

UPDATE

Week of February 16, 2009

“CHARLES DICKENS SAID IT BEST”

By
Mike O’Sullivan, President, AALA

Indeed, in many ways these are the best of times, but also some of the worst.

Focusing on the positive, we are pleased that the District has entered into an historic three-year agreement with its employee unions that solidifies our health benefits in these difficult financial times. This is testimony to the hard work of the negotiation team that represented all employees, active and retired, and also to the sincerity of the Board and Superintendent in recognizing that these benefits have truly been “earned” over the last four decades. Former Superintendent, **Dr. Bill Johnston**, must always be acknowledged and appreciated for his visionary leadership in this area.

AALA is also pleased that the District is proceeding with the Early Retirement Incentive Program. There remain a few details to be worked out, but we expect finality on this shortly. Likewise, we anticipate returning to the table to continue discussion of the Vacation Cap issue in the near future.

It is not all good news. The District will most certainly be issuing "March 15th" letters to all administrative staff and probably to a number of teachers. Despite the influx of funding from the Federal Stimulus Bill, and also from the now finally approved State Budget, it is clear that some cuts and bump backs will occur for next year. We are in ongoing discussions with Human Resources as to how these matters will be handled, and we take some small solace in the fact that Reduction in Force is clearly a contractual matter and that the rights of all members will be strictly maintained. More on that process later, as we continue to understand how the recent financial changes will affect our LAUSD situation.

Regretfully, we have at least two AALA members who have been summarily removed from their assignments without cause. One is inexplicably still in limbo despite the fact that all charges and/or allegations of improper conduct have been examined and proven groundless. The other member was removed after having been the target of an unprovoked and orchestrated attack by another certificated union in this District. That is a monumental injustice to them, and a slap in the face to all of us.

Superintendent Cortines, you need to right these situations immediately!

AAALA congratulates Local District 6 Superintendent **Martin Galindo** for the manner in which he addressed a personnel matter. Mr. Galindo followed protocol and supported one of his principals in a most professional fashion.

ACSA MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

Region 16 ACSA is announcing the following two events for new and current members. In both cases refreshments will be provided and the guest speakers will present their thoughts relating to the District and the nature of education.....at the time of the meeting.

March 11, 2009 — 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 19800 S. Vermont Ave., Torrance

Speakers: Dr. **Richard Vladovic**, Member, Board of Education

Linda Del Cueto- Superintendent, Local District 8

Contact person: **Colleen Crowley** uscrowley@yahoo.com or 310.339.0721

April 22, 2009 — 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the University Club (Lambs Lounge) CSUN

Speaker: Superintendent **Ray Cortines**

Contact Person: **Brian Sida** bsida@lausd.net

Please plan to attend. With the changing sands of time, politics, funding, etc., it will be worth your time. In addition, it will provide a wonderful opportunity to network with your many friends.

And for a bottom line, now is an important time to become a member of the one state organization that supports administrators, supports public education, and takes an active role in impacting legislation, both at the federal and state levels.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009 - The **AEIOU** (American Educators of Italian Origin United) Fortieth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance will be held at Casa Italiana, 1051 North Broadway, Los Angeles, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For information and tickets contact **Dan Basalone** at 213.484.2226.

REPRINT: Letter to the Editor (Los Angeles Times)
by one of our members

Dear Editor:

Regarding the Thursday, February 12, 2009, article entitled: "Health Package for L.A. Unified Reached": Your article mentions the FREE lifetime health benefits the present and retired employees receive. Please note: the benefits were EARNED, in lieu of salary increases, the employees negotiated, with their unions and the Board of Education, to accept health benefits as part of their salary package. These health benefits have been EARNED by the retirees and are being EARNED by current employees. There are NO FREE health benefits. Please post a correction out of respect to the employees of LAUSD. The public needs to understand we EARN our way; there are no FREE benefits, as there is no FREE LUNCH. I proudly served the LAUSD as a teacher and administrator for 36 years. I EARNED my benefits, as have all the loyal employees of the District.

Patricia F. Kinnan, Ed.D
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

CaISTRS COUNSELOR APPOINTMENTS

Because of the increased interest in the retirement incentive announced by the District, there has been a major increase in calls for appointments. At this time, all AM appointment times are booked until the first or second week in March. Since only a few PM appointments (after 1:00 p.m.) are scheduled each week, it will take much longer to find an open time.

