On September 15, 2011, Capital Service Center Council (CSCC) held the 3rd annual Kick-Off Dinner at Lions Gate Hotel. CTA President Dean Vogel spoke about the challenges facing teachers, the love of the profession and tax fairness. Members had a great time socializing and getting to know the leadership from Capital Service Center. Over 40 TRUE members attended the event. Keep a look out for next year’s event which promises to be even bigger and better.

Just in case you did not know, Capital Service Center Council is a part of the CTA Governance structure which acts as a conduit for communication between locals and CTA State Council. (Read below for more information) If you ever have a question, concern or would like to know more, please contact one of your elected State Council Representatives: Janet Schafer, Kerri Asbury, and Wendy Gallimore.

Wendy Gallimore
CSCC Secretary

Capital Service Center Council (CSCC) provides 80 local chapters within 8 counties a means for exchanging information and serves as a forum for discussing actions under consideration by CTA State Council (CTA’s elected legislative and policymaking body). The CSCC counties are: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Tuolumne, and Yolo. CSCC services local chapters in CTA directorial Districts “D” and “E” in Regions 1 and 2. TRUE is in District “D” and Region 2. CSCC holds 4 general meetings per year. CSCC also coordinates membership participation through regional CTA programs and activities including workshops/trainings, CTA/NEA elections, and political activities such as Lobby Day, Candidate Interviews and School Board dinners.
TRUE NEWS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

September 15, 2011

TRUE is still concerned with three main issues: air conditioning problems throughout the District, overcrowded individual classrooms, and Principals that are far from exemplary.

Each week TRUE has sent the District reports of A/C problems and lists of classrooms with too many students. There has been some movement about class sizes, but not to an acceptable level. The air conditioning problems have been getting fixed, but then a compressor or something else goes out somewhere else. In addition, there are about five (5) Principals that are less than exemplary. TRUE is having discussions with the District on this, seeking significant improvement in that area.

If teachers are to be put under more scrutiny (I-Obser vation, for example) the day of mediocre administration needs to end. TRUE knows of many teachers with Administrative Credentials that can be better leaders and lead with compassion.

John Ennis
TRUE President

TRUSD’S GRAND JURY RESPONSE

The District’s long awaited response to the Grand Jury Report was arrogant, but predictable. The District would not acknowledge one iota of regret, remorse or poor judgment. While TRUE does not believe the report reaches the level of criminality, the District has made organizational and political mistakes in its thirty-nine (39) month existence.

Since July 1, 2008 the Twin Rivers Unified School district has spent $7.2 million on the law firm of Timothy Cary and Associates. TRUE has spoken to the School Board in public and in private suggesting an in-house attorney would be much more economically viable than the present arrangement. If an in-house attorney would have been hired in June 2009, as we asked for, about $4 million could’ve been saved. An in-house lawyer would cost about $200,000 a year plus an annual budget of another $300,000. We are aware some legal costs and cases would have to be contracted out, but the current system is an economic disaster. This waste of money is a poor organizational/management decision and a poor political judgment. This general fund money could’ve been spent on students, classified employees and teachers.

TRUE believes this particular issue resonates with the public and believes 90% of the community would insist on an in-house lawyer. This issue will not go away. It will be a political issue in the June 2012 School Board Campaign. The most ironic thing about this, is that it is the easiest issue to solve.

The next important issue is the fact that this School Board has been presiding since their first meeting on November 27th, 2007 and their last meeting will be on June 26th, 2012. Their term of office will have been four years and seven months. The Board Members voted 4 to 2 to not consolidate the election in November 2010 and move it to June 2012; the District claims to have saved between $140,000 to $300,000. We are all for saving money, but this was a political decision. The public did not elect this Board for a four year, seven month term. This decision was done in consultation with their attorney, with minimal input from the community at a Saturday Board meeting. While it is too late to remedy this situation, we learned a valuable civics lesson. The lesson is to demand a four year term or less, and the public needs to be outraged and galvanized about this issue to make a difference. The Board decision to prolong their terms was ill-advised, condemned by the Sacramento Bee and likely a major campaign issue in June 2012.

John Ennis
TRUE President
ORGANIZING NEWS

We had the first Organizing Committee Meeting for the 2011-2012 school year on Wednesday, September 14. At the end of last year our Site Reps went through training on how to conduct “House Meetings” at their sites. The purpose of these meetings are to increase communication and for our members to have an opportunity to express varying points of view, combine ideas and understandings as a way to clarify the issues faced by all members.

