

News and Notes

We have very bad news from California. The Department of Correction and Rehabilitation has officially laid off 800 of the 1400 teachers, as of February 28th. There is a lawsuit pending which alleges that the cuts violate state law. It may be decided by mid-March and that leaves us all some hope. The CEA office has been in continuous contact with teachers and their union during the crisis. The situation is not as bleak in other states. However, at the same time, lots of other states are implementing furloughs, job freezes, position cuts and other budgetary restrictions in corrections. In most cases, education is taking its equal share of cuts, but in California education and drug rehab programs took most of the cuts. CEA contacted and sought support from the correctional officers union, but my entreaty was turned down. The peace officers in California, historically, have spent lots of money to support political campaigns across the state. As a result their contracts have shielded them from any cuts. CDCR is really in a quandary because it has little choice but to cut programs, not security. All during my professional life security has been a friend and ally. Unfortunately, in California that is not the case.

On a more positive note the CEA Peer Tutoring continues to prosper and grow. At this writing, CEA is preparing to train about 80 correctional educators in Georgia from May 12-14. Each of the teachers will receive three full days of literacy training and return to their institutions with new skills, a training manual with over 400 pages of great materials, a DVD illustrating key instructional strategies and CD that contains all the materials necessary to implement tutor training in their institutions. Several other states are in the process of considering peer tutoring as well. Please check out the CEA webpage for more information or contact me at CEA.

TLN is alive and well and is available in a new technology. Take a look at the list of inmate and staff training videos available in our ad in this newsletter. We are making many of the excellent videos that used to be on our satellite network on encrypted hard drives. And we will soon be offering many new videos as well. In addition, you will see the most popular of the National Institute of Corrections training programs. Both sets of videos are available on secure hard drives for a low price.

Coming soon will be the CEA *Come On People Workbook*, a re-entry program which incorporates Drs. Bill Cosby and Alvin Poussaint's *Come On People* book that CEA distributed nationally during the last year. The workbook was piloted by the Ohio Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Ohio Central School System and Ashland University under the leadership of Drs. John Dowdell and Phil Amerine. Check out the CEA website for details.

These are tough time and we need to stick together. I hope that California is an aberration because of the power of the unions. CEA is a positive force but we need you to keep involved.