

## BARGAINING UPDATE

The bargaining process for the 2012-13 is now in full swing. We are in the first year of a two-year contract and each side is limited to re-openers on salary, benefits, and then no more than three additional items.

The bargaining team has gone through the results of the member surveys. The overwhelming items on surveys were elimination of furlough days and to begin to decrease class sizes. At this time, the funding for our district does not provide for either. There is a mechanism in our contract that will begin to restore days to our teaching calendar as our funding increases. As funding for public education for 2012-13 is tied to the Governor's ballot initiative that will be voted upon in the November 2012 election, we cannot predict what the possibility of increased funding will be. As most of our furlough days occur at the end of the year, if there is increased funding after the November 2012 election we would still have opportunity to restore days in June 2013.

The district made their proposal public at the January school board meeting. Their proposal did not include any financial cuts to our members. They have asked for three items: a change

## 2011 TAX INFORMATION

Don't forget that dues can be deducted from your taxes. The calendar year covers the part of two different membership years.

For members who worked full time from January 2011 - December 2011, dues total

in when salary increases become effective after a member earns enough units to move horizontally on the salary schedule, a clarification on the stipend given to those who receive National Board certification and the postponement of benefits for long term substitutes until they have been in an assignment for one semester. The Executive Board and the bargaining team are currently reviewing the district's proposal.

The association is currently crafting our proposal. As previously mentioned, improvements in salary and benefits, and class size cannot be entertained until there is a clearer picture of our funding. The bargaining team is looking at items that will improve the working conditions of our members that come with little or no dollar cost.

The team will keep you posted through the Association newsletter as to developments in bargaining.

*Brian Breslin, Chief Negotiator*

## JAYME'S MEMBERSHIP CORNER

My aunt and uncle live in Arkansas and over the weekend there was an earthquake in the southeast part of the state. My aunt was a bit panicked by this event and, when talking with her, I asked if they have an earthquake preparedness kit. She said "Of course not! We live in Arkansas, for goodness sakes." It made me think about the "preparedness kits" that we all might, should, could have for our lives. Having grown up here in the SCV, I have had my share of experiences with earthquakes so I do have my supplies in a "kit" and at the ready. However, there are other areas where I don't necessarily have a "kit." Maybe I should have a "kit" ready for some of those life changes. As we deal with moving to a new home, adding a family member (or subtracting one), aging parents, illnesses of our own or our loved ones, job changes, we all might benefit from a little practical advice and direction. The CTA website's member benefits zone has many different offerings that are tailored expressly for California teachers. [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) will take you there; remember that you again must register for this website and you will need to

\$973.00.

For new members who worked full time from September 2011 - December 2011 dues total \$ 394.00

have your membership card handy because CTA requires your membership number.

Speaking of being prepared, folks who are thinking about retiring this year or in the next few years (or in the distant future!) might want to think about joining CTA Retired. Membership in CTA-R allows you to continue with most insurance coverages and gives you continued access to many of the benefits enjoyed pre-retirement. The dues can be paid in two ways: In one lump sum or on an annual basis. The lump sum method seems to be the best method because it offers lifetime membership and the annual basis would be for the rest of your life. It is something to consider and investigate at [www.cta.org/About-CTA/Who-We-Are/Retired](http://www.cta.org/About-CTA/Who-We-Are/Retired)

Remember that 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! Jayme

## STATE COUNCIL UPDATE

Following a thoughtful and spirited debate, the State Council of Education accepted the recommendation of its Political Involvement Committee and voted to support the governor's tax plan on the November ballot, which provides additional funding for schools and pays down the state's debt.

The governor's initiative, known as the Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012, raises about \$7 billion annually for education and other essential services by raising income taxes on the wealthy and instituting a temporary half-cent sales tax hike. In signing on in support of the initiative, CTA joins what promises to be a broad coalition of labor, education and business groups that have gotten behind the proposal.

Following the Council meeting Sunday, January 29, CTA President Dean E. Vogel stated, "Educators know that California cannot continue to cut its way out of ongoing budget problems. We also know that not everyone in California is paying their fair share, and that's why we are supporting the governor's tax proposal, which taxes the wealthiest Californians in order to bring additional revenue to our schools, colleges and other essential public services.

"The governor's initiative is the only initiative that provides additional revenues for our classroom, closes the state budget deficit, and guarantees that local communities will receive funds to pay for the realignment of local health and public safety services that the Legislature approved last year. It's time to put California back on track, and this initiative is the best way to do that. It's the right choice for our students and their families, our communities and our state."

In his address to State Council on Saturday morning, CTA President Dean E. Vogel described the political landscape facing CTA during what is promising to be a very challenging and demanding year leading up to the November 2012 election.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last May I was honored to be selected as the California Teachers Association recipient of the National Education Association Foundation's Award for Teaching Excellence. It is an award given to a teacher for their work in the classroom as well as their work for the association. Thirty four other states nominated teachers this past year and two weeks ago we all met in Washington DC for the annual Gala dinner.

The Gala Dinner is held at the National Building Museum. The event was hosted by Olympic Gold Medalist Dominique Dawes and included performances by students from a school in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was a wonderful evening and it was nice to be honored by both my state and national association. Last year, the foundation added something to the celebration by honoring the recipients with a 10 day trip to China. They visited Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong. It went so well that they decided to continue the trips with future award recipients and so at the end of June I and 32 other state

He described what's at stake, with particular emphasis on a new Corporate Power Grab initiative (also known as the Paycheck Deception initiative) that has gained steam thanks to the backing of the super-wealthy.

This initiative must be defeated, said Vogel, as he described the very real scenario on the horizon if this corporate power grab initiative were to pass. He asked Council to imagine 50 kids in a classroom, the elimination of bargaining rights, no public education supporters on local school boards, and vouchers, merit pay and more high-stakes tests.

"If we left it up to the CEOs, how long do you think we'd have a 40-hour work week, a secure retirement, and safe working conditions – all things our union and others fought hard for? Those behind this deceptive initiative aren't seeking to protect your voice as an individual; they are seeking to annihilate it. They know that as a union of educators we will always put students before profits and learning before mandates," he said. Read full speech.

Looking ahead to the upcoming elections this year, CTA Executive Director Carolyn Doggett told Council she holds hope for a successful campaign because of the work CTA members do every day in the face of challenges.

"You are the heroes of this generation. I have hope because I know that when we all come together and work as a team, we are successful," she said.

"It's what makes us a stronger union, a stronger state and a stronger nation. I have hope because I know, despite whatever obstacles those who want to destroy unions and the middle class throw in our way this November, they will not break us," she said. "We will take action! We will make our voices heard! And we will not be silenced! So today, I want to start with the hope I draw from all of you. You are real heroes. You open minds and inspire greatness."

award winners, or Pearson Global Fellows as they called us, will be traveling to China. We will be visiting Shanghai and Beijing. In order to prepare us for the trip, we actually went in to DC a couple of days prior to the dinner and spent time with each other and last year's travelers. We also received an overview about the places we will be visiting. We will be spending equal time in each city visiting historical and cultural landmarks like the Forbidden City, Tianamen Square, the Great Wall, the Shanghai Financial District, the Bund. We will also be visiting schools. Last year's group had a wonderful experience and I am looking forward to ours.

With the limited free time, I had only a few hours to sightsee and so I closed out my trip to DC with a visit to the new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. It is near the FDR memorial along the water. Surrounding a beautiful sculpture of him are quotes from some of his speeches. It was a nice way to end the trip to DC.

-Leslie Littman