We wish to continue to have these meetings at each site throughout the year. New information will be sent to each Site Rep so they can conduct a House Meeting for this new school year. We will collect the results at the next Rep Council meeting on the 25th of October. Feedback will follow at a General Membership meeting.

We want to thank the schools that conducted these meetings last spring. We will share the results with the General Membership once the results are tabulated. All organizing is re-organizing.

Your Organizing core team is: Jeanie Stockton-chair, Bill Avery, John Kreutzer, Janet Kouzel, Shirley Chambers, Catherine Mapes, Julieanne Neal, Craig Green, and Kristin Finney.

Contribute 1 Day Per Year to the CATASTROPHIC LEAVE BANK

If you, your child, spouse/partner, or immediate family member is suffering from a catastrophic illness or injury, and you have run out of sick-leave days, you may request from the Bank donation of up to 100 more sick-leave days.

In case of need, only contributors to the Bank will be allowed to request withdrawal sick-leave days from the Bank.

To join the program, you must be a permanent employee, and have at least 9 days of sick-leave left after donating 1 day to the Bank.

Forms can be found on the TRUE Website.

Enrollment ends October 7, 2011
WIN A LOUNGE MAKEOVER FOR YOUR SCHOOL

California Casualty, the CTA-endorsed Auto and Home Insurance provider, would like to invite you to enter the School Lounge Makeover contest. This is an opportunity for your school to get a free makeover of its school lounge. The lounge makeover is valued at $7,500 and the winner will be announced on November 15, 2011.

You can even increase your chance of winning by encouraging as many people in your school as possible to enter the contest. If your school doesn’t win in November, each entry will automatically remain in place for three additional drawings that will occur in 2012. This means you have four chances to win!

Go to www.schoolloungemakeover.com to enter the contest. It only takes a few minutes. You will also be able to see a video of the winner of our first school lounge makeover contest.

NEWS FROM THE STANDARD

Limited time opportunity to switch your coverage to the CTA-endorsed plans

From October 1 through November 30, 2011, you have a special opportunity to switch your Disability and/or Life Insurance coverage to the CTA-endorsed plans offered by Standard Insurance Company. To begin the process, call The Standard’s dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Newly hired CTA member, or new in your district? If you’re a newly hired CTA member or new in your district, now’s the time to get coverage. During your first 120 days of new employment, you have a special opportunity to apply for Disability Insurance and/or up to $200,000 of Life Insurance. Don’t miss this opportunity - call The Standard’s dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 for more information or apply online at www.cta.org/thestandard.

For costs and further details of the coverage and this enrollment opportunity, including the exclusions, benefit waiting periods, and reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800.522.0406.

Keep your records up-to-date

With the new school year underway remember to call The Standard if you’ve moved to a new address, changed districts or need to make changes to your beneficiary designations. It’s very important to keep your records up-to-date, and it’s easy to do. Simply call The Standard’s dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 or go online to www.cta.org/thestandard.

Teacher Funnies

A teacher was explaining gender of singular personal pronouns to her seventh graders. The lesson progressed very nicely through masculine and feminine pronouns. The teacher then asked what they thought neuter meant, meaning of course, the usage of pronouns. One student eagerly volunteered. That’s when you get your cat fixed!”
TRUE ELECTIONS UPDATE

On September 22nd, 2011, the ballots were counted for the election of the Grades 7-12, Charter & Adult Education Director-At-Large and the Ethnic Minority-At-Large Director. Our new Grades 7-12, Charter & Adult Education Director-At-Large is Catherine Roller, and the new Ethnic Minority-At-Large Director is Ann Murray. Unfortunately, less than a third of our members voted on this Election.

Our next Election is just around the corner. Declarations of Candidacy and Time-line for a TRUE State Council Representative for the term ending June 25, 2012.

Julianne Neal
Elections Chair

STAKEHOLDERS’ FORUM

On Wednesday, September 7 the TRUE Political Action Committee (PAC) hosted a Stakeholders’ Forum at the CTA Office in Natomas. The purpose of the Forum was to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to suggest names of possible candidates for the upcoming TRUSD School Board election, which will take place in June of 2012.

There were numerous interested parties present, including members of the TRUE Political Action Committee. The brainstorm activity resulted in the inclusion of well over 25 possible candidates. All whom reside within the 7 districts established by Redistricting Map 2, which was voted on and approved by the current TRUSD School Board on Tuesday, September 6th.

Because TRUE members respect the interest and involvement of all stakeholders, participation in this Forum was extremely important. The members of the TRUE PAC also felt it was imperative to seek possible candidates from a variety of sources in order to guarantee the best possible representation of our diverse community.

