

Victor Elementary Teachers' Association  
Representative Council  
March 10, 2009  
Nisqualli Building  
(Pending Approval 3/14/09)

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:18pm

**Minutes and Reports**

- Penny D. Smith moved to approve the agenda, Brenda Sanchez seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.
- Minutes for February, 2009 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. A correction was made to state: "PENS days can still be used. Please fill out the appropriate PENS request from the Ed. Services link of the district website, do NOT contact Linda Mikels to schedule. Trish Covarrubias moved to accept the minutes and Beverly Thomas seconded. The minutes were approved with the above correction.
- President's Report for March was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Treasurer's Report was submitted by Linda Smith.

**Site Reports**

- All sites were present and gave reports. Each rep was asked to report on the information shared at their site regarding the site and district budgets.
- **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** - Concerns were expressed if the district would really consider these ideas. Nancée shared that she has typed ideas from over 174 responses. The VETA Executive Board was given a copy to review.
  - **Non Re-election of Probationary 0, 1 and 2 Teachers** - Members shared concerns that the percentage of non-reelects seems significantly higher this year. Information from personnel was shared that 25% of Probationary teachers were released this school year, 16% for 2007 - 2008, 12% for 2006 - 2007, and 11% for 2005 - 2006. Nancée asked reps to make sure to let staff members know that she is available to answer any questions regarding the concerns about teachers who were non-reelected. She will meet with ANY teacher (probationary or tenured) who may have concerns about how this process works.
  - **High School District** - Barbara Dew shared that the high school district has committed to no teacher lay-offs for the 2009-2010 school year.
  - **National Teachers Associates Life Insurance** - Representatives from this company have approached reps to be allowed time at the sites for sales presentations. Nancée suggested that the reps speak with the principals regarding this. As some members may have insurance with this (and other companies), it might be to the benefit of members to have the opportunity to meet with these representatives. Perhaps a 3-minute presentation can be given at the principal's staff meeting.

**Old Business**

- **Standing Committees** - Nancée announced we have several vacancies on standing committees and could use volunteers, especially with By-laws and Elections.

- **VETA Elections** - This committee will especially need additional members as several Executive Board members are running for re-election and can not serve on the committee. Greg Galvez will head the committee and the following have volunteered to help him with the April 21 election: Trish Covarrubias, Penny D. Smith, Starlett Hale and Kim Adams. Candidates so far include:
 

Vice President - Beth Fehrs	NEA/RA Delegate - Penny Edmiston
Treasurer - Linda Smith	NEA/RA Delegate - Nancée Fine
At Large Director - Jeff Bragg	NEA/RA Delegate - Joan Herdlein
	NEA/RA Delegate - Barbara Dew
- **Political Action Committee** - Greg Galvez shared the next PAC meeting will be held March 24, 4:15 PM at the Nisqualli building. The goal is to gather suggestions for funding the PAC, and establish a means of endorsing good candidates to our local school board. If there is not enough support in creating and financing the PAC, it will likely dissolve.
- **Politics** - CTA is encouraging teachers to participate in local rallies to support "Pink Friday" on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Wear pink and support teachers who are receiving pink slips/lay off notices. VETA is providing pink t-shirts for all reps, Nancée will deliver. Local rally to be held 3/13/09 along Restaurant Row and in the Lowe's parking lot. CTA also encourages teachers to discuss the state budget and support propositions in the May 19 election that will guarantee funding for education. Nancée provided some literature and will e-mail the text of the 6 propositions as well as additional "talking points" that can help gain support for the propositions.
- **VETA Scholarships** - Applications are posted on the VETA website ([www.vetaonline.org](http://www.vetaonline.org)). Reps should make sure that members know about this opportunity for graduating seniors. Applications are due April 14, 2009.
- **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 at [www.calstrs.com/workshops](http://www.calstrs.com/workshops) or call 1-800-228-5453.
- **Good Teaching Conference** - March 13 - 15 held in Anaheim. Nancée asked reps to remind participants that VETA will host a reception from 4:30 - 6:00. Look for Nancée in the vendor area of the conference for reception location.

### New Business

- **Student CTA Reimbursement** - Nancée shared information that new CTA/VETA members who also belonged to Student CTA are eligible for a reimbursement of a portion of their dues.
- **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.
- **Budget Committee** - The district has allowed two additional VETA members on the budget committee. Chosen by the VETA Executive Board they are: Robert Thweatt and Robert Hanson. They will join the current budget committee comprised of district and classified personnel, as well as VETA representatives Nancée Fine and Steve Dinise.
- **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.

- **Negotiation's Report** - Penny D. Smith apologized for not having a written report, but gave a report orally. She announced that the next Negotiations meeting will be held in May so that we may have the assistance of CTA in reviewing district budget documents.
- **VETA Bulletin Board** - Nanéc reminded reps to maintain a VETA bulletin board at their site that posts all minutes, committee reports and other information shared to VETA members.
- **Victorville Chamber of Commerce** - flyers were shared from the chamber that offer a \$100 discount in rent from designated apartments.
- **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.
- **Economic Stimulus** - Non-reelects are eligible for federal assistance to pay 65% of the costs to maintain health insurance through COBRA. Please refer any teachers who have questions about this to Nancée.
- **CTA Elections** - In addition to the VETA elections, CTA will hold elections for NEA/RA Delegates. Beth Fehrs shared information for reps to conduct elections at each site. The information includes instructions, ballots, and biographical information. These ballots must be returned to Beth at Liberty by March 27, 2009.
- **Raffle** - \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Angela Woodruff, Debbie Gerberich and Tanya Almeida.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
  - PAC meeting, 3/24/09/09, 4:15 at the Nisqualli building.
  - Retirement workshop 4/18/09, 9:00 AM in Apple Valley.
  - Pink Friday, 3/13/09 - Rally at the Lowe's parking lot, wear pink and discuss the state budget.
  - NEA/RA held in San Diego, June 30 - July 6. Members are encouraged to volunteer at this event.
  - VETA Scholarship applications due by April 14. Applications are available on VETA website.
  - Healthy Lifestyles available to our teachers, via Blue Cross/Blue Shield
  - CTA election must be held and ballots returned to Beth Fehrs by March 27, 2009
- **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:02.