

Colleagues,

It is our plan to share all the information we have with you as soon as we have it, and we hope that by doing so we can people aware of the current situation without having rumors spread. We have been in contact with many of the LPN teachers today. We hope that you encourage any of the LPN instructors with whom you work to provide us their home email addresses so we can communicate with as many teachers as possible.

We are working on two fronts concurrently. Many of you have contacted legislators, local health care facilities, and other people and organizations who could advocate for the LPN; we applaud your efforts and encourage you to continue. We have been in touch with our lobbyist and continue to contact people we believe can help us keep this vital program operating. However, the news from the Governor's office is grim. The Governor shows no interest in negotiating or even discussing these cuts. We have been told that Central Office has begun contacting the applicants that the program is not being run in January. While we will continue to fight to keep the program open, we must make sure that the process of guaranteeing everyone's SEBAC rights has begun. We have had conversations with Dan Livingston, lead SEBAC negotiator, about making the Retirement Incentive Plan available for LPN teachers who were eligible for the RIP on July 1, 2009. We are looking to meet with Dan soon so that we can outline our myriad of concerns and questions with him. We have discussed a number of possibilities with Central Office, and we will have a meeting with the Superintendent this Thursday.

We will continue to share all the information we have with you. We do want to make sure that everything we state is accurate and final. We encourage you to read our website, www.svft.org, and check your emails for updates. We welcome you to call us at 1-800-378-8020 with any questions you may have, and we will strive to get your questions answered as quickly as possible. We want to provide all the support we can in this most difficult time.

In Solidarity,

Rick Tanasi
SVFT President

Jan Hochadel
SVFT Vice-President

Ed Leavy
SVFT Executive Union Rep