



# THE VOICE



## NEA/CTA/HDTA Election Cycle

The yearly election cycle for NEA, CTA, and HDTA elections will be commencing shortly. First always is the NEA Delegate Election for State Delegates to attend the annual NEA Representative Assembly (Convention). If a member desires to run for a State Delegate position, it is necessary to use the Declaration of Candidacy form that will be found in the December California Educator (inside back cover). Local chapters have no role to play in submitting these Declaration of Candidacy forms for State Delegates to the RA. They must be completed by the member and the forms must be returned to our Bay Valley

Service Center (address provided in the magazine). The 2013 NEA Representative Assembly occurs in July in Atlanta, Georgia

Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly are expected to attend the entire convention, including all caucuses and business meetings. Generally, the caucuses begin at 7 am and are then followed by the business meeting of the national organization. Business meetings usually end at 6 pm or later.

HDTA chapter elections customarily occur along with either NEA State Delegate elections or CTA State Council elections in an effort to increase voter turnout.

Any HDTA member who wants to run for chapter president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, member at large, building rep or local delegate to the NEA RA may contact Brian Breslin President (Hart High School) to request a Declaration of Candidacy form. Each office has a one-year term. This Declaration must be returned to the HDTA Office (26111 Bouquet Canyon Rd., Suite H-5, Santa Clarita, CA 91350) no later than 5:00 p.m., February 14, 2013. Declared candidates will have an opportunity to place a limited biography and campaign statement on the HDTA website.

## CTA CELEBRATES 150 ANNIVERSARY

CTA was founded in 1863 as the California Educational Society by state schools superintendent John Swett with fewer than 100 members, all male. What a difference 150 years makes. With 325,000

members, CTA now is the most inclusive & most powerful voice of educators in the state.

John Swett: "Association in some form is the soul of modern progress... let us organize and work

together. Let us make our influence felt in leading public opinion in school affairs."

We will share different facts about CTA's involvement in public education throughout the year.

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### Facts About CTA

#### DID YOU KNOW...

- The first CTA sponsored class size legislation, in **1895**, set the maximum class size at 80 students.
- By **1917**, the average class size was between 35 and 40, and then they started to creep back up after World War I.
- In **1920** CTA had to lobby the legislature to cap class size at a maximum of 70.
- In **1968**, after the assassination of King, CTA & Student CTA (SCTA) established a memorial in the form of a scholarship fund to aide ethnic minorities in preparing for teaching-related careers in public education.

**Hartdistrictteachers.org**  
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**On Facebook: Hart District Teachers Association, On Twitter: @HartDTA**

## PLANNING FOR LONG TERM CARE

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care, over 70% of us who live to retirement age will need long-term care at some time in our lives. Are you prepared? If you live past 65, there is a good chance you'll need some long-term care services. Without planning ahead, the costs of long-term care may deplete your savings or quickly put a tremendous strain on your family. Long-term care insurance helps pay for the costs associated with illness, disability, cognitive impairment, or frailties of old age, over an extended period of time. While most people think of long term care as impacting only those in senior years, 40 percent of people currently receiving long-term care services are under 65. According to Genworth Financial, the cost of long-term care in California significantly exceeds nation-

al levels in 2012 with assisted living facility costs at \$42,000 annually per person and a private room in a nursing home costing \$93,988 per year.

The long-term care insurance industry has been making dramatic changes to address the rising cost of providing this coverage. Insurance carriers are dropping out of the market, raising premiums, cutting discounts and/or eliminating products. This has discouraged many consumers from buying, putting further upward pressure on premiums. August 1, 2012, Genworth which is one of the largest long-term care insurance providers announced its plans to raise premiums on pre-2003 policies by 50% over the next 5 years, and 25% on newer policies. October 17, 2012, CalPERS approved an 85% premium increase for nearly 112,000 state workers and retirees, and this would take effect in 2015. CalSTRS is not

currently accepting new applications, and many CTA/NEA members are using the CalPERS product.

NEA Member Benefits offers the NEA Long-Term Care Insurance Program exclusively for CTA/NEA members and their families. CTA/NEA members and their parents, grandparents and adult children are all eligible for the Program's exclusive features and pricing. People are often surprised at how affordable long-term care insurance can be. Factors considered in determining costs include your age and health status. You certainly want to act while your health is good, so you're not in jeopardy of not qualifying. Learn about suitable long-term care insurance options for your particular situation by calling an NEA Long-Term Care Advisor at 1-855-NEA-4LTC. The advisor will also be able to provide a free, no-obligation quote on request!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful and enjoyable winter break! It is now time to roll up our sleeves and enthusiastically attack the Spring semester!

This year, CTA is celebrating its 150th anniversary. It is amazing that our organization has been working on behalf of public education for one and a half centuries. While times and issues have come and gone, CTA has remained strong in its fight to provide an outstanding public education for every child in California. Throughout the next year I will try and highlight some of CTA's past accomplishments. You may also see a year long celebration in each issue of The Educator.

Anniversaries are a wonderful time to reminisce about times gone by. They are also an excellent opportunity to take a look at where we are headed and if that course is the one we should be on.

All of us in public education are being faced with an environment that is heading in a direction that many of us could have never imagined. There is continuing pressure to provide more for our students with less resources, conform to standards on a state and national level, and to continuously fight to keep what funding we have in our classrooms. In order to continue to support our teachers in the 21st century, it is

imperative for our union to evolve with the times.

Our bargaining survey for the 2013/14 school year has a different type of question than in years past. We are asking you, our members, to identify things you would like to the HDTA do to support you in educating our students. I would like you to think outside of the normal union box for this question. This is an opportunity to talk about issues and items that can have an impact on your teaching and other activities with our students. As you complete the survey please give this question some serious thought.

United, Brian Breslin