I hope everyone had a restful Spring Break. As we move forward towards the end of the school year, we have a lot to do. Our School Board election race for Areas 2, 4 and 6 will be on the forefront of our to-do list, along with Organizing Committee activities to support our Negotiations Team when needed.

The salary and benefits Tentative Agreement that passed is just the beginning of what our Negotiations Team will be fighting for at the table for the 2014-2017 Collective Bargaining Agreement (Contract). Our team is prepared to work for another salary and benefits package that reflects the new monies for next year, which will be much more substantial than this year, along with other Contract language improvements.

Please check out TRUE's website at www.trueassociation.org for all of the current information on phone banking and precinct walking for John Dexter (Area 2) and Lanette Robinson-Baker (Area 6). In this issue of TRUE News you can also find information about schools located in Areas 2 and 6, as well as the calendar for phone-banking and precinct walking. Sign up to volunteer!

My President's Challenge to you for these Board election activities will be:

1. Phone-bankers from the school with the highest percentage of people doing phone banking will get dinner at Garcia's Restaurant on me!
2. Walkers from the school with the highest percentage of people doing precinct walking will get dinner at Garcia's Restaurant on me!
3. The TRUE member who makes the most calls during phone banking will win a new Kindle.
4. The TRUE member with second most phone calls will win a $100 Target gift card.
5. The TRUE member with the third most phone calls will win a $50 Visa gift card.

Most of the School Board election activities ask for about 3 hours of your time. Having a majority of members of the School Board be ones who value teachers' input is definitely worth much more than 3 hours. The decisions our School Board makes directly impacts our classrooms; we need people on our Board who will listen to educators and acknowledge that we have the most impact on our students.

I look forward to seeing you at phone banking nights and precinct walking days!

Kristin Finney
TRUE President
ENDORSEMENT OF TWIN RIVERS SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES
- ELECTION JUNE 3, 2014 FOR 3 TRUSTEE AREAS -

TRUE PAC Endorsement Process:
- Invited community stakeholders to provide input
- Sent questionnaire to candidates
- Solicited input from CSEA, the classified staff union
- Eight-member TRUE panel conducted candidate interviews
- Motion presented to the TRUE Site Rep Council for TRUE’s endorsement of candidates. Motion approved unanimously.

For Trustee Area 2:
JOHN DEXTER

Schools in Area 2
- Allison Elementary
- CCAA 6-12
- Eastside WPCS 7-8
- Foothill High School
- Foothill Oaks
- Foothill Ranch
- Frontier Elementary
- Frontier WPCS 7-8
- Highlands High School
- Hillsdale Elementary
- Miles P. Richmond
- Ridgepoint K-8
- Woodridge Elementary

For Trustee Area 6:
LANETTE ROBINSON

Schools in Area 6
- Fairbanks Elementary
- Garden Valley Elementary
- Morey Avenue Pre K - K
- Rio Tierra Jr. High
- Smythe Academy Pre K-6
- Smythe Academy 7-8
- Strauch Elementary

For Trustee Area 4:
No Endorsement
WHY TRUE RECOMMENDS DEXTER AND ROBINSON

TRUE had a very intense endorsement process this year (see opposite page for details). While we cannot guarantee what anyone will do once elected, it is our belief that John and Lanette will include TRUE in conversations related to the education of Twin Rivers students. Here is a brief synopsis from the recommendation process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOHN DEXTER for Trustee Area 2</th>
<th>LANETTE ROBINSON for Trustee Area 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is focused on being fiscally sound and has pushed for sound budgeting practices.</td>
<td>Lynette has over 25 years in the banking industry and will push for sound budget practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-time area resident, his children graduated from Twin Rivers schools, where he was very involved.</td>
<td>Has lived in the area most of her life, graduated from Grant HS, very active and connected to her community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative, works closely with teachers.</td>
<td>Understands the local issues surrounding Twin Rivers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports teacher rights such as seniority, academic freedom and collective bargaining.</td>
<td>Supports teacher rights and union issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Running against John Dexter for Area 2............ Michelle Rivas - Twin Rivers Board member 2008-2012
Running against Lanette Robinson for Area 6... Roger Westrup - Twin Rivers Board member 2008-2012

Rebecca Sandoval - Twin Rivers Board member 2012-2014

GET INVOLVED - MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS ELECTION!

