

President's Report 5/26/09

Job Share Forum- After lobbying the District, the agreement was finally made to extend the deadline and allow "trading" as another option for dissolution of a job share. Any interested members met at the GGEA Office on the afternoon of Thursday, May 21st. General information was disbursed as well as the opportunity to "match-up" with potential partners. During the meeting, **informational sheets were provided and filled out by all participants and will be kept at the GGEA Office for anybody interested in forming a job share.**

WHO Dinner- On Wednesday, May 13th, some Board of Directors members and I attended the annual WHO Awards Dinner hosted by the Orange Service Center. **Local GGEA award recipients were Bridget Lockhart, William Monroe, Thanh Nguyen, and Heidi Brown.** All four have contributed greatly to GGEA. In addition to these four members, **Eric Padget also received the State WHO Award.** Only one State WHO Award is presented for all of the Orange Service Center per year. Eric is very deserving of this recognition, as he has contributed much to GGEA at the local level as well as to CTA at the state level. Congratulations to all of the award recipients!

Interview Panels- I participated in interview panels for the following positions: 7-12 Director of Instruction, High School Principal, and Elementary School Principal. Again, it is great that the Association is given the opportunity to provide input into these positions that are vital to the success of our schools.

Meetings with District Personnel- We have continued to have meetings with District personnel, including weekly with Dr. Schwalm, monthly with Sara Wescott, Chris Weber, and as needed with Mike Miller and Gabriela Mafi in addition to our weekly Contract Maintenance with Joli Armitage.

School Visits- Judy and I visited Rosita during the month of May.

School Board Meetings- I attended both scheduled GGUSD School Board Meetings, the highlights of which were a presentation of the Boys and Girls Club program and the presentation of the GGUSD Bargaining Proposals for 2009-2010.

School Board Trustee Lunch- George West and Lan Nguyen met me for lunch and they are attending the May Rep Council meeting.

Installation Banquet- On Friday, May 29th, the annual GGEA Installation Banquet will be held. Officially being installed will be Tina Gurney and Jia Hamud, Elementary Segment Directors, William Monroe, Intermediate Segment Director, and completely new to the Board of Directors, Thanh Nguyen, High School Segment Director. Debil Lindberg will also be installed as our new First Vice President as will our yet to be elected Second Vice President. A big thanks goes out to David Andrzejewski who has served as a High School Segment Director over the last two years.

May 2009 State Council

Congratulations to Jim Rogers who is now the CTA Director for Region M Elect. He won a hard fought campaign and received help from many GGEA members. I am confident that he will do an excellent job advocating for our issues and offering the support needed to run a strong local association.

One hot topic was the dues rate for 2009-2010. Currently there is a formula that averages the salary increases statewide over the last three years. This increase, or decrease, is then used to calculate the corresponding increase or decrease in CTA membership dues. The formula helps even out the funding for CTA and ensures that members do not have to pay hefty dues increases during good bargaining years.

A new business item was brought to the floor asking that there be no dues increase for 2009-2010 citing the high number of teacher lay-offs and possible salary reductions many members might be facing. On the flip side, now is the time we need CTA resources the most. Ultimately State Council approved the formula increase for next year. **CTA dues will be going up by \$2.20 per month, while GGEA dues will remain the same.** NEA dues have yet to be determined.

State Budget Update

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of CTA and GGEA, the voters did not approve Propositions 1A- 1E during the May 19th Special Election. Thank you to all GGEA members that helped by phone banking and by spreading the word to family and friends. Now we will have to wait for the ramifications of the May Budget Revision process. The most current estimates have the deficit now at \$21 billion. The new Republican leadership has vowed to take a "cuts only" approach. This could have a very real impact on funding for our schools.

On the brighter side, Federal Stimulus Package monies could help us bridge the gap. We still have not received any of this funding, which will be tied to Title I, IDEA (Special Education), and general Stimulus money to be used to save jobs. California may receive more federal funding because of the failure of the propositions, but only time will tell. It is important to remember that the federal funding is for this year and next only, while the cuts we have had to deal with are to on-going funding. I will try to keep GGEA members as updated as possible throughout the summer through email. If you would like to be added to my email list, please send a request to cfrancis@ggea.org.

Stay informed and stay active!!!