

OEA ADVOCATE
SPECIAL EARLY EDITION
May 2003

2003 CTA Member Art Competition

Watch for the flyer announcing the 2003 CTA Member Art Competition for Region 1. The flyer will be posted in your building. You may call OEA to have a competition packet sent to you through school mail. The packet will contain the rules for 2-D artwork that must have dimensions between 9 X 11 inches and 6 X 8 feet, and for 3-D artwork that must not exceed 2 feet in height. The artwork may be delivered to CTA Headquarters in Burlingame between 9:00am and 5:00pm from April 1 until May 15, 2003.

For Members Called to Active Military Duty

First, OEA negotiated with OUSD to provide OEA members with six-months of full pay when they are called to active duty in times of national emergency. This is retroactive to 9/11/01. Be sure and notify Payroll and Human Resources if you are called to active duty. Your principal should provide assistance as well.

Second, Members serving on active military duty are eligible for a membership dues waiver from CTA. Notify OEA if you are called to active duty and OEA will notify CTA.

If you know of a colleague on active duty please let them know this information.

New Small Autonomous Schools

By Mark Rendon

The OEA supports the New Small Autonomous Schools (NSAS) reform movement. NSAS research clearly shows that students and staff are more successful in a small school setting. In such a setting a more nurturing and supportive climate can be created, therefore enabling students in attaining a higher level of achievement. However, the OEA

does not and cannot support NSAS projects that seek to waive key components of our contract, such as, seniority, working hours, and academic freedom. Also, we oppose the placement of a NSAS on the campus of an overcrowded school. We must prevent a repeat of the Fremont HS case where the District bypassed the FC and dictated to the staff what would happen. Still, the OUSD is trying to place NSAS on overcrowded school sites! One of the main ideas of NSAS in Oakland was to alleviate the overcrowding of many of our schools. We support NSAS, but we also need to continue the fight for lower class sizes at traditional schools.

Assaults on Teachers Continue

If a student or parent assaults you, you are required by law to notify the police. Do not let such incidents go unreported. Safety and security requires that everyone be held to a high standard of behavior. Unfortunately, there are still some principals who dissuade teachers from making these legally required reports. **DO NOT** be dissuaded and report any principal who attempts to dissuade you.

An assault is a threat to carry out bodily harm. Battery is the physical contact that deliberately or negligently causes harm. A threat is assault and must be reported. When reporting to the police make sure you get the officer's name and a case number. The act must be investigated and with the case number you can track the progress of the investigation. It is up to you to enforce civil conduct in the schools.

Right to be Paid

An OEA Unit Member has been teaching a class during his Prep/Conference Period in a middle school all year. The Collective Bargaining Agreement is very clear that a teacher teaching such a class is to be paid per diem. Throughout the whole time, the teacher had not received a dime of payment. The teacher called the OEA. OEA contacted a variety of people in the OUSD Administration and was contacted by the Superintendent for the details. The teacher was paid.

If you agree to teach a class during your Preparation/Conference Period in a secondary school, be sure your principal gives you an extended contract and that you are paid your per diem. Until this is done, and the contract is submitted, Payroll cannot pay you.

CTA Approves Financial Assistance to OEA

OEA requested a Crisis Assistance Grant from CTA and CTA has approved funding two-thirds of the budget presented by OEA. At an Executive Board meeting in February, OEA presented a budget and in March CTA approved funding of \$2,267, or two-thirds of the approved budget. Additional requests can be submitted to CTA for consideration by the Crisis Assistance Panel. This is in addition to the several thousands of dollars that CTA provides to OEA through special grants and supplemental staffing.

OEA Advocate

Tony Miele, Editor

Contributors: Bruce Colwell

Mark Rendon