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Antioch Education Association

# INSIDER

Volume 8 Issue 2

February/March 2012



## Strictly Speaking

By, Robert Strickler  
AEA President

**Politics** I used to hate that word. It's still not one of my favorite words, but at least I have grown to have a greater respect for it. Some may not think that politics has a lot to do with education. Unfortunately, I would say it is the number one thing that influences education and our jobs.

ESEA, thanks to testing requirements, has greatly influenced, if not impaired, how and what we teach in class. I'm saddened when I hear comments like: Don't worry about history or science, just teach math and language arts. You shouldn't be wasting class time on art projects. Why are you teaching that, it's not on the test? Just teach the concepts and standards that the students are tested on, forget the rest.

I'm not saying we shouldn't be testing students, but it shouldn't

impair our job to educate the whole child.

Politics will be crucial to all educators in California this November. That means you and me. There will be plenty of initiatives on the ballot. I'm sure we'll be asked to help get some of them passed. If you don't think it is important that we get involved you need to understand what may happen. If the governor's proposal or other proposals to help raise money for education don't pass, then education will be hit hard, again! Meaning class size could increase, days could be cut from the school year, more teachers could be cut, salaries or benefits could be cut. Education funding is in serious trouble. We need to speak up and take action.

One important local issue that we will have to decide this year is electing school board members to the Antioch School Board. This election has a great influence on what will happen to the students and teachers of Antioch.

Please, when (not if) you are asked to help this year in local and state politics – get involved.

We need to be in charge of our own destiny.

Also, if you are interested in getting involved in AEA's Political Involvement Committee (PIC), please give us a call. We can make a difference, with your help.

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## **AEA Website**



Be sure to check out the AEA website for up-to-date information plus our new sections:

- **Photos:** Photos of AEA and district events.
- **Member Benefits:** CTA endorsed benefits.
- **Bargaining:** Current bargaining issues and the current AEA and AUSD bargaining proposals.
- **Teacher Rights:** Information on Education Code and your rights as a teacher.





A big “Thank You” to the **Bargaining Team** for all the hard work and extra hours they have put in for negotiation preparation.

A very special “Thank You” to **Sharon Ball** and **Joel Maron** (mid-year retirees) for all their years of service, dedication, and leadership to the Antioch Education Association.

“Thank You” to **Denise James** for organizing the upcoming Bullying Class.

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### Pennie’s Bennies



I hope you are now checking out Click & Save at <http://neamb.affinityperks.com> as you can earn WOW Points, as well as, get excellent discounts. WOW Points can be spent like money and never expire!

As I’m writing this, there are 21,586 offers in a wide variety of areas from technology, to travel, clothes, restaurants, and more. Take advantage of discounts and the WOW Points. You earn these benefits daily!

Submitted by, **Pennie Davis**  
AEA Secretary

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### **NEA Member Benefits of the Week:**

#### **Special Discounts From H&R Block in January**



Beginning in January 2012, download a coupon for special NEA member discounts! File a federal form 1040EZ for FREE (through February 29, 2012) or save \$20 to \$99 on tax preparation at a participating H&R Block tax office or online at Block Live™.

After January 3, 2012, visit [www.neamb.com/hrblock](http://www.neamb.com/hrblock) or call 1-800-786-3429 for details!

### **Costco Means Savings for NEA Members!**



As a Costco member, you can save money on thousands of brand-name items every day. From fresh foods and health & beauty items to clothing and electronics, you'll find tons of useful items for school, home and office. To become a new member of Costco, simply login and register at [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com), go to the Everyday Living tab and the Costco discount page, and then complete and print the special Costco membership application. Present it at any U.S. Costco location when you register to become a new member—it’s that simple!

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### **ANNOUNCING....**

#### **Calendar Survey Results For the School Year 2013/2014**

##### **SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR:**

- 205 Traditional Antioch Calendar – begin in mid to late August, ends early to mid-June
- 147 Brentwood/Oakley type Calendar which starts in late July/early August, and ends early June

##### **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS:**

- 52 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday off
- 297 Entire week off

##### **\*SPRING BREAK:**

- 97 Week before Easter
- 224 Week after Easter

\*Note: When spring break can be scheduled also depends on the state testing window.

##### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT:**

- 38 All SDD’s before school starts
- 311 Distributed throughout the year



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Bargaining Team Open House

Thursday, February 9, 2012

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way, Ste. 1

### Bullying Class\*

Presented by AEA/CTA/NEA

Thursday, March 8, 2012 – 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 15, 2012 – 4:00-6:00 p.m.

AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way, Ste. 1

*\*Due to popular demand, the Bullying Class is already full. We are looking into having another class sometime in the Fall or early Spring of next school year.*

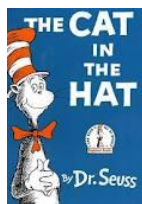
### AEA Scholarships

Graduating seniors with cumulative GPAs of 3.25 or higher who are dependents of an active AEA bargaining unit member are eligible to apply for an AEA Scholarship if they will be attending an accredited institution of higher learning during the 2012-2013 school year. Applications are available at the AEA Office at 2730 Lone Tree Way, Ste. 1. Forms must be returned to the AEA office by 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 30, 2012

## READ ACROSS AMERICA

### MARCH 2

In California, Read Across America will be observed on Friday, March 2, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Mark your calendar at home and school to remember this special day of reading for students, family and friends.



