**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 1:50 PM
**Cc:** Burkett, Kay [CO]; Docherty, Fran [CO]
**Subject:** Member Update 8/29/11

Congratulations on successfully completing your first full week back with students. Whether a new teacher or a veteran, the return of students is always a time of excitement and challenges, perhaps even more so this year.

Unfortunately, for many teachers the numerous new district-initiated changes originating from many different administrative departments brought some unnecessary tests of patience. Teachers are natural problem-solvers, and you all undoubtedly managed, despite the difficult situations, to make the week a success for your students. However, in this era of accountability we must be provided reliable systems by the district. Many of the new initiatives are computer based, and DTS worked over the weekend to address the problems. Joe McBreen, our District Chief Information Officer, has indicated the widespread CITRIX issues are fixed, but you may need to contact the Help Desk for some individual clean up issues such as re-establishing a printer.

I spent much of last week visiting with Association Reps to get a pulse on individual schools, including concerns about scheduling, loss of para support and overcrowded classrooms, but also discussing what is going well. I’ll continue these AR visits over the next couple of weeks and will soon be meeting members during building visits as well.

Negotiations for 2012-13 will begin this fall. Our current Master Agreement expires on June 30, 2012, and there are many issues to be resolved, including compensation, workload, and major changes to teacher evaluation resulting from Senate Bill 191.  Your Bargaining Team is meeting Tuesday to continue preparations. We are currently crafting a survey for feedback relevant to the demands of this new school year.

Master Agreements are being mailed out to members this week and have been delivered to the ESC for distribution to building administrators. The new agreement cover is bright orange so as to not be mistaken with the past few years’ red versions. In future member communications, timely and relevant language will be featured, as your ARs receive corresponding advocacy training.

There will be a competitive race in our School Board’s District A.   Boulder County Deputy Assistant Attorney Arnold Hanuman has announced his intention to challenge Board VP Rick Hanmmans. Please let me know if you are interested in assisting with the SVVEA candidate interview and recommendation process.

Enjoy your week leading up to Labor Day weekend!

Trip Merklein

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