**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]   
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2011 3:03 PM  
**Cc:** Burkett, Kay [CO]  
**Subject:** Member Update

Dear SVVEA Colleagues:

A couple of noteworthy items to begin your week:

* Tomorrow our Bargaining Team will meet with the District to begin negotiating. Through May 17, we have five full days set aside to for negotiations. We will be bringing forward recommendations from the revived Collaborative Decision Making Task Force (from a 2009 Master Agreement Memorandum of Understanding) that met in March and April. The work of this group was completed by six SVVEA representatives and six administrators, and it should help negotiations get off to a good start.  While compensation is not on the table this year we continue to monitor the District’s budget actions carefully.
* If you have not yet responded to the SVVEA survey, please take a moment to do so. Your input is valued and appreciated.  <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8PGCMPJ>
* **Monday, APRIL 18 is LOBBY DAY -  ONE WEEK FROM TODAY - PLEASE COME!**

SVVEA would like to take up to 20 members on Monday, April 18, for the statewide CEA Lobby Day. We will cover your substitute. Participation is first-come, first-served. We have a half-dozen members signed up already. Please notify SVVEA Office Manager, Kay Burkett, if you are interested. [kburkett@coloradoea.org](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\trip.merklein\My%20Documents\My%20Pictures)  Lobby Day will start at the Knights of Columbus building, west across Grant Street from CEA, at 8:00 a.m. with coffee and rolls. Members will have a briefing from our CEA lobbyists at 8:15 and walk to the Capitol at 9:30 (the Legislature starts at 10:00). Lunch will be served at the Knights of Columbus at noon and members will return to the Capitol for the 1:30 House Education Committee hearing. We’d like you to stay until 3:00 if you can. Carpooling arrangements will be made by this Friday. **This is a great opportunity to have direct communication with our lawmakers about the impact of budget cuts to education.**

* **VIRTUAL POSTCARD ACTIVITY** **– CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS**

<http://capitolcontact.com/layout3.php?url=437-iYuPSfEWmURs2H7N>

This link goes to a web site with an explanation of the “virtual postcard” directions. Members’ emails will send a single message to four legislative leaders (two Democrats, two Republicans): Sen. Shaffer, Rep. Pace, Sen. Kopp, and Rep. McNulty. You can add your own budget cut stories, if you desire. *You are encouraged to do this as it helps legislators understand the impact of their $250 million budget cut decisions to K – 12 public education, and so the CEA voice is clear and visible in the budget debate happening this week.*

Note: Members can use school email for this activity as it is a legislative activity, not a political (election) activity – unless your local does not have the right to use school emails or unless the district has specifically banned legislative action communications. We encourage you to use home/personal emails as much as possible, but it is legal and appropriate to use members’ school emails unless your local is restricted by the district from doing so. We cannot give you a blanket “okay,” because districts’ policies and our collective bargaining agreements vary across the state.

* Senate Bill 76 (PERA Increases) Back to Original

On Friday the House State Affairs Committee stripped the amendment offered earlier in the session by Rep. Brian DelGrosso (R-Loveland) that would have allowed school districts to shift up to 2.5% of their PERA contribution onto employees. Such a move would destabilize PERA and undermine the collaborative efforts made in Senate Bill 1, the PERA reform bill, as well as seriously reduce school employee paychecks on top of school funding cuts.

Back in its original form, SB 76 continues the 2.5% shift for State and Judicial Division employees for another year, but does not increase it. For these employees, it means an estimated total salary loss of $61 million in the next year.

The State Affairs Committee's action was part of the school finance compromise. **Many Association members contacted their legislators about SB 76. We salute you for your advocacy.**

* Two hard copies the updated Master Agreement have been mailed to each building’s AR(s). A hard copy will be provided to any member who requests one. Contact Office Manager Kay Burkett.

Have a great week!

Trip Merklein

President

St. Vrain Valley Education Association

255 Weaver Park Road, Suite 202

Longmont, CO   80501

Office (303) 772-3666

Cell (303) 519-5705