



California Teachers Empowerment Network

Standing out from the crowd, fully informed on the issues

March 31, 2008

Dear Colleague,

I know we are coming to you a little late this month. We did this to ensure that everyone was back from spring break when our monthly letter reached their inbox.

In our last two letters we talked about union spending habits and the controversial Senate Bill 777 (now law) which was supported by the CTA. Not surprisingly, many teachers told us that they were not aware of either situation. As such, we have decided to run some radio ads addressing these issues. If you live in the Sacramento area please listen for these 60 second spots which will start to run this week on KTKZ in the 7am-8am hour and then again from 3pm-4pm. For those of you not in a position to hear the ads, I will include the written copy at the end of this letter.

We have found several items this month that we think you will find worthwhile.

1. We are all aware that there will be a budget shortfall here in CA. However, in the March 20 edition of the North County Times Richard Rider suggests that there is much hysteria on this subject. Please go to http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/03/20/opinion/rider/22_40_313_19_08.txt and see if you agree.
2. It has been clear to many of us that textbooks have become not only dumbed down, but have become overly politicized. The following article by the American Textbook Council addresses this issue - <http://www.historytextbooks.org/california.htm> Also, we have found a site which explains how to take action when textbooks are not up to snuff. Please go to <http://www.textbooktrust.org/YouAndUs.htm>
3. The number of single-sex classrooms is growing nationwide. The New York Times published a lengthy article about this phenomenon earlier this month. To access it, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/02/magazine/02sex3-t.html?pagewanted=all>
4. We have found another union tactics document, this one from the Michigan Teachers Association. While the CTA has not endorsed this document, the tactics are mighty familiar. At least several will be very recognizable to you. To read the copy or hear the actual audio please go to <http://www.mackinac.org/mea/vi.htm> and let us know what you think.

Additionally -

- Our online forum is up and running Please visit the page - <http://www.ctenhome.org/forums.htm> and have a conversation with other teachers about the above topics or anything else related to education.
- We are very interested in meeting with you and your colleagues to see how we can best spread the CTEN message.
- For more information about CTEN, please visit our website – www.ctenhome.org and let us know what you think and also tell us what else we can do to benefit teachers.
- Our 800# was down for a short time due to technical difficulties. It is now up and running. We can be reached at 888-290-8471.

Sincerely,

Larry Sand, President

CTEN – Radio ad - Union Spending

Hello. I am president of the California Teachers Empowerment Network, a group of free-thinking, independent teachers, who are very concerned about the spending habits of the teachers' unions.

In California almost all public school teachers are forced to pay a part of their salary to a teachers' union, which in turn give large sums of that money to institutions and causes that have little or nothing to do with teacher pay, benefits, and working conditions--much less education! Also, it is important to point out that these political donations are overwhelmingly given to organizations with a singular ideological bent.

Our goal here is not to cast judgment on any of the particulars, but to show a very serious left-leaning bias in the unions--a bias that's exceedingly strong. We fervently suspect that many teachers and other citizens are probably not aware of, nor would they approve of, this one-way political spending.

Please go to the links page on our website – www.ctenhome.org, that's c-t-e-n-h-o-m-e.org to learn more about union spending habits and many other issues affecting education in California.

CTEN – Radio ad – SB 777

Hello. I am president of the California Teachers Empowerment Network, a group of free-thinking, independent teachers. We are very concerned about Senate Bill 777, which was passed into law in California on January 1st.

On the surface, this law appears to be merely a change to the education code – an attempt to prohibit discrimination in schools against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students. But even the law's author isn't sure about the potential impact, which could be detrimental to our schools.

And how can the California Teachers Association say that “California's teachers” support this law when it never sought input from its rank and file members? Only the union leadership strongly supported this bill. Classroom teachers were not consulted.

We think you should know more about this law and an initiative that can overturn it. Please go to our website www.ctenhome.org , that's c-t-e-n-h-o-m-e.org to learn more about this law and many other issues affecting education in California.