

Oroville Secondary Teachers Association

TEACHER TALK

<http://www.ostahome.org>

*All articles are submitted by OSTA unit members. Please submit them to
Linda Draper at LPHS e-mail ldraper@ostahome.org*

20 November 2009

OSTA/CTA/NEA

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Executive Board for 2009-2010

President: Larry Cobbler (LP) **Vice President:** Steve King (O) **Treasurer:** Steve Wolf (O)
Secretary: Leanna Felardo (O) **Publicity:** Linda Draper (LP) **Research:** Shane Walter (LP)
Policy: Rodger Townsend (O) **Membership:** Mike Caratenuto (O) **Political Action:** Lisa Avila (LP)
Board Rep: Carol Anderson (O) **Grievance:** **PHS Site Rep:** Scott Martin (PHS)
OHS Site Rep: Teisha Hase (O) **LP Site Rep:** Melody Mayfield (LP) **Ad Sch Rep:** Susan Hoopes (OAS)

Head Negotiator 09-10: Scott Martin (PHS)

Negotiator 08-10: Nannette Walker (LP) **Negotiator 09-11:** Teisha Hase (O)

Negotiator 08-10: David Gnesda (LP) **Negotiator 09-11:** Steve King (O)

*Note: Meetings are held the first TUESDAY of the month at the Western
Pacific Brewery Restaurant (formerly The Depot) at 3:30 p.m. You are always welcome.*

Had Any Prescriptions Filled Lately?

By Linda Draper

A couple of days ago I went into my pharmacy to have a prescription filled. I expected the \$5.00 co-pay, since CVT changed our coverage awhile back. What I did not expect was the price I was charged: \$22.00! The reason? They could only give me the “brand name” for my prescription because there was no generic brand for it.

When Larry Cobbler sent a message to Dr. Roberts asking about how we could be reimbursed prior to filing the grievance, Dr. Roberts’ response was as follows: “We have neither negotiated with OSTA to reimburse co-payments nor have we budgeted for it.”

However, since our contract states that we have full coverage on medical and dental, we do have cause to grieve this issue.

I’m saving my receipts – and so should you.

President’s Corner

By Larry Cobbler

As you know, our long fought for medical and health care package has been changed by CVT without our approval. The CVT Blue Cross plan is no longer providing fully paid prescription coverage. However, our contract language states that the district will provide us with a fully paid plan.

A grievance has been filed over the prescription co-pays now being forced upon us. With time lines approaching, OSTA filed the Prescription Co-Pay Grievance (which is now at Level 2) with Dr. Roberts, our superintendent; however, it was denied.

Discussions were held in a bargaining team meeting and in an executive board meeting on the grievance, and the consensus was that we continue the process to Level 3, which is Request for Mediation. The Request for Mediation was filed on Nov. 10. If we win this

grievance, it will save all of you a lot of money. And if we lose, then at least we know we went down fighting.

The grievance process is our way of protecting our contract and our rights. We must follow timelines or we give up the right to correct an injustice. This is one of the many things that help to keep unions strong. Be sure to read your contract, and if you feel that the contract has been broken, mention it to your site rep immediately.

“An injury to one is an injury to all.” I’ve seen this quote at many CTA conferences and it is 100% true.

Members Serve on Grievance Committee

By Linda Draper

Leanna Felardo (OHS) and Larry Cobbler (LP) are serving on the grievance committee. In addition, Scott Martin (PHS) volunteered to assist them. Stephanie Greco was unable to serve as Grievance Chair, so that position is still open. If anyone is interested in serving in an important role in OSTA, please contact Larry Cobbler. There will be training for anyone interested the position.

New CTA Investment Site

By Linda Draper

CTA recently announced a site that gives tips for investing exclusively to members of CTA. The site is ctainvest.org and it has some excellent financial tools.

- **Calculators:** From Standard and Poor’s; there is also a 403(b) Planner and an Asset Allocation Profiler.
- **Webinars:** For managing debt and credit; it also helps with understanding mutual funds and other investments.
- **Case Studies:** Testimonials by CTA members.
- **Articles:** Read about your Cal-STRS plan, 403(b), investing, and financial planning.

New Chair of DAC Committee Elected

By Linda Draper

In a surprise vote at an October DAC meeting, Camille Upton was nominated and elected chair of the committee by a 6-5 vote. Another member of the committee then expressed his view that a school employee shouldn’t be the chair.

One of the students on the committee said the committee should be looking at the budget. Dr. Willenberg said that it was more than they could handle! The girls said that if they’re going to decide whether they can save any money, they need to see how much money is involved. Dr. Willenberg said, “Maybe we can put something together for you.”

Camille would like to encourage everyone to attend the DAC meetings; they are open to the public.

Tell it to Teacher Talk

After Camille Upton was elected chair of the DAC meeting, Dr. Willenberg wanted more nominations! Clearly, this turn of events was not what the district had hoped for.

- Anonymous

OSTA Newsletter Distribution for 2009-10

This issue of OSTA's *Teacher Talk* newsletter was distributed by e-mail. If you did not receive it, send me an e-mail (ldraper@ostahome.org) with your name, school, and correct personal e-mail address. We won't be using the district ouhsd.org e-mail accounts for OSTA business. Past issues of OSTA's *Teacher Talk* may also be viewed at www.ostahome.org