To schedule an appointment, call 562.922.6838 or 562.922.6414.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK —

*"If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person
If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house
If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation
If there is order in the nation, there will be Peace in the world."*

— Chinese Proverb

**ENROLLMENT FORECAST 2009 -- NEW PROCESS --
REPLACEMENT FOR ENROLLMENT ROADSHOW**

In the spring of each year, the District has held Enrollment Roadshow meetings with principals as the first step in planning for the new school year. This year, the Spring Enrollment Roadshow process has been changed. The new process is called Enrollment Forecast 2009. Principals will no longer attend Roadshow meetings. Enrollment estimates will be mailed to schools on February 27, and principals will be required to return documents via fax. For more information please see Memorandum No. 4642 titled "2009 Enrollment Forecast Information." Many Local Districts will be offering a workshop to review the packet contents. Attendance is voluntary. Please contact your Local District administrative office for information on date, time, and location.

ATTENTION: Senior High School Principals

If you have a fabulous, outgoing 10th grade student who can interact well with others and might be interested in representing your school and LAUSD in a unique summer home-stay program in Nagoya, Japan, for three weeks, please contact **Adele Bloom** at Adelebloom@gmail.com for a complete packet of information. This packet will supply all the materials describing the summer student exchange program that has been in existence for 40 years. They are also seeking an outstanding certificated chaperone to accompany these four terrific students as well.

Student and chaperone candidates must complete a packet and return it by the **deadline of March 31, 2009**. Interviews will take place immediately after Spring Break. LOS ANGELES/NAGOYA SISTER CITIES AFFILIATION (LANSCA) is a volunteer organization, however, all participants will have their basic transportation and most living expenses paid by the organization and the host families in Japan. Students will be asked to complete a written project about what they have learned regarding some aspect of "Life in Japan," and all participants will be requested to reciprocate by hosting a student or chaperone from Nagoya, Japan, at their home during two weeks of the summer of 2010, or providing alternate arrangements for this person. For further information, please contact **Adele Bloom**, Retired Administrator, Student Exchange Committee Chair, LANSCA, during daily business hours at 949.748.8244 or by e-mail listed above.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON ACCOLADES

Congratulations to El Camino Real High School's Academic Decathlon team for capturing the 2009 LAUSD Academic Decathlon title. The team, coached by **John Dalsass** and **Stephanie Franklin**, amassed a total of 48,791 points out of a possible 60,000 to emerge victorious. North Hollywood High School, coached by **Jim Hatem**, finished second with 46,986 points. Marshall High School, guided by **Larry Welch**, was third in the competition with 46,740 points. In Super Quiz, El Camino Real also placed first, North Hollywood was second, and Palisades Charter, coached by **Chris Lee** and **Ming Ha Ngo**, was third. To be commended for the fine performances of their teams are Principals **Dave Fehte**, El Camino Real; **Randall Delling**, North Hollywood; **Daniel Harrison**, Marshall; and **Martin Griffin**, Palisades Charter.

The top-scoring students, there were two this year, in the Super Quiz event and winners of the **Larry McCormick Memorial Award** were **Matthew Janowski**, El Camino Real High School, and **Anastasya Lloyd-Damjanovic**, Marshall High School. The award, which is sponsored by AALA, was established to honor Larry McCormick for his strong support of the Academic Decathlon. He served for twelve years as the quizmaster. **Mike O'Sullivan** and **Dan Basalone** presented the plaques and scholarships to Matthew and Anastasya at the Awards Ceremony. **Matthew Janowski**, El Camino Real High School, was also the top-scoring student in the competition with a score of 8,946 points out of a possible 10,000 points.

The California Academic Decathlon competition in Sacramento March 13 - 16 will be El Camino Real's next challenge. Also invited to compete at the state finals by virtue of their high scores in the LAUSD competition are North Hollywood; Marshall; Palisades Charter; Granada Hills Charter, coached by **Sharon Menotiades** and **Kelly Byars**; Garfield, coached by **John Bennett** and **Lucy Romero**; Crenshaw, coached by **Jeff Goldberg**; Venice, coached by **Sam Espinosa** and **Eric Schoenbaum**; and Los Angeles, coached by **Richard Cunningham** and **John De Toro**. We are proud of all the teams' accomplishments, and we wish them good luck in the state finals! Congratulations to Principals **Brian Bauer**, Granada Hills Charter; **Michael Summe**, Garfield; **Sheilah Sanders**, Crenshaw; **Lonnie Wallace**, Venice; and **Elena Brown**, Los Angeles, for the fine performances of their teams.

Laura Koenig and **Alex Varela**, South East High School, were honored as Coaches of the Year. This award was established by the late **Dr. Warren Steinberg** to honor outstanding coaches for their dedicated commitment to the Academic Decathlon program.

