**Friday The 13th Pink Friday Rally At Capitol West Steps**

Hundreds of teachers showed up on the west steps of The Capitol to protest the 27,000 pink slips that have been issued to teachers around the state. The presidents of six locals in the Sacramento County area, including our own president David Berry, each spoke to the thunderous crowd of teachers and supporters. The rally culminated with words of encouragement from our CTA President David Sanchez. “The race to the bottom must stop. California is 47th in per pupil spending in the United States. We must stand up and fight for our children’s education.”

**RIF Teachers Meeting Held**

Teachers who have received Reduction in Force (RIF) letters attended a meeting on Monday March 16 at the Holiday Inn. The meeting was organized by TRUE to help teachers prepare for the layoff process. The legal council that has been obtained by CTA and TRUE informed teachers of their rights and gave proper paperwork to everyone so the lawyers have the required information to represent each teacher. The hearing dates are: April 15, 16, 28 and 29. The attorneys stated that teachers should attend all hearing days to ensure that their rights are protected.

**TRUE Attends CTA Organizing Seminar**

Five TRUE Organizing Committee members had the opportunity to attend the CTA Organizing Seminar on March 12 to 14. Karen Mix, Becky Renfoe, Kristin Finney, Joyce Childs, and Julieanne Neal were given the opportunity to learn how to build power in our local through relational organizing and the COG (Constant Organizing Goals) method. COG builds power in the union. Power is about union representation, union advocacy, and union capacity building. An organizing plan was developed to foster and strengthen TRUE into a cohesive unit. This plan will be presented to the TRUE Executive Board at their next meeting.

**Coming Soon: Declarations of Candidacy**

Keep your eyes open for upcoming Election Announcements and their Declaration of Candidacy forms. One election will be for another seat as CTA State Council Representative, and the other election will be for all Officer positions of the TRUE Executive Board. Both elections will take place in May, so if you are interested in running make sure you remember to check the TRUE website: [www.trueassociation.org](http://www.trueassociation.org) for the announcements and downloadable candidacy forms. We always send the elections information and forms to the Site Delegates, so you can get everything from them too. If you have any questions, please contact the TRUE Office: 916-648-9791, or true.office@yahoo.com.
NEA MEMBER BENEFITS AND NFCC: OFFERING SOLUTIONS TO HELP YOU MANAGE DEBT

In light of the current economic situation and the worsening of the economic crisis, many members are wondering what to do and where they can find help. A great place to begin is www.debtadvice.org/nea. From there, members can search on the NEA Member Benefits and NFCC web-sites for solutions that best fit their particular financial situation.

By going to www.nfcc.org a menu of options can be accessed including:
- NFCC Homeowner Crisis Resource Center
- Free consumer video, “Avoiding Foreclosure”
- Find a Counselor Now: Find an NFCC Agency Near You
- Consumer Debt Advice
- And a Newsroom with updated information

In addition, NEA Member Benefits offers a wide variety of information at www.neamb.com then click on the Tools & Tips link and go to the section that is most pertinent to your needs.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

The Elections Committee has just completed the local NEA-RA election. As per the NEA rules and TRUE Bylaws, no ballot was needed because the number of candidates was less than the number of seats available. I would like to congratulate Kerri Asbury, Joyce Childs, Chuck Denonn, Wendy Gallimore, Ann Murray, and Danalynn Zacharias. They will be representing TRUE this summer in San Diego at the NEA Representative Assembly.

Julianne Neal, TRUE Elections Chair

TRANSFERRING COVERAGE TO THE STANDARD HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

Do you have voluntary Disability and/or Life Insurance with another carrier? Starting April 1, 2009, you can switch that coverage to the CTA-endorsed plans with Standard Insurance Company without proof of good health! It’s easy. Simply provide proof of your existing coverage with your application and you can transfer to the next closest level of coverage.

If you are applying for Disability coverage, proof of existing coverage would be your current payroll stub showing the premium deduction for your Disability coverage or other proof of payment if you are billed directly.

If you are applying for Life coverage, proof of existing coverage would be your current payroll stub showing the premium deduction for your Life coverage or other proof of payment if you are billed directly and a Certificate of Insurance showing the amount of coverage you have. Don’t wait too long; this opportunity ends on May 31, 2009.

With CTA-endorsed coverage you get:
- Quality protection developed and maintained for your best interests. Your plan benefits are consistently monitored by CTA, with special quality assurance and an Advisory Panel on Endorsed Services to ensure you are treated fairly and get the highest standards of service.
- Online enrollment, claim filing and more through MyCTA at www.cta.org
- A dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at The Standard, exclusively serving your needs.

To learn more or enroll, log in to MyCTA at www.cta.org or call our Dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800-522-0406 (TTY) Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Stay informed!
Visit often the TRUE website:
www.trueassociation.org
John Ennis, Vice President for High School and Adult Education

I graduated from Cordova High School in 1975, and from UC Davis in 1979. I was a Political Science major. I have been a special day class teacher for the last twenty years and I am currently working at Foothill High School. I have taught many different subjects over the years. I have a long history of union involvement. For two years, starting in 1999, I was Secretary of the Executive Board of the Grant Teachers Association (GTA). In 2001, I became union President for GTA and served in that position for seven years. In December 2008, I was elected as Vice President for TRUE, representing Secondary and Adult Education teachers. I believe information is power, and sharing power leads to TRUE power.

