

## October State Council News and other stuff

This October State Council was one of hope for the future of education with the upcoming Presidential Election and one of further commitment by CTA to keep educational issues in the forefront of the minds of our elected officials. President David Sanchez thanked everyone for their continued efforts to keep budget cuts away from education but he warned that the governor has the power to make additional cuts mid year. Unfortunately, that now seems inevitable. We must continue to work our 100% every day, but be mindful that cuts will happen. District administrators will try to give us more work and especially more work that is not our work. We have to stand together with our SEIU brothers and sisters and let the District know that we are all already giving 100% for the kids.

We all spent a couple of hours in special work groups to strategize how CTA can be more effective in promoting the need for an ongoing, consistent source of revenue for education. There will be more discussion of the groups' ideas at the January State Council.

Also on the agenda for January is the CTA budget. As you remember, the ESP Issues Advisory Committee is lobbying for a total revision of the dues structure for all members. I expect we will spend some time at our Advisory Committee meeting marshalling our arguments to get the message out.

Lisa Thierry, Tami Hassell and I attended a leadership training October 24-26 in Anaheim. The training and trainers were outstanding. Time just flew by as we were introduced and guided through CTA's structures, strategies to represent your rights, CTA Alphabet Soup and lots of sharing of issues and solutions. The most valuable (to me) lesson was "First check the contract". It is the best and quickest way to resolve many, many issues and concerns. I urge all of you to keep your contract at your desk and read a little piece of it every day.

Our CTA/ESP Conference in January is looking good. It's in Las Vegas at the Orleans Hotel. If you are interested in attending, let Jeff know. The reservations are due to the coordinator in Santa Rosa (Sheila Bell) December 5.