On May 13, 2015 Twin Rivers United Educators’ Organizing Committee hosted a celebration for “The Day of the Educator.” A reception was held at Bella Bru Café in Natomas. A light meal consisting of various hors d’oeuvres and salads was served, as well as a dessert table baked by Theresa Bradley. This was a day to catch up with fellow teacher friends, many who may not have seen one another in a while. The festivities also made it possible for teachers to network with each other and meet new friends.

Prizes were raffled off, lots of fun and conversation was had by all who attended.

This was a social event for TRUE and it was a great success! It was the perfect end of the year event to unwind after the completion of testing and before the end of the school year, as we prepare to start our summer vacations.

The TRUE Organizing Committee is looking forward to hosting other social events such as this one in the next school year.

Julieanne Neal
TRUE Organizing Chair
Dear TRUE Members,

TRUE’s Vice President, Chris Moran and I attended the Governor’s May Revision Budget Workshop last week. There is good news of more revenue coming to education. With our new contract, this will mean an automatic raise at the beginning of next year. We do not have calculations of how much this raise will be, but when we do, we will communicate this out.

TRUE received an NEA Grant to support a 50% release time President. This grant begins next year and will give the President more time to visit school sites and connect with TRUE educators across the District.

Next year, TRUE Site Representatives will be voted in by September 1st by each school site or by department for TOSA’s and Program Specialists. A TRUE By-Law Amendment was approved by the TRUE Site Representative Council on April 30, 2015. Each Site Rep term will last one year. A term commences on the first day of September and terminates on the last day of August. There is no limit to the number of terms but By-Laws state that an election shall be held each year.

Please continue to check over the summer the personal email TRUE has for you. I will continue to communicate about District changes, and concerns and questions members have regarding District happenings.

Have a wonderful summer break! We all deserve it!

Kristin Finney
TRUE President

Interviews for the TRUE Negotiations Team have been completed and the next team has been chosen. The 2015-16 TRUE Negotiations Team returning members are: Lead Negotiator Chris Moran, Paul LeFrancois, Janet Edwards, and Mysti Lingenfelter. New to the team, as trainees, are Crystal Grooms and Rebecca LeDoux.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the contract is partially open for negotiations. Salary and Benefits are always reopened; in addition, the District and TRUE select two articles each, as reopeners. In April a survey was sent out to all members’ home emails to get direction on the articles that members want the Negotiations Team to focus on. The following articles were of the highest importance to members:

- Article 4: Work Day/Work Year
- Article 7: Class Size
- Article 9: Extra Duty Assignments
- Article 10: Evaluation
- Article 12: Member Safety.

A follow up survey was sent out in May to guide the Negotiations Team in selecting the two most important articles to reopen. That survey closed May 31st, results are not yet available. Negotiations will resume in August 2015.

Ann Murray
TRUE Newsletter Editor
TRUE Vice President Chris Moran had the pleasure of surprising Julieanne Neal with the latest WHO Award at the annual Capital Service Center WHO Awards dinner. Julieanne was nominated by TRUE President, Kristin Finney. Julieanne had no idea she was there to receive the award. She was thankful and close to speechless, which is not characteristic of Julieanne.

WHO awards are awarded to members who have displayed exemplary dedication and/or have given outstanding service. If you know Julieanne Neal, you know that she always goes above and beyond in service for our membership. She has served on the TRUE Executive Board since we were established. She volunteers for every committee that needs a leader, phone banks her heart out, and supports every program that serves our membership. Congratulations, Julieanne Neal, for outstanding achievement in union work for our teachers, for our students and for public education.

Joyce Childs
CTA State Council Representative

The May 12th Twin Rivers School Board election was very close. Our candidate, Basim Elkarra, came within about 100 votes of winning. Although we did not prevail in this election, the good news is that Basim has committed to run again next year when the term for Area 5 will be up. Thank you to those members that donated their time to phone bank and walk precincts. We had several members that made hundreds of phone calls to voters: Shannon Summers, Mireille Singh, Ann Murray, Julieanne Neal, as well as retired member, Chuck Dennon. We would also like to thank the volunteers from Student CTA and Sac City Teachers Association.

We knew this election would be an uphill climb due to the fact that nothing else was on the ballot to bring the voters to the polls. As expected, there was very low voter turn out. This made it very difficult to overcome the advantage of Sonja Cameron being a resident of Heritage Park where the majority of frequent voters reside. It is noteworthy that Heritage Park refused to allow Basim to hold a similar event to the one Sonja held in their clubhouse (even though a resident of their own community wanted to sponsor the event). We felt confident if the residents of Heritage Park could meet Basim Elkarra, many would become his supporters; unfortunately they did not get that opportunity. The good news is that next year with a Presidential Primary and ballot measures to decide, many more voters will be participating rather than a handful that decided this School Board election.

As we look to the future, we will have four School Board seats open next year. We will, once again, begin our process for candidate endorsement and supporting our chosen candidates. We welcome members that are interested in participating in this process. Some may ask why it’s important to participate in School Board elections. What does it have to do with me and my students? The School Board makes decisions about you and your classroom all the time (early out/late start, charter applications, class size, etc). Whether or not a Trustee takes the teachers’ concerns into account before making a decision is determined by their relationship with our Association. That is why we work so hard to elect Trustees that value our voice and the voice of all stakeholders. We hope many more members will join us in this important effort next year. Until then, have a wonderful summer!

Lisa Gant & Rebecca LeDoux
TRUE PAC Co-Chairs
The results have been tallied for the new TRUE Officers. These officers will hold their positions for the next two years, 2015-16 through the 2016-17 school year. The following are our newly elected TRUE officers: President: Kristin Finney, Vice President: Chris Moran, and Treasurer: Lisa Gant.

The office of Secretary is not yet final; a run-off election is taking place between the top two candidates: Julieanne Neal and Rebecca LeDoux. The voting will take place May 26th through June 9th. The results of this run-off will be sent to personal emails of TRUE members on June 10.

Ann Murray
TRUE Newsletter Editor