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HDTA on the web

Hartdistrictteachers.org

HDTA on Twitter @HartDTA

www.cta.org

www.nea.org

HDTA Updates via
MailChimp

Helpful Links

CTA Instruction & Professional Development
A plethora of resources to assist teachers with classroom instruction.

CTA Invest
CTA-sponsored website that gives members tools to plan their financial future.

Election Results

As many of you are aware, the November elections have brought a change to our school board. Linda Storli, a former teacher in the Hart District, won the seat held by long-time member Gloria Mercado-Fortine by a small margin of votes. Following the HDTA by-laws, our Political Action committee had interviewed all candidates and endorsed Mrs. Mercado-Fortine. However, we look forward to working with both Mrs. Storli and returning member Steve Sturgeon, who was also endorsed by HDTA's Political Action committee.

There will be a reception in honor of Mrs. Mercado-Fortine and her years of service to the Hart District on Wednesday, December 9, at 6:15 p.m. in the school board room at the District Office. Please feel free to stop by and join us in thanking Gloria for her support.

Kudos to Doris Fossen of Sierra Vista

An eleven year vet from Sierra Vista, Doris Fossen has been named the California Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Family and Consumer Services. Also commonly known as Home Economics, this fun and exciting elective at Sierra Vista has grown over the years and Doris' expertise has been recognized by her state-wide peers. On Wednesday, November 18, Doris was honored by the Hart School Board for her achievement. She will be honored again at a conference in April, 2016, and she has been automatically entered into the competition for the national award which be announced in June, 2016. It is also rumored that Doris makes killer snickerdoodles!

Contact Us

26111 Bouquet Cyn Rd
Suite H-5
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
661.255.0311
661.255.6404 fax

WiSH Foundation to Honor Alumni

Beginning in the spring of 2016, the WiSH Foundation, our district's educational support foundation, will begin a program whereby graduates from the Hart District will be honored for their achievements in their various fields of endeavor. At the first event, one of our honorees will be DeeDee Myers (Hart) who was President Clinton's press secretary. What the Foundation would like to do is to honor other graduates that evening who are doing great/terrific/amazing things in their careers. Are you in touch with a former student who is excelling in math, science, the humanities, arts and entertainment, community service, the military, career tech ed and would like to nominate them for these inaugural awards? If so, please forward the following information to me. As president of HDTA, I have a seat at the table with WiSH and would forward all nominations to the board

Name: _____

High School and year of graduation _____

Current contact information _____

A brief description of their accomplishments and why they should be honored

New to the District? Don't Miss This Deadline!

If you're a newly hired employee and an eligible CTA member, now's the time to get CTA-endorsed Disability and Life Insurance from Standard Insurance Company (The Standard). You have a special opportunity to apply for Disability Insurance and up to \$200,000 of Life Insurance within 180* days of starting work.

You can apply online at www.standard.com/cta/newhire .

These plans were created specifically for California education professionals and offer a number of great features, including:

- Coverage for disabilities occurring on or off the job
- Access to the CTA Advisory Panel on Endorsed Services
- Option to add Life Insurance coverage for your spouse/domestic

partner and children with your Life Insurance

The Standard is the only Disability and Life Insurance provider endorsed by CTA. They were selected by CTA for their financial stability, integrity and commitment to serving CTA members. Don't miss this opportunity – apply online at www.standard.com/cta/newhire .

**180 day effective September 1, 2015; if you apply before September 1, 2015, 120 days.*

Apply Now for a California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant

Public high schools in California can score up to \$3,000 for their sports departments with a California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant. California Casualty, provider of the CTA Auto and Home Insurance Program, is providing \$100,000 to offset budget cuts that have affected high school athletics. Details and entry forms can be found at www.calcasathleticsgrant.com . Applications must be received by January 15, 2016 for 2015/2016 consideration.

The grant is named after California Casualty Chairman Emeritus Tom Brown, who believes that lessons taught on the playing field – teamwork, confidence and sportsmanship – help develop students who are successful in the classroom and later in [life](#).

This past year, 14 California Schools shared \$17,000 to offset participation fees, buy new uniforms and purchase concussion preventing helmets. Since its inception, more than \$400,000 has been awarded to hundreds of public high schools across the U.S.

“We want to help guarantee that student-athletes get a chance to compete and learn,” said Doug Goldberg, Senior Vice President.

Applicants must be a current member (or referred by a member) of the California Teachers Association (CTA) or one of our other participating educator associations, as well as be an active employee of the public high school for which funding is sought. Recipients will be notified in April with presentations in May. Official rules and applications can be found at www.calcasathleticsgrant.com .

California Casualty has served California educators since 1951 and provides the CTA Auto and Home Insurance Program. The company gives back through numerous Community Impact Initiatives:

- The \$2,500 Academic Award – given annually to educators to help buy school supplies or provide for school programs facing cuts, www.calcasacademicaward.com
- The \$7,500 School Lounge Makeover® – to create a more soothing and relaxing area for educators to recharge during the school day, www.schoollounge makeover.com
- \$200 Help Your Classroom grants, www.calcas.com/help-your-classroom
- Sponsorship of the California Department of Education’s School Recognition Program, including awards such as 2015 Teacher of the Year, Classified School Employees of the Year, and 373 secondary schools named 2015 Gold Ribbon Schools

Learn more about the CTA Auto and Home Insurance Program provided by California Casualty at www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/calcas.

Celebrating 100 years, California Casualty has partnered with the CTA since 1951 to provide members [auto](#) and [home](#) insurance tailored to their professional needs. Headquartered in San Mateo, CA, with Service Centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty has been led by four generations of the Brown family. To learn more, or to request an [auto](#) insurance quote, please visit www.calcas.com/CTA, or call 1.800.800.9410.

President’s Message

Sometimes I look up at the calendar and am completely amazed by how speedily time flies. My students and I were counting the days to the end of the semester today as we are making plans on how best to finish strong this quarter and I watched them re-count the days because it didn’t seem possible to them that we are this close to the end!

In this sea of seemingly unending change , it is important that we all keep ourselves well informed and connected to those on our campuses who are “in the know.” Those persons should include your HDTA building reps and members at large. Please connect with them if you have questions or concerns about the changes happening around you. If they do not have the answer at hand, they have the resources to get the answer for you.

There are a couple of things of which I would like to remind you. So, in no particular order, please be mindful of:

1. Be discreet in your use of social media and the things you are posting. If you are not at school, broadcasting that fact on your social media site is never the best idea. It could have a negative impact.
2. Always remember that you/we have a duty free lunch as stated in California State Ed. Code. Administrators and others may ask you to give up your lunch for performance tasks, lesson studies, intervention

or something else “to help the kids.” Politely tell them “no” and then alert your building rep.

3. One of the many benefits that membership in CTA brings to you is access to www.CTAMemberBenefits.org. This website is chock full of great discounts for holiday shopping and travel. It also offers you future financial planning opportunities as well as educational opportunities. Don't miss out – log in and explore!
4. As I know your building reps have shared, it is observation and evaluation season. We in HDTA leadership are working to make certain that this process is done correctly and responsibly. If you have any questions or concerns about yours, please do not hesitate to contact me or your building rep or Sean O'Brien (WR), our grievance chair. We have been in conversation with the folks at the District Office about this process because it directly involves our livelihood and, if we can add to our concerns with more evidence, we would like to do so.

Colleagues, I will sign off with wishes for a good ending to your first semester. I remain challenged and invigorated by the job of being president of HDTA and work hard to serve you all to the best of my ability. HDTA is a strong voice of advocacy for our members.

United,

Jayne Allsman
President
