

Executive Director's Report: We're Still Not Done by Michael Romo mromo@cta.org



On Wednesday, May 14th, GTA joined CTA locals all over the state in protesting the onerous cuts to the State Education Budget proposed by our Governor. The next day the Governor revealed his May Revision of the proposed budget and I'm happy to announce that your efforts and those of teachers throughout the state have taken out some of the most harmful aspects of his prior proposal.

Here are some of the highlights of the May Revision:

1. Gone is the proposal to suspend Proposition 98 to reduce education funding by \$4 billion.
2. 2008-09 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will not be funded.
3. Categorical programs will be cut by 6.5%.
4. Special Education will receive the same level of funding it received in 2007-2008.
5. Class Size Reduction funds have been cut.

Is this a good budget for education? No, but it could have been much worse. Avoiding a suspension of Proposition 98 is a step in the right direction but, this budget as proposed will cause California to fall behind other states in education funding. California continues to rank 46th in per-pupil

funding and dead last in teachers, librarians and counselors per student. The revised proposal still cuts the state's Class Size Reduction program, which means adding even more students to California's overcrowded classrooms. It also cuts programs that target low-income students and those schools that need help the most.

We must remember that this proposal is just that, a proposal. It must be acted upon by the state legislature, where a 2/3 majority is needed for passage, and parts of it

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may have to come before the voters in a state ballot initiative. Some experts project that California won't have a finalized budget until the fall. So, like we did on the Day of the Teacher, we need to be prepared to send another message to Sacramento this summer. We're still not done.



CONTRACT NEWS: Docking Teachers' Pay



Recently two teachers were docked a day of pay for being absent on an SB 1193 Staff Development Day. The District was following an old provision in the Education Code that has been repealed. The updated code does not allow the district to dock pay for use of a PN Day for these SB 1193 Staff Development Days. Our Executive Director Michael Romo researched the Education Code and found the change that helped our fellow members. If you or any of your colleagues were docked a day of pay for being absent on one of these days **within the last 3 years** please contact the GTA office for support.



Bargaining Team “Work”

by Tami Carlson tamicalson@glendaleteachers.org

When you read this, the votes will have been counted and we will all know who has been elected to the GTA Board. Whatever the outcome, I think we should all take a moment to step back and celebrate the democracy that is our union.

I have been honored to work for our membership and our profession, this past year as your bargaining chair. The team will be working on getting the tally of the surveys done and the

results out to you in the near future.

I wish you all a wonderful stress free summer but have one request. Please give thought to joining the Bargaining Team or another GTA committee in September. As teachers, we are multi-talented, and our interests are varied. For example, I have always had a love of the law and so committing to GTA's Bargaining Team seemed natural for me. Yes, it is a lot of work but it is also, like teaching, very gratifying to realize that you are stepping up for your colleagues. Another benefit is that you get to actually interact with adults! In many ways, it reminds me of my col-

lege days. You work really hard, learn a lot, and have fun as well. So please, reflect on your strengths and commit some time to GTA. The more people involved, the less work for all. And after all, isn't that what a union is all about? All for one and one for all!



Wilson Middle School Teachers Join PTSA event in Unified Effort to Fight State Budget Cuts

At 7:30 a.m., on May 13, 2008, Wilson Middle School's PTSA organized its own small rally to protest the state-wide budget cuts. It showed a good faith effort to bring together all parties that will be affected by these cuts. GUSD Board Member Joylene Wagner was joined by approximately 30 parents and Wilson staff members.



GTA Photo Gallery

On May 14th, teachers, parents, students and community members gathered in downtown Glendale to protest budget cuts.

(left) President Allen Freemon and newly re-elected Vice President Bud Yoho lead the walk through Glendale.



(left) Freemon and GTA Treasurer Steve Field. (right) GTA Executive Director Michael Romo speaks at the rally.



(left) CVHS AP Government Student Hayley Garcia and (right) GUSD Board Member Nayiri Nahabedian both gave speeches at the rally.

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY: Education Cuts Rally Deemed Not Important Enough By Linda Gosney, Organizing Committee Chair

Linda Gosney is a 5th grade teacher at Edison Elementary. Her article was featured in the Glendale News Press on May 20, 2008.

Evidently the GUSD Board of Education and Senior District Administrators could not find the time to walk with their teachers during the May 14th "Day of the Teacher" Rally on



Councilman Frank Quintero, Linda Gosney and Sarkis Poladian, GTA PAC Chair at the May 14th teacher rally.

Brand Boulevard to protest drastic budget cuts to state education. A strong sense of disappointment permeated throughout the crowd of teachers that their senior administrative leaders had "other meetings" to attend and could not, would not attend the Glendale Teachers Association sponsored rally.

An open invitation had been extended at the May 6th GUSD Board of Education

meeting by **GTA President Al- len Freemon** and a general invitation was extended to all city and community leaders and residents of Glendale to attend. The GTA felt it was

important enough to hold the rally on a day honoring all teachers. You would think that everyone would be supportive of an action bringing attention to state politicians that cuts to education would not be tolerated. You would think that all levels of a school district- Board, administration, teachers and support staff -would place high priority on letting their support be known by attending.

