

## **Representative Council Meeting, September 1, 2009**

A motion to approve the minutes dated, August 11, 2009, was made by Mike Otnisky with a second by Edward Campbell. Motion approved.

### **President, Gene Smith**

Regarding a letter sent by the district office to 200 teachers for 5 days of mandatory EL training, many teachers would like to attend the training outside of class time so their students would not suffer. The Association is exploring options for attending the training. It was suggested that administrators also take the training.

Kathy Carothers, retired teacher and former AVTA Representative was the guest speaker. Kathy Carothers and Jim Lott were endorsed by the AVTA Representative Council as our candidates for the AVHSD School Board Election. Cathy fielded questions from the Representative Council, including cost and effectiveness of benchmark tests, the additional CLAD training during class time, and privatization of schools and evaluation of administrators by teachers. Cathy plans an open door policy, budget cuts away from the classroom and a cost and benefit analysis of programs to guide her decisions.

The district has started to collapse some classes and bring in more teachers. The MOU that was signed will give us an opportunity to look at the unaudited actuals so that we can use those figures in negotiations. If the classes are not leveled by October 9 (CBEDS day), teachers will receive overages.

Gene Smith would like the sites to let him know what their Association supply needs are (bulletin boards, contract copies etc.).

Introductions of the representatives were given.

### **Vice President, Political, Gerald Fairman**

There was a nice rally for our candidates running for the AVHSD School Board Election on August 20, 2009. Gerald thanked those in attendance. He read a list of supporters for our endorsed candidates. **Tuesday, November 3, 2009, is Election Day.**

Gerald spoke on the federal stimulus package that was tied to a number of attachments. **Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan** is holding out the offer of a \$4.3 billion dollar stimulus package, called *Race to the Top*, to be divided by states. Two required conditions are: no restrictions on the number of charter schools, and "merit" pay for teachers tied to students' performances on standardized tests. NEA is advocating keeping public schools accountable to taxpayer/owners rather than having them become private property driven by private gain from public coffers. LA County School Board's vision for school reform encompasses auctioning 50 new and "under-performing" taxpayer owned schools to the highest bidders, with no provisions for rehiring their current teachers or providing for the presence of negotiated bargaining unit protections. This is being challenged in court.

**Secretary, Christine Van Allen** announced that the training for site representatives will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2009, at the CTA/AVTA Office. Carolyn Kinel will be the trainer. Please RSVP to Davina Kurzius at [dkurzius@CTA.org](mailto:dkurzius@CTA.org).

### **Vice President, Membership, Julie Agnew**

Julie passed out membership cards to the site captains. Site Captains and representatives should extend offer of membership to all non-members to spare them the predicament of paying the dues amount while receiving none of the membership benefits.

**Treasurer, Beatriz Sztain** Distributed the profit and loss statement dated September through August, 2009. Gary Roberts moved and Terry Vernor second to accept the end of year budget.

We received a check for \$7258 .68. Two certificates of deposit are up for renewal \$91,647 and \$33551.89 they will roll over in place.

### **Grievance, Gary Robert**

There was a Level I grievance based on hiring the most qualified baseball coach and that person is now being taken before the board for approval.

A Level II involving involuntary transfer, where an opening develops at a teacher's old school, he or she would have first choice to return. The union decided not to fight this one, as it is based on enrollment projections, and a judge would most likely throw out anything based on projections.

The next negotiating session is scheduled for Thursday, September 17. The good news is the enrollment is up. The Antelope Valley is an affordable area again and people are buying homes and bringing in new students.

### **New Business**

Robin Mackey brought up a request by teachers to go to a 12 month pay schedule.

Christine Van Allen brought up an idea of bonus pay for not taking any sick days.

The district form for using your own doctor will need to be signed by the doctor.

It was brought up that RSP classes do not have a cap and should match the teacher caseload; this should be addressed.

Beatriz reminded everyone about meeting attendance.

Mike Otnisky moved to adjourn.