Suzie Dollesin
TRUE PAC Secretary

Why Be A Union Member?

For starters, membership is not automatic. You need to submit a membership form to the TRUE Office. If you are being called an “Agency Fee Payer”, TRUE has NOT received a membership form from you. It means you are paying a monthly fee instead of monthly dues. As an Agency Fee Payer, you ARE NOT entitled to any TRUE/CTA/NEA benefits or protection! If you are not a member. Join NOW! Contact the TRUE Office to get the form.

CTA and NEA have many benefits for all members. These benefits include CTA automatic benefits & NEA member benefits. Among others, the member benefits include the following:

• CTA Death & Dismemberment Plan
• NEA Complimentary Life Insurance
• CTA/NEA Education Employment Liability Insurance
• CTA Disaster Relief Fund
• CTA Vision Discount Program for CTA/NEA-Retired
• CTA Group Legal Services

NEOTIATIONS UPDATE

We have had several sessions with the District and negotiations are going well. We are close to a tentative agreement on several articles and hope to be finished within the next few months. Our sessions will be every Thursday afternoon until we have a tentative agreement.

Chris Moran
Lead Negotiator

Member Benefits Through CTA

You can rent a car at a corporate rate through CTA’s Rental Car Program.

• Contact Enterprise Rent-A-Car at (800)736-8227
• Online reservations at www.enterprise.com
• Enter CTA as the Company Name for online reservations
• Provide your account number as NACA068
• Upon arrival at the rental car counter show proof of your membership with CTA by showing your CTA membership card.
### TRUE CARS+CORNER

TRUE CARS is off and running Leadership has set dates for this year’s meetings, so please save the following days on your calendar:

- **September 22, 2011:** Elections of officers, Guest Speaker (Gayle Green) on SEIS
- **October 20, 2011:** Template for school board recognition of Day of Special Educator, Guest speaker on legal issues around special education.
- **November 16, 2011:** Planning for Day of the Special Educator party in December, make and take, and swap meet
- **December 2, 2011:** Celebration for the Day of the Special Educator, (all TRUE members are welcome, because we all work with special children). There should also be a showcase of events for the CARS+ Convention to be held in February 2012 at the Convention Center in Riverside, California.
- **January 19, 2012:** Common Core State Standards update to let members know how all this will affect special education. Hopefully there will also be a Make and Take event related to the standards.
- **February 16, 2012:** As the CARS+ convention will be held February 24-25, 2012, the TRUE CARS chapter will walk through the convention brochure and discuss the workshops and presenters.
- **March 22, 2012:** This is an excellent time to attend TRUE CARS+ chapter if you still have not joined the team. We come back from Convention and share materials from the workshops we attended.
- **April 19, 2012:** Elections for the 2012-2013 school year and share what is working and would be beneficial for the next year.
- **May 17, 2012:** Celebrations and transitions, swap meet, and guest speaker TBA.

Joyce Childs  
CARS+ Region 7 Director

### NEA NEWS

#### Districts Across US See Surge In Kindergarten Enrollment.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (8/31, Mitchell) reports that after having seen "declining enrollment for years," districts in and around Minneapolis have seen a surge in kindergarten enrollment, "forcing them to scramble this spring to find solutions." Describing it as "both a boon and a bane," the article notes that this "could mark just the beginning of an enrollment renaissance in the Minneapolis schools sparked by a rise in birth rates and a downturn in the economy, which has kept more families in the city and forced them to opt for public education over costly private options." Officials in one district say that solutions to the enrollment surge "could include adding on new space at crowded buildings or constructing new schools -- fixes that would require more staff in a district that isn't financially strapped, but not flush with cash either."

#### California Test Scores Show Narrowing Achievement Gap.

The San Jose Mercury News (8/25, Noguchi) reports that data released this week from high school exit exams in California show that "for the first time," over 90% of the state's "black and Latino students passed both the English and math portions. ... The milestone comes five years after California started requiring students to pass the controversial test -- a breeze for most seniors, a burden for many traditionally left behind --before they can graduate." The "encouraging" figures show that 94.6% of all students passed the test, and "numbers are steadily climbing among students at the bottom of the academic achievement gap that separates white and Asian students from black and Latino students."
THE ALGEBRA SUCCESS ACADEMY

We are very pleased to welcome you to a new school year in Twin Rivers with the expansion of the formerly known Algebra Project. This year students at Allison Elementary and Rio Tierra Junior High will be participating in what is now known as the Algebra Success Academy (ASA). Sponsors of the Algebra Success Academy are the California Teachers Association Institute for Teaching (CTA/IFT) and UC Davis (UCD) in partnership with Twin Rivers Unified School District (TRUSD) and Twin Rivers United Educators (TRUE). With the addition of Rio Tierra more students have an opportunity to experience, participate in and guide an innovative approach to education focusing on mathematics.