Fill out a Commitment Form, which can be found on our Facebook page and/or website: www.trueassociation.org

K.J. Rhoads
TRUE PAC Chair

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION PHONE BANKING & PRECINCT WALKING

All phone banking will take place from 5-8 pm at the TRUE office, 3318 Howard Street, McClellan, Ca 95652, except on May 27th, when it will move to the CTA Natomas office, 4100 Truxel Road, Sacramento, Ca 95834.

Precinct walking will begin at 9:00 am on designated Saturdays at John Dexter’s home: 6672 Silverthorne Circle, Sacramento 95842.

Prizes will be awarded for schools having the highest percentage of participation for precinct walking and phone banking. (See President’s Message on front page for details.)

May 6 - Allison, Miles P. Richmond, Pioneer, Northwood
May 7 - CCAA (K-5 & 6-12), Dry Creek, Fairbanks Del Paso, Oakdale
May 8 - Westside (K-6 & 7-8), Woodridge, Hagginwood, Babcock
May 10 - Precinct Walking with John Dexter
May 13 - Adult Ed, Strauch, Rio Tierra Jr. HS, Garden Valley, Morey Avenue
May 14 - Open Night—All Schools at the TRUE Office
May 15 - Foothill Oaks, Noralto, Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr. HS
May 17 - Precinct Walking with John Dexter
May 20 - Foothill HS, Grant HS, Vista Nueva/Nova HS, Castori, Keema HS
May 21 - Foothill Ranch, Orchard, Vineland/Pathways, Sierra View
May 22 - Frontier P-6 & 7-8, Rio Linda HS, Rio Linda Prep, Norwood Jr. HS

***May 27 - Open Night—All Schools, at CTA Natomas Office, (After Site Rep Council Meeting)

May 28 - Highlands HS, Smythe P-6, Smythe 7-8, Woodlake
May 29 - Ridgepoint, Joyce, Madison, Kohler
May 31 - Precinct Walking with John Dexter
June 2 - Hillside/Eastside, Regency Park, Pacific HS, Village
June 3 - Election Day
The TRUE Professional Development Committee continues to plan for upcoming opportunities, one of which will be a facilitated book study focused on Setting Limits in the Classroom. We are currently selecting our “kick off” date to launch this series. The plan is to begin with a May workshop that includes book distribution, needs assessment, and a reading schedule. The subsequent workshops will take place in monthly meetings during the 2014-15 academic year. More specific information will be forthcoming.

We have also scheduled the “Unconscious Bias” training that will be provided by the CTA Human Rights Department. It will take place on July 29 and 30, 2014 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. This workshop has been well received by our colleagues in other districts and we are excited about offering it to our members. Attendance will be limited to 30 educators, so sign up as soon as possible through My Learning Plan.

A reminder to our members that TRUE’s Professional Development Committee meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1st at 4:00 PM. These meetings are held at the TRUE Office and are open to all members. Please come join us!

Edna Shoemaker
Professional Development Committee Chair

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ELECTIONS UPDATE

The TRUE Elections Committee counted the ballots to ratify the Tentative Agreement for the 2013-2014 school year on April 10, 2014. All schools except two: Babcock Elementary and Highlands High School, returned ballots. There were a total of 1,038 ballots cast, with 71 of those ballots considered illegal ballots. The reasons for the illegal ballots were: 69 late ballots (53 from Rio Linda H.S. and 16 from Strauch Elem.) and 2 voters were not on the certificated staff list. Of the 967 legal votes cast, 906 votes were to ratify and 61 votes were opposed to ratification. The Tentative Agreement was ratified.

Currently, the TRUE Elections Committee is running two elections:

First: For one CTA State Council Representative and one CTA State Council Alternate, with terms ending in June 2017. Ballots for the CTA State Council seat were picked up or delivered to the sites on April 10th, with voting going from April 10th to May 2nd. These ballots are due at the TRUE office by 4:30 p.m. on May 2, 2014 at the latest. Late ballots or ballots delivered through the District mail will not be counted.

Second: Election of eight Directors-at-Large on the TRUE Executive Board: three representing teachers in grades Pre-K through 6, two representing teachers in grades 7-12 & Adult Education, one representing K-12 Special Education teachers, one representing Specialty Groups, and one Ethnic Minority Representative. All their terms will be for two years, ending in May 2016. The timeline and Declaration of Candidacy forms were posted on the TRUE website on April 21, 2014. Declarations of Candidacy are due at the TRUE office on May 6, 2014. Ballots will be delivered to sites on May 8th and voting will take place from May 8th to May 19th, with ballots due at the TRUE office by 4:30 p.m. on May 19, 2014. Late ballots or ballots delivered through the District mail will not be counted.

