

LVEA TODAY



LVEA Endorses the Renewal of Measure E!

The LVEA Executive Board and Representative Council have both unanimously voted to support the renewal of Measure E. Measure E has provided a valuable source of local income since 2004 for our students and is vital to ensuring our district's future financial stability. When the economic downturn happened we all took cuts for several years. Remember the furlough days, pink slips and virtually no staff development? Those cuts were lessened dramatically due to Measure E. If (when) there is another financial downturn, Measure E will be a much-needed backstop to help us weather another storm. This is not a tax increase. It simply maintains the current level that homeowners are already paying which is only about 8 dollars a month or 27 cents a day. That's a bargain to help keep our class sizes down, counselor ratios low, and important arts programs running that have been eliminated in a lot of districts in California. Again, the money stays local. We have seen the state funding fluctuate wildly over the last 10 years. Measure E will stay here and it cannot be touched by the state.

In order for this Measure to pass we need YOUR help. Any amount of time you can give to a phone bank helps. We have been able to pass this in the past due to all of our collective voices on the phones and in the community. Please take some time to phone bank on your school's night (or another night if you have a conflict). We know phone banking is a drag, but it works. So far, we have been getting a very friendly response from the people we have reached- this community loves and supports our schools. We need to make sure they know about Measure E- that's why we need you on the phone!

Please check with your site rep for your night and the link to sign up online (it is also on the LVEA website- www.lveateachers.com)

LVEA Executive Board

Craig Hochhaus, President
LasVirgenesEA@gmail.com
(805) 402-7347

Jeremy Janton, WES, Vice-President

Pat Brooks, AHS, Treasurer

Carrie McClellan, AHS, Corresponding Secretary

Diane McEvoy, CHS, Recording Secretary

Kathy Heukrodt, CHS, High School Liaison
LVEAhsvoice@gmail.com

Mike, LaFrenz, LCMS, Middle School Liaison
LVEAmsvoice@gmail.com

Brittany Stone, WES, Elementary Liaison
LVEAelemvoice@gmail.com

Joanne Kress, WOES, Bargaining Chair

Jake Anderson, CTA Staff
janderson@cta.org
(818) 309-7206

Las Virgenes Educators Association

100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, #124
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(P) (805) 497-8220
(F) (805) 497-1458
(W) www.lveateachers.com



SPSA Plans

Your site SPSA plans are due on November 5 for this school year. LVEA strongly encourages you to take an active role in writing and reviewing them! We are constantly asked if members have to do something of a curricular nature. Our response is typically “Is it in your SPSA plan?” You may have to use a program if it is part of your site approved SPSA plan– even if you disagree with it! LVEA encourages you to be proactive and make sure you understand and agree with all aspects of your site SPSA plan – get involved!

Catastrophic Leave Bank Changes

Our Catastrophic Leave program creates a bank of donated sick days for employees who have come down with a debilitating illness. You could be eligible for up to 100 donated sick days in the event that you have run out of your own sick days and exhausted all disability options. One change for 2015-16 is that an appeal can be made for an additional 50 days that could bring the total available to 150 days over a five year period (not to exceed 100 days within 12-months). Another change is that before September 30 of each school year, all permanent certificated employees will be reminded that they can opt-in or opt-out of the program. If you opt-out for a specific school year, then you are NO LONGER eligible for Catastrophic Leave Bank benefits. We have also created a “catch-up period” in order to allow the number of days contributed to be equaled out for all contributing members. For example, if one member has contributed five (5) days and another has contributed three (3), the district may take days from the second person for two years while the other person does not contribute for those two years so that both have contributed five days to the bank. Both members would remain eligible to draw from the bank during this “catch-up period.” Should the total number of banked days drop below one hundred (100) days, then any Participant who has not yet donated that year will be charged a day.

You recently received a yellow card that lists your current number of available sick days and may have had a day deducted from 2015-16 for this leave bank program. With our recent contract changes, these days should not have been deducted without asking if participants wished to first opt-out for this school year. The district will now give all permanent employees until this September to opt-in or opt-out of this program. LVEA will then ask the district to send out corrected yellow sick leave cards in October.

August Paychecks

LVEA is hearing from lots of employees who were very pleased with their salary increase that was reflected in the August paycheck; however, we want to remind you that your August check did not include some important deductions, like your possible contribution to benefits. Your September paycheck should be more accurate for projecting your take-home income for this school year. It is likely to be less than your August take home paycheck.

Benefits Enrollment for 2016

Our district just initiated its 2016 open enrollment period on Monday, September 14, and will keep it open until October 2. All changes will become effective January 1, 2016. During the open enrollment period, eligible employees will have the opportunity to enroll, change health plans, and/or add/delete eligible family members to their current plans. You should have received an email from Robbie Amodio on Monday morning, Sept 14 that provides links to everything you need to know to make benefit decisions for 2016. There will also be a Health Benefits Fair on Wednesday, September 30, at Lupin Hill Elementary School. Computers and assistance will be available at this fair. If you have questions regarding your benefits, please send an email to atrytten@lvusd.org.