



# THE VOICE

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### Teacher Evaluation

Teacher evaluation is a hot-button topic throughout the country as everyone looks at our educational system. Many have weighed in on the subject regardless of their involvement with the process of educating the children of this country.

CTA has developed a Framework on Teacher Evaluation that encompasses the values of our professional organization while advocating for a system that effectively evaluates all teachers in California classrooms.

The WSHUHSD PAR program is a leader and model for teacher evaluation. Both the HDTA and district administration work collaboratively to provide evaluation and professional development to our teachers so that we provide the best education for our students.

For more information go to [cta.org](http://cta.org) and search for Teacher Evaluation Framework.

## CTA Scholarships

Announcements have been distributed alerting members to the annual CTA Scholarship Program. Scholarships for post-high school study (undergraduate and graduate) are offered to Members and members' Dependents (not spouses) each year. The postmark deadline for submitting applications to CTA is February 8, 2013. This means that the applica-

tion form, letters of recommendation, etc. are due to CTA with a postmark no later than that date.

HDTA is one chapter that high profiles these scholarships each year. Although the number of scholarships given is limited, the truth is that the number of people who actually complete the full application and submit it is also limited. Thus, the

odds of being selected are actually much greater than one might suspect. Remember that CTA procedures require that the application MUST be returned first to the local chapter president (Leslie Littman, Hart) for her signature and quick verification of completeness only. ALLOW TIME for the chapter president to return the packet to you for mailing.



## Jayne's Membership Corner

I'm back! I can hear the sighs of relief from all over the district! We have had a very busy fall with an election like none I can ever remember. Thank you to all the members who came out and phone banked, who wore buttons and posted signs in car windows and who actively spoke with neighbors, friends and strangers about the importance of Propositions 30 and 32.

Now that we can breathe a little easier, it might be time to take a look at the upcoming holiday season and consider those three lovely weeks of vacation.

If you are traveling, don't forget that there are lots of discounts available to us on hotels, cruises, car rentals and such if we would spend a little time at [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com). Gift ideas and shopping discounts are also available to our members through the same website. If you are already done with your holiday shopping, it is just a short time 'til my birthday arrives in February - I'm just saying.

Fresh instructional ideas and free downloads, classes for salary advancement, investment information and planners, and health guides are also

available .

On a local note, thank you to all of those who have sent me their information corrections. I have been busily inputting them all. If you are a new member, your membership card should arrive sometime before Spring Break. I know, I know; it seems like a long time. Patience is key here. If you have questions about any membership concerns, please feel free to email me at

[jallsman@hartdistrict.org](mailto:jallsman@hartdistrict.org)

Until next time!

Jayne

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## OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR NEW TEACHERS

This is the Association's last reminder about two benefits that are automatically available to new certificated employees to the District. If you are and HDTA/CTA/NEA member, as a new employee in the first 120 days of employment you may elect to enroll in the CTA sponsored Life or Income Protection/Disability insurance programs. If you apply for either coverage, you would automatically be accepted REGARDLESS of previous or current health condition.

HDTA is aware that new employees often come to the District and the Association with their life insurance needs already attended to. It is the Income Protection/Disability policy that we strongly recommend each new employee/member give some serious consideration. It can pay up to 75% of your salary once all other leaves have been exhausted. Premiums through payroll deduction are based on monthly salary—lower salary equals lower premiums.

It is just historical fact that each year some members use up all leave options because of unanticipated health conditions and then start looking for that one last "safety net." The Income Protection plan is usually it. Information and applications were included in the New Teacher blue folders given out at the New Teacher Luncheon. One may also contact CTA Member Benefits at 650.552.5200 or The Standard at 800.522.0406.

## CTA CONFERENCES

There are still a few spaces left for those interested in attending the CTA's yearly Equity and Human Rights Conference for 2013 will be at the Burlingame Hyatt reGENCY (March 1-3, 2013). The CTA Good Teaching Conference (South) will be held at

the LAX Marriott (March 24-26, 2013). Each year HDTA's Executive Council votes to sponsor a limited number of HDTA members to attend. Priority is given to newer teachers and first-time participants on a first come, first

served basis, but veterans are not automatically excluded. If you have an interest in attending one of these highly regarded conferences (expenses paid by the Association) please contact chapter president Brian Breslin.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would be remiss if I did not start my message with sincere thanks to all members of HDTA who worked endless hours on Campaign 2012 getting out the message and the vote for our Yes on 30 and No on 32 campaign. The amount of phone calls, personal contacts, and public efforts went a long way towards our winning efforts. Kudos to all of us!

One of our culminating events was blanketing the Santa Clarita Marathon with members who delivered our message to the people of our valley. What struck me that morning was how receptive

many people were to meeting us face-to-face. The notion that people love teachers but dislike the teachers union comes from the mistake that we are not and the same. Our community does support teachers and our great public schools and they need to see us to know that the teachers of the Santa Clarita Valley and the members of our union are one and the same. As we enter 2013, HDTA in partnership with the other local teachers unions will be working on community outreach events that allow our great educators to become more visible throughout the valley. Our

impact on the citizens of Santa Clarita has always been strong and by becoming more involved in our community our positive efforts will only become stronger.

As we prepare for a much needed Thanksgiving break I must say some public thanks. I am most grateful for all of the hard-working HDTA leadership and their support as I have entered this presidency. I am thankful for being part of such a noble profession and for being blessed with such wonderful colleagues. Enjoy your much deserved break!

United, Brian Breslin