Voter turnout for the past few elections has been fantastic. Thank you for taking the time to vote throughout this busy election year.

Julieanne Neal
TRUE Elections Committee Chair
Marzano in his book *Leaders of Learning: How District, School, and Classroom Leaders Improve Student Achievement*, explains that the PLCs or Professional Learning Community process is becoming the platform for forging professional relationships between teachers and administration. This transformation from a culture of isolation to a culture of collaboration will not occur in a school without effective leadership of the principal. PLCs are needed to help provide common objectives as we dive deeper into the newly adopted ideas of the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Most districts are using Professional Learning Communities to address the challenges of professional development and class size reduction. Professional development usually is focused on newly adopted interventions and curriculum rather than individual interests. Class size reduction resulted in better learning environments for students. According to the Quality Education Investment Act of 2006 (QEIA) class size reductions and the professional learning community process resulted in collaborative team structures that allowed principals to execute a number of responsibilities of school leadership in an integrated and focused fashion. The developments of PLCs were beneficial to changes, practices, and establishing stronger relationships between teachers and administrators. Principals no longer met with individuals, instead they met with teams on a regular basis.

In conclusion, with the results of the QEIA findings on schools, districts and their need for professional development, along with the works of Robert J. Marzano and Richard Dufour on Professional Learning Communities (PLC), encourage collaboration as a common language to help students learn and think.

Dr. Mireille Jean-Marie Singh
Science Teacher - Rio Linda Prep.

References:

The Twin Rivers Employee Relations Council has met with Dr. Martinez on two occasions. TRUE has presented information on reconfigured TK-8, K-8 sites, Late Start Wednesdays, Specialty Groups concerns and the need for an in-house suspension room. The District is looking for consistency with reconfigured sites and expects something to be in place by the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Martinez is also analyzing and looking at the late start Wednesdays and early outs. The District has shared concerns with our team in regards to Common Core testing facility issues.

The TRUE TRERC team consists of Paul Le Francois for Secondary, Shirley Chambers for Elementary and Bill Avery for Specialty Groups (Psychologists, Speech Therapists, Counselors, Nurses, Librarians, Program Specialists, Student Learning Coaches, Student Support Teachers). If you have any topics that you feel should be discussed at the Employee Relations Council, please e-mail Paul Le Francois at lefrancois1@earthlink.net

Paul Le Francois
TRERC Representative
Kass Defends USDA School Nutrition Rules That Have Prompted “Grumbling” From Students.

According to the Washington Post (4/21, A1, Eilperin), “Each president and first lady sets a new tone for the White House...but few have so transformed the culture inside the building the way the Obamas have regarding nutrition and fitness.” Sam Kass, “executive director of first lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move initiative and the White House senior policy adviser for nutrition policy,” is quoted as saying, “The culture here has shifted pretty dramatically, in direct ways and indirect ways, based on their leadership.” The Post notes that the Agriculture Department has raised the nutritional standards for school lunches and banned the marketing and sale of unhealthy foods and beverages in school cafeterias, vending machines or at bake sale fundraisers that occur during school hours.” According to Kass, “We’ll see some grumbling from high-school students this fall, but for a 5 or 6 year old, this will just be all they’ll ever know.”

Analysis: Obama’s Education Legacy Focuses On Equity.

An analysis of President Obama’s education legacy in MinnPost (4/21) reports that though it had appeared in recent years that President Obama would “leave office with no education legacy whatsoever,” this changed over the winter, and he recently announced “two bold equity initiatives, initially to less fanfare than one might imagine.” The article reports that Obama’s focus on “young people of color, and in particular young black men,” has “energized educators and their advocates.” The article notes that Obama “spoke pretty candidly about his youth” in introducing the My Brother’s Keeper initiative, stating that of even greater importance is Education Secretary Arne Duncan’s recently having “warned schools nationwide that [the Administration] will not tolerate the severe racial disparities in suspensions, expulsions and other high-stakes forms of discipline that are now the rule in too many places.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) launched its African American Males Initiative (AAMI) in 2007 to provide educational opportunities and increase the number of African American males going to college. Following two successful AAMI conferences, the initiative has grown across the country. Today, nine sites and school districts throughout the U.S. are implementing research-based best practices, including culturally relevant teaching, recruiting and retaining African American males in AVID and rigorous curriculum. The goal of AAMI has been to use AVID to facilitate education and motivation of African American male students and open pathways to postsecondary education. Go to: http://youtu.be/PusIuuq2hzY to watch the video/short documentary about the work being done in six schools under the African American Male Initiative. The documentary features CTA IFT Think Tanker, Jeff Patterson, of Antelope Valley High School. AVHS was one of two California schools that took part in this four-year project.

