

The Voice

Hart District Teachers Association

January 2022 - Volume 73, Number 5



President's Message

John Minkus

First, I want to wish everyone a happy, new year. I hope that these first few weeks back at your school have gone relatively smoothly. As we approach now two full years of COVID, things continue to be dynamic. So please share with your building reps any concerns which you may have. The sooner HDTA is made aware of issues, the sooner we can help to resolve these issues

Next, it appears that the Governor and State Legislature have agreed to renew the Covid Leave Relief Act. This will apply retroactively to January 1, 2022. Soon, we will be receiving the exact details from C.T.A. We are aware that the district has already begun to deny claims and put up roadblocks. But I assure you that HDTA will work hard to make sure that all those deserving reinstatement of personal leave are made whole. We will vigorously defend anyone who is denied access to the remedies provided in this legislation.

You will receive a definitive outline of regulations as soon as we get them.

On another note, negotiations are once again underway. Our Bargaining team is making progress across the board including support of all our groups of members who are not only classroom teachers, but also counselors, librarians, psychologists, speech & language pathologists, and more. Our team works diligently to represent everyone. With our C.T.A. associates, we are analyzing the Governor's budget which shows a large COLA plus a significant amount of one time monies. The budget is just a preliminary proposal from the governor's office with a number of steps forthcoming. Revisions (based on actual state tax revenues) to the budget are presented in May. We are also in the process of analyzing the last two years of district budget assumptions versus the actual end of year numbers. **Continued on page 2.**

HDTA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021-2022

President John Minkus **1st Vice President** Cody Kennedy **2nd Vice President** Julie Schneider **Secretary** Melissa Chaddick **Treasurer** Nicole Terranova -Drabinski **Member-at-Large** Kellie Kontis, Lynn Yale & Dianna Rose **Chief Negotiator** Michael Copenhaver **Membership** Christina Tolisano **Grievance** Sean O'Brian **Elections** Cassandra Perez **State Council Representative** Cesar Arevalo **Webmaster** Michael Coombe **Organization** Chris Jackson

Active Links **PINK**

CTA Resources

CTA Membership Discounts

Continued from page 1.

Soon, you'll be hearing from our new Organizing and Communications team. This exciting new addition to HDTA was formed in response to the requests of our membership. The Team is being led by Canyon's Chris Jackson who will be working closely with our Bargaining Team to support them and to help organize membership with meaningful opportunities to get involved. Watch for their communications on your personal emails that you've provided to HDTA.

Please remember to wear your HDTA shirts each and every Wednesday to support your teams and to strengthen the Association in general.

Together,
J



Did you know that as a registered active member you're entitled to significant discounts of up to 50% locally and across the nation? Yes - this includes Disneyland. Before the papers start piling up, log in to the [CTA site](#) and download the My Deals app to access exclusive deals.

The Standard

Why Choose CTA-Endorsed Disability and Life Insurance?

Top causes of long-term disabilities*

- Pregnancy
- Cancer
- Accidents
- Muscle/bone disorders
- Mental Disorders

What can you use Disability benefits for?

- Rent/Mortgage
- Groceries
- Child care
- School loans

* Council for Disability Awareness, <http://www.disabilitycanhappen.org/disability-statistic>

[Disability insurance](#) can help pay the bills if a serious illness or injury keeps you from working. How can you make the most of what your employer offers? Start with learning the value of each benefit. Watch the [video](#) and set-up an [appointment before February 15th](#) to qualify.

SITE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (2021/22)

AOC Jeremy Sparage **Arroyo Seco** Thomas Van Dyke **Bowman** Mike Coombe **Canyon** Cesar Arevalo & Chris Jackson **Castaic** Lori Hermelin **CEPA/ PAR Center** Kristi Frame **Golden Valley** Michael Bunch & Sherry Cardenas **Hart** Sam Modugno & Kathryn Smith **La Mesa** Kathy Gettman **Learning Post** Don Musella **Placerita** Eddie Carr **Psychologists** Eboni Shields **Rancho Pico** Doug Smith **Rio Norte** Stacey Wade-Robb **Saugus** Megan Botton & Marty Fricke **Sequoia** Brandy Abernethy **Sierra Vista** Skye Ostrom **SLPs** Kaitlin Wilson **TLC/ Golden Oak** Anna Bettencourt **Valencia** Stephen Whelan, Cristie Dunbar & Maya Lock **West Ranch** Laura Erickson

Educating the Educated

HDTA Supported Fall Conferences

HDTA encourages unit members to attend educational conferences for meeting new like-minded people, refueling their energy, and having a chance to shine (if you're a presenter). Conferences support the ongoing need for professional learning and the broader role of educators.

HDTA Conference Request Form

Send the form to our HDTA treasurer [Nicole Terranova](#) at least 45 days before the 1st day of the conference. This ensures timely approval by the HDTA Executive Board.

Basic Qualifications:

- (1) Maximum amount per unit member - \$3500 per school year.
- (2) The unit member must be in good standing to request a conference.



Nashville Education Conference

Worldstrides International Conventions

Kellie Kontis (Sierra Vista) explored the culture of the South, and team building to promote 21st teaching strategies: "It was a valuable experience getting ideas, hearing different points of view, and seeing the landscape and history of the South which is taught in American history. What I thought was particularly interesting considering the time we are in, no one mentioned COVID restrictions; we just spoke of our craft."



National Science Teacher Association

January 29, 2022 - Register for Online NSTA Fall 2021 Highlights

Nicole Ellis (Valencia) learned to support students by linking literacy and science: "I learned how to help students create stop-motion animated movies to model the atomic rearrangement that occurs during simple chemical reactions! This was very informative because it combined digital art with science to engage and instruct the students."



Diana Griffin (Valencia) wanted to find new teaching strategies: "In the escape room session, we were broken into groups and given clues of a quick escape room. I have seen other teachers use these to make reviews more engaging. The only caveat I would say for this approach is that it can be time-intensive, so I would possibly share this as a collaborative effort."

HDTA HEADQUARTERS

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Office Hours: 9-4 pm *Make an appointment first.