

HAVE YOU EVER FELT THIS WAY?

“I have lots of good suggestions but no one ever listens!”

“CTA just doesn’t represent my views!”

“When are we going to tell our story?”

If you think you are part of a silent minority that is never heard, now is your opportunity to give your input directly to APLE Exec Board and your CTA representatives. California teachers are facing one of the most significant political battles in the last fifty years. Initiatives and legislation are being proposed that will dramatically change the role of the teacher in the classroom; teacher’s retirement and tenure; evaluation criteria; the RIF process; as well as your ability to support your family and provide adequate health coverage. **An initiative to seriously limit CTA’s ability to raise the finances needed to fight these measures has already qualified for the ballot.** We need to convince the public that “Teachers Are Not The Bad Guys” and protect our hard-earned achievements.

CTA is an organization made up of teachers just like you. The campaign to fight these challenges will be expensive and APLE needs to know how you think your dues money can be most effectively used. **One of APLE’s jobs is to find out how our members feel about the various issues and then to pass that information on to CTA.** To gather this information APLE intends to convene seven focus groups, including our conservative teachers, young teachers, veteran teachers, elementary teachers and secondary teachers, as well as our retired teachers. We would also like one focus group to consist of a representative cross section of our teachers to evaluate general campaign strategies and identify which videos best communicate our challenges to our teachers.

APLE will be scheduling the focus groups meetings after school on various Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays over the next two months. **It will only take an hour of your time and will include about seven teachers to ensure that everyone’s ideas are heard.** If more than seven teachers want to participate in a particular category, we will try to form a second group and schedule it at a later time. The focus groups will be moderated by some of our retired teachers who will compile the ideas and present them to APLE Exec Board and your CTA representatives for consideration and action. All comments will remain anonymous.

If you are interested in participating in a particular focus group contact Holly Clarke at 714-970-3700. The first focus group will be convened this Wednesday to look at videos and general campaign strategies to determine which will be most appropriate to use for school visitations. **Sign up quickly as space is limited and we want to hear from all those who want to have input.**

Remember, we can’t act on your behalf if we do not know your feelings!

Sign up for a focus group by calling Holly Clarke at 714-970-3700

APLE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR IDEAS