Parent University, sponsored by the Inglewood Teachers' Association, in conjunction with CTA and NEA, is a program that connects parents and teachers in Inglewood schools. Supporting this program, the Inglewood Teachers Association received a CTA - IFT chapter grant for the second year in a row.

Parent University goals are to work with parents on ways to participate in their children's education and to provide parents with information on homework, instructional requirements, Common Core State Standards, school structure, district policies, and other educational issues. The Inglewood Teachers Association is continuously striving towards increasing parental involvement, as well as building a strong connection with parents because that’s what gets results. A partnership between parents and teachers is what increases achievement and helps to close the achievement gap. Inglewood Teachers Association's Parent University is a step forward in the right direction. For more information, visit their website: https://itaparentuniversity.shutterfly.com/

For grants and other helpful information, check the IFT website: http://www.teacherdrivencchange.org/
Members of TRUE CARS attended the 33rd Annual CARS Plus Convention February 27 to March 1st, in Irvine, California. The convention offered a variety of very interesting workshops; this year’s focus was on how the Common Core State Standards will be implemented in special education programs. Special educators will be required to cover the specific grade level standards for each student in their program who is on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Our own Sarah Kesty, from Oakdale Elementary, was a presenter at the convention with the workshops “Disability Awareness and Empathy: Everyone Has Something Approach” and “Palatable IEP: Making Meetings Everyone-Friendly”. Sarah also sold copies of her book "Everyone Has Something. Together We Can" (check out her Facebook page: Author Sarah Kesty).

Twin Rivers Special Education teachers who were in attendance at the CARS Plus convention were: Gwen Malnassy, Deborah DeAvila, Diana Perkins, Karen Price, Theresa Bradley, Teresa Taylor, Amanda Johnson and Joyce Childs. Joyce Childs was installed as President-Elect of CARS Plus, the California Association for Special Educators.

If you are interested in reviewing some of the material/handouts of the workshops offered at the CARS Plus Annual Convention, go to: http://carsplus.org/members-only/membership-2014-convention-handouts/

Joyce Childs
CARS+ President-Elect
MEMBER BENEFITS

Did you know that CTA members who enroll in the CTA Voluntary Life Insurance plan have access to a travel assistance benefit? That’s right. If you are enrolled in the CTA Voluntary Life Insurance plan offered through Standard Insurance Company (The Standard), you are automatically eligible for this benefit whenever traveling more than 100 miles from home or internationally for trips of up to 180 days. Your spouse or domestic partner and dependent children up to age 26 are also eligible to use the benefit. Travel assistance services include:

- Help with pre-trip planning such as passport and visa information and advice on health hazards and inoculation requirements.
- Assistance locating medical care providers and interpreter services.
- Help finding a local attorney or consular officer.
- Assistance with travel issues such as getting an emergency airplane ticket, replacing a credit card or passport or tracking down missing baggage.

For more information go to www.CTAMemberBenefits.org

TRUE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Paul Le Francois - Azeta Towfighi

TRUE Reps on TRERC  
(Twin Rivers Employee Relations Council)
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Shirley Chambers (Representing Elementary)  
Bill Avery (Representing Specialty Groups)

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Wendy Gallimore  
Joyce Childs  
Alternates: Lisa Gant, Catherine Roller

TRUE NEWS Editor:
Ann Murray - annmurray456@gmail.com

Editing Assistants:
Evelyn Alvarado and Jen Turner

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1 ……TRUE PAC Meeting  
May 1 ……Prof. Dev. Committee Meeting  
May 6 ……..TRUSD School Board Meeting  
May 14……California Day of the Teacher  
May 20……TRUSD School Board Meeting  
May 23……Non Student Day-No School  
May 26……Memorial Day-No School  
May 27……Site Rep Council Meeting  
June 10……TRUE Executive Board Meeting  
June 10……TRUSD Board Meeting  
June 12……Last Day of School-Minimum Day

August 12...Professional Development (K-12)  
August 13...Teacher Work Day  
August 14...First Day of School for Students