



NEWSBREAKER

Volume 7, Issue 5

January 2012

Calendar



- 1/9 Eboard 4pm
- 1/16 Holiday
(MLK, Jr Day)
- 1/6 – 1/15 CTA Issues
Conference
- 1/23 Rep Council 4pm
- 1/27 – 1/29 State Council
- 2/3 – 2/5 Good Teaching
Conference

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*Happy
New Year!*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Melanie Driver

I hope that you had a wonderful winter break. It always seems like there is never enough time to get everything on the list done before it is time to return to work.

I wanted to share a few more things from the conference I attended in December. One of the sessions I always try to attend is any session concerning NEA's legislative work. I attended the Legislative Hearing which always includes an update. Sixty votes are currently needed to move most bills in the senate. Currently significant power is in the hands of the Tea Party.

The agenda is currently being driven by the Extreme GOP. The Agenda includes:

- Cutting domestic programs
- Revisit health care
- Reduce the deficit
- Restrict workers' rights

NEA priorities:

- ESEA
- Job-Save and create educators jobs
- Funding
- Health Care
- Retirement Security-protect Social Security and Medicare
- Privatization
- ESP
- Higher Ed

Senate is moving one bill on ESEA. The mark-up was held in October. NEA concerns were:

- Mandatory teacher evaluation without collective bargaining protections.
- Lack of flexibility in turnaround models
- Did not require true multiple measures

NEA's message to the committee:

- Focus on jobs
- Significant revenue must be included
- No more cuts to education
- Protect Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare

The NEA President, Dennis Van Roekel, gave a brief presentation. The NEA is trying to force more decisions to the state and local level. Instead of the Federal Government making the decisions, there is a push to allow states and local districts to make decisions. As more decisions are made at the local level, the role of NEA will need to change. NEA will need to move into a role of support. NEA will be exploring what needs to be created so that local information gets to NEA.

If you have not been to the NEA benefits site, I encourage you to give it a try. It offers many opportunities to save money. If you haven't tried "Click & Save" I encourage you to give it a try. Enjoy online access to thousands of discounts from major national retailers, deals on travel and entertainment, savings on electronics and gifts and much more. All you have to do is register or sign-in online at neamb.com, and you'll automatically be registered for NEA Click & Save. Up to four family members can sign-in also.

IS IT RIGHT? IS IT JUST? IS IT FAIR?

Why does inequality matter?

The last two pieces have documented that America is a wealthy but increasingly unequal society. We have shown that while the economy has doubled in the past thirty years, the overwhelming bulk of the increase has gone to the wealthiest 1% of the population and to corporations. That may offend our sense of fairness—but what are the consequences of inequality?

You know from your own experience the effects of inequality on educational

outcomes. This is confirmed by the latest research. The top test scores track remarkably well with the wealthiest zip codes. Poor students are less likely to eat well, less likely to come prepared to learn, more likely to be transient. Their parents may be struggling every day to maintain food, shelter and other life essentials, which leaves them less energy to support their children in school.

The United States is among the most unequal

societies in the developed world, ranking above only Mexico, Turkey and Chile among developed countries (Source: OECD(2011), *Society at a Glance 2011 - OECD Social Indicators*). According to many international studies, inequality has dramatic negative effects on health, life expectancy, infant mortality, the homicide rate, mental illness, imprisonment rates and teenage births.

A website with terrific information backed by lots of data and snazzy charts is the Inequality website <http://inequality.org/>

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, an international non-profit, has great comparative information on inequality and its effects.

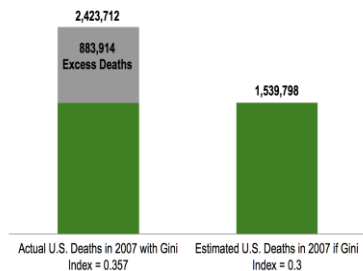
http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3746,en_2649_34637_2671576_1_1_1_1,00.html

The latest academic research on the effects of inequality on achievement can be found here:

<http://cepa.stanford.edu/content/widening-academic-achievement-gap-between-rich-and-poor-new-evidence-and-possible-explanations>

Source: Naoki Kondo et al., "Income Inequality, Mortality, and Self-rated Health: Meta-analysis of Multi-level Studies," *British Medical Journal*, 2009.

One-Third of US Deaths can be Linked to Inequality



SEE DIANE RAVITCH

Diane Ravitch was once an educational conservative and an early supporter of President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind policy. She has done a complete about-face on testing, accountability, and the merits of charter schools.

You can see Diane Ravitch. "An Evening with Diane Ravitch" will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center at 7 p.m., January 20. For tickets, call the Sacramento City Teachers Association, (916) 452-4591.

