



MVEA Advocate

The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association

Keep in Mind...

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

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- The **School Board election** is still a focus. Our recommended candidates, incumbent Rick Sayre and former trustee Tracey Vackar, are knowledgeable on curricular, safety and budget issues. Come to the office to pick up a yard sign, join us in phone banking Monday through Thursday from 4:30-7:00 PM, or walk precincts with us the weekends of October 25th and November 1st.



- **Subject Advisory Councils** began meeting this month. Each site should have a representative for the core subject areas and for visual/performing arts, foreign language and career tech at the secondary level. Your Site Reps have the names of your representatives on the Subject Advisory Councils. Use them to communicate your concerns and issues to the District.



- **Restructuring Plans**, including those for flex days, need to be renewed annually. Each site involved with restructuring should have an elected restructuring committee that will evaluate the effectiveness of the current plan and present options to the staff for consideration. The final steps in the process include the staff voting on the plan with 75% in favor, and MVEA, along with the District, approving it.



You have elected **Site Representatives** and **Executive Board members** with expertise in these areas. Please call the office if you need any assistance and your message will be directed to the appropriate officer.



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We're on the web!
MVEAinfo.com

Truth and Consequences in the School Board Race: Collectively Speaking, we have the power to make this right.

By Ann Adler, Executive Director

In the current School Board race, there are many things going on behind the scenes, some which are not what one would hope for. The hard part is getting the truth out to all without sounding negative. Let me share some facts that are true. You can decide the consequences and what you may or may not want to do to impact the outcome of the race.

Truths

1. There are six (6) candidates for School Board. They are, in alphabetical order by last name, LaDonna Jempson, David Marquez, Francisco Sanchez, George Schoelles, Rick Sayre, and Tracey Vackar. Two of the six (6), Rick Sayre and Tracey Vackar, have served previously on the School Board.

2. MVEA “early endorsed” friendly incumbent Rick Sayre per its by-laws. MVEA interviewed all the remaining candidates except for LaDonna Jempson who had not yet decided to run at the time of the interviews. Tracey Vackar interviewed “head and shoulders” above all the other interviewees. Her answers were well-defined, educator-friendly, and most importantly, knowledgeable. Other candidates’ answers lacked depth in comparison. Rep Council approved recommendations.

3. In the past, MVEA has endorsed a diverse group of candidates, including Jackie Ashe, Richard Coz, Jesus Holguín, Rick Sayre, and Tracey Vackar. The only member of the current Board who was not endorsed by MVEA as a candidate is Victoria Baca.

Other Truths

1. David Marquez and Francisco Sanchez are supported by Victoria Baca. Victoria Baca has voted **NO** on most expulsions, the Consolidated Application required by the state, the Interim Budget Report, the Consent Agenda, General Obligation Bonds Refunding, and a colleague lobbying for flexibility in NCLB, among other things.

2. Francisco Sanchez has been walking through Armada classrooms and sat unannounced in one room during a lesson, where he later returned with parent complaints about issues that had been previously resolved. He has also been called into the Principal’s office where he was reminded to follow the election rules. He was not endorsed by his own union, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). SEIU instead endorsed David Marquez and Rick Sayre.

3. George Schoelles filed a complaint with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) against Tracey Vackar claiming she is not a teacher or an administrator (not true) and that she could not use “re-elect” on her signs since she is not an incumbent. The FPPC responded that it did not have jurisdiction, and that there were no violations.

4. “Someone” called the Riverside Office of the Registrar of Voters and repeatedly made the same complaints as George Schoelles did to the FPPC. An anti-Vackar e-mail went out to some community members from Schoelles’ place of work. He says he did not have anything to do with it. Tracey Vackar willingly took the “RE” off her signs and materials prior to the complaints, even though she checked with the Secretary of State who said she was not in violation of any laws. Tracey wanted the election to be about

the issues, not the word “re-elect.”

5. Someone is clipping ties on signs for Rick Sayre and Tracey Vackar, thus causing the signs to disappear. Jempson, Sayre, and Vackar have reported damaged and missing signs.

6. Rick Sayre and Tracey Vackar were both on the Moreno Valley School Board when the District experienced financial difficulties in the past. They have both been part of the solution in difficult times. They understand the financial accountability and curricular issues. The other candidates do not have knowledge in either concept - that is the truth.

