



ACE ON TASK

President's Message by Karen Houck

Council: a legislative or administrative body of a society, institution, or corporation. Each of us has the opportunity to belong to several councils in our professional lives. These are very important bodies that have a great deal of influence over the way our schools, district and association are operating.

School Site Council is the governing body for the individual campus. Each Site Council has elected members who control the programs and funding stream on site. If we are not exercising our right to be a vocal part of this body, then we give up the right to make decisions that impact the learning and turn that control over to the site administrator. Parents are a key component at site council and yet, many sites have trouble recruiting parents. We need to take a more active role and not let the site administrators do all of the recruiting. CTA provides training to site councils to help them understand the education codes governing them. If you need this training, please contact ACE.

Curriculum Councils exist for us to approve new course descriptions, grading criteria, textbooks, etc. Each site is allowed a specific number of representatives. I have attended both Elementary and Secondary Curriculum Councils and was disappointed at how many seats are vacant both on the council and in the room. We have the ability to influence the direction curriculum takes in our district and yet we don't fill all of the positions and let our voice be heard. I have listened to complaints about the district mandating curriculum and our input not being sought but we have a chance to get some of that back through these two important council positions. Elections for the new year should be taking place. Elect people who will represent your curriculum needs and carry your message forward so each site has an equal voice.

Representative Council for ACE is your opportunity to vote on critical issues within the association and CTA. Each month, we have reports from all of the different groups we represent and seek feedback for

those groups to move forward. We hear from negotiations, grievance, benefits, our directors, CTA staff, and other committees. We give direction to these groups and that allows us to be a representative organization. Our by-laws allow for 1 site rep for every 15 members. For a chapter our size, we should have close to 80 site reps plus the 15 directors at each meeting. We don't have that level of participation at this time. Our board of directors will be making site visits again this year to continue to get the message out to sites that don't have full representation or sites with reps in name only. If you want to have any say in how we govern the association, elect reps who will bring information to you, and bring your message back to ACE.

Guests are welcome to attend any of these councils and see for themselves what is being discussed.

Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

Issue 2

September 2009

ACE Executive Board

President	Karen Houck
Vice President	Robert Lemoine
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Elem Dir	Arlene Roper
Elem Dir	Steve Villa
Elem Dir	Linda Placencia
Mid. Sch Dir	Vacant
Mid. Sch Dir	John Chovan
Sr, High Dir	Erwin Schaefer
Sr, High Dir	Marcella Cook
PPS Dir	Georgene Dixon
State Council	Paul Lucero
State Council	Rebekah Acord
State Council	Dona Hines



API by Robert Lemoine

API. The three dreaded letters (along with AYP) that we all look forward to seeing. In case you have not heard, official API scores are out and open to the public. So, how did we do this year?

Well, every single school in our District improved. Yes, EVERY SINGLE SCHOOL WENT UP! That means all of YOUR hard work, YOUR dedication, YOUR long hours, paid off. YOUR teaching made the District look good. Thank you so much for all that you do for the students.

Now I am not saying that things are great and everything is fantastic. Yes, we still are in PI, we still have DAIT, SB72 trainings, blah, blah, blah, but I say we need to take a moment and congratulate ourselves. We need to stand up and celebrate this moment, especially if you are one of the schools that increased drastically. Every secondary school increased their API by DOUBLE DIGITS! Some schools increased their scores by 50 points! So take a breather from all the start-of-the-year stuff that you are doing. Put

that wallet away as you are buying notebooks for your students and take a moment (I suggest many) and ask your principal, "What are we doing to thank the staff and students for doing so well?" If the answer is: nothing, then "suggest" that something be planned. Too often do we let our success stories turn into success stories forgotten. We NEED to celebrate this achievement and let staff and students know how much we appreciate their hard work and efforts. Once again, thank you and keep up the good work!

Keep Yourself Informed by Marcella Cook

As educators, it is important for us to be aware of contract language. As grievance chairperson, I will inform you of the article that affects all of us. Article 9: class size states that the average class size PER TEACHER

at each school shall not exceed more than twenty student attendance days. The District has been known to violate this article. Grades 7-12 have a Maximum class size of 36 and a class average of 32. All other certificated

employees need to check your contract and verify that your caseload is not exceeding the class size maximum. Remember if you have any comments or concerns, feel free to contact me. Have a great 2009-2010 school year.

Middle School by John Chovan

Hello, my name is John Chovan and I am one of ACE's Middle School Directors. I am a teacher at Ruth O. Harris Middle School where I teach 7th grade World History. I am pleased to be a part of the ACE Executive Board this year. In light of the overall API growth throughout the district, I wanted to offer my congratulations to every teacher for all of their hard work. As Middle School Director, I especially wanted to highlight some of the milestones reached by our four middle schools. At Bloomington Middle School, API jumped 10 points from 660 to 670. At Colton Middle School, API rose from 636 to 658. Both Ruth O. Harris Middle and Terrace Hills Middle broke into the 700s with Ruth O. improving from 689 to 704 and Terrace Hills

increasing from 694 to 729! API, of course, is not the only way to measure our students' learning. However, this measurable data allows us to see that as a unified organization, we are teaching our students and they are learning at all levels. While our task as teachers sometimes seems akin to the Greek Sisyphus, toiling to move his boulder up the hill only to have it roll down again, I want to applaud the efforts of all of our ACE members as we continue to provide a sound educational foundation for our students. Thank you all again for all your

MAKE SURE YOU VOTE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR THIS WEEK. SEE YOUR REP FOR MORE INFO!