This year's Most Improved team was Banning High School, coached by **Michael Laura** and **Jennifer Tentés**. Congratulations to Principal **Robert Lopez** for this fine accomplishment.

AALA also extends congratulations to **Cliff Ker**, the District's Academic Decathlon Coordinator, for an excellent job in presenting this outstanding event.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION—

DON'T SUCCUMB TO SELF-NEGLECT

It is human nature to seek comfort in times of crisis and peace in times of peril. Occasionally, a phrase, a quote, or a writing might provide clarity during times of peril. Let me explain.

Several months ago, I was offered the marvelous opportunity of addressing an audience of health care professionals on the issue of stress and burnout and resiliency in the face of adversity.

While preparing, I came across a quote from an obscure Web site, which in effect stated that our culture, our society, and many professions emphasize the notion of "self-neglect." So what does this mean?

If we are not proactive, if we do not take care of ourselves, if we do not create healthy boundaries between work and family life, without question, many of us can spend 18 hours a day in front of our computer monitors or 18 hours a day solving the world problems or 18 hours a day trying to provide guidance and insight to troubled souls, and yet, the work never goes away.

A few months ago, a business consultant addressed one of our meetings here in Rochester, and he made the comment that at no time will the inbox be empty. There is always something to do; there is always a soul to be saved; there is always a presentation or a project to be updated. So what is the take-home message?

We have options and we have alternatives. We can sit in front of the television for 10 hours with a glazed-over look or we can consume too many calories, or we can carve out time to be with family and friends, to be physically active, and to recognize that when it comes to health and wellness our hands are on the helm and we need to take charge.

SOURCE: Edward T. Creagan, M. D., Mayo Clinic

AAALA SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY AWARD APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

AAALA Scholarship applications are in the schools now. Qualified students in traditional high schools, continuation high schools, and adult schools should be encouraged to submit an application for one of these awards. Deadline for applying is Friday, March 20, 2009.

Community Award applications were mailed to all active AALA members. The application can be filled out and submitted online, or downloaded, at www.aalausd.com. It can be located below the heading "Communications" (on the left). Select "Community Volunteer Nomination." Members are encouraged to nominate for one of these awards volunteers who have made a significant contribution to a school and/or community. Nominees can be individuals or groups. The deadline for submitting a nomination to AALA is Friday, March 20, 2009.

The scholarships and the community awards will be presented to the selected students and community volunteers at the AALA Scholarship/Community Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 21, 2009, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel.

Questions regarding the scholarships or community awards should be directed to the AALA office at 213.484.2226.

SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

AAALA members, active or retired, are needed to serve on the Scholarship Selection Committee and the Community Award Selection Committee. The dates for the selection meetings are as follows:

Scholarship - Tuesday, March 31, 2009 - 12:00 - 4:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

Community Awards - Thursday, April 2, 2009 - 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

If you are able to serve on either or both of these committees, please contact **Gema Pivaral** in the AALA office, 213.484.2226.

**REGISTRATION AND CALL FOR PRESENTERS:
LAUSD AREA CONFERENCE ON SECONDARY REFORM,
"LEADING IN A TIME OF CHANGE"**

A Districtwide secondary reform conference sponsored by the Project Change collaborative and AALA will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Project Change is a secondary education reform initiative funded by a U. S. Department of Education grant, and is a joint effort involving the CSUN Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department; the Department of Business, CSUN; Unite LA of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; LAUSD; and AALA.

Participant Registration for the conference opened online on February 1, 2009, at http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pfcFhKmu_bzd7UjQf2NAmQQ.

All LAUSD secondary administrators are invited to attend and school teams are encouraged. Participants will rotate through two sessions in the morning and a panel discussion in the afternoon, earning a \$250 stipend for the full day's attendance.

The purpose of the conference is to provide LAUSD administrators with a Districtwide opportunity to share their most successful practices. Presentations should be based on researched-based best practices that have resulted in the improvement of student achievement and/or the instructional climate. Presentations should offer participants an opportunity to share experiences as well as to receive information and descriptions of practices. Presenters will have the opportunity to make one or more presentations, each approximately 75 minutes in length. **Presenters (or presenting groups) will be provided a \$500 stipend for presenting one to two sessions.**

For more information on the conference and an application to present, go to <http://www.aalausd.com/documents/Call%20for%20Presenters.pdf>

Questions regarding being a presenter should be directed to **Eliza Corpuz** at 818.677.2591 or e-mail to prjekchange@aol.com. **Deadline for returning presenter applications is February 28, 2009.** Return applications to California State University, Northridge, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330-8265, or faxed to 818.677.5720. Applications are also available at the AALA office.