**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:41 AM
**Cc:** Burkett, Kay [CO]; Docherty, Fran [CO]
**Subject:** Member Update 4/26/11
**Importance:** High

Dear SVVEA Colleagues,

Acknowledging that it’s an extremely busy time of year, there are several items of importance for our Association that need your attention this week:

* **Negotiations** – We continue bargaining today and will be finalizing language, based on recommendations of the Collaboration Task Force, that will clarify future building-level decision making. We will also be discussing SB 191(Educator Effectiveness) terms and concepts that must be negotiated at the district level. The impact of SB 191 on our Master Agreement cannot be underestimated; it has a number of direct implications – how *teacher* is defined, changes to teacher evaluation and due process, teacher transfers, and principal evaluation, just to name a few.

If you have not yet responded to the SVVEA bargaining survey, please take a moment to do so. Your input is valued, appreciated, and is helping frame the next phase of negotiations, beginning Monday, May 2.        <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8PGCMPJ>

* **SVVEA Treasurer Run-Off Election** – Candidates Jessica Klassen (FHS) and Fred Wilson (CDC/LHS). This election is as important as any other, and it’s our first opportunity to put into practice the new Election Guidelines’ empowerment of membership, in place of the Board of Directors, in filling an officer seat where there was no majority candidate. **See your building AR for details. There is a short turnaround time line for this election.**
* **Sally Joyce Memorial** nominations are **due by Friday, April 29** **(see attachment for details)** –

It only takes a moment to nominate a teacher or other employee, parent or anyone in the St. Vrain Valley School district who has volunteered *above and beyond the call of duty*for the welfare and education of the students of the St. Vrain Valley Schools. This is our Association’s most important recognition of the year.

* **District and State Budgets –** Your President, and Negotiations Chair Faythe Hanna, both met with the district’s Chief Financial Officer Terry Schueler last week to review the status of district and state budget cuts. We were satisfied with the information provided, but we shall still request budget documents just as we would in a year when compensation is negotiated. Faythe will now be attending the monthly district Finance and Audit Committee meetings.

At our AR meeting last week, Superintendent Don Haddad stated that restoring class size ratios and building budgets would be the priority if the state budget picture improves. Your Negotiations Team will be keeping a close eye on any developments.

Be sure to check out the “At the Capitol” section of the April-May CEA Journal. It is very informative, particularly the article on K-12 budget cuts, “*It’s still bad, it’s still really bad.”* There are also summaries of CEA’s successful lobbying efforts this legislative session, especially regarding PERA and anti-union bills.

* **TELL Survey Follow-Up**  - If your staff has not yet had a conversation about the survey results, planning for it should be in the works. The time dedicated to completing the survey will only have value if the results are analyzed and a commitment is made to improve. Ask your AR or principal for the plan in your building.

Thank you for your indispensible support of our Association. There is no substitute for the work of our organization.

Trip Merklein

President

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