## Meet AEA's Newest Executive Board Member.....Lars Blomberg



**Lars joins AEA as Treasurer**

1. **Where did you grow up?** I grew up right here in Antioch, CA. I went to Kimball and Belshaw elementary schools, Antioch Junior High, and then graduated from Antioch High School.
2. **How did you come to the AUSD?** Since Antioch is my hometown it was easy to come home again after college. I was offered a job at Fremont Elementary.
3. **How long have you taught in the AUSD and what grade levels, schools, etc.?** This is my 18<sup>th</sup> year of full time teaching in Antioch. I subbed for a year and a half while I was working on my credential. I have always taught primarily 6<sup>th</sup> grade with an occasional 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. I am currently teaching at Antioch Middle School.
4. **How long have you been involved with AEA and to what capacity?** I think it's been about 10-12 years as a site rep.
5. **Why did you want to become the AEA Treasurer?** I wanted to be involved in the association, but in a different capacity. I took accounting in college, so I figured that Treasurer was a good fit.



# REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

December 5, 2011





# **EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS**



Each Spring, AEA holds an election to fill openings on the Executive Board through an election process as defined in AEA's Standing Rules. Each position has a 2-year term. This year, four (4) positions on the Executive Board will reach the end of their term. The open positions to be filled, starting next school year will be: President, Secretary, High School Liaison and Elementary School Liaison (1 of 2). Below, you will find snapshot job descriptions of each position that is open. **Applications will be available, February 27, 2012.**

## ***President***

**THE JOB:** The President is the Chief Executive Officer and policy leader of the Association. He/she suggests policies, plans, meetings and activities for the association. He/she is the official spokesperson for AEA and is responsible for all Association communications. The President has the following duties: Attend all appropriate meetings and direct the Association's calendar of events; responsible for the progress and work of the Association; Enforcement of the Contract; and Enhancement of the Contract, with the underlying premise of the greatest good for the greatest number of bargaining unit members.

## ***Elementary School Liaisons***

**THE JOB:** It is the responsibility of the elementary school liaison to provide support for all 14 elementary school rep council members. If a concern arises regarding contract issues, members should first consult their contract either in hard copy or on our union website. If the issue is not resolved through a contract read, members should then seek out guidance from their individual site rep council member(s). Ultimately, if the issue can't be resolved at that level, it then becomes the liaison's responsibility to become involved. You may contact either one of these reps if you work at an elementary school.

## ***High School Liaison***

**THE JOB:** The position of High School Liaison was created to provide a voice on the Executive Board specifically for high school teachers. Therefore, members at Bidwell, Prospects, Live Oak, Dozier-Libbey Medical, Deer Valley and Antioch High are encouraged to bring unresolved issues to their school site representative, who, in turn, will contact their High School Liaison if further help is needed.

## ***Secretary***

**THE JOB:** The responsibility of the secretary is to take the minutes at both the Executive Board meetings and at the Representative Council meetings.



**Protest Michelle Rhee  
and the Corporate Attack  
on Education**

**PARAMOUNT THEATER  
FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, RALLY AT 7PM, EVENT AT 8PM  
2025 BROADWAY, OAKLAND**

**Who is Michelle Rhee?**

- Former chancellor of Washington D.C. schools and anti-union crusader
- Founder of StudentsFirst, a partner in privatizing education with people like Bill Gates and the Broad Foundation
- Featured in the movie **Waiting for Superman**, where she denigrated public school teachers and promoted her corporate brand of "Rhee-Form"

**Why Should We Protest?**

- This isn't about just one person: it is about the right-wing movement that Rhee represents
- Rhee personifies the pro-corporate agenda that puts test scores and private contracts before students' needs
- Rhee and her right-wing cohorts, like Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, are leading the national drive to bust education and other public sector unions

**What Do We Want?**

- Fully funded public education
- An end to school closures and the expansion of charters
- Good contracts for all public sector workers

**Join Bay Area Education Activists as we give Rhee the reception that she deserves!**

For more information email [RheeSist@yahoo.com](mailto:RheeSist@yahoo.com) or call the Oakland Education Association at 510-763-4020

**Know Your Contract**



**Standardized Testing**

Spring is quickly approaching, which means testing time is coming soon. In preparation for this time of year, be sure to know your rights regarding testing. Article 28 of your contract deals with the topic of standardized testing. It is made up of three sections:

Section 28.1 No bargaining unit member shall be evaluated [formally] or informally, on the basis of the scores of his/her students on standardized or norm-referenced tests.

That means no evaluations at all, formal or informal, may be based on your students' scores. This includes district generated standardized tests as well as any test that comes from another institution (**benchmarks**, etc.).

Section 28.2 The standardized test scores of individual classrooms will not be posted at any site.

