

NEA/AFT MERGER CAUCUS AT AFT CONVENTION

July 9, 2010

12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

In attendance approximately 30 people.

1. Why did NEA reject merger?
 - a. AFL-CIO
 - b. Governance Structure – secret ballot
 - c. NEA President did not do grassroots work to allay fears.
2. Our job now
 - a. Show success stories of merger to NEA members to bring them on board.
3. AFT
 - a. Pretty much still okay.
4. NEA Board
 - a. Seems pretty okay with AFL-CIO at this year's presentation.
5. Issues
 - a. Are cultural differences between NEA & AFT more important than fighting the forces against us?
 - b. Both organizations seem to be saying same thing this year at their conventions. (Fight forces against us.)
 - c. NY – we worked out differences in culture.
 - d. Has merger caucus met with President?
 - e. They are not too receptive so we need to exert pressure.
 - f. NEA Board has merger caucus (grew out of us). Met with NEA Officers, they were polite.
 - g. California Community College
 - i. 27,000 CCC AFT
 - ii. 16,000 CTA NEA
 - iii. Working for 3 years.
 - h. Missouri interested in subject.

- i. NEAFT.org - on-line petition coming.
- j. Problem of Staff worried about jobs -- need sensitivity.
- k. Problem of past history -- time to put aside.
- l. New CTA -- CA State President sympathetic to merger.

6. Things to DO

- a. Can we put "how to" on webpage? Each merger occurred due to its special circumstances.
- b. Greg -- 3 times a year will put out electronic newsletter (and mail also) to go viral with the stories of how the mergers occurred.
- c. Especially important to tell new members stories.
- d. Link your local webpage to NEAFT.org.
- e. States without collective bargaining especially could benefit from merger.
- f. AI has "raiding" problem now.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Alexanderson