

President's Report to F-SUTA Representative Council - April 9, 2018

This year is winding down quickly. Can you believe we have only one Rep Council after this!

- I am hopeful we will soon have a board policy and/or administrative regulations that require a 24-hour notice for ***parental visits to the classroom***. This past practice was not supported by board policy so many site administrators felt they could not enforce this unofficial policy. After many discussions with the Superintendent and others at the Central Office, the idea of creating Board Policy/Administrative Regulation is being seriously considered. It is being discussed at the cabinet level of the Central Office supported by the Superintendent. She has also brought it up in a preliminary discussion at the Governing Board subcommittee meeting.
- April 20th is another ***day for action*** against gun violence in schools. Many students may be supporting the all-day school walk out. Remember, teachers may be disciplined for not reporting for work or supporting unsanctioned student activities. There are ways for teachers to support this cause.

We want everyone to be in ***orange*** on Friday, April 20th in support of the ***#WearOrange campaign***. #WearOrange is a nationwide campaign in support of the student activism sweeping the country for school safety. Everyone should have some orange in their closets so be sure to break it out on Friday, 4/20. I know some schools have spirit days on Fridays but remember, with the exception of PSA, what you chose to wear is up to you. I'm all for school spirit, but I believe one day not wearing a school T-Shirt is worth it to stand up for safer schools and support our students. It is OK to talk with your students if they ask why you are wearing orange on April 20.

We encourage everyone to use Friday, April 20th as a day on activism in their classrooms in grade appropriate ways. It does not have to be about guns or school safety but it should be about activism for what students are passionate about or tolerance of diversity. One great idea is supporting the ***#NeverAgainPickUpAPen movement***. This encourages students to write to their political representatives about whatever issues are on their minds and/or share solutions. If you gather together your students' writings and send them to the FSUTA office we will provide the envelopes and postage to send the letters, essays, poems, etc to the identified elected officials.

Another great place to look for projects or ideas is at the Teach Tolerance website, ***www.tolerance.org***. There you will find ready-made lesson plans K-12 in all subject areas. This is a great resource not only for April 20th but all year long.

Finally, there are many posters available for teachers to print out on CTA.org and hang in their classrooms. Go to CTA.org and log in as a member. At the very top of the page is Leader Resources. Click on that and then click on Social Justice Toolkit.

- California Casualty Update since the last Rep Council meeting. The connection between membership and ability to be covered by California Casualty Auto and Home Insurance was questioned. As I said I would, I sought clarification with our California Casualty Field Marketing Manager, Tami Phillips. Membership at the steeply discounted rates requires CTA membership. After retirement, it would require membership in CTARetired. While a policy holder will not be automatically dropped by California Casualty if they chose to not be a CTA member, the rates will adjust to the non-CTA rate which is so exorbitantly higher, as she says "no one would stay with our coverages because the rates are geared for members." She states she cannot recall a time when a non-member stayed with their coverage or choose to start a policy unless they were a member.