This is something that we have to look out for as teachers. Often times, administrators use test scores to drive staff meetings and/or trainings. It is very important that they not alienate teachers for having a particular set of scores, whether they are "high" or "low" scores. Class scores may not be posted in the staff lounge, the copy room, or any other location.

Section 28.3 No teacher shall be required to provide specific test item instruction as preparation for a standardized test as prohibited in Ed. Code Section [60611].

This *does not* mean that you cannot practice testing skills with your class. It *does not* mean that you can't use release questions to help build up your students' skills. It is designed to help teachers guard against being asked to do preparatory exercises that are not legally allowed by the state. An example of an illegal prep material is a book that says "CST Prep" on it. Any preparation that you are doing with your class should be based on the standards and not based on the state test. The exception to this rule is that teachers may use any materials that come from the state and are designed to prepare students for the state tests, for example, the practice test booklets that come with the testing material each year.

**Submitted by, Valorie Luke, AEA Vice-President**

# The All-Star Teacher Award is Back

**One California School Will Receive \$20,000!**

It's that time of year...time to recognize our special teachers who knock it out of the park when it comes to the dedication they have for their students and their communities.

Provident and Comcast SportsNet have teamed up for the sixth annual All-Star Teacher Award. This award recognizes Northern and Central California teachers at the middle and high school levels. As the official sponsor of the program, Provident and Comcast SportsNet will donate **\$20,000** to the winning teacher's school.



Nominations are currently being accepted and the **deadline is February 13, 2012**. Nomination forms are being distributed to over 200 schools. They can also be obtained online at:

[http://providentcu.org/allstar/2012\\_AST\\_Nomination\\_Form.pdf](http://providentcu.org/allstar/2012_AST_Nomination_Form.pdf)

Once the nomination period has closed, a panel will select five finalists. Online voting at [csnbyarea.com](http://csnbyarea.com) for the winner will take place starting on April 16th through June 4th. Videos and biographies of each finalist will be featured on the Web site. The winning teacher will be announced during a live Comcast SportsNet pregame broadcast this summer at a San Francisco Giants game. Watch for more details.

It's time to nominate those teachers who truly make a difference. Please join us in celebrating our All-Star teachers — **submit your nominations** today!

## **AEA Leadership 2011-2012**

### **President**

Robert Strickler

### **Vice President**

Valorie Luke, Prospects High School

### **Secretary**

Pennie Davis, Grant Elementary

### **Treasurer**

Lars Blomberg, Antioch Middle School

### **CTA State Council Representatives**

Denise James, Lone Tree Elementary

Sara Savacool, Antioch High School

Robert Strickler, AEA

Pandora Bethea (Alternate), Deer Valley High School

### **High Schools' Liaison**

J Myers, Deer Valley High School

### **Middle Schools' Liaison**

Linda Rhymes, Black Diamond Middle School

### **Elementary Schools' Liaison**

Sarah Odegaard, London Elementary

Karen Vargas, Kimball Elementary

### **Bargaining Team**

Dylan Howell – Chair, Antioch High School

Sharon Ball, Dallas Ranch Middle School

Jeri Creese, London Elementary

Kevin Jones, Antioch High School

Lenore Navarro, Kimball Elementary

Adrian Torres, Black Diamond Middle School

Sharon Weaver, Turner Elementary

### **AEA Webmaster**

[aeapresident@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aeapresident@sbcglobal.net)

### **Insider Technical Editor**

Susan Harrison – AEA Site Secretary

***INSIDER*** is a publication of the  
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### **AUSD School Board Members**

Diane Gibson-Gray, President

Joy Motts, Vice President

Gary Hack (member); Walter Ruehlig (member);

Claire Smith (member)



# Put It On Your Calendar

## February 2012

- 3-5 Good Teaching Conference – San Jose, CA
- 6 Site Meetings
- 8 AUSD School Board Meeting – 510 “G” Street – 7:00 PM
- 9 Bargaining “Open House” - 2730 Lone Tree Way – 3:30-5:00 PM
- 12 Lincoln’s Birthday
- 13 Holiday (Day after Lincoln’s Birthday)
- 14 Valentine’s Day
- 16 ONE Team - AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 4:00 PM
- 17 Bargaining - AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 8:30 AM
- 20 Holiday (President’s Day)
- 22 Washington’s Birthday/Ash Wednesday
- 22 AUSD School Board Meeting – 510 “G” Street – 7:00 PM
- 27 AEA Executive Board– AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 3:45 PM
- 27 Bargaining w/District - 510 “G” Street



## March 2012

- 5 AEA Rep Council – AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 3:45 PM
- 8 CTA Bullying Class – AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 4:00-7:00 PM
- 11 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 14 AUSD School Board Meeting – 510 “G” Street – 7:00 PM
- 15 CTA Bullying Class – AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 4:00-6:00 PM
- 16 Staff Development Day
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 19 AEA Executive Board– AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 3:45 PM
- 23-25 CTA State Council – Los Angeles, CA
- 26 AEA Rep Council – AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 3:45 PM
- 28 AUSD School Board Meeting – 510 “G” Street – 7:00 PM
- 29 ONE Team - AEA Office – 2730 Lone Tree Way – 4:00 PM

