

LVEA TODAY



Thanks for a Great, yet Challenging 2015-16!

Thanks to ALL employees for another great school year! Last June, we mentioned that 2014-15 was a tough year and it feels like 2015-16 has been equally, if not more, challenging. We've progressed another year into new curriculum implementation with many more changes planned for next year: ELA pilots, report card pilots, NGSS, more math implementation, Rtl issues, etc. As we visit your campuses, we see lots of creative and courageous efforts to make our district the best learning environment for all of our students! You are the superstars that work tirelessly for our students. We truly appreciate all of your efforts!

Thanks also for the years of contributions by our certificated, administrative and classified employees that have decided to retire. Specifically, the following nineteen certificated employees that have completed a cumulative 478 years of dedicated service to LVUSD: Thomas Beaton, Patricia Brooks, Gayle MacNish, Bonnie May, Midge McChristy, Diane McEvoy, Barbara McFarlin, Christine McNamee, Madeline Nugent, Susan Pitzer, Ronni Runes, Linda Sarno, Margaret Serich, Barbara Shannon, Mary Smith, Enid Stagg, Patricia Stern, Diana Thompson and Judith Wilson. Thanks to all of you and good luck with your future plans!

LVEA Awards

Each June, LVEA presents two awards: the Roberta Consani Distinguished Member Award and the Sandi Pope Friend of Education Award. This year's Distinguished Member is Patricia Brooks. Pat is retiring this year as a successful, long-time counselor at Agoura High School and an outstanding advocate for all members. She has increased the visibility of non-teaching members in LVEA and has fought to ensure that ALL concerns are addressed. We will really miss Pat but know she can't wait to spend more time with her grandkids! This year's Friend of Education is Roger Ewing. Roger owns and manages the two Sothesby's real estate offices in Agoura Hills and Calabasas. He donated the use of these offices to our highly successful Measure E phone banking efforts this past Fall. Thanks to Roger and many other volunteers, we can now count on another twelve years of Measure E funding! Roger is also a great guy who always speaks highly of our school district and educators!

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Negotiations Update

Your Negotiations Team is already working on 2016-17. These hard working leaders have actively engaged the district in discussions about our new Early Childhood Education members and the working conditions of our Special Education teachers. Once the Governor's budget is approved later this month, they will also begin discussion on a potential salary increase for next school year. Stay tuned for more updates!

LVEA Climate Survey Update

LVEA certificated members at Agoura and Calabasas High Schools responded to a Climate Survey from May 5-13. K-8 teachers then responded from May 18-26. The response rate was very impressive: 73.4% from high school membership and 66.4% from K-8. We have created a new Organizing Committee that will meet this Friday afternoon (June 10) to discuss how to proceed with the results.

The District has expressed concern with the timing of this survey, that employees are more tired and frustrated in May as opposed to earlier in the school year. That may be true, but isn't it best to ask morale-related questions "after" members have experienced the whole school year? For example, we have seen employee evaluations that have been far more critical this school year that were given out in May. We actually saw one evaluation that did not have a single positive comment for the teacher. The administrator included lots of vague references to state standards without any meaningful suggestions on how to improve...and this was for a teacher in good standing! Many more employees were involuntary transferred this May for next school year than any time in recent memory. Why would we run a survey before such career impacting decisions and directives have been made? Even if we considered an earlier survey, we know of at least two sites that would have had worse results. Intervention at these two sites from LVEA and the District actually led to an improved working environment towards the end of this school year for our members.

LVEA reserves the right to survey its members at any time that is deemed appropriate by our Executive Board and Rep Council. Your new Organizing Committee will determine the best path forward in terms of updating our membership, administration and the School Board with the survey results. We hope this information will lead to a constructive and (in some cases) more collaborative and empathetic working relationships between our members and administration.

Your LVEA leaders will be working through the summer to improve your contract, pay and environment. As always, we would love to have YOU involved. Please contact Craig if you would like to hear about ways to become part of the leadership of LVEA.

Have a relaxing, inspired and fun summer!

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