Organizing Update —

Thank you for your support on Friday, March 13, 2009 on "Pink Friday". We rallied at The Capitol, showed our solidarity on campuses by wearing pink and got the word out that we need funding for our schools. Here in Twin Rivers, we have nearly 400 teachers who have received a pink slips. Our fight is not over- in fact it is just beginning ...

Please help support our teachers and get the word out that we need help keeping school funding:
1. Wear pink EVERY Friday until May 15, 2009. Encourage the kids, staff and parents to do so too.
2. If you want a pink "Save our Teachers" t-shirt, they cost $10. Contact Kari Scow @ (916) 410-7137.
3. Forward the names and numbers of active parents to me through e-mail: wendygallimore@trueassociation.org

Now is the time to take a stand and fight for jobs. These are your jobs or the jobs of your colleagues. We cannot just let the District take away our teachers without a fight.

Our fight is not over until all of our teachers have been called back and are teaching next fall.

An injury to one is an injury to all! Stand together and get the word out that our teachers should be in their classrooms, not in the unemployment line.

Wendy Gallimore, Organizing Chair

TRUSD Board Members Continue to Listen—

The three Meet and Greet sessions with TRUSD Board Trustees were very successful. TRUE members were given the opportunity to share their comments and concerns. They explained that due to the merger, classified cannot be laid off until 2010. They are protected by State statute. This is the reason teachers are having to take a harder hit than we would have if we had already been an existing unified district. Other topics discussed were budget concerns, pay freezes, removal of crossover unit pay increases. The plan by the TRUE organizing team is to have more of these meetings with the Trustees in the future.

Welcome To The World!

Congratulations to Mysti Ligenfelter, from Village School, who had a baby girl Abigail Rose born on Inauguration Day January 20, 2009. She weighed 10 lbs 6 oz and she was 21 inches long.
On February 2, 2009, the IFT Board (The Institute for Teaching funded by CTA member’s dues) voted unanimously to provide funding from January 2009-June 2010 for the development of The Algebra Project Twin Rivers (APTR). This project was conceived by two teachers in Twin Rivers from Allison Elementary School, Wendy Gallimore and Danalynn Zacharias. These two teachers were inspired by the work of Robert P. Moses and the Algebra Project. Moses is one of the most important voices in the civil rights movement.

Bob Moses believes that the most urgent social issue affecting poor people and people of color is economic access. He believes that in today’s world, economic access and full citizenship depend crucially on math and science literacy. Moses adds, “I know how strange it can sound to say that math literacy and algebra in particular is the key to the future of disenfranchised communities, but that is what I think, and believe with all my heart.” He outlines his beliefs in his 2001 book, Radical Equations- Civil Rights from Mississippi to the Algebra Project and argues that math literacy for all children is a key next step in the ongoing fight for equal citizenship.

While the project grew over the course of two years to become a larger partnership involving the Sacramento Valley Organizing Community (SVOC)/Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the CTA Institute for Teaching, Twin Rivers Unified School District, UC Davis CRESS Center and California State University- Sacramento, it has remained true to the ideals and visions of the teachers who conceived it.

Algebra is recognized as a gate-keeper course for higher mathematics. The purpose of the APTR is to support algebraic reasoning in the elementary grades, prepare students for mathematics in the middle grades and for Algebra One by the eighth grade. The end result is, preparing students for college preparatory mathematics in high school, and giving them the mathematical knowledge required for college entrance, success in college courses, and lifelong civic engagement.

The Algebra Project uses mathematics as an organizing tool to ensure quality public school education. APTR brings together and engages families, students, teachers, administrators, and community members in ways that support student well-being and collaborative community school partnerships. Teachers will receive extensive training and will develop curriculum that will help students meet and hopefully exceed state standards.

TRUE continues to support its members and is truly making a difference in the North Area Community. Congratulations to our teachers who understand that change can be teacher driven and supported by a broad base of organizations who want to see the students of Twin Rivers succeed.

Wendy Gallimore, Allison Elementary School

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### Calendar of Events:

**March 03** ...........TRUSD Board of Trustees Meeting - 6:30 pm, at Vineland

**March 10** ...........TRUE Executive Board Meeting  4:00 pm, at TRUE Office

**March 20** ...........TRUSD Board of Trustees Meeting 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at Vineland

**March 31** ...........TRUSD Board of Trustees Meeting (check the TRUSD website for time and place)

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### EDUCATION NEWS—

Economic Stimulus Compromise would provide billions for education and the No Child Left Behind law for students in K-12. “The AP(2/13) reports that the economic stimulus plan negotiated in Congress on Feb. 12 allocates $44.5 billion in aid to local school districts to prevent layoffs and cutbacks with flexibility to use the funds for school modernization and repair. Another $25.2 billion would go to school districts to fund special education.