



Your Union, Your Voice Your Newsletter

Hesperia Teachers Association

April 2015

Your E-Board:

Thomas Kerman
President
hta.pres@gmail.com

Gordon Williamson
Vice-President
hta.vpres@gmail.com

Paula Kondratko
Secretary
hta.secr@gmail.com

Jim Garrett
Treasurer
hta.tres@gmail.com

Mike Egan
Director at Large
hta.directatlarge@gmail.com

James Resvaloso
Secondary Director
hta.2direct@gmail.com

Rebekah Swanson
Elementary Director
hta.edirect@gmail.com

Your Rep. Council

Canyon Ridge

Tanalee Jackson

Carmel

Barbara Beechum

Cedar

Krista Rodriguez

Renee Singer

Cottonwood

Robert Balder

Eucalyptus

Kris Holmes

DO

Robert Hargis

Tina Viarya

People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.

– George Bernard Shaw

President's Message

We often times do not recognize the outstanding individuals that are our members. What may seem like an ordinary life to them is actually one full of extraordinary achievements in life. Four of our members are highlighted in this issue Gordon Williamson, Betsy Patridge, Jason Kleber and Tim Vanneberg. Gordon and Betsy are both featured in the last two issues of the CTA Educator magazine.

Everyday our members do amazing things in their classrooms that go unrecognized except by our students. We do it not for recognition, but because of who we are. Although accolades do not often come our way, our voice is one of the most respected, which is why the LCAP requires teachers' input.

The LCAP directs the funds of the supplemental and concentration grants that is a significant portion of our district's budget. Your site representatives will be bringing to you information regarding the LCAP and the process for your input. It is essential that you make your voice heard so the funds can be directed to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and resources we need to best our students.

Cypress

James Fogo
Carolyn Stayton

Hesperia High School

Ellen Stephen
Devon Bostock
Jeremy Topete
Stephanie Seitz

Hesperia Junior High

Cheryl Franks
Debbie Herndon

Hollyvale

Kathy Brawthen

Joshua Circle

Cheryl Cope

Juniper

Cynthia Greenlee

Kingston

Todd O'Neal

Krystal

Jamie Barnhardt

Lime

Penny Hale
Christine Robinson

Maple

Virginia Marquez

Mesa Grande

Kelly Denny

Mesquite Trails

Louise Oliekan

Mission Crest

Susana Castillo

Teri Jo Muzquiz

Mojave

Evlyn Puentes

Oak Hills

Steve Trudeau

Sean Shea

Jim Kutch

Ron Clabo

Mike Stayton

Ranchero

Irma Campos

James Carter

Shadow Ridge

Kelly Ford

Sultana

Jeremy Topete

Jim Kutch

Brett Simmons

Topaz

Marcia Rhodes

Alysia Van

Don't forget to reinstate your Disability Insurance after leave of absence

- A lot of California Teachers Association (CTA) members assume that their voluntary Disability Insurance coverage from Standard Insurance Company (The Standard) will be automatically reinstated when they return to work from an extended leave of absence. Unfortunately, that may not be the case. Because your Disability Insurance is a voluntary benefit sponsored by CTA, your district may not automatically notify The Standard that you are back at work.
- The good news is reinstating your Disability Insurance with The Standard is easy. Once you know the date you will return to work, call The Standard's CTA Customer Service team at 800.522.0406. Tell the Customer Service Specialist that you will be returning to work after a leave of absence and you wish to reinstate your Disability Insurance. The Customer Service Specialist will send you a brief form to complete and send back to The Standard.
- It's important to notify The Standard as soon as you know your return to work date, because:
- If you return your reinstatement form to The Standard within 120 days of your first day back at work, you do not have to provide proof of good health.
- If you wait to reinstate your Disability Insurance, you might end up with a lengthy gap in your coverage.
- Call The Standard's CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific time to get your Disability Insurance reinstated once you know your return to work date. After you return to work and send in the reinstatement form, be sure to check your pay stub to confirm that premiums are being deducted from your paycheck.

Teacher Tip: Changeable Seating Chart

Pat Arnold

Sixth-grade math teacher at Loggers- Run Middle School in Boca Raton, Florida

I have a great tip for making a seating chart. In middle school, we have so many students whose seats and classes constantly change that I found this to be a big help. I laminate an 8½ X 11 sheet of colored paper. I then set up the chart with removable labels with the students' names at the location of their desks. As their seats change, the labels can be easily moved to a new location on the chart.

I also place this inside of a 3-ring sheet protector. I can then use an overhead marker to mark absences, incomplete work, or any other notations for the day over the student's name. This makes recording a simple end of the day task.

For more ideas visit: <http://www.nea.org/tools/Works4Me.html>

Members in the Spotlight

In ordinary ways, our members touch the lives of children every day. We don't do it for the accolades (certainly not for the money) but we do it because it what we are here to do; it is why we chose this profession.

