**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]
**Sent:** Thursday, December 01, 2011 1:06 PM
**Subject:** Member Update 12/1/11

**Legislative Liaisons** **Needed**   This upcoming state legislative session will be as important as any, ever, as the Governor’s proposed education budget works through the political process at the State Capitol. Interested in making a difference by communicating educators’ issues to our elected representatives?  Sign up to be an SVVEA Legislative Liaison. There is a training scheduled for next Wednesday, December 7th, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Thompson Education Association office in Loveland, with dinner provided. Future trainings will be held if you cannot make this one. Please reply if you are interested.

**Member Survey**  We are close to a 50% response rate, but the more input your Negotiations Team receives the more accurately it can address the needs of members. *As an SVVEA member, your voice is the one that is heard and acted upon*. The link below will remain open until Winter Break, to be followed by a survey more specific to compensation issues as the budget, and the possibility of a mill levy override, become more clear. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey if you haven’t already.  <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/72FDZS8>

**Most members have recently received an email from the Independence Institute under the guise of “****teacher@teacherfund.org****” regarding your EMO contribution. Before you ask for a refund, consider the following:**

**1. What is the SVVEA Every Member Option (EMO)?**

Every Member Option is $10 of teacher dues for SVVEA political activities.

**2. What is the purpose of this money?**

The money is used to support local and state candidates who support public education and educators. Association members help elect candidates from both parties who support our education issues. EMO is also used for: local and state ballot issues that are education or education-employee related; local mill levy and bond elections; candidates for elected office: legislative candidates, statewide officials (Governor, Attorney General, etc.), and school board candidates. SVVEA helps elect only candidates who support public education, helps pass only pro-public education ballot issues, and helps defeat only anti-public education ballot issues.

**3. Why is EMO necessary?**

SVVEA is in the business of public education. Because public education is public dollars, every aspect of our members’ work and their profession is affected by the decisions elected officials make. EMO and our political action program give our members a strong voice in the decisions made about public education and their jobs.

**4. Can a member get his or her EMO money back?**

Yes. Just send a letter with your name and signature to the SVVEA office requesting an EMO refund. For your CEA refund, go to “Contact Us” on the CEA home page at coloradoea.org by December 15th.

**You may also reply to the email to be removed from their list  –  and then see if you are targeted again next year.**

Welcome to December - have a safe, fun afternoon in the snow!

Trip Merklein

President

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