Race To The Top Replacing NCLB? by Steve Villa

For those of you who have not heard, there is a new federal grant program called "Race to the Top" (RTTT). It is authorized by the Recovery and Investment Act of 2009. It provides approximately \$4.35 billion to states as one-time grants.

The money will be given in two phases. To be eligible for the Phase 1 grant the governor is pressuring lawmakers to:

Overhaul California's content standards to internationally benchmarked standards. (They would undermine California's high academic standards, some of the most rigorous in the nation.)

Create a new testing system.

Create alternative credentialing systems in order to "fast track" unprepared and unsupported teachers in the classroom.

Mandate student test scores to be used as a "significant" factor in teacher evaluations.

Mandate that teacher compensation and promotion be linked to student test scores.

Encourage charter schools to be the number one reform for turning around failing schools.

California doesn't need to rush to be under new onerous regulations. The full allocation of

funds can still be applied for during Phase 2 of the program. That would give policymakers time to come up with reforms that will help educators prepare to meet future challenges.

It also needs to be mentioned that not only is this one-time federal money, but the governor can hold on to 50% of the money as he sees fit. Needless to say, that money may never reach the classroom.

At one time, educators believed that the new administration would eliminate the onerous one-size fits all model of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) but the RTTT grant continues the same philosophy.

Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go Tracie Ramirez and her family. Tracie, a Colton High School SDC Teacher passed away last week. She will be missed.

Health Benefits by Arlene Roper

Do you have questions about your Health Care Coverage? Do you need to find a new doctor or would you like to start mail order prescriptions? Knowing where to find information when you need it can be valuable. Register on the Kaiser or Blue Shield websites or call the Member Services numbers and you will find many of the answers you're seeking:

www.Blueshieldca.com

1-800-642-6155

www.Kaiserpermanente.org

1-800-464-4000

In addition, Blue Shield members can call to find out about Vision care from MES Member services at (800) 877-6372 and Chiropractic services from American Specialty Health at (877)430-8092 Also, if you are having trouble finding information call the Benefits office at the district office and talk to Juanita. Blue Shield members can call HUB International and ask for Jason or Pam (877) 825-2681 or

go to the High Desert Inland Employer Employee Trust at www.hdieet.com. Don't forget, you can always call us at the ACE office at (909) 825-0332 and we can direct you to the right person.



ACE Calendar October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 School Board	2	3
4	5 Exec. Board	6	7	8	9	10 San G. SSC
11	12	13	14	15 School Board	16 Fall Leadership	17 Fall Leadership
18 Fall Leadership	19 Rep. Council	20	21	22	23 CTA State Council	24 CTA State Council
25 CTA State Council	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

Special Events

Welcome to Autumn!

October 1: School Board

October 5: ACE Executive Board Meeting

October 10: San G. Service Center Council

October 15: School Board

October 16-18: Fall Leadership Conferences

October 19: Rep Council

October 23-25: CTA State Council

School Board Members

At 5:30 pm, September 29th, in the Board Room, our school board will be attending a workshop on the current budget. The Assistant Superintendent of Business along with a consultant will be explaining the current Colton Joint Unified School District budget. Members of ACE, CSEA, and MAC have all been invited to hear this presentation so that we can be educated on how much money we have and where it is being spent. Stay tuned!

Member Benefits

Your membership in CTA entitles you to a number of additional benefits. TSA, a subsidiary of First Financial Credit Union, offers discounted tickets to a variety of savings for Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Legoland, Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, Pirates Dinner Adventure, Movie Tickets (AMC Cinemas, Regal, Edwards, United Artist and Pacific Theaters), SeaWorld, Universal Studios Hollywood, San Diego Wild Animal Park and San Diego Zoo. Also available are See's Candy Gift Certificates. For a complete list of availability, prices, and service charges, call (800) 537-8491 or visit their website at www.tsaspecialservices.com

CONTRACT CORNER

Article 10: Evaluation

Within the first 30 instructional days, each member to be evaluated shall be given formal WRITTEN notice of that fact. This notice shall identify the prime evaluator.

You have a right to request an alternate evaluator if you are not comfortable with the one you are assigned.

The 30th instructional day for elementary was September 15.

The 30th instructional day for secondary is October 9.

**If your rights are being violated,
see your Rep on campus and
FILE THAT GREIVANCE!**

ACE ON TASK is a publication of the Association of Colton Educators
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