

JANUARY 2009 STATE COUNCIL NEWS

It was an interesting and busy January this year. As a member of the CTA/ESP Conference Committee, I flew to Las Vegas to prepare for and assist at the ESP portion of the conference. While I was only able to actually attend one of the workshops as the “go-fer,” I heard many favorable comments by the other attendees. Hopefully many of you will choose to attend next year. We combined ours with the Rural Issues Conference (RIF) and I found that many of the workshop sessions targeted at Rural Issues apply to ESP as well. At one of the sessions, we actually outnumbered the certificated attendees!

The price for the venue is so low compared to California, I can see why small chapters (Rural and ESP) choose to spend their hard-earned dues dollars there.

The very next weekend, I left home again for the CTA/ESP/IAC meeting in Los Angeles on January 22. By the way, we seem to have arrived within the CTA organization as we are now part of their “alphabet soup”. The meeting was for the **C**alifornia **T**eachers **A**ssociation/**E**ducation **S**upport **P**rofessionals/**I**ssues **A**dvisory **C**ommittee. The members of this committee brought forth some serious concerns about upcoming RIF’s and layoffs. Chapter presidents should be getting a packet mid February to assist them in protecting the best interests of their members. This is a scary time for all and we at IAC are determined to keep the contributions to education that ESP’s provide from taking a back seat before the legislature and the community. I urge you to talk to your friends, family, church and social organizations about the outrageous fact that our state ranks 47th in the country in per pupil spending.

Here is a thought for you to bring up to the people who just don’t understand what we do:

Without Education Support Professionals:

the buses wouldn’t roll,
school doors wouldn’t open,
the school bell wouldn’t ring,
the students wouldn’t be registered,
the textbooks wouldn’t be ordered,
the water wouldn’t flow,
the heat wouldn’t work,
the budgets wouldn’t get finalized,
the computers wouldn’t be hooked up,
the paychecks wouldn’t get issued,
the lights wouldn’t shine,
the weeds would cover the doorway,
the phones wouldn’t get answered,
and school meals could not be served.

.Without ESP, education would come to a screeching halt.

-- Kathleen Telles