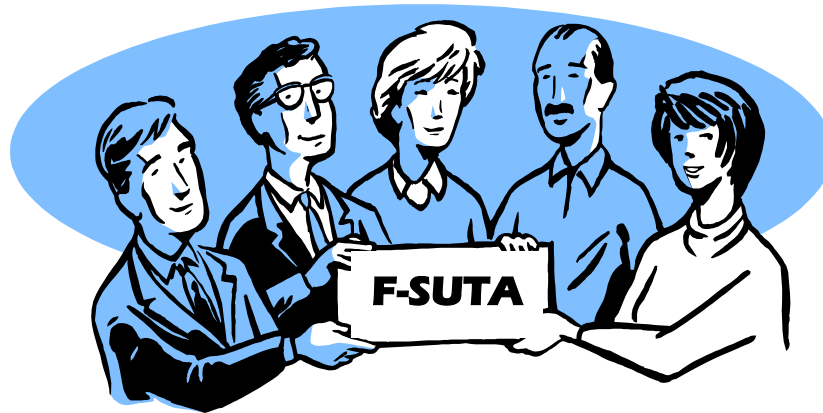
Ravitch will also speak in San Francisco January 18. Information about venues will be posted at www.cta.org/ravitchtour.

Some of the points that she made at the NCUEA Fall Conference included:

- Intrinsically teachers will do the right thing because that is part of their character
- Family is critical and it is important that families are given the support and help they need
- Poverty is not an excuse but a fact
- It takes time to build schools and make change
- Most important outcome of schools:
 - Build character
 - Build self-sufficiency
 - Create good citizens



Diane is introduced by NEA President Dennis Van Roekel at the NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly, New Orleans, July 6, 2010.



YOU CAN REPRESENT F-SUTA
AT THE
2012 NEA RA CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, DC



JUNE 29-JULY 6, 2012

F-SUTA will be electing six (6) delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly to be held in Washington, DC.

Delegates will need to arrive on Friday, June 29 and depart on Friday, July 6th. The first California Caucus meeting will be held on Saturday, June 30th at 10:15 a.m. Any NEA member is eligible to be candidate to be elected as a local delegate by filing a local *Declaration of Candidacy* form. All forms must be filed at the SEC office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

There are six (6) positions available. These locally-elected delegates will be responsible for paying for their meals,

hotel room and transportation for June 29-July 6. Elected delegates will be eligible to be reimbursed up to \$1950 with appropriate receipts and attendance at all caucus meetings and all business meetings of the RA.

If you are interested in being a local delegate candidate, please see your site representative for a Declaration of Candidacy form. The form is also available at www.fsuta.org. The bottom of the Declaration of Candidacy form has the Duties of the Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly that must be signed to be a locally funded delegate.

**F-SUTA DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY
FOR LOCAL DELEGATE TO THE 2012 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

Candidate for: _____ 2012 F-SUTA Delegate to the NEA/RA

I am a member in good standing of the following:

___ Chapter: Fairfield-Suisun Unified Teachers Association

___ California Teachers Association

___ National Education Association

Name: _____ Signed: _____
(please print)

Address: _____
(same as for "NEA Today")

City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime telephone: (_____) _____

The following information is needed to complete delegate reporting forms to the NEA:

Social Security No. _____ Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Educational Position:

___ Teacher-NEA Active (Non-Supervisory) Member

Ethnic Grouping:

___ African American ___ American Indian/Alaska Native ___ Asian

___ Caucasian ___ Hispanic ___ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

This Declaration of Candidacy form must be filed no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 4735 Central Way, Suite C, Fairfield, CA 94534. Fax (707) 864-6284. Please use the following campaign statement/biographical sketch on the flyer that accompanies the ballot. I understand that only the first 25 words will be used, but a reference to ethnic minority identification will not be counted in the limitation of words.

Please print name as you wish it to appear on the ballot:

Statement limited to 25 words:

Any candidate wishing to run as a fully funded delegate must sign this agreement.

I understand that, as a local delegate, my attendance is being directly funded by membership dues. I accept my responsibility to carry out the NEA RA delegate duties as outlined in the NEA RA Guidelines. (May be found at www.fsuta.org)

_____ Date

_____ Signature

California Retired Teachers Association (CRTA)

For more than 80 years CRTA has been the watchdog for California's retired educators. Whether it's pension protection, the social and education aspect, or the products and services that CRTA offers, there's something for everyone in CRTA.



The core mission of CRTA is to protect and enhance the pensions of CalSTRS members, but other goals include:

- Full purchasing power protection for all retired educators
- An equitable pension system that treats all retirees equally
- Repeal of the Social Security penalties (the windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset) which penalize careers in public education.
- A health care system that is accessible, affordable and of high quality for all Californians.

Benefits of Membership:

- Professional staff working on your behalf with the California Legislature and in Washington, D.C. to protect and improve your benefits.
- Special discounts on insurance, entertainment, travel and more.
- A social network for those looking to meet new friends and/or for help navigating retirement issues.
- An active grassroots community for those who want to stay involved.
- The opportunity to give back to the education community through teacher grants and student scholarships. Last year, CRTA and its various scholarship programs and foundations awarded more than \$600,000.

Who May Join CRTA?

