

## **Representative Council Meeting, November 3, 2009**

A motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2009, was made by Dr. Dave Eiser and with a second by Mike Otnisky. Motion approved.

### **President, Gene Smith**

The tentative contract agreement was approved by the membership and the School Board will vote for approval at the next board meeting.

A discussion between AVTA and the School Board regarding the revised Grades and Marking Manual and the appropriate usage of benchmarks test results for weighing student grades was tabled by the Board.

The retiree legal expenses ( STRS dispute) have concluded. One teacher paid the money owed to STRS and CTA also paid, therefore, the teacher needs to get his money back from STRS. He would like AVTA to pay additional attorney fees to help in this process. Marc Sanders moved not to pay additional attorney fees for the retiree and a second by Mike Otnisky. Motion passed.

**Vice President Membership, Julie Agnew** Julie reminded the site captains that sixteen new teachers were hired and they need to be enrolled as members. New members will receive a \$10 Target gift card. The social was well received.

**Vice President Political, Gerald Fairman** Gerald distributed the data for the contract vote.

**Treasurer, Beatriz Sztain** AVTA has \$36,295.49 in checking with total assets at \$220,465.29. The cost of the social was \$2800. The new dues check we received from CTA amounted to \$10,703.00. The stipend forms should be filled out and returned to Beatriz in order to get paid in December. A motion was made by TV Hall and second by Terry Vernor to purchase two computers, one for the office and one for the treasurer, not to exceed \$2500.

**Secretary, Christine Van Allen** The State Council of Education met October 23-25, 2009. There is an assault on public education and we cannot allow schools to become a business and our children a commodity. We are the experts in education and we cannot have people who have not set foot in our classrooms to set policy without valid data. We need members to continue to write letters and speak out against this assault on public education.

**Grievance, Gary Roberts** An overage at Phoenix has been settled and will not go to arbitration. There is a free speech issue at Highland that may go to arbitration. Mike Otnisky moved and Edward Campbell second to spend \$2000 to mediate a settlement. Motion approved. Gary spoke about legislation deemed paycheck protection (an attempt to prevent locals to collect dues from paychecks) and pension reform (assault on teacher pensions), and "tea parties". Members will need to be vigilant and contact their representatives to prevent these anti-teacher, anti-collective bargaining and anti-public education bills from passing.

Mike Otnisky moved to adjourn.