Everyday, we work long hours far exceeding our contractual obligations as we grade papers, create lessons, research new ideas, learn our new standards and read professional articles and books. We call parents, write emails, attend meetings and agree to stay late so that the parent who works down the hill can attend a parent/teacher conference.

We spend our weekends at conferences or preparing for the week ahead. Many of our members' cars sit in the school parking lot on a Saturday morning as teachers go in on their own time and re-arrange their furniture or create bulletin boards or simply try to catch up on all of the many tasks that get pushed aside as we get called to staff meetings and district meetings or the many other events that come our way.

We spend our own money on supplies and books for our classrooms, we buy snacks for our students who come to school hungry, and even clothing when we see that our students don't have a proper winter jacket, or are wearing the same ill-fitting pants everyday.

We argue pedagogy with our colleagues as we try to best meet not just the learning needs, but the social emotional needs as well of our students. We tell ourselves that we will only look at the "free" items on Teachers-Pay-Teachers but then cannot resist as something that we know our kids will love catches our eye. Teaching isn't a job, it is a passion.

We smile as we inwardly cringe and roll our eyes when we hear or read how we are so overpaid for our jobs that only require us to work 6 ½ hours per day, 10 month a year as we mentally plan how we can work a summer vacation around all of the things that we need to do to prepare for the following year; the trainings we will attend, the readings, the shopping, and all of the things that we need to make.

We hear how Teachers' Unions are destroying public education when we know that it is our union that advocates for smaller class sizes, fair pay and work conditions and gives us the protection so that we can stand up for what we know is right for our students. We wish that our organization was as powerful as the media would have the public believe! We know that our local, state and national organizations are fighting to keep public schools public and to stop corporations from getting rich off of our students. We realize that trying to explain the difference between "Tenure" and "Permanent Status" and that California teachers do not have tenure is probably not going to be understood, but we continue to fight for ourselves, our kids, and our profession.

While we don't do our job to be praised or publically thanked, sometimes we do get some media recognition. Lately, some of our members have been in the spotlight and we would like to share their spotlight with you.



Spotlight on.....

Tim Vandenberg, Carmel Elementary

In 2010, Tim Vandenberg, a 6th grade teacher at Carmel Elementary was featured in the documentary film "Under the Boardwalk; The Monopoly Story." The movie can be seen on Hulu at the following link <http://www.hulu.com/watch/484740>

Mr. Vandenberg's spotlight continues to shine. Among other events, he participated in a "Gamification Webinar" last year (<http://www.spreecast.com/events/gamification-webinar-tim-vandenberg>) and most recently he was featured on CBS News This Morning (<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-scandalous-history-of-monopoly/>).

We are excited that Mr. Vandenberg's passion for teaching and his love of the game of Monopoly has been recognized at the national level.

Jason Kleber, Canyon Ridge

The Association of School Administrators publication "Leadership" featured an article written by Canyon Ridge teacher Jason Kleber titled "Differentiating Instruction through Blended Learning." In it, Mr. Kleber discusses how "blended learning offers a manageable solution for effectively teaching through technology in the classroom and across the curriculum, preparing students for the real world." It is an interesting read and available at the following link <http://www.joomag.com/magazine/leadership-magazine-jan-feb-2015-v-44-no-3/0783907001420484509?page=20>

We applaud Mr. Kleber's innovative approach to integrating 21st learning into his practice.

Betsy Patridge, Hesperia Junior High

Betsy Patridge is one of two HUSD teachers who have recently been featured in our own CTA publication, "California Educator." She was featured in an article of how second career teachers bring experience to the classroom. Ms. Patridge's work as a "Cryptologic Linguist" for the US Army certainly brings an unusual perspective to her classroom teaching. The article can be found here: <http://educator.cta.org/i/458422-february-2015>

Gordon Williamson, Maple Elementary

Gordon Williamson, our HTA Vice President, is the second teacher that has been featured in "California Educator." The article was published to coincide with Cesar Chavez Day as it chronicles his work with the United Farm Workers (UFW) beginning in the 60's before many of our members were born. As the article states, Mr. Williamson really is "something of a hero" and we honor his contributions to the plight of the farm workers and his continued contributions to organized labor today. If you can't wait for your current edition to arrive, the article is available here:

<http://educator.cta.org/i/477973-march-2015/25>

In addition, there are photos that were not included in the article at the CTA.org website: <http://www.cta.org/Professional-Development/Publications/2015/03/March-2015-California-Educator-Magazine.aspx>

Scroll down to "March Educator Photo Gallery"

We are proud to call these Educators our colleagues and we know that there are many other accomplishments among our HTA membership.

If you know of a member who has also been recognized or who should be recognized, please submit along with any related links to hta.secr@gmail.com.

Dates to Remember

March 31

Cesar Chavez Day

April 6

School Board Regular Meeting @ 6 pm

April 10th

HTA Social @ Giuseppe's (across from DO)
3-6 pm

April 20th

School Board Meeting – Workshop @ 6pm