

THE ADVOCATE

Fall action in the FIGHT FOR 5!

Carried forward by the momentum of strong member organizing last spring, this summer SDEA's bargaining team had some wins at the bargaining table. These victories include expanding parental leave, securing stronger safety protections, and pushing the District to withdraw a transfer proposal that would have gutted transfer protections for members and destabilized our schools. In separate talks, SDEA leadership also secured an agreement that ensures that Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are member-directed. The agreement gives members the option of continuing last year's monthly PLC work, or instead attending a monthly District professional development about Common Core. For details, visit www.sdea.net.

We are nowhere near done yet! SDEA's bargaining team has been pushing hard for our *Fight for 5!* priorities of lower class size, pay and benefits to attract and keep the best and brightest, protecting and expanding planning and preparation time, and more counseling, nursing and special ed. supports. But the District has yet to agree to any of SDEA's *Fight for 5!* proposals.

Members showed the District we are all in the fight by wearing *Fight for 5!* stickers on the first day of school, Tuesday, Sep. 2. With this simple but powerful act, together we reminded District leaders, parents, and each other of our priorities.

SDEA's bargaining team will be taking the *Fight for 5!* back to the bargaining table next Thursday, Sep. 18. If we want to



Members at E.B. Scripps Elem. rocked *Fight for 5!* stickers on the first day of school as part of a union-wide solidarity action.

win the fast and fair settlement that we and our students deserve, let's show the District that 7,000 educators are in the *Fight for 5!*—not just the few on the bargaining team.

We can do this by wearing

our *Fight for 5!* buttons in support of our bargaining team on Sep. 18. By taking action, we can and will win the contract we need to rebuild our schools.

Together, with one voice, let's move our fight forward.

Members advocate for education at NEA RA

by Scott Mullin
Language Academy AR,
SDEA Board Secretary

This summer some 9,000 delegates from across the country attended the annual National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA RA) in Denver, Colorado. Of those delegates 939 represented California, and I, along with 30 others from SDEA, represented

SDEA's membership.

When the NEA delegates gather each year it is the largest democratically run body on planet Earth. It is truly a spectacle to behold.

During the assembly, delegates take part in the consideration of new business items (NBIs), amendments to the NEA constitution, and resolutions. It is an orderly

assembly run according to parliamentary rules of order. Likewise, all delegates participate in the election of official positions. The Denver RA saw the election of new officers: President Lily Eskelsen Garcia, Vice President Rebecca S. "Becky" Pringle and Secretary-Treasurer Princess Moss.

As a California delegate I was proud to take part in an NBI

moved by CTA President Dean Vogel calling for the resignation of US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. This item, NBI 23, was passed by the assembly and became the official position of NEA.

For a more detailed and inclusive account of the goings-on and outcomes of this year's NEA RA go to www.nea.org/grants/1357.htm.



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Let's start the new year strong!

We are excited to welcome you to the 2014-2015 school year! The work at SDEA has not stopped over the summer and will continue through the year ahead of us. Your July 31 or Sep. 30 paycheck will reflect the full restoration of raises and furlough days (a 5.54% increase from your June paycheck, in addition to any step and column increases you receive). We had dozens of SDEA delegates attend the NEA RA in July where they helped to direct the policy of our national association. We had 11 members attend the CTA Summer Institute in August where they gained knowledge to help guide the work of SDEA. We had three additional bargaining sessions since the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year, where your SDEA bargaining team has been strong, keeping the *Fight for 5!* at the forefront of the table. The bargaining team has been advocating for reasonable class sizes and caseloads, maintaining our workload rights to allow for adequate preparation and planning time, and a salary/benefits package that will move us towards median or above!

As the newly elected leaders of SDEA, we have two main goals this year:

1. Win a contract that helps build the schools that the educators and students of San Diego deserve.
2. Build a stronger union by increasing SDEA member engagement and involvement, and increasing the relevancy of SDEA to our members.