- An active or retired educator (and spouse)
- Anyone who agrees with and supports CRTA's mission

Membership Options and Dues:

- \$42 Annual Dues (either paid by check or \$3.50 deducted monthly from your CalSTRS warrant)
- \$840 Lifetime Membership

More Information:

Visit: www.calrta.org or call the CRTA Business Office at 800-523-2782

TRIGGER PULLED – K-12 EDUCATION DRAW A BLANK *Submitted by Doug Appel*

As many of you may recall, the 2011-2012 state budget was built on the premise that \$4 billion (yes, billion with a "b") in additional revenue would materialize. If all or part of the money did not appear, automatic cuts would be "triggered" on a range of essential state programs, including K-12 education. The department of finance has made its final determination that some of the anticipated revenue did not come in. This has meant automatic cuts for the UC and Cal State systems, in-home services for the elderly and disabled and other smaller program cuts. However, some of the revenue did appear and K-12 education was spared from up to 4% in basic funding cuts (\$4 million for Fairfield). Fairfield will suffer a hit of almost \$300,000 for home to school transportation support, but all things considered, this is far better than the worst case scenarios we have all contemplated.

The agreement reached with the District last year provided for \$500,000 in additional money to F-SUTA members. We held off on determining how that money should be spent until we knew whether there would be mid-year cuts which might diminish that pot of money. Look out for your bargaining team who will be inquiring your input on how to distribute those funds.

While the fact that funding will not be cut further this school year counts as good news, K-12 education is still funded **over \$1,200 per pupil below the Prop 98** guarantee level and over \$500 per pupil below our funding level from four years ago. In addition, California is projecting another multi-billion dollar funding deficit for next year. There are several measures in circulation for the November 2012 ballot that may help address this now-chronic starvation of public education. We will be calling on you to help—so keep some open space on your calendars next fall!

THE FACTS ABOUT DUE PROCESS

Teachers unions provide due process so that teachers cannot be fired arbitrarily or for no reason. Under the state's Education Code, teachers may be dismissed for the following causes:

- ✓ immoral conduct
- ✓ unprofessional conduct
- ✓ dishonesty
- ✓ incompetency
- ✓ addiction to the use of controlled substances
- ✓ failure or refusal to perform the normal and reasonable duties of the position
- ✓ conviction of a felony or conviction of any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude
- ✓ Drunkenness on duty

In addition, any permanent or probationary employee who is physically or mentally unfit for the position occupied may be suspended, demoted or dismissed.

Teachers have a right to due process and a hearing before being fired.



LOOKING FOR OTHER GREAT MEMBER BENEFITS?



Be sure to visit the California Teachers Association:
<http://www.cta.org/Member-Services/Member-Benefits/index.aspx>



And don't forget to check out the National Education Association for more member benefits and useful tools.
<http://www.neamb.com/>

YOU CAN SAVE 15% ON QUALIFYING AT&T SERVICES



AT&T is the only national wireless carrier with over 40,000 union represented wireless employees. And, as members of a labor organization, CTA members are eligible for the AT&T Sponsorship Program **discount of 15%*** on qualifying AT&T services. You'll also enjoy these benefits from AT&T:

- ✓ Unlimited usage on the nation's largest Wi-Fi® network
- ✓ Simultaneous use of voice and data on the nation's fastest mobile broadband network
- ✓ Keep unused minutes from month to month with Rollover®, only from AT&T
- ✓ Share minutes and save with a FamilyTalk® plan

To find the AT&T store closest to you, visit att.com/find-a-store. Please have your CTA membership card as proof of union membership or union employment. **Mention FAN: 3508840**

Discount is being offered by AT&T to members of the California Teachers Association. **AT&T Sponsorship Program discount is not an endorsed program of the California Teachers Association. This is not a complete description of the discount program. For more details, contact an AT&T store closest to you.*

10 Ways to Reduce Stress

6. Take Calls at School- You don't have to give out your home number; it's okay to draw the line. You can return calls when mutually convenient, either right after school, or in the evening.
7. Leave your Teaching at School-If you must lug home school work, try to get it done early in the evening. Better yet, do it at school and leave it there. Those late afternoon hours after the students can be dismissed are quiet, immediate, and focused.
8. Don't Procrastinate-Do things you have to do.
9. Keep a "To Do" List-Review it daily and do at least one or two things. When you cross something off the list, you will have a sense of accomplishment.
10. Recognize and Accept Your Limits-Most of us set one or two goals a day. Don't try to do too much. Pace yourself.

1. Find a Colleague Who Will Listen-There is probably someone in your building who can be a trusted listener. Talking a problem out won't make it go away, but it can relieve tension and help you explore options.
2. Don't Feel You Have To Do Everything-You can't and you won't. So why worry about it.
3. Get Plenty of Sleep-Go to bed early if you are tired. Don't lie awake worrying about how you should have handled Johnny in class.
4. Don't Schedule All Of Your Leisure Hours-You live by a schedule all day long. Leave yourself some open space.
5. Rid Yourself of Worry-A study has shown that 40% of the items people worry about never happen; 35% can be changed: 15 % turn out better than expected; 8% involve needless concern; and only 2% really deserve attention Exercise helps to reduce worry.

PLEASE NOTE: These are suggestions offered by experienced teachers. Develop a strategy that works for you, and take some time for yourself!

