

# *FEA Advocate*

May 2006

Dear Colleagues,

In today's *Advocate*, I'd like to address some news concerning the Teacher Celebration Dinner, FEA elections, Staff Development Days, FEA Dues, and offer some Congratulations.

## **Teacher Celebration Dinner**

On **Friday May 19**, FEA will be sponsoring its annual Teacher Celebration Dinner. With the closing of *Lou's Village*, we have moved the event to *Mariani's* Restaurant in Santa Clara. As always, this event promises to be a fun-filled evening of socializing, eating, drinking and dancing. We will be honoring many retirees this year; but this event isn't just about honoring retirees. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the culmination of a successful year of teaching. **FEA Vice President Jessica Branco** in conjunction with your site president, has provided more detailed information about this event. I hope many of you will join us as we honor ourselves.

## **FEA Elections**

As I stated in an email correspondence earlier, every other year FEA holds elections for its executive board. This spring we will be having an election for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. These are stipended positions that carry varying degrees of responsibility. For a more detailed explanation of these positions, click here: [www.chs.fuhisd.org/staff/~ta/fea/execboard.htm](http://www.chs.fuhisd.org/staff/~ta/fea/execboard.htm). The deadline to submit one's candidacy is this **Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>**. Memos of interest are most easily submitted by sending an email to FEA elections chair **Jon Fey** ([jon\\_fey@fuhisd.org](mailto:jon_fey@fuhisd.org)). The election will take place on May 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Site elections for the positions of site president and representative council are held annually. These elections will take place the week after our Executive Board election and will be administered at the site level. Your current site president **CHS Peggy Kahn**, **FHS Laurie Turner**, **HHS Jan St. Clair**, **LHS Mike Williams**, **MVHS Jon Fey** will be sending out a memo later this month outlining local site-based elections.

## **State Sponsored Staff Development Days**

For the past several years, all members in our bargaining unit have had the opportunity to attend state-sponsored staff development days. Full participation on those days was compensated at a rate of \$260 per day. Our collective bargaining agreement states that these days shall continue as long as the state continues to provide the specified requisite funding for SSDD days. In other words, if the funding goes away, so would the

opportunities. Recently, the District informed FEA that the SSDD program money was altered by the State of California. Not only have the requirements changed, but the funding amount was reduced as well. Consequently, FEA and the District must negotiate how to best address this situation. FEA's goal is twofold: 1) to provide our members with voluntary professional development time for which they are compensated and 2) to facilitate a process so that the staff development provided is thoughtful, provocative, useful and meaningful.

In the past, the voluntary SSDD dates were chosen by staff vote. Currently, we are not in a position to vote on all the days for the 2006-2007 school year. However, the District and FEA are ready to commit to one voluntary staff development date thus far which will be held on **Wednesday August 16**. As soon as other dates and opportunities are made available, I will let the membership know.

### **FEA Dues increase**

Each year, our parent organizations CTA and NEA increase the amount of dues they charge our association. This amount is based on a formula that reflects the average teacher salary in the state/nation. Consequently, each year our dues increase to offset the increases from our parent organizations. FEA's portion of the dues is less than 25% of the amount collected from each paycheck (currently \$94.90 per month) – the rest go to CTA and NEA. For the past several years, we have not increased the FEA portion of these dues, causing us to dip into our reserves. Next year's proposed budget seeks to balance our budget so that our association no longer depletes our reserves. Consequently, the proposed budget will reflect approximately\* a \$3.00 per month increase per member. FEA Rep council will vote on this budget at their May 24 meeting.

\*"approximately" because as of this writing the NEA dues increase is unknown

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to our bargaining unit members who have been selected as Certificated Employees of the year from their respective sites. This years honorees are: **CHS Wes Morse, FHS Michelle Wagner, HHS Christy Heaton, LHS Maria Jackson, and MVHS Megan Birdsong**. Our school board will honor these individuals in a special ceremony tonight at 5:00 PM at the Educational Service Center.

Sincerely,

Tom Avvakumovits  
FEA President