

Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views



The fight is never about grapes or lettuce.
It is always about people.

-Cesar Chavez



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May Day Issue

April 24, 2006



Lifelong Learning Department Art Show

If you've walked into the Green Valley office recently you've seen the spectacular art objects (expressive torsos!!) in the showcase. They are the products of Jan Reyes' art class (who are also keeping our hallways filled with color and design). We've received great response from the public who stand and scrutinize carefully these unique artifacts. Congratulations to our student artists!

May Day Demonstrations Will Have Impact on Adult Ed. Classes

(see Rep. Sam Farr's response to Charles DeWald's class on p 2)

Although attendance in most of our classes were affected very little by last month's large national demonstrations against the House of Representatives Immigration legislation, the extent of the planned activities for May Day, Monday, May 1 is still unknown. Although some activists have urged that demonstrations occur "after school and after work", there are also a great many who want to boycott all classes, commercial activities, and make as large an impact as possible on the "normal" day. Whatever the case, in most of our classes on May 1 I am suggesting we do not have class as usual. Whether you use this as an opportunity to teach a lesson about immigration and citizenship, or the proposed immigration legislations, or talk about how May Day around the world is a day honoring workers, please speak to your students and have them help determine what Monday will be like. Talk to your department chair about your own ideas and plans. Remember also that we will have four student council meetings this week, so let's create a supportive environment where students can talk directly to each other about the issues. If, as expected, a great many of our students do not attend on Monday, let's make sure they are welcomed back, and what an opportunity to use these important days as opportunities for learning and mutual learning from each other... our students have much to teach us about.

Democracy in Action - part 2

April 20, 2006

Mr. Charles DeWald

ESL Instructor- Watsonville/Aptos Adult School

Dear Charles :

Thank you for writing me about immigration. I understand that this is an issue that evokes very strong reactions.

Even before the protests over the last several weeks, the need for comprehensive immigration reform was unmistakable. Over 12 million undocumented immigrants reportedly live in the U.S. Most are here for a better life; they pay taxes and they perform low-paid, unskilled jobs few Americans desire or seek. By forcing these hardworking individuals to remain in the shadows, we risk creating an environment where a minority criminal element can operate unchecked. This situation only threatens our national security and complicates the vital job of those charged with protecting our homeland.

Since his first years in office, President Bush made the implementation of a guestworker program a priority for his Presidency. Unfortunately after 9/11, his immigration reform agenda was pushed to the side. Finally, in the last several months, the Republican Leadership has brought the issue to the forefront of national policy making.

Last December, the House Republican Leadership brought a truly egregious bill to the Floor for a vote. HR 4437 was completely unrealistic in its "enforcement only" proposals. It would make not only anyone in the country illegally a felon, but it also criminalizes humanitarian aid and religious workers as well. It proposed a wall reminiscent of the infamous Berlin Wall along our border with Mexico and did nothing to address the real issue facing the country today - what to do with the 12 million undocumented people that are currently living in this country? I could not support the bill because of its complete disregard of the complex dynamics of our immigration situation.

The Senate Republican Leadership also agreed to address immigration reform this Congress. At the end of March, the Senate Judiciary Committee, under substantial pressure from Presidential - hopeful Majority Leader Bill Frist, reported out a bill that included a guestworker program for the agriculture industry and provided a path to citizenship for the current illegal aliens abiding in the country. As Senators began debating the bill, negotiations regarding how many and which amendments would be offered fell apart. This is an important point because amendments could completely change the character of the underlying bill.

Though Senators have publicly committed to continue negotiations, it remains highly unlikely that a bill addressing comprehensive immigration reform will pass in this Congress.

Despite this impasse, the fact remains that 12 million undocumented immigrants continue to reside in the United States and this issue will not go away. I strongly believe that next year, in a year without an election, cooler heads could prevail and comprehensive legislation may be possible.

In the mean time, I will continue to support bills that promote family reunification, asylum and refugee admissions, employment-based immigration, and a path to legalization while striking the balance between American jobs, border safety and national security interests.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as this debate will surely continue.

Sincerely,

SAM FARR
Member of Congress

CCAIE - Central Coast Chapter

To: Certificated and Classified Staff
From: Kim Iwasko – California Council for Adult Education (CCAIE)
President
Re: CCAIE May 13th, Conference at Monterey Adult Education

As you know, this is the year for Adult Education Celebration around the state. We have been a constant source of education for millions of students throughout the state of California. CCAIE is our organization that ensures we have a voice and an influence in California state law. Please take the time to research the CCAIE website at <http://www.ccaestate.org>. As a way to celebrate the Central Coast Adult Education successes, many Adult Education leaders suggested a mini-conference. As a result of these suggestions, the May 13th Conference evolved. Here are the details. As of today's date I have only received four Memos of interest to attend this conference. Please see the below details of the conference and I hope the **financial incentives** will peak your interests...

“Sharing Best Practices Central Coast Style”

Keynote speaker; Mike Roddy who teaches for the credentialing program and employs drama, songs, writing poetry etc. and many creative activities in his teaching in high school subjects. There will be eight other sessions on varying topics included persistence, VESL project based learning, Parent education and others. At the conference, I will be asking you to sign up to be a CCAIE member.

WHEN: Saturday May 13, 2006
WHAT TIME: 8:30 am to noon

WHY: To share best practices and to celebrate 150 years of adult education in California.

AGENDA: Welcome
Keynote Speaker
Breakout Sessions

WHERE: Del Monte Adult Education
222 Casa Verde Way
Monterey, CA 93940

Compensation: **Teachers** - 2 hours of extra duty pay for **non-CCAIE** members
Teachers - 4 hours of extra duty pay for **CCAIE** members
Classified – 2 hours of overtime will be paid...

I'd like to encourage everyone associated with Adult Education to become a CCAIE member. If you are already a member of CCAIE make me a copy of your membership card and I'll submit to Marjorie as proof of your membership. If you aren't a member and would like to become a member please bring your checkbook on Saturday May 13th and your cost will be \$ 25.00 pro-rated for the rest of the year. CCAIE will ask you to renew on September 1st, 2006.

Kim Iwasko
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WAAE Calendar

Rescheduled Student Councils, April 24, 25

Monday, May 1, May Day

*California Council for Adult Education - State Conference
May 4-6, Sacramento*

*ESL Leadership Team
Wednesday, May 10, 4:00-5:00, Porter*

CCAE Central Coast Mini-Conference - Monterey, Sat. May 13, Paid!!

*Community Advisory Council (NEW DATE)
Wednesday, May 17, 10:30-noon, Green Valley*

*School Council
Wednesday, May 17, 4:00-6:00, Green Valley*

*Memorial Day
Monday, May 29*

*ESL Awards Ceremony
Thursday, June 1, 7:00pm, Mello Center*

*WAAE Secondary Graduation Ceremony
Friday, June 2, 7:00pm, Mello Center*

*WAAE All-School Dance
Thursday, June 15, 6:00-9:30, WHS Cafeteria*

el·lip·sis . . .

n. pl. el·lip·ses (-s z)

The omission of a word or phrase necessary for a complete syntactical construction but not necessary for understanding.

... many of our teachers have still not returned the forms indicating interests in summer school or your desire to return in Fall (please send these in so we can make decisions with as clear a picture as possible)... summer school assignments should be communicated to teachers within a week..... congratulations to Marisa Rivas, WAAE's 7th student recognized as a "California Adult Education Student Succeeds" on the state website... Jose Humberto Camacho will also be honored formally at the luncheon at the State CCAE conference in Sacramento .