Recognizing that Algebra is a gate-keeper course for higher mathematics, the purpose of the CTA-IFT/UC Davis Algebra Success Academy is to support algebraic reasoning in the elementary and middle school grades, and Algebra 1 by the eighth grade. We are preparing students for college preparatory mathematics while they are in high school, thus giving them the mathematical knowledge required for college entrance success in college courses, and lifelong civic engagement.

The CTA-IFT/UC Davis Algebra Success Academy uses mathematics to ensure a quality public school education. The Algebra Success Academy brings families together and engages, students, teachers, administrators, and community members in ways that support student’s well being and collaborative community school partnerships. Teachers have received extensive training and have developed curriculum that will help students meet and hopefully exceed state standards.

The California Teacher’s Association’s Institute for Teaching has dedicated significant funds towards the Algebra Success Academy, and the UC Davis CRESS Center’s will provide support and evaluation services. Our classes will have a wide variety of experiences tailored to meet the needs of our students. Students will learn teamwork, independence, and the power of analytical thought in a yearlong experience focused on learning math concepts. Students will gain a deep conceptual understanding of higher-level math concepts. And learn “why” we do math and “how” it works through real life experiences, before using algebraic symbols.

During the year, we have many events planned, including Family Math Nights, field trips to local colleges and universities, teambuilding at the Motherlode Ropes Course, and the After School Program, which includes music concepts and African Drumming. During the school day, students will use teamwork and individual class work to experience math in a way that is not common in most classrooms.

We are excited to expand the program and bring this opportunity to more students. If you are interested in learning more about the program and how to bring it to your school, please contact Lead Teacher, Wendy Gallimore at wenisirie@comcast.net or Janet Schafer at jschafer@surewest.net.

Mathematics Literacy for all!

Wendy Gallimore
ASA Lead Teacher
EXECUTIVE BOARD:

OFFICERS:
- President: John Ennis - true.office@yahoo.com
- Vice-President: Kristin Finney - pazgirlk@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Chris Moran - riteacher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: Rick Mau - rickmau@trueassociation.org

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE:
- For Pre-K - Grade 6: Julieanne Neal - julieanneneal1@surewest.net, Sharon Reichelt - sreichelt23@gmail.com, Jeanie Stockton - davejavu1@comcast.net, Lisa Gant - lisasring@sbcglobal.net
- For Grades 7-12: Paul Le Francois - lefrancois1@earthlink.net, Catherine Roller - caroller54@aol.com
- K-12 Special Ed.: Chris Bach - bacher3@aol.com
- Minority Rep.: Ann Murray - annmurray456@gmail.com
- Specialty Groups: Maria Gallegos - gallegos4@gmail.com

NEGOTIATIONS TEAM
- Lead Negotiator: Chris Moran - riteacher@yahoo.com, Janet Schafer, Chris Bach

CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT (Grievances)
- Paul Le Francois - lefrancois1@earthlink.net
- Joyce Childs - joyandmic@sbcglobal.com
- Sharon Reichelt - sreichelt23@gmail.com

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
- Committee Chair: Julieanne Neal - julieanneneal1@surewest.net

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)
- Committee Chair: Joyce Childs - joyandmic@sbcglobal.net

TRUE Reps on the Employee Relations Council (TRERC)
- Paul Le Francois, Maris Gallegos, Shirley Chambers, Julieanne Neal, Joyce Childs, Jack Masters

CTA STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
- Janet Schafer, Keri Asbury, Alternate: Catherine Roller
- Wendy Gallimore, Ann Murray, Alternate: Lisa Gant

TRUE NEWS
- Editor: Ann Murray - annmurray456@gmail.com
- Editing Assistant: Evelyn Alvarado, Jen Turner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- Oct. 04 ....... TRUSD School Board Meeting
- Oct. 07 ....... Last Day to sign up for Catastrophic Leave Bank
- Oct. 11 ....... TRUE Executive Board Meeting
- Oct. 31 ......... Professional Development K-12
- Nov. 01 .......... TRUSD School Board Meeting
- Nov. 08 .......... TRUE Executive Board Meeting
- Nov. 11 .......... Veteran's Day No School
- Nov. 21-25 ....... Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 29 .......... Rep. Council Meeting
- Dec. 06 .......... TRUE Executive Board Meeting
- Dec. 13 .......... TRUSD School Board Meeting