Consequences

Who is elected to the School Board in many ways is up to you. If you live in Moreno Valley, you can vote for Sayre and Vackar to continue with a Board that watches out for the interests of all students and employees. They regularly communicate with MVEA as do the other current Board members who were supported by MVEA: Jackie Ashe, Richard Coz, and Jesus Holguin.

If you want to support the two candidates who can work WITH us to help get through these difficult times, IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

Come take signs, make calls, walk the precincts. Honestly, the hour or two you give may save you from a world of hurt later on if two inexperienced candidates are elected.

Make a difference. Support your Association, as well as your students’ and your own interests. Think about the consequences if you do nothing, because you will have to live with the outcome.

California Budget a Disaster!

By Ann Adler, Executive Director

*Ca*lifornia's newly approved State Budget is a Disaster!

The Legislature is back in session after passing a disastrous budget that does nothing to fix the structure of California's money woes. For schools, a COLA of .68% is somewhat meaningless especially in districts like Moreno Valley where there is declining

enrollment and thus, less revenue due to fewer students. For now, things are status quo — essentially no cost-of-living allowance (COLA) and no cuts.

The state is, however, threatening to make midyear cuts. Under the new budget, the Governor has the power to cut up to 7%



midyear. The future, for now, also looks grim: a \$7 billion deficit to date that threatens to grow. So, for the moment, hang on tight for what may be an ugly ride.

Educator of the Month: Bobbi Kelleher

Roberta (Bobbi) Kelleher was honored by the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce as MVEA's Educator of the Month for September. Bobbi's career with Moreno Valley spans more than twenty years and includes assignments ranging from developing programs for the continuation school, to those for average and gifted students at the comprehensive high school. Although Bobbi's positions have changed, her focus has always remained on improving success for all students by helping them to develop the traits of responsibility, confidence, and self-discipline.

Bobbi found an avenue to realize her goals as an English teacher at Valley View High

School where she has coordinated the implementation of the Senior Project. Senior Projects link high school to post secondary education and career paths by creating a system that requires students to choose an area of interest and a community mentor to guide them through research, field work, and finally, an oral presentation explaining the project. With Senior Projects as an established component of the culture at Valley View, Bobbi moved onto other leadership experiences including Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Coordinator, Department Chair, Focus Group leader and SSC Facilitator. Bobbi consistently directed that the credit for her accomplishments go to her team and school.

Bobbi's peers describe her as an innovator. Her students describe her as a teacher who always offers suggestions for improvement, even when the grade was an A. Her principal says she is always there to help.

Congratulations to Bobbi Kelleher, a teacher who motivates staff and students to strive for a higher goal!



Those Pesky Leave Slips!

By Connie Pruett, MVEA Vice-President

MVEA was invited by the Superintendent to attend a district-wide meeting instructing the secretaries and principals on how to implement the collection of leave slips from employees.

Even though we may personally feel these slips are unnecessary and burdensome, the District has a management right to request their employees to fill out the leave slip. It was stated at the meeting that the District needs the slips for auditing purposes. While the Superintendent reiterated that pay CANNOT be docked for a missing slip, other methods can be used to get those slips in. For example, a list of employees who have not turned in slips will be attached to the paperwork and submitted to the employees' evaluator. The District has said the employee will be informed that they were negli-

gent in their duty and that they need to be professional and follow through. Progressive discipline can be implemented.

While the traditional paper forms are available at all sites at no cost, if it helps, you can send the form electronically to your principal, who will sign it and send a copy back to you and the secretary...and you will be done! The forms and procedures are going out to all of the sites and are to be shared with the staff at a meeting. Remember to ask about it.



Do not expect the secretary to hound you for your form...they have a lot on their plate, too. It was stated that these forms are for your protection. Do not leave your livelihood in someone else's hands...fill out those forms! We know this is a change to what has been done in the past. It is going to take patience, practice, and all of us working together to get those pesky

How Do You Know You Are a Teacher?

By Jeff Foxworthy

Do you and your colleagues recognize yourselves here? According to Jeff Foxworthy, the following list will let you know if you are a teacher...

