public education and the teaching profession.

For additional information on the activities of CTA, you can go the [cta.org](http://cta.org). Your CTA State Council representatives are: Harold Acord, Janet MacMillan, Connie Pruett, and Katherine Underwood.

# Educator of the Month: Patty Wohanka

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

## *Patty Wohanka*

was the MVEA Educator of the Month for April. Patty came to education from a career in social work when she decided that schools provided the best environment to make a difference for kids. Patty prepared herself for this shift in careers by returning to school herself



to earn two masters degrees, in both educational psychology and marriage and family counseling. She learned about the Moreno Valley Unified School District during that time by spending five years as a substitute teacher.

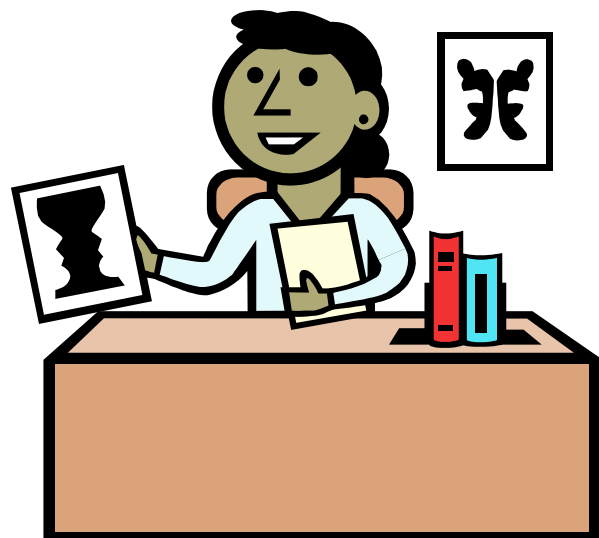
Patty has served as the school Psychologist at Sunnymead Elementary and Sunnymead Middle schools for the past eleven years. Patty is a support to teachers. She is always prepared to discuss student issues with staff and to observe students in the classroom and on the campus. Her job sometimes involves counseling students. However, her primary responsibility is to access students to determine their strengths and where they might need assistance when students are being considered for special education services. The results of her assessments involve technical concepts and statis-

tics that can be difficult for the layman to understand. Patty's strength is in making sense of what she finds to staff and parents. She explains her results from the standpoint of what strategies would be most beneficial in helping students to master grade level standards. Parents and staff leave IEP meetings feeling hopeful that, with a few changes in approach in the classroom and at home, students will succeed.

Patty's colleagues describe her as dependable and task oriented. Her reports are detailed and timely. Her records meet all compliance requirements. District office administrators find her to be a resource of in depth knowledge when difficult cases are involved. The staff at her school praise her for her understanding of their classroom responsibilities and her ability to work collaboratively with them.

Patty spends her time away from school cooking, traveling and working out. During vacations she tries new adventures, like sky diving, with her husband.

Congratulations to Patty Wohanka, an educator dedicated to making a difference for students who struggle.



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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 5** Executive Board meeting @ 4:00
- **May 9** Mother's Day
- **May 11** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **May 12** Rep. Council meeting @ 4:00
- **May 12** CTA Day of the Teacher
- **May 25** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **May 26** Executive Board meeting @ 4:00
- **May 31** Memorial Day



**May 2010**



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

**MVEA Executive Board:**

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