City officials managed to find the time to attend. **Councilman Frank Quintero** gave an opening speech and marched along with the teachers and **Councilman Ara**

Najarian managed to make it over to the staging area and talk with the teachers. GUSD Board of Education member **Nayiri Nahabedian** was the only board member who managed to find time to attend. Where were the other board members? Where was the President of the Board? The last few months of GUSD Board of Education meetings have mainly centered on the financial crisis looming ahead for the 2008-2009 school year budget. They didn't find it necessary to attend and give support to their teachers?

This premeditated choice to not attend this pro-public education rally is the quintessential example of how divisive this School Board and District Administration has been towards the Glendale Teachers Association in recent years. It is simply outrageous that the District Leadership would consciously not attend this rally, a rally that was organized by teachers on "The Day of the Teacher". What a slap in the face to all the hardworking teachers here in Glendale.

GTA Board Members Honored



(left) **President Allen Freemon** accepted a certificate from the GUSD Board of Education on behalf of all GTA members. GUSD Board Member **Joylene Wagner** presented Freemon with a certificate recognizing members' dedication to education. (center) Freemon received the Masonic Award for 2008 Teacher of the Year for his hard work and significant contributions as an educator. (right) GTA Committee Chairpersons **Linda Gosney** and **Sarkis Poladian** were honored at the WHO Awards a.k.a "We Honor Ours" Awards. (bottom left) Linda and Sarkis were joined by GTA Board Members **Bud Yoho, Allen Freemon, Karine Armen, Steve**



Field, Tami Carlson and Executive Director **Michael Romo** who all come out to show their support.

Linda Gosney has been an active member of the Glendale Teachers Association, CTA and NEA for 10 years. As Organizing Chair, Linda was instrumental in GTA's effort of organizing membership to support the Bargaining Team. She was directly responsible for rallying over 500 members to attend a picketing event on Brand Blvd in downtown Glendale. Linda be-

lieves that teachers are advocates for change and has always been someone that sacrifices her time and resources for the betterment of the teaching profession.

Sarkis Poladian has been teaching at Toll Middle School since 1993. As a member of the Glendale Teachers Association, Sarkis has been a member of the PAR Panel, an elected Board officer, Organizing Committee member and chair of the Political Action Committee. He was the key leader in electing a teacher advocate to the local school board in Glendale last April. During this election he organized a city wide campaign that included coalitions with the Police Officers and Firefighters Associations. Sarkis was also a big part of the successful local political campaign in 2005 when GTA helped participate in the effort to defeat Governor Schwarzeneger's Special Election. Another major effort Sarkis led was the updating of the GTA Website and Newsletter. Sarkis has actively and selflessly dedicated his time and efforts to protecting our profession, our students and the public education system.

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GTA Election Results

Reported by Michael Hawley, GTA Election Committee Chair.

I would like to thank the following people for helping in ballot preparation and the counting of votes for the election of March 20th -22nd : Kimberly Sinclair, Pat Ashley, Allen Freemon, Taline Arsenian, Nick Doom, Marcelyn Bible, Vie Nazarian, Jacqueline DaVolio, Sarkis Poladian, Karine Armen, Carol Wertheim, Carrie Olsen and Sarah Calvo.

Election Winners:

GTA Vice President: **Bud Yoho**

GTA Unit Treasurer: **Steve Field**

At-Large Representative: **Mary Garripoli**

Elementary Director (Glendale HS Cluster): **Rose Newman**

Elementary Director (Hoover Cluster): **Phyllis Miller**

High School Director (CVHS, Clark and Daily): **Alicia Harris**

State Council Representative: **Tami Carlson**



Farewell From the GTA Advocate Editor

Just before I send this final edition to print, I have some last words to say besides the usual cliché of what a great experience it was working on this newsletter for the last two years. Many of you are unaware of how hard our GTA leadership works for teachers in this District. I am not talking solely of the GTA Board, who *volunteer* countless hours. Rather, our Faculty Representatives who keep our teachers informed, organized and protected. So, thank your Faculty Representative today for attending all those meetings, getting that information out to you and being there when you have a question, need help or just need an ear. I understand, we are all so busy in this profession. But when your Faculty Representative asks for your help, remember they are just as busy as you. **Our GTA leaders go above and beyond the call of duty so many of you don't have to.** So, volunteer to do something. Anything! Attend one rally, distribute GTA mail, buy the snacks for the meeting, update the bulletin board. The current state of education is not good. We are fortunate to have such hard-working and intelligent leaders such as Allen Freemon and his leadership team who continue to devote their time for us. *Sincerely, Diana Neskovska*

Look for the whole new GTA Advocate in 2008-09 with the arrival of the new GTA Advocate Editor Leslie Beaton-Snyder from Crescenta Valley High.

GTA Executive Officers:

Allen Freemon, President
Bud Yoho, Vice President
Marilyn Hande, Secretary
Steve Field, Treasurer

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