1. You can hear 25 voices behind you and know exactly which one belongs to the child out of line.
2. You get a secret thrill out of laminating something.
3. You walk into a store and hear the words "It's Ms./Mr. _____" and know you have been spotted.
4. You have 25 people that accidentally call you Mom/Dad at one time or another.
5. You can eat a multi-course meal in under 25 minutes.
6. You've trained yourself to go to the bathroom at two distinct times of the day: lunch and conference period.
7. You start saving other people's trash, because most likely, you can use that toilet paper tube or plastic butter tub for something in the classroom.
8. You believe chocolate is a food group.
9. You can tell if it's a full moon without ever looking outside.
10. You believe that unspeakable evils will befall you if anyone says "Boy, the kids sure are mellow today."
11. You feel the urge to talk to strange children and correct their behavior when you are out in public.
12. You think caffeine should be available in intravenous form.
13. You spend more money on school stuff than you do on your own children.
14. You can't pass the school supply aisle without getting at least five items!
15. You ask your friends if the left hand turn he just made was a "good choice or a bad choice."
16. You find true beauty in a can full of perfectly sharpened pencils.
17. You are secretly addicted to hand sanitizer.

District Management Harsh to Employees

By Harold Acord, MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

Already this year, there have been many letters of reprimand and instances of misuse of the public complaint procedures by district managers and principals. The District has repeatedly agreed to follow the Contract regarding Public Complaints, but does not follow through. As an employee, if you ever have a complaint against you by anyone, please remember that Contract *Article XIX-Public Complaints* speaks to this. Go to your Site Rep and make sure the Contract is followed!

Also, often the District does not follow the Contract timelines/procedures regarding evaluation. In order to avoid any problems with evaluation, MVEA asks you to make sure you know the current Contract in regard to *Evaluation Article XV*. All educators who are scheduled for evaluation are to be observed in time for improvements to be made

if the administrator believes there are issues. Documented remediation plans are necessary if the administrator believes someone needs to improve. Administrators are responsible for supporting and assisting teachers in trouble.

Please help your probationary and temporary colleagues out. Engage them in conversation about the evaluation process. Urge them to ask the administrator monthly how they are doing and if there needs to be any modifications made in the way they are doing things. Make administrators accountable.

In Solidarity,
Harold Acord
Director of Contract
Maintenance



CTA Insurance Updates from The Standard

***Want* help figuring out how much insurance you and your family need? We've made it simple!**

If you're wondering how much Life Insurance to get for you and your family or your need for Disability Insurance, then the Insurance Needs Calculators can help! Simply login to MyCTA at www.cta.org and go to The Standard pages. There you'll find links to the new calculators that will help you determine your need for Disability income protection and Life Insurance for you and your dependents. It's a free tool to help you get one step closer to a complete financial plan.

Newly hired CTA member, or new to your district? We have good news about coverage!

If you're a newly hired CTA member, or transferring to a new district, now's

the time to get coverage. During your first 120 days of new employment, you have a one-time opportunity to enroll in Disability Insurance and/or up to \$200,000 of Life Insurance – without showing proof of good health! The Standard's Member Enrollment Brochure has details and enrollment materials – or even easier, you can enroll online by visiting MyCTA at www.cta.org.

Are you enrolled in a non CTA-endorsed plan?

If you have enrolled in non CTA-endorsed coverage and would like to switch into the only CTA-endorsed Life and Disability plans, The Standard will offer special enrollment periods from October 1 through November 30, 2008 and from April 1 through May 31, 2009. You'll be able to transfer without providing proof of good health! You can transfer to an equal amount of coverage. If an equal

amount is not available, you can choose the next closest option – higher or lower!

Has your family status changed?

Within 31 days of a Family Status Change, you can add or increase Life coverage up to \$200,000 and/or add Disability coverage, all without providing proof of good health! A Family Status Change includes birth/adoption, marriage/domestic partnership, divorce/dissolution or other qualifying events.

Questions? The Standard is there to help!

Call The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 (TTY). Or, email ctaservice@standard.com. And if you haven't taken a look at CTA's Web site, visit MyCTA at www.cta.org.

CTA State Council Report

By Katherine Underwood, State Council Rep to the Executive Board

The first CTA State Council meeting was held October 3-5, 2008 in Los Angeles. It was a very busy and exciting weekend.

CTA President David Sanchez gave an overview of the recently passed State Budget. Needless to say, there was very little good news for education.

Focus groups were held on Saturday to get input from Council members about the various issues related to

the lack of educational funding in California. The difficulties that we are all facing in our work in education were also discussed.

