

ADVOMTACATE



Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

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August 2012

NEA RA INSPIRES NEW TEACHER LEADERS

by: MaryKay Scheid



From Left: Melody Kelly, Leticia Martinez, Vickie Harri, MaryKay Scheid, Rick McClure, Tracy Taylor, Daniel Salcido, Brad Richards, Lora Dahms, Amy Tompkins

From June 30 until July 5, 2012, while most OMSD teachers were enjoying a well-deserved break, nine of your colleagues attended the NEA's Annual Representative Assembly in Washington, D.C. (NEA RA). In attendance were: Amy Tompkins (OMTA President), Rick McClure, Vickie Harri, Lora Dahms, Brad Richards, Tracy Taylor, Leticia Martinez, Daniel Salcido, MaryKay Scheid, Melody Kelly.

The NEA RA is the world's largest democratic deliberative body in the world. More than 9000 educators from across the country gathered together to present their ideas, debate, and vote upon the direction NEA should take for the coming school year. The delegation considered such issues as class size, English language learners, and funding.

In addition to discussion and debate, delegates were privileged to hear from some

...continued page 3

2012 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

By: Brad Richards

The 8,000 or more attendees to the 2012 NEA Representative Assembly attracted an impressive list of great speakers this year. Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton described his efforts to increase spending on education in his state. He brought good news from Minnesota and he tells it well. Dr. Jill Biden acknowledged the attendees hard work on behalf of children in America and introduced her husband, Vice President Biden. The Vice President gave another, "Raise the Rafters" speech just like last year's. The Vice President warned the delegates that education will look a lot different if the other team gets elected. Now is the time to get out word and the vote for an education system focused on teaching and to protect our right to collective bargaining. Even the President himself took a break from campaigning to address the assembly by telephone. Arguably though, as important and high profile as those speakers are two other speakers cast an imprint on the tone of the assembly.

National Teacher of the year Rebecca Meiliwocki gave a touching speech, "Great Teachers Lead with Both Their Heads and Their Hearts". Simply put, her message to the assembly was that public school teachers are caring and committed. We work hard. We keep the American dream alive by teaching everyone that comes through our doors. We are committed to student achievement. Ms. Meiliwocki went to Cal Poly and teaches Middle school Language Arts in Burbank. She is a great

...continued page 4

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
AMY TOMPKINS**

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you enjoyed your time off and are recharged for another year. I am very excited and proud to represent the Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association. If you need to get in touch with me for anything please feel free to do so anytime. I am here to work with you and help you in anyway I can. It is best if you email me at president@myomta.org since union business should be conducted away from district email as much as possible. Of course you can also email me on my district email at amy.tompkins@omsd.k12.ca.us. I am looking forward to working with you to strengthen our schools and to help our students be successful in school and in life. I believe it's important we give our students skills to help them succeed in the 21st century. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is



one vehicle that is going to help us get to this. I am excited to work with teachers and the district on rolling out the Common Core State Standards slowly over the next 18 months. Teachers are going to be a big part in the development and implementation process and your input is going to be crucial to ensure that we succeed once we transition to the CCSS. As always, there is a lot on our plates, but the CCSS offers us a great opportunity to be part of big changes coming.

One of my goals as president is to empower and educate members on big issues going on with our district, state and nation. It is especially important to be active and engaged in our profession right now with all the attacks and cuts we are facing. In November we have a critical election in California. There are two propositions on the ballot that directly affect education; they are Proposition 30 and Proposition 32. If Proposition 30 does not pass it will be a financial catastrophe; and if Proposition 32 does pass, it will be a political catastrophe for our profession. CTA is putting all of their time and fire power into these two critical issues. If you would like more information you can find it at www.cta.org/campaign2012. OMTA will be having election activities and asking you to participate as it gets closer to November.

Proposition 30 is the Governors Tax Initiative. It must pass for our schools to MAINTAIN our current level of funding. If it doesn't pass, a nearly \$450 per student reduction in funds will be initiated right away. That would be financially devastating to OMSD, and by extension OMTA. We will be doing everything we can to educate you on this issue. Look for information through your reps, in newsletters and in your personal emails.

Proposition 32 is a direct attack on unions and our ability to participate in local school board elections and have a voice in the policies that control our profession. As teachers, we are already outspent 15:1 in our attempts to influence public policy in education. With the current attacks on our working conditions, our retirement and our employment, we cannot afford to be silenced. Proposition 32 cannot pass and those behind the bill will do a great job to disguise what it really is intended to do. OMTA will do everything it can to give you the facts about this legislation.

I know this news may not bring a smile to your face. We do indeed have some big challenges ahead in our profession. It will take all of us collectively to deal with these issues to come out ahead. I hope you have a wonderful year with your students. When times get tough, just remember that we do this job for the kids.

NEA RA INSPIRES NEW TEACHER LEADERS ...continued from page one

profoundly inspirational speakers. Vice President Joe Biden and his wife Dr. Jill Biden visited on Tuesday, July 3. National Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Mieliwocki from Burbank, encouraged teachers to “lead with both their heads and their hearts.”

The NEA’s annual meeting generates enthusiasm about the work we do and the students we serve, but it also motivates and inspires new teacher-leaders. Three of the attendees were “first-timers,” and all of them left the event anxious to become more involved with both OMTA and CTA. Vickie Harri told me, “The RA is an amazing example of democracy in action. And I am exhausted.” Any attendee would agree that the event is physically, psychologically, and emotionally draining. But it’s also heartwarming. Lora Dahms was very moved by the experience: “I have never been more proud to be an educator, to work alongside so many colleagues. It’s been an emotional, educational experience, watching the civil discussion, including respectful disagreement, in order to chart our profession’s future.” And Daniel Salcido observed: “Just when you might think that no one is listening and/or protecting our rights and the rights of our students, I found an awesome body of profoundly passionate educators making decisions for all our members and trying to do the right thing for our students.” Sounds like a good group to join, right?

