



Your Union, Your Voice

Your Newsletter

www.hesperiateachers.com



Hesperia Teachers Association

June 2017

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
Rose Pagett

Cottonwood

Robert Balder
Thomas Creswell

Eucalyptus

Phoebe Gutierrez

DO

Robert Hargis
Tina Viayra

Cypress

Russ Reinhardt
Carolyn Stayton

Hollyvale

Marla Baty

We are many. There is power in our numbers. Together we will save our schools.

~Diane Ravitch

President's Message

I hope you are enjoying your summer break! Don't forget to check your CTA and NEA member benefits for discounts on travel and activities. Take advantage of this time off...YOU HAVE EARNED IT!

Rest, relax and rejuvenate to be ready for our students in August.

Contract Highlights

Something to keep in mind when you are starting the school year, is that contract language defines how Elementary Leadership Team members and Secondary Department Chairs are chosen. They are not appointed by administration.

Please refer to Article 9, Section C - 6 a-e and 9a-d in your contract for more information.

The contract can be found on our HTA website:
hesperiateachers.com or click [here](#).

Dates to Remember

June 12

School Board Meeting @ 6:00

August 9

First Teacher Work Day

Hesperia High School

Ellen Stephen
Devon Bostock
Maq McNair
Stacey Barnes

Hesperia Junior High

Cheryl Franks
Cindy Walker
Joshua Circle
Lorelei Bibler
Juniper

Kingston

Todd O'Neal
Krystal
Jamie Barnhardt
Lime
Penny Hale
Christine Robinson

Maple

Virginia Marquez

Terry Eddy

Mesa Grande

Kim Kelly

Mesquite Trails

Louise Oliekan

Elizabeth Krall

Mission Crest

Susana Castillo

Teri Jo Muzquiz

Mojave

James Gaier

Oak Hills

Steve Trudeau

Sean Shea

Jim Kutch

Cely Echevarria

Victoria Morse

Ranchero

Allison Baughman

Noella Harrie

Shadow Ridge

Kelly Ford

Sultana

Shane Haldeman

Seta Ghazarian

Brett Simmons

Joe Ardito

Topaz

Marcia Rhodes

Wendy Spears

**Just because you do not take an interest in politics
doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.**

~Pericles

While it is summer break and it is important to rest and relax, members must also be aware of events happening that can have a direct effect on our profession.

There are some real threats to our profession that can ultimately have a negative impact on our job security, our bank accounts, and our students.

We have a Secretary of Education who wants to dismantle public education. We believe that public education is a civil right and that we need to create great schools for ALL students, not just some students.

NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia said during the DeVos hearings:

"The job of the secretary of education is to support our students, especially the most vulnerable, to strengthen American's public education system and to ensure equal access. The Trump-DeVos agenda is designed to undermine that mission and harm our students and public schools. As a lobbyist and political donor, DeVos has consistently and systematically opposed that mission. For decades, instead of supporting public schools, she has led efforts in her home state of Michigan and across the country to dismantle and privatize public education. She is a staunch advocate of giving taxpayer-funded vouchers, with no strings attached, to parents who send their children to private schools. She supports for-profit public charter schools while opposing policies to hold them accountable to taxpayers for their performance. In the end, unfortunately, it's the students who pay the price for her failed policies."

Visit <http://kidsnotprofits.com/> for more information.

Secondly, Fair Share is being attacked and will likely go away. What is Fair Share? No one is forced to join a union, but regardless of union membership the union bargains for salary, benefits, and working conditions of all teachers. This costs money and non-union members are required to pay their fair share of that portion of the cost of running the organization. Without fair share the rest of us pay the price and non-members still get the benefits. It also diminishes our capacity to bargain with less resources to move forward and will likely ultimately result in fewer raises (or even pay cuts), larger classes and fewer benefits. For more information visit: <http://www.cta.org/fairshare>

Finally, there is legislation that is intended to increase the probationary period for new teachers. CTA strongly opposes this. Many states offer due process for new teachers. California does not. At a time that a teacher shortage is looming and already affecting our students we should not be making the profession less enticing. For more information visit: <http://www.cta.org/en/About-CTA/News-Room/Press-Releases/2017/06/20170601.aspx>

How to Fight Back.



We need to let those in charge know what we are thinking. **Silence is compliance.** An easy way to get your message across is to text 50409 and send the message "Resist." And text 69866 with the message "CTA action." When issues arise, you will get information on who to contact and what to say.

Also, be sure to like our [Facebook](#) page for other updates and to log into <http://www.cta.org/> regularly to see what is happening that will affect our schools and our students.

Member Benefits

As you make your plans to enjoy the summer, do not forget that there are many discounts that you can get through CTA/NEA.

Did you know there are over 325,000 members of CTA? Because of our purchasing power, we are able to negotiate valuable benefits, programs and services for our members.

Of all the benefits and programs available to CTA members, our long list of discounts on retail shopping, entertainment and vacation destinations are probably the most popular among our members. Because when it's time to go see a movie, get away for the weekend, plan a family vacation or just do some shopping, CTA members have an array of discounts and travel services right at their fingertips.

CTA member benefit discounts can be found at:

<http://www.cta.org/en/Member-Services/Member-Benefits/Discounts-and-Travel.aspx>

NEA member benefit discounts can be found at: <https://www.neamb.com/home.htm>

CALSTRS

Even if retirement is many years away it is important to understand your benefits and to review them regularly. You do not want to have an unpleasant surprise as you get closer to your date. Be sure that information is correct and that you understand your benefits.

If you have not already created an account you should do so ASAP, even if your retirement date is years away. Go to www.mycalstrs.com to register and/or review your information. Anyone wishing to continue receiving a hard copy needs to make that request by contacting CalSTRS directly at 1-800-228-5453 to make this request.

Also, there is an updated 403b Compare website. Please go to www.403bCompare.com to check out the new and improved website.



Summer
Break