

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: September 17, 2007

Dear SEA Members,

*It has been a productive interval since the previous President's Report! I have listened and learned from many colleagues while visiting Sweetwater High, Eastlake Middle, Rancho del Rey Middle, Otay Ranch High, and Olympian High. I look forward to my visit to San Ysidro High in October. May I express my sincere thanks to all of the SEA Site Representatives that facilitated the visit and made it all possible! I am excited about visiting SEA Members at our traditional calendar sites in the immediate future. I will e-mail the SEA Site Reps at traditional sites, soon, to make arrangements. In addition, I have seen some of the newly remodeled science classrooms at Bonita Vista Middle, Mar Vista Middle, and Southwest Middle in the previous weeks.*

*The New Teachers Institute held in August was a wonderful opportunity to both interact with the newest to our Sweetwater community and grow our membership! Special recognition to former SEA Board Member Kathy Kavouklis, SEA Board Members John Ray, Al Ohlendorf, Rene Flores, and NEA Director Elizabeth Ahlgren for their contributions to this successful event.*

*Thank you for renewing acquaintances at the Traditional Welcome Back Meeting. I would be remiss should I not thank SEA Board Members Rene Flores and Marylen Haines for graciously volunteering their time and energy at the event. I was particularly impressed with the warm reception given by those assembled at Mar Vista High to SUHSD Board Member Jaime Mercado.*

*The SEA BOD has committed to goals and objectives developed collaboratively at our Planning Retreat in August and an additional Saturday in September. The enthusiasm at these planning sessions augurs well for our local chapter as SEA embraces its mission statement:*

***The mission of the Sweetwater Education Association, a professional organization of educators, is to act as the advocate in support of members and their students for the purposes of strengthening public education.***

*Your SEA Board of Directors worked extremely hard over the course of two Saturdays to produce goals and objectives worthy of your support. Your SEA Board of Directors are: Sam Lucero (MVM, Full-Time Release President), Chuck Patterson (ORH, Vice-President), Al Ohlendorf (BVH, Treasurer), Rene Flores (CVH, Secretary), Alex Anguiano (HH, Past President), John Ray (BTSA, At-Large), John Orcutt (RDR, At-Large), James Love (CVH, At-Large), Kathy Dyga (MoM, At-Large), Sandra Robinson (SYH, At-Large), Marylen Haines (PH, State Council), Jason Leichter (CVA, State Council), and Marijane Moon (SuHI, State Council).*

**Now, it is a time for action!** *The Miller-Pelosi NCLB Reauthorization proposal, should it continue unabated and uncorrected, may accomplish what Schwarzenegger's plethora of propositions, in November 2005, could not – specifically, eviscerate Collective Bargaining in California. To wit:*

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

- *Dismisses employee organizations (read Unions) from negotiating professional compensation (SALARY, BENEFITS, AND RETIREMENT), and working conditions (EVALUATION AND TRANSFER).*
- *Restricts “merit” to student test scores, classroom observations, and agreement to work in high-need schools for four years.*
- *Requires that “master teachers” participate in evaluations of teachers in schools with a specific grant. These master teachers now performing supervisory function.*
- *District would have to match funds for these merit pay / “Pay for Performance” schemes. The amount of money available for across-the-board salary increases or benefits increases is subject to dramatic reduction.*

*In direct, face-to-face conversation with CTA Vice-President Dean Vogel and CTA Board Member Jim Groth, on Friday, September 14, 2007, it was made abundantly clear that the SEA/CTA/NEA structure and its nexus with Collective Bargaining are in imminent jeopardy with the Miller-Pelosi NCLB Reauthorization proposal. As a Union, we must speak powerfully for our membership. We do not accept a marginalized role in determining our salaries, benefits, and retirement. We do not accept a marginalized role in our own evaluation and transfer.*

*What we do accept is this challenge. **Call and fax** the following decision-makers:*

#### **YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

- **1-888-268-4334:** *If you are calling from a cell phone, enter your home phone number at the prompt and you will be connected to your congressional office.*

#### **SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI**

- *San Francisco, CA (415) 556-4862, fax (415) 861-1670*
- *Washington, D.C. (202) 225-4962, fax (202) 225-8259*

#### **CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER**

- *Richmond, CA (510) 262-6500, fax (510) 222-1306*
- *Washington, D.C. (202) 225-2095, fax (202) 225-5609*

#### **CONGRESSWOMAN SUSAN DAVIS**

- *San Diego, CA (619) 280-5353, fax (619) 280-5311*
- *Washington, D.C. (202) 225-2040, fax (202) 225-2948*

*CONGRESSMAN HOWARD McKEON*

- *Santa Clarita, CA (661) 254-2111, fax (661) 254-2380*
- *Washington, D.C. (202) 225-1956, fax (202) 226-0683*

*CONGRESSWOMAN LINDA SANCHEZ*

- *Ceritos, CA (562) 860-5050, fax (562) 924-2914*
- *Washington, D.C. (202) 225-6676, fax, (202) 226-1012*

*CONGRESSWOMAN LYNN WOOLSEY*

- *Santa Rosa, CA (707) 542-7182, fax (707) 542-2745*
- *Washington, D.C. (202) 225-5161, fax (202) 225-5163*

*An attachment is provided to assist in conveying [OUR MESSAGE!](#)*

*We must act swiftly, [this week](#), to obtain maximum impact at this level. I know you accept the challenge and are up to the task! Let me know if I can assist in any way.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sam L. Lucero  
President, SEA*