The election in the spring of 2014, with the highest voter turnout in over 10 years, showed that our members want to have a voice in the direction of SDEA. SDEA members are the backbone of our union. Members, staff, and elected leaders do the critical work of defending our rights and giving voice to the struggles of our schools through our collective efforts. Now more than ever our solidarity defines our success in the labor movement and the movement to protect quality public schools for every child. We are at a time where our union must unite together behind the strongest possible bargaining campaign in the *Fight for 5!*, if we are going to see the changes in class size, supports, and competitive educator compensation our students deserve. We look forward to working with all members of SDEA to ensure that the members' voices are heard and those voices will guide the direction of SDEA. We will continue our work as strong advocates in dialogue with the district to ensure that our members, students, and classrooms remain a budget priority.

We look forward to working together, with all of you, to build a strong and united SDEA.

Together we are stronger!

Lindsay Burningham
Lindsay Burningham
SDEA President

Michelle Sanchez
Michelle Sanchez
SDEA Vice President

CTA training preps members for the fall

by Michelle Sanchez
SDEA Vice President

This year's Summer Institute, one of many member training opportunities offered by CTA, was held from August 3-7 at UCLA. Summer Institute offers a wide variety of courses, including Professional Development on Common Core, Bargaining, School Finance and Communication.

First time attendee Julia Knoff of Scripps Ranch HS learned about the increasing importance of social media for communication to our members during the Communications strand. According to Knoff, the training gave members the tools to fight for and protect public education.

Summer Institute is also a great avenue for

members from locals across the state to come together. We discussed common issues facing education today, and the many positive things we as educators are accomplishing daily within our classrooms. These connections made at Summer Institute keep us linked going forward to continue the good work for educators and our students.

Summer Institute included opportunities to hear from the people fighting for us in Sacramento, including State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom.

Please see the CTA website for any upcoming CTA conferences you may be interested in attending, and contact the SDEA office to express interest.

SDEA welcomes new members at orientation

by Adam Goldstein and Matthew Schneck
Hage and Early/Middle College ARs, SDEA Board

SDEA welcomed nearly 180 of the District's newest educators at the New Teacher Orientation at Lincoln High School on Thursday, Aug. 21. President Lindsay Burningham and Vice President Michelle Sanchez presented and discussed SDEA's history, our *Fight for Five!* bargaining campaign, and teachers' rights under the contract.

After the presentation, SDEA Board members joined with new hires in small groups to meet and discuss some of the hopes and challenges of being a new educator.

"As new teachers to the District, it's important to engage in the union and join the fight for smaller classes and educational justice for all students," said Rene Zambrano, Bell Middle School.

As participating Board members, it was thrilling to share a little bit of the unity and solidarity of what it means to be a member of a union. Ultimately, the new ideas and enthusiasm that new educators bring are vital to our union.

New members will have another opportunity to meet and build solidarity on Thursday, Oct. 2 at the SDEA New Member Mixer at the SDEA union hall from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Together we are stronger!



SDEA Board members Tim Halley (top) and Adam Goldstein (above) led small group discussions about what it means to be an SDEA member at New Teacher Orientation.

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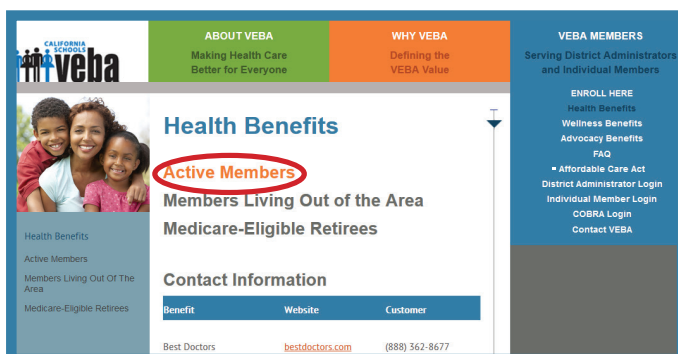
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