

Union Notes - September 21, 2012

Fall Leadership Shows We Can Win in November

On Saturday, September 15 more than 70 SDEA members and site representatives attended the annual Fall Leadership Conference. Activists gathered to develop their organizing skills, and mobilize to [pass Proposition 30](#) and [defeat Proposition 32](#), the special exemptions act.



SDEA President Bill Freeman kicked off the event by voicing support for our sisters and brothers in Chicago.

"Our sisters and brothers in Chicago have waged a battle much bigger than a bully mayor and a hostile school board," said Bill. "They have waged a battle for the very soul of public education in our country and have decided to draw a line in the sand and stand up to the billionaires who intend to privatize our schools and attack our educators."

SDEA Treasurer Manuel Gomez announced that the SDEA Board sent a letter of support to the Chicago Teachers Union on behalf of SDEA members, along with a donation to their strike fund.

But the big news was that SDEA members braved 90+ degree heat to hit the streets and knock on doors, getting the word out to voters about passing Proposition 30 and stopping Proposition 32. Voters' response was overwhelmingly positive and shows that if we get the word out WE WILL WIN on November 6. SDEA Board member Eleanor Evans summed up the day, "It was great to build our organizing skills and to work together to educate voters on the importance of passing Proposition 30 and defeating Proposition 32."

Sign up to volunteer on our campaign to protect schools [HERE](#).

SDUSD Attorney Larry Schoenke & the District are Committing Unfair Labor Practices that put our Contract at Risk!

Since the arrival of the District's new chief legal counsel, Larry Schoenke, we have seen a pattern of disregard for some of the most important language in our contract, including secondary class size caps and nurse/counselor safe staffing ratios. Schoenke recently sent an email to all principals that argued that class size caps were not in effect and can be violated. SDEA members at secondary schools are standing up to enforce and protect this new contract language. ARs discussed an action plan at Rep. Council on September 19 and will initiate the grievance process at all impacted sites. If you are a secondary teacher with a class containing more than 36 students, see your site AR to get involved and support the enforcement of this important language.

Click [HERE](#) to view more information on the SDEA website.

Added Authorization in Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) now requires that certain special education teachers receive an added authorization in order to work with autistic students. SDEA staff held a preliminary discussion with the District to assess their plans for implementing this new requirement. SDEA was informed by the District that there are at least 588 unit members that will need to acquire this new authorization. Currently our understanding of exactly who is required to obtain this new authorization is different than the District's interpretation. We are actively working with the CCTC in order to ascertain if the criteria used by the District to identify who is required to obtain this new authorization is correct. Our hope is to decrease the number of SDEA unit members that are required to obtain the authorization and we are actively pursuing models in which the District would subsidize the cost of obtaining this authorization. Another option could be the District providing the classes required for obtaining the authorization at no cost to members. Please stay tuned for further updates on