

## THE STANDARD OPEN ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN

The month of April sees us involved in a month-long effort to sign up members for The Standard Disability/Income Protection insurance. Mailers have been sent to home addresses and a representative from The Standard will be also be visiting sites. If we get the threshold number of new enrollees, then everyone who signs up is automatically accepted for coverage without having to provide a doctor's verification of health.

This kind of benefit coverage is very important. When one is young, one thinks nothing will ever happen to cause extended illness and loss of income. Statistics from various national studies suggest that the opposite is true. This insurance coverage provides up to 75% of one's salary after all other "safety net" options are exhausted.

Every single year the HDTA leadership has to sympathize with a few members who have exhausted all sick leave, all differential leave, and all catastrophic leave, and are still out with illness and NO SOURCE OF INCOME!

The Standard's Income Protection plan would cover up to 75% of your regular contract salary, reduced by deductible income for two years. If, for example, your daily salary was \$300 and you subtract from that \$220 for the sub pay deducted from your paycheck, you would receive \$80 from the district before medical premiums and other deductions are taken. The Standard pays \$145 to bring your pay up to 75% pay. That translates to \$145 x 20 days = \$2,900. Information about all of

the benefits is available on the [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) website or from The Standard Rep., Lane McQuin, who will be visiting the sites.

The local chapter gets no rebate, no "cut," and no consideration for members who are enrolled in this program. Nevertheless, we strongly encourage members to consider enrollment in this benefit program. As a CTA endorsed vendor, in the event that there is an issue in regards to coverage, there is a process for members to seek help and support. We have had issues with members who enrolled in other company plans, only to find that the coverage was not what they expected it to be.

Here is the schedule for the open enrollment campaign.

AOC/LP/TLC	4/21
Arroyo Seco	4/27
Bowman/Sequoia	4/26
Canyon	4/19
Hart	4/26
Golden Valley	4/20
La Mesa	4/28
Placerita/TLC	4/21
Rancho Pico	4/28
Rio Norte	4/27
Saugus	4/19
Sierra Vista	4/20
Valencia	4/20
West Ranch	4/21

## ELECTION RESULTS

Election results for chapter officers for 2011-2012 are as follows:

President: Total Ballots Cast: 253  
Blank and Illegal Ballots: 5  
Legal Ballots Cast: 248  
Number of Votes Needed to Elect: 125  
**Leslie Littman: 218**

Vice-President: Total ballots cast: 253  
Blank and Illegal Ballots: 3  
Legal Ballots Cast: 250  
Number of Votes Needed to Elect: 126  
**Wade Williams: 205**

Secretary: Total ballots cast: 253  
Blank and Illegal Ballots: 3  
Legal Ballots Cast: 250  
Number of Votes Needed to Elect: 126  
**Jenny Dermody: 208**

Treasurer: Total ballots cast: 253  
Blank and Illegal Ballots: 2  
Legal Ballots Cast: 251  
Number of Votes Needed to Elect: 126  
**Gary Schulman: 220**

Member-at-Large, Area 1: Total ballots cast: 253  
Blank and Illegal Ballots: 2  
Legal Ballots Cast: 251  
Number of Votes Needed to Elect: 126  
**Jennifer Rogers: 215**

Member-at-Large, Area 2: Total ballots cast: 253  
Blank and Illegal Ballots: 2  
Legal Ballots Cast: 251  
Number of Votes Needed to Elect: 126  
**Matt Hinze: 199**

Member-at-Large, Area 3: Total ballots cast: 253  
Blank and Illegal Ballots: 1  
Legal Ballots Cast: 252  
Number of Votes Needed to Elect: 127  
**John Ahart: 196**

Vote totals are always "uneven" because some voters do not vote for all offices. Illegal/Blank votes consist of marks made in spaces without a candidate's name. Thanks again to those who took the time to vote. Additional elections will be occurring before schools gets out for State Council Representatives and possibly a Tentative Agreement.

## SPRING BREAK OFFICE HOURS

This edition of THE VOICE will be the last to arrive before Spring Break. April's edition will come out after the April 4-8 break from school in the Hart District. The Santa Clarita Valley Uniserv office will be closed for much of the time. If you end up having professional concerns or

issues over the Spring Break, please call 661-254-1604, 1# or use the e-mail link on the association website. Leave or send a message and someone will attempt to get back to you.

## FACTS ABOUT STRS RETIREMENT

There has been a lot of misinformation in regards to the amount of money teachers receive from STRS when they retire. While there might be some public employees who retire at age 55 and receive a substantial amount of money, teachers generally do not fall in that category. As part of its annual report, STRS prints the average monthly benefits for the past decade. Printed below is a table from

the most recent annual report documenting the average age, years of service, final compensation, and benefit payable for those in the STRS system. It is important to note that the benefit paid is less than final compensation and people should think about other retirement options early in their careers in order to supplement the income they would receive from STRS.

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30	AVG AGE OF RETIREMENT	AVG YEARS OF SERVICE CREDIT	AVERAGE FINAL COMPENSATION	AVERAGE CURRENT BENEFIT PAYABLE
2001	60.7	25.4	\$3,356	\$2,033
2002	60.7	25.7	\$3,539	\$2,183
2003	60.7	25.9	\$3,735	\$2,339
2004	60.7	26.0	\$3,931	\$2,488
2005	60.8	26.1	\$4,103	\$2,617
2006	60.8	26.2	\$4,264	\$2,741
2007	60.8	26.3	\$4,437	\$2,878
2008	60.8	26.3	\$4,620	\$3,021
2009	60.8	26.4	\$4,798	\$3,164
2010	60.9	26.3	\$4,983	\$3,302

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Triangle Shirtwaist Company was located one block east of Washington Square Park in New York City. There were over 500 employees-most were young women, most were recent immigrants. On March 25, 1911 a fire broke out on the 8th floor. The workers ran to the fire escape. It collapsed, dropping them to their death. On the 9th floor, a critical exit had been locked during the work day by factory bosses in an attempt to keep workers inside and union organizers out. People on the street watched as the workers began to jump out the windows. One hundred forty six workers were killed. The fire came only five years after Upton Sinclair published his book, *The Jungle*, which detailed the plight of workers at a meat packer's plant. Soon, the nation focused on food safety regulations, but not on working conditions. It took the tragic death of 146 girls, whose average age was 19, for people to see the need to regulate workers' health and safety. It also helped build the modern labor movement to defend the rights of all workers.

On this, the 100th anniversary of the Factory Fire, it seems that all over the nation the rights of public

workers are under attack. A lot of these seems to be more about silencing our voices than any actual reforming of the system. While some reform does probably need to take place, those who do the work should have a say in what happens to their profession.

In order to address these unprecedented attacks throughout the nation, the National Education Association has created The 51 Fund: 50 States. One Voice. Standing Together. By donating to the 51 Fund, support will go to where the need is greatest: to assist people fighting back on the front lines. The 51 Fund will help feed volunteers, organize rallies, and get the message out to people everywhere that the right to collective bargaining ensures a strong middle-class. And, that a strong middle-class is the back-bone of our economic vitality. Donations can be made via credit card through the web site.

-Leslie Littman