Attending the Representative Assembly can be the first step on the journey toward increased involvement in important education issues outside your classroom door. When the invitation to submit your candidacy for next summer’s meeting arrives next spring, think about throwing your hat in the ring.

**KNOW YOUR CONTRACT:
HOURS OF WORK-ARTICLE VIII AND
EVALUATION PROCEDURES-ARTICLE XI**

It’s empowering when we all know our contract. I would like to cover Article VIII-Hours of Work, Section D, Site Level and Staff Development Meetings. Article VIII, D, says, “Prior to the start of the academic school year, as well as throughout the year, the site administrator shall consult with the staff

regarding the content of professional development. Prior to the start of the academic year, the District and the Association will determine the weekdays reserved for site level and/or district meetings and publish a site meetings calendar. Under special circumstances, the calendar for meetings can be deviated from with the approval of the District and the Association. When such meetings occur on an early-release Tuesday, the meeting shall not extend beyond the contract day. When such meetings occur on a regular instruction days-in accordance with the site meetings calendar-the meetings shall not exceed an hour and one half in duration. Meetings (e.g. staff meetings, committee meetings, SST meetings) extending beyond the normal minimum school based assignment hours shall not require more than five (5) hours of unit member attendance in any calendar month. Exceptions to the above may be made in the event of an extraordinary circumstance.”

There are some schools that have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the District and the Association to deviate from the traditional Tuesday/Wednesday meeting days. If your school does not have an MOU, then your meeting times are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday (ending at contract time) and the 2nd and 4th Wednesday (no longer than an hour and one half) of each month.

The other part of your contract that you need to be aware of for the beginning of the year is the Evaluation and Observation Calendar. In Article XI-Evaluation Procedures, Section A2, it says “The site/department administrator will designate the evaluator and provide notice to the unit members by the 20th duty day of school. The designated evaluator will meet with unit members by the 30th duty day of school to discuss and collaboratively determine the form of evaluation. The evaluator shall have the sole responsibility for the final evaluation.” For the 2012-2013 school year, you should know who your evaluator is by August 31, 2012 (20th duty day). You should be meeting with your evaluator by September 14, 2012 (30th duty day).

OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

Arroyo: Karen Hirschfeld
Berlyn: Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick
Bon View: Wayne Bradley, Nancy Mason
Buena Vista: Michael Hatter
Central: Tina Foglesong, Marina Garcia-Guevara
Corona: Paul Leal, Julie Rafeedie
DeAnza: Linda Bell
Del Norte: Tish Curry, Kathy Gregson
Edison: Rayvelyn Swift
El Camino: Susie Imrich-Snow, Chris Scoleri
Elderberry: Kevin Dixon, Renita Hernandez, Debbie Covarrubias
Euclid: Anna Young
Hawthorne: Monique Gray, Dale Johnson
Haynes: Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller
Howard: Vacant
Kingsley: Allison Borromeo, Monica Smirl
Lehigh: Carol Alvarez, Stacia Neer
Lincoln: Crystal Cuautia, Denise Dryden
Mariposa: Sendai Parker, Jeff Williams
Mission: Ann Roozee, Daniel Salcido
Monte Vista: Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott
Montera: Erine Ames, Kelly Cook
Moreno: John Hamman, John Ross
Oaks: Lora Dahms, Vickie Harri
Ramona: Trudy Cowan, Vacant
Serrano: Dalia Aref, Brad Holtan
Sultana: Terri Caldwell, Bertha B. Fitzgerald
Vernon: Isabel Santos, Diana Verdugo
Vina Danks: David Hennessee, Vacant
Vineyard: Lesia Beasom/Nila Delise
Vista Grande: Helen Cieslik
Wiltsey: Ken Aven, Linda Boren
Music/PE/APE: Daniel Salcido
Speech: Kimberly Cieslik
Health/Nurse: Marissa Sitz
Early Ed Center: Leticia Martinez

**OMTA
Executive Board Meeting
September 10th
Rep Council Meeting
September 24th**

**OMSD
School Board Meetings
September 6th & 20th
7 pm at Central Language
Academy**

2012 REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

...continued from page one

speaker and has uplifting story to tell. There are directions below to view her speech on Youtube.

Building on the theme of the American dream, NEA Executive Director John Stocks gave an impassioned speech titled, "Social Justice Patriots". He challenged the new and up and coming teacher leaders to take the lead in advocating for social justice in our schools and communities. The speech reminded attendees that teachers have a rich history of standing up for those who are unable to such as; Japanese- Americans sent to Internment Camps in the United States during World War II, and seeking funds for the education of freed slaves after the Civil War. Today there are new challenges such as income inequality and the right of unions to have a voice in politics. The Executive Director identified two social justice issues he and his colleagues have been active in this year; a national campaign against racial profiling and, "In June, Stocks participated in a high-profile march in New York City to protest that city's "stop and frisk" policies that target Black, Latino, and Muslim men and boys for random searches without cause."

All the speeches mentioned above and many more video clips from the 2012 RA can be viewed on Youtube. Just type NEA RA 2012 Highlights in the Youtube search box. Have you ever considered being a NEA Representative Assembly delegate? If you have, check out some of the videos from past RA's then start a discussion with your building rep or an OMTA board member.

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