

## **NEWS MESSENGER**

**APRIL 13, 2010**

### **Dear Colleagues:**

At the April 8<sup>th</sup> council meeting, your site reps discussed a draft survey that will be given to membership for their input. The purpose of this survey will be to seek information in regards to dealing with budget issues and lay offs. Your reps pointed out changes needed for the draft and a revised survey will be sent out. The survey is also intended to cause dialogue about issues and give some idea about options that SCTA will consider in the future.

Your reps received general information about the California economy which is improving slightly and such better news was also reported in the Bee today. Some reps were reasonably concerned about the negative media attention and attacks from the Bee and asked that SCTA deal with that problem. SCTA's general plan with the Bee is to receive their questions in writing and respond as soon as possible in writing.

Additionally, SCTA will be sending information to the media regarding comparison of costs and value for your salaries and benefits. For the long term, if your benefit or salary value is high, we should work to keep it high. If it is low, we should work to improve the comparisons. Over the years, teachers have sacrificed for benefits over salary, and it does not make professional sense to have both low salaries and low benefits.

### **Teachers Earned Degrees and Pay for Student Materials**

Teachers worked hard to become certified and work even harder to do the best for their students. The average teacher spends hundreds of dollars out of their own pockets each year to stock their classroom because the system is unable or unwilling to buy what your students need. Can you imagine what police officers and firefighters and nurses would say and do if they felt they had to buy their bullets, hoses, and needles?

### **The Latest Lay Off Information Has Better News**

At this time about 170 teachers have been removed from the list and have been issued rescissions. When the tie breaker process is completed, there should be more rescissions. Also, your SCTA leadership, with the help of High School reps, was able to achieve a current change over the use of TFA interns. A long term solution is needed.

### **Agreement to Offer Participating Teachers \$10,000 a Year**

Recently the District and SCTA agreed to participate in a program known as the Talent Transfer Initiative. All District teachers are able to be considered for participation in the program and those selected will perform some additional duties. What is important about this agreement is that there is monetary recognition for teachers and a substantial stipend paid by outside funds. SCTA believes every teacher should be receiving an additional stipend.

### **Special Rep Council on April 29**

Site reps will be invited to SCTA to continue the dialogue about working to support efforts to reduce lay offs, improving media coverage, organizing for success, and getting the latest information about the lay off hearings that should be completed by that time.

### **Some Reminders**

The Annual SCTA picnic is set for Friday, June 4 at the Dante Club starting around 3:45 pm.