**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]   
**Sent:** Thursday, October 13, 2011 11:52 AM  
**Cc:** Burkett, Kay [CO]; Docherty, Fran [CO]  
**Subject:** Member Update 10/13/11  
**Importance:** High

**School Board Race**

Four incumbents are up for re-election in the upcoming SVVSD School Board race, but only District A has a competitive seat with Vice President Rick Hammans being challenged by Arnold Hanuman, a Boulder County Deputy DA. Your SVVEA Candidate Interview Team researched, interviewed, and evaluated each candidate. The Team’s recommendation is to take a *neutral position* on the candidates. Check out this link on our **new SVVEA website** for candidates’ information, including their strengths and areas of concern: [http://svvea.org/?page\_id=2](#_top) . (NOTE: This information is no longer available on the website.) Thanks to Julie Benjamin and Ellie Decker of Westview MS, Amy Stahl of Lyons Elementary, Sandra Stubblefield of Mountain View Elementary, and Fred Wilson of Mead HS/CDC for donating their time to serve on the Candidate Interview Team.

**Proposition 103**

The Boulder Daily Camera has come out in favor of Prop 103 <http://www.dailycamera.com/ci_19090423?IADID=Search-www.dailycamera.com-www.dailycamera.com> while the Longmont Times-Call opposes it in its editorial titled “Bad time for this proposition.” (see attachment – the Times-Call website is down for today). The T-C opinion (check the link) begs the question: When is a good time? I am reminded of Dr. Martin Luther King’s response to President Kennedy about going slow on desegregation. To paraphrase, “Wait almost always means never.”  Now is the time for Prop 103. Find plenty of factual information at Education News Colorado, with a number of helpful links, including the “Blue Book” pros & cons. [http://www.ednewscolorado.org/election-2011-proposition-103](#_top). Feel free to respond to the Times-Call with a letter to the editor!

**Member Advocacy**

Your UniServ Director, Fran Docherty, and I have been very busy working on numerous member issues including teaching assignments, scheduling to align with the Master Agreement, variances, salary placement, Special Ed/Student Services concerns, and principals lacking effective management styles, to name a few. We also participated in a four-day facilitated work session with several other districts’ HR and Association representatives to clarify policies and practices related to the “mutual consent” provision of SB 191. This work will pay off during negotiations around new teacher evaluation.

**Principal Evaluation Pilot**

To date, principal evaluation has not had the rigor of teacher evaluation. Staff from the Colorado Department of Education are meeting with a small group from HR, district administrators and SVVEA representatives on October 27 & 28 to discuss details about SVVSD principals’ participation in the CDE Educator Effectiveness Principal Pilot this school year. The Evaluation Task Force should begin its work for this year shortly afterward. Details will be forthcoming.

Have a great 3 day weekend!

Trip Merklein

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