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HDTA on the web

Hartdistrictteachers.org
[HDTA Facebook Page](#)
[HDTA on Twitter @HartDTA](#)
[CTA Website](#)
[NEA Website](#)
[HDTA Updates via MailChimp](#)

Helpful Links

[CTA Instruction & Professional Development](#)
A plethora of resources to assist teachers with classroom instruction.

[LA Times Opinion piece on LCFF](#)
The Governor's goal to simplify

CTA/Bay Valley Service Center WHO Awards

Each spring across California, CTA and the various Service Centers award the hard work and dedication of our leadership members. The honoree from HDTA this year is Laura Erickson (WR). When she is presented with her award, the following will be read: "Laura Erickson has served the members of the Hart District Teachers Association well for at least fifteen years. She has been one of the most effective and impactful building representatives. Laura is knowledgeable, firm, fair, supportive and pro-active. The members at her site always know that they can count on her to be willing to listen, to offer solid advice, and to charge forward when called upon to do so. As a valued member of our negotiations team, Laura brings wisdom and history to the table. She has been in our district for more than two decades and that length of tenure is invaluable when dealing with newer members of the district's bargaining team. Her sense of institutional knowledge is so important in assisting the team in achieving the best outcomes for our members."

She will be honored at a dinner on April 25 at the Universal Sheraton. Congratulations, Laura!

The End of An Era

They say that all good things must come to an end. Wade Williams (SA), HDTA's second vice president and the Saugus High video production teacher, has served on CTA State Council for three full terms and in June will have reached his term limits. For nine – yes, nine! – years, Wade has made the trek to State Council four times a year. There he has served on the Career Technical Education (CTE) sub-committee with great dedication. The CTE committee has been helping to shape the future of career educational programs across the state. Wade's expertise has served us all well and we can continue to call on him as HDTA helps the district to further expand our own CTE programs. Thank you, Wade, for your years of service and enjoy your free weekends!

the system is the right one, but he should be open to refinements.

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

Contact Us

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National Autism Awareness Month

Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. This year we want to go beyond simply promoting autism awareness to encouraging friends and collaborators to become partners in movement toward acceptance and appreciation.

Let's embrace a new perspective. For over 50 years we have worked in communities (both large and small) to ensure our actions, through our services and programming, supported all individuals living with autism. Let's expand this work to focus on the rest of us – ensuring acceptance and inclusion in schools and communities that results in true appreciation of the unique aspects of all people. We want to get one step closer to a society where those with ASDs are truly valued for their unique talents and gifts.

Join us in celebration for 2016 National Autism Awareness Month! National Autism Awareness Month represents an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year.

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

join us in
CELEBRATION



awareness

action

acceptance

inclusion

appreciation

In Friedrichs Decision, Supreme Court Reaffirms Collective Bargaining

By Staci Maiers and Tim Walker

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday issued its decision in the highly-anticipated case, *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* (CTA), reaffirming that both public employees and public employers have a compelling interest in having strong and effective collective bargaining. The 4-4 ruling leaves intact the precedent established by *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, the 1977 case in which the court upheld the fair share fees that support collective bargaining.

It was these fair share arrangements that the *Friedrichs* lawsuit, bankrolled by the right-wing Center for Individual Rights, sought to dismantle. Fair share fees, sometimes called agency fees, have been permitted for decades in the United States and are part of tens of thousands of public sector collective bargaining relationships. The petitioners in *Friedrichs* argued that the First Amendment prohibits fair share fees. In fact, the case was nothing more than a broad, well-funded attack on working people and their unions.

The court, however, rejected this attempt to silence the voices of teachers, school bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other educators who work together to shape their profession, said NEA President Lily Eskelsen García.

“In *Friedrichs*, the court saw through the political attacks on the workplace rights of teachers, educators and other public employees,” Eskelsen García said. “This decision recognizes that stripping public employees of their voices in the workplace is not what our country needs.”

Tuesday’s decision, added CTA President Eric C. Heins, reaffirmed that a strong educator voice is always in the best interest of students.

“California’s educators will continue to work together to provide quality, safe and healthy schools as we continue to ensure our students get the quality public education they need and deserve,” Heins said.

Soon after the court announced last July that it would take up *Friedrichs* in the 2015-16 term, NEA, CTA and a number of their affiliates filed the union respondents’ brief, which explained why *Abood* remained sound law and should be upheld. In November, hundreds of groups and individuals—representing all levels of government and civil rights organizations, and including public officials, academic experts, and others—filed 24 briefs *amici curiae* (“friends of the court”) with the court. The state of California also filed in support of *Abood*, explaining that fair share fees were critical in effectively managing its substantial public workforce and ensure the efficient delivery of quality public services.

