

**Victor Elementary Teachers' Association  
Representative Council  
April 14, 2009  
Nisqualli Building  
(Pending Approval 5/12/09)**

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:24PM.

**Minutes and Reports**

- Brenda Sanchez moved to approve the agenda, Trish Covarrubias seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.
- Minutes for March, 2009 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Penny D. Smith moved to accept the minutes and Karen Bossi seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.
- President's Report for April was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Treasurer's Report was submitted by Linda Smith.

**Site Reports**

- All sites (except Galileo and 6<sup>th</sup> Street Prep.) were present and gave reports.
- **Additional Concerns Discussed:**
  - **Waiver for Snow Day** - Nancée announced that no information has been given from the state about the district's waiver to make up the December 18 snow day. She will announce information when it is released.
  - **B.A.D Ideas** - Additional ideas shared, including extending the work day to accommodate a 4-day work week.
  - **2009 - 2010 School Calendar** - Concern was expressed over excessive absences when calendars with the high school district do not align.
  - **Site Downsizing** - Members wanted clarification about how staff members are chosen for involuntary transfers. Nancée explained the process and encouraged reps to have interested members contact her with questions.
  - **Principal's Walk Through** - When principals are able to walk through classrooms, they may be particularly interested in how staff members are utilizing technology, or site purchased programs and materials.

**Old Business**

- **Standing Committees** - Nancée announced we have several vacancies on standing committees and could use volunteers.
- **Political Action Committee** - Greg Galvez was unable to attend the Rep. Council meeting and therefore could not give an update on the PAC. Nancée announced that she would share information in her Monday Memo about the next scheduled PAC meeting.

- **VETA Elections** - Elections will be held next Tuesday, 4/21/09 at the Nisqualli building from 2:15 - 5:30. Reps should remind members to vote. Volunteers on this committee, headed by Greg Galvez, include: Trish Covarrubias, Penny D. Smith, Starlett Hale and Kim Adams. Candidates include:

Vice President - Beth Fehrs  
 Treasurer - Linda Smith  
 At Large Director - Jeff Bragg

NEA/RA Delegate - Penny Edmiston  
 NEA/RA Delegate - Nancée Fine  
 NEA/RA Delegate - Joan Herdlein  
 NEA/RA Delegate - Barbara Dew

- **Politics** - CTA is encouraging teachers to participate in local rallies to support propositions in the May 19 election that will guarantee funding for education. Nancée provided some literature to help explain each proposition.
- **VETA Scholarships** - Scholarships are due to Linda Smith postmarked no later than 4/14/09 (today). Ten applications have been received so far.
- **Healthy Lifestyles** - This program is available to all teachers receiving district Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance. Members can log in to Healthy Lifestyles and earn money for their participation in education opportunities that create healthy lifestyles. Members may earn up to \$50 every 12 weeks.
- **Retirement Workshop** - Nancée reminded members about this workshop to be held April 18, 9:00 - 12:00 at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley. Members can register by calling 1-800-228-5453 or at [www.calstrs.com/workshops](http://www.calstrs.com/workshops) .
- **Good Teaching Conference** - 43 VETA members attended the reception for the Good Teaching Conference held March 13 - 15 in Anaheim. Of these attendees, 32 were sponsored by VETA. Participants were very positive about the conference.
- **Budget Committee** - The district is evaluating the BAD suggestions received and costing them out. A second DVD will probably be produced to share the cost saving ideas.
- **Day of the Teacher** - Celebrated May 13, 2009. Tanya Benitez has volunteered to remain on the committee and work with Linda Smith to plan recognition for VESD teachers.
- **VETA Bulletin Board** - Nancée reminded reps to maintain a VETA bulletin board at their site that posts all minutes, committee reports and other information shared to VETA members.

- **Relay for Life** - Rebecca Myers announced that this fundraiser for cancer awareness will be held May 30 - May 31 at Victor Valley College. Currently VESD has 9 teachers fighting cancer. Rebecca can be reached at Challenger and will answer questions if you are interested in forming a team, or joining an existing team. Additional information can be found at [www.relayforlife.org/victorvilleca](http://www.relayforlife.org/victorvilleca).

## New Business

- **August Reduction In Force** - Nancée shared information that districts in extreme financial hardship can notify members as late as August for the need to RIF employees. Our district has committed to no RIF's for the 2009 - 2010 school year.
- **Professional Conduct** - Nancée wanted to emphasize to members, "We are experiencing new and unusual times with the possibility of many involuntary moves. Members do not attack members. We fight to retain the positions we have in our district for our Association members." Additionally, remember professional conduct at all times, make sure students are never supervised alone, nor transported in personal vehicles. Remember to protect yourself and your reputation.
- **Negotiation's Report** - Penny D. Smith apologized for giving the written report for May (instead of April). She will share current information at the next Rep. Council.
- **High Desert Trust** - Nancée shared that rates have increased only 2% and encouraged members to keep using the insurance plan wisely (generics instead of name brands, doctor office visits or Urgent Care instead of Emergency Room visits, etc.). Don't forget to use the Nurse Help line.
- **Raffle** - \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Cheryl Karlen, Joan Herdlein and Debbie Gerberich. Additional prizes were won by Rebecca Myers and Starlett Hale.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
  - PAC meeting, TBA
  - Retirement workshop 4/18/09, 9:00 AM in Apple Valley.
  - Relay for Life, VVC, May 30 and 31.
  - Urgent Care should be used instead of the Emergency Room, and generics instead of name brands, when possible.
  - VETA Elections, April 21, 2:15 - 5:30 at the Nisqualli building.
  - Healthy Lifestyles available to our teachers, via Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
- **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.