On Sunday, the Council made several important recommendations to the CTA Board of Directors. These included working on initiatives to raise taxes for the benefit of schools and colleges, and lowering the 2/3 majority needed to pass the state budget or increase revenue. Additionally, the Council recommended that a committee be established to de-

velop an action plan to promote funding sources that

MVEA's CTA State Council Reps:

- Harold Acord
- Janet MacMillan
- Connie Pruett
- Katherine Underwood

will be sustainable to fund public education and other services.

NEA.org Website has Resources for You!

Visit the NEA.org website for many education resources such as these:

1. Autumn Lesson Ideas
2. World Languages: Finding Our Way with Words
3. Free Materials
4. "Shut Up" and other No-Nos
5. Medicated Students
6. Education Votes
7. Lesson Plans and Ideas
8. Classroom Management Resources
9. Professional Development Grants/Resources.

It's Time to Fall Backwards!

On the first Sunday in November – November 2 – time reverts to Standard time, which means we turn our clocks back one hour.

Since it will be getting dark a little earlier, drivers are advised to be extra careful in the first days and weeks following the time change. Children may still be out playing; people may be still walking their dogs or going for a jog at this time.

To prepare for the change:

- Make sure your headlight lenses are clean, and that your headlights are aligned properly.
- Clean your windshield, mirrors and side windows for increased visibility.
- This is also a good time to change the batter-

Local School Board Candidate Recommendations for November Ballot



Make your voice heard...

Vote November 4th!

Apple Valley Unified School District

Dennis Bender and Rob Turner

Coachella Valley Unified School District

Maria Machuca and Anastacio de la Cruz

Colton Joint Unified School District

Patricia Haro and Todd Housley

Corona-Norco Unified School District

Dr. Jose Lalas, Cathy Sciortino, Michell Skipworth

Desert Sands Unified School District

Matt Monica

Fontana Unified School District

Kathy Binks and Larry Clark

Hemet Unified School District

Ron Breyer, Lisa DeForest and Charlotte Jones

Hesperia Unified School District

Anthoney Riley

Jurupa Unified School District

Sheryl Schmidt

Lake Elsinore Unified School District

Tina Cullors and Susan E. Scott

Menifee School District

Jerry Bowman, Vic Giardinelli, Phoeba Irey

[Moreno Valley Unified School District](#)

[Rick Sayre and Tracey Vackar](#)

Rialto Unified School District

Lupe Camacho, Joe Martinez, and Mike Ridgway

San Bernardino City Unified School District

Barbara Flores, Judi Penman, Danny Tillman

San Bernardino Community College District

John Longville, Carlton Lockwood Jr. & John Futch

San Bernardino Co. Board of Education (Trustee Area C) Ken Gallasso

San Jacinto Unified School District

Nancy Ayres

Temecula Valley Unified School District

Chuck Campbell

Val Verde Unified School District

Renonah Onate-McGee and Stacey Guzman

Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District

Chuck Christie and Jim Taylor

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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:

- **Nov. 1** Door Hanger Distribution 10-4 p.m.
- **Nov. 2** Daylight Savings time ends—Fall back 1 hour!
- **Nov. 2** Door Hanger Distribution 11-4 p.m.
- **Nov. 3 & 4** Phone Banking 4:30-7:00 p.m.
- **Nov. 4** Election Day—**VOTE!**
- **Nov. 5** Exec. Board mtg. 4:00
- **Nov. 7** Post-Election Day Social
- **Nov. 11** Veteran's Day Holiday
- **Nov. 12** Rep. Council mtg. 4:00
- **Nov. 18** School Board mtg. 7:00
- **Nov. 24-28** Thanksgiving Holiday-Enjoy your week!

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Door Hangers</i>
2  <i>Door Hangers</i>	3 <i>Phone Banking</i>	4  <i>Phone Banking</i>	5 <i>Exec. Bd. Mtg</i>	6	7 <i>P.H. Woods Social</i>	8
9	10	11  <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12 <i>Rep Council</i>	13	14	15
16	17	18 <i>School Board mtg</i>	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27  <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28	29

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 0	Mikki Cichocki
Director of Human Rights	Danny Alvarez	NEA Board Rep. District 11	Patty Taylor
Director of Instruction & Prof. Dev.	Sharon Orme		
Director of Member Services	José Alcalá		
Director of Political Action	Heather Gardner		