In January, as the justices hear oral arguments in the case, hundreds of educators from across the nation braved freezing temperatures and

gathered outside the court to demonstrate their support for working Americans. Among them was Reagan Duncan, a kindergarten and first grade teacher at Maryland Elementary School in Vista, Calif. She said Tuesday's decision means she can continue advocating for their students.

“Through negotiations between my union and the school district, we were able to secure smaller class sizes for our students,” explained Duncan, “Smaller class sizes help teachers focus on each student's individualized needs and allow for more one-on-one attention.”

Duncan's sentiment was echoed by her fellow educators.

“I'm thrilled millions of educators like me can continue to work together through their unions to advocate for the best teaching and learning conditions of their students,” added HaSheen Wilson, a network administrator at Youngstown State University in Ohio. “In an era when the rich just get richer while the poor seem to fall through the cracks, we need to come together and speak out for change — whether it's smaller class sizes, training for educators, fair pay and benefits, healthcare or safer work environments.”

The court's ruling in *Friedrichs* does not, by any stretch, put an end to the threat against fair share and collective bargaining. Dozens of similar cases are currently working their way through the federal court system, although none will end up on the court's docket until its next term at the earliest – or not at all, depending greatly on who is sitting on the court. In March, President Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland, chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to the court. The NEA has urged the U.S. Senate to do its job and promptly consider the president's nominee.

“Merrick Garland is eminently qualified, has impeccable credentials, and possesses a mastery of the law,” added Eskelsen García. “I urge the Senate to move quickly to hold a hearing and a vote to confirm Judge Garland so that the court can continue to serve the American people at full strength.”

Reprinted from NEAToday

President's Message

I will admit that there are times when the reminder emails about registering for State Council and making hotel reservations arrive, I frown and groan just a little. I will be spending the weekend from Friday late afternoon to sometime Sunday afternoon away from home and family. However, after I arrive at State Council and the work begins, I find myself immersed in the experience each time and come away from it with new knowledge and insights that benefit me as a teacher and as an Association leader. With the 700 other delegates, I listen, learn, discuss and vote on various issues and candidates that will impact our educational processes in the short and long terms. That is exactly how I spent the last weekend of Spring Break!

The importance and distinctions of Pre K, TK, and K education were highlighted this weekend; I thought I did not need this knowledge because we do not have students in those grade levels, but, when you put it into the perspective of the educational continuum, Pre Ks and the like become our students in a few short years and we need to know their experiences. We watched the processes involved in the investing of our CalSTRS funds and the occasional debates about the proper avenues for those funds. We voted on things that could have long ranging impacts on our members such as credentialing issues in elective classes.

State Council has also been greatly concerned with the lack of effort on the rest of the State when it comes to collecting signatures for placing the reauthorization of Prop 30 on the November ballot. The SCV Uniserv office has done our job and brought in more signatures than we promised and I thank you all for your great efforts. Should this measure not make it to the ballot we will need to regroup and rethink how schools will be financed in the near and far future. If you would like to know more about the ins and outs of CTA State Council, please don't hesitate to ask.

Back here on the home front, our negotiations team has been hard at work dealing with the slow but steady process of bargaining. This is a more transitional year in terms of the LCAP; we are in the third year of the first cycle. While I know that many of you are ready to "rally 'round the flag" or "storm the Bastille", your patience is still asked as the team moves through the steps necessary to achieve a settlement and the meetings have been friendly and productive. The next bargaining session will not happen until April 26. Hopefully on April 20, the school board will have directed their team to bring this to a close. At the moment, we keep the pressure alive by reminding the district team and the school board that we have a 1000 member contingent ready to let their voices be heard. There are other plans in place and being developed should we need to further organize. Please stay in touch with your building rep and monitor the HDTA website and the mailchimp notices so you can join us in making a difference.

Being president of this association is truly a work of the heart. Besides sitting with the bargaining team as they develop their strategies, offers and counter offers, I deal with personnel issues, WiSH Foundation events, State Council and Bay Valley Service Center meetings, political concerns, and more personnel issues. No two days are alike. Should you have a concern, worry, or idea you would like to share, please do not hesitate to send me a message, give me a call, or stop by the office. It is an honor to serve our members.

Thank you all for doing great things for our students each and every day.

United,

Jayme Allsman