



Your Union, Your Voice

Your Newsletter

www.hesperiateachers.com

Hesperia Teachers Association

January 2016

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

Dennis Canady

Carmel

Barbara Beechum

Cedar

Krista Rodriguez

Renee Singer

Cottonwood

Robert Balder

Eucalyptus

Phoebe Gutierrez

DO

Katrina Jackson

Tina Viaryra

Cypress

James Fogo

Carolyn Stayton

Hollyvale

Marla Baty

The decline of union membership has mirrored almost exactly the decline of the middle class. **Strong unions mean a strong middle class, which means a strong economy.**

- Robert Reich, Professor of public policy and former US Secretary of Labor

President's Message

We have been talking about the Friedrich's case that is going before the U.S. Supreme Court this year. The oral arguments were made this January and the court will render its decision in June of this year. The decision's effect could be small or it may create a significant obstacle in our ability to represent your interests.

Ahead of this decision we, CTA and NEA are taking steps to mitigate the worse case scenario. NEA has been working on Capitol Hill and helped represent us in arguments at the Supreme Court. In California we have an education friendly legislature and governor, which CTA is working with to develop legislation regarding the impact of the Supreme Court's decision. HTA, CTA nor NEA can do this for us. We must stand up and take control of our profession. We can do this by the simple means of having a short conversation with our colleagues and community. If we lose our rights, we lose our voice and we lose the ability to advocate for our students and our profession. We have seen in Detroit what happens when the rights and voice of teachers are taken away. Our working conditions are our students learning conditions! We will not be silenced.

Hesperia High School

Ellen Stephen
Devon Bostock
Maq McNair
Stephanie Seitz

Hesperia Junior High

Cheryl Franks
Cindy Walker
Joshua Circle
Lorelei Bibler
Juniper
Cynthia Greenlee
Kingston
Todd O'Neal
Krystal
Jamie Barnhardt
Lime

Penny Hale
Christine Robinson
Maple

Virginia Marquez
Mesa Grande

Kim Kelly
Mesquite Trails

Louise Oliekan
Elizabeth Krall

Mission Crest
Susana Castillo

Teri Jo Muzquiz
Mojave

Evlyn Puentes
Oak Hills

Steve Trudeau
Sean Shea

Jim Kutch
Rocky Comberiati

Russ Ary

Ranchero
Jamie VanHill

Sahar Afsari
Shadow Ridge

Kelly Ford
Sultana

Shane Haldeman
Darin Grebil

Brett Simmons
Joe Ardito

Hector Armendariz
Topaz

Marcia Rhodes
Alysia Van

Friedrichs vs CTA

It is likely that you have been hearing in the news or on social media about the case of Friedrichs vs. CTA but may not understand what the issues are with the case and how it may affect all of us. The following are FAQs from a CTA fact sheet. For more information, visit www.cta.org

What are the specific legal questions before the Supreme Court?

1. Whether *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* should be overruled and public-sector “agency shop” arrangements invalidated under the First Amendment; and
2. Whether it violates the First Amendment to require that public employees affirmatively object to subsidizing nonchargeable speech by public-sector unions, rather than requiring that employees affirmatively consent to subsidizing such speech.

What is Abood? *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* is an important case that the Supreme Court decided unanimously in 1977. The Court affirmed that it is constitutional for public sector unions to collect Fair Share Fees (also sometimes called representation fees or agency fees) from employees who choose not to join a union, as is their right, but who the union is legally required to represent in negotiations with the employer. That case also involved teachers and a teachers union.

What are Fair Share Fees? Everyone can choose whether or not to join a union at work, and nothing in this case will change that. When the majority of people vote to form a union, however, the union is required by law to represent everyone in the workplace, whether that employee is a union member or not. As all public employees enjoy the benefits, job security and other protections the union negotiates, it is only fair that all employees contribute to the cost of securing those benefits and protections.

What can happen if we lose Fair Share? This will make it harder for educators to come together to bargain for smaller class sizes, safer schools, and better learning environments for all students.

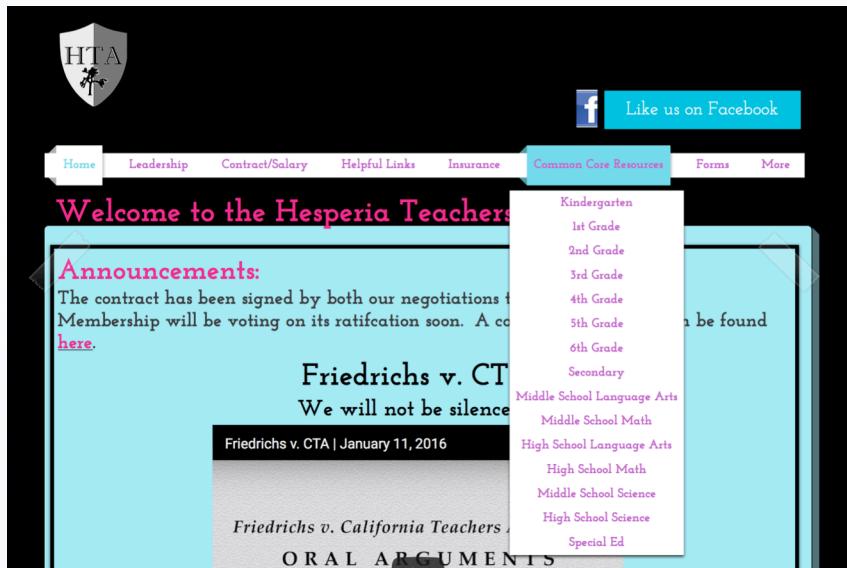
Let's be clear – This case is an attack by those who want to dismantle and privatize public education. As Jean Ross, co-president of the union National Nurses United, wrote:

“The intended effect is to essentially bankrupt public sector unions....The architects of this move are the management-linked groups, funded by some of the wealthiest corporate interests in the U.S., whose goal is to eliminate the ability of workers to have a voice in the workplace or limit the ability of corporations to put profits ahead of worker rights, workplace rights.”

Did you know....

Our Association's website has resources and information to support our members. For example on the home page there is a link to the new contract for members to examine before it is put to a vote and a calendar listing important HTA events.

In addition, there is a section of resources to support the implementation of the CCSS, scholarship application forms, grievance forms, information on legislation that affects our members and more.



Members are encouraged to visit the website located at www.hesperiateachers.com as well as liking our Facebook page (which is linked on our home page).

If there is something that you need that is not on the site, please email hta.secr@gmail.com with requests.

Dates to Remember

February 12 & 15
No School

February 26
HTA Social – 3 pm to 6 pm
Guiseppe's
15555 Main St, Hesperia, CA 92345

March 7
School Board Regular Meeting @ 6 pm