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HDTA on the web

Hartdistrictteachers.org

[HDTA Facebook Page](#)

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[CTA Website](#)

[NEA Website](#)

[HDTA Updates via MailChimp](#)

Helpful Links

[CTA Instruction & Professional Development](#)

A plethora of resources to assist teachers with classroom instruction.

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

It's Bargaining Time Again

Just as soon as the dust settles from one round of negotiations and ratification votes, it is time to begin again. While our contract is a three year contract which extends to June 30, 2017, we annually return to the table with the district to fine tune some items and to revisit articles that need updating. In conjunction with the district, there are two agreed upon automatic reopeners and those are salary and benefits. However, each group also gets to bring three items of interest as well. Our team of negotiators – John Ahart (HA), Laura Erickson (WR), Pam Egleston (LM), Marc Stephenson (SA), and Katie Marcia (SA) – will once again be gathering input from all of our members via a Survey Monkey survey. Every response is read and tabulated and discussed. From that position, we then write a proposal that will be discussed with the Executive Board of HDTA and then they will give us the ok to submit it to the School Board for a “sunshining period” before the work of reaching agreements begins.

Our team spent months in 2014 “scrubbing” the contract thereby eliminating most all of the outdated, redundant, and ambiguous language. Naturally there is still some work to be done. If you as a member of HDTA have a concern about any article in the contract, now is the time to find that particular article and reference it in our survey. Be specific and be thorough about what you would like to see changed or updated. A copy of the contract is on our website and on the district website. The link for the survey is

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/825RHGS> and it will remain open until March 3, 2015. I encourage you to join in the discussion.

■ By John Ahart, Chief Negotiator

Counseling Week

I don't know how often I have asked a student this question: “Have you asked your counselor about this?” I think we all have done so over the course of the year. This is Counseling Week, and the California Association of School Counselors (CASC) has [resources to help celebrate](#) these folks.

Complementing the week, school counselor [Tawnya Pringle](#) from Hoover High School in San Diego has been named a 2015 School Counselor of the

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Year finalist. Congratulations to Tawnya – and hats off to all of our School Counselors for the work they do and the differences they make in the lives of our students.

Good Teaching Conference South

The CTA Good Teaching Conferences are designed to support excellent teaching and learning practices for classroom teachers. Offering a variety of diverse workshops in curriculum content areas for K-12 teachers, the conferences provide opportunities for professional development and offer time to network and share ideas with colleagues and experts in the field

The Good Teaching Conference also features two different, full-day pre-conferences on Friday. One pre-conference focuses on the new Common Core Statewide Standards in the areas of curriculum, literacy strategies, technology and assessments. The other pre-conference concentrates on planning now for retirement and what educators need to know to prepare for retirement and to make good financial decisions. Click [Register Online](#) to find out more about these great additions to the Good Teaching Conference. You may be eligible for release time for the Retirement Planning Pre-Conference.

. We at HDTA would like to send a number of our newer teachers to this conference. If you are interested, please be in touch with your building representative or with the HDTA office (255-0311 or jallsman@hartdistrict.org) to learn more about this valuable experience.

Date: March 20-22, 2015 | **Location:** Sheraton San Diego

California Reads - Across America

Get Resources for RAA

March 2, 2015, is [Read Across America](#). This day is all about reading — how important it is and how much fun it can be. While this has traditionally been more of a celebration in the elementary grades, this year, CTA has expanded its recommended reading to include all grades, Pre-K through 12. There are even recommendations for adults too. This is part of a new project known as [California Reads](#), where a committee of teachers and librarians select books four times a year for all grade levels. As you finalize your plans for RAA, visit www.cta.org/raa to download [bookmarks](#), [posters](#), certificates ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)), and [reading tips](#) for parents (in eight languages). You can also download the entire year of book [recommendations with the accelerated reading levels](#).

Open Enrollment a Success!

Our open enrollment campaign with The Standard's Disability Insurance was a rousing success. We needed to have 48 applications to meet the threshold and we had a whopping 94 new applications. Since the application goals were met, each applicant has been enrolled and should have received a letter of coverage explanation and a Certificate of Insurance by now. If you have not received these items, please contact The Standard at 1-800-522-0406 or ctaadmin@standard.com

A special thank you goes out to all of the building representatives for their assistance in making this a success.

President's Message

Greetings. People stop and ask "Now that you've been in the position as president for a little over a year, do you still like it?" My answer is always a "yes" because each day is so different and I never know where it will take me. I have learned so much about our contract, our profession, our local and state organizations, and our people and I continue to grow into the job. This month I am reading reports from CTA regarding the new State budget and its potential impact on education state-wide as well as its local impact. The proposed budget has \$7.8 billion in new funding for K-12 school and community colleges. Of that money, \$1.1 billion is earmarked for common core implementation. Things do look like they are improving overall.

As shared earlier in this newsletter, we are preparing to return to the bargaining table to consider issues for the 2015-16 school year. The fact that this process is a continuous one reminds me that our contract is a living document and must be tended to. We return to it often to answer the question "What does the contract say?" The work that was done last spring through the fall was tremendous and your team continues to refine the language. Please take a moment to click on the SurveyMonkey link on our website and voice your opinion. Please be certain to reference the specific article you are concerned about so the team can know where to start.

We are taking our building representatives in a new direction and asking them to take more of an active role in grievance issues on their campuses. They are being given trainings and information to help them give you the best service and representation possible. Please be in touch with them if you have a concern and they will help guide you through the process.

Have a great spring semester!

Sincerely,
Jayme Allsman



HDTA President