



REDLANDS EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

RESPA CHRONICLE

From the President's Pen.....



Welcome to Spring everyone. This is the time of year when the flowers are blooming, the sky is clear blue, and our students start getting antsy for summer, and often so are we.

I have been going out to sites to say hello and find out how everything is going. The visits have been amazing as I have seen new faces, said hello to long-term friends and colleagues, and even learned a thing or two. Most sites are moving right along doing what we do best, helping educate students. A couple of sites do have some issues and we are working through those right now. I want to thank the all of the awesome site reps and members at the sites I have been at for taking the time to show me around their job site and chatting with me about everything from budgets and benefits to grandbabies. I have enjoyed hearing about it all.

I would like to take some time to discuss in detail the two subjects that have generated the most dialogue; the State budget and our health and welfare benefits.

By the time this is printed benefits will be settled for the 2011-2012 school year. I have been on the District Insurance Committee for several years now and I believe it has been the most challenging year yet. RESPA's goal for this year was to explore every possible benefit option because of the lack of funds to pay for increases and to try our best to maintain the current package. RESPA worked diligently on driving this point home to the District and the insurance broker. However, options turned out to be limited this year and it was not for lack of the Committee's willingness exploring them. While a package was finally submitted to us for approval that minimized more financial hurt to us, we expect changes in the Committee's structure will provide more transparency and thus be more successful in the future. RTA President Maria Clark and I are sitting down with the District as I write this to ensure operational changes to the District Insurance Committee will take place next year. This will certainly impact how the Committee receives and analyzes insurance quotes. I will keep you all informed of the outcome once the discussions are complete.

The budget is the other issue I have been asked about at every site. This is a tough one. I think most everyone is aware there is a tax structure

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currently in place that is set to expire, and we need to extend those taxes to ensure schools and public services are cut no further. The state cannot fund services if the tax extensions are not approved. The opportunity for placing the issue before the voters on the June ballot has come and gone. So right now, for lack of a better term, we are in a holding pattern. Once the revision to the California's budget comes out in May, we will have a clearer picture of what the future holds for all of us. In the meantime we have to use this as an opportunity to make change happen. CTA has a "State of Emergency" planned for May 9 – 13, 2011. The "State of Emergency" is a week of activities planned to reach out to legislators, parents and community members, and our allies such as firefighters and police to get the message out that this state is suffering, public education is suffering, and Sacramento needs to step up to the plate and do something besides more devastating cuts. RESPA and RTA are working hard to have activities planned for everyday and we are partnering with PTA and other groups to make this happen. You will find more information in the Chronicle on this very important week. We need everyone to participate in this week to advocate for our students and our jobs. In the midst of all the uncertainty, I hope we all take a moment to smell the Spring flowers and do something every day that gives us peace and happiness. As always, thank you for all you do for our students and each other!

Yours in solidarity,

Jolene



Avoid Costly Mistakes When Purchasing Your Next Vehicle

The auto industry landscape has changed drastically over the past few years and the majority of dealerships are out to make the most money they can off your next vehicle purchase. Below are several auto loan mistakes that you can cost you a lot of money.

1. Negotiating monthly payment rather than the price of the vehicle – if a dealer asks you how much money you can afford to spend monthly (i.e., your auto loan payment), don't answer—this is an often-used trap. This gives the dealer the upper hand and it can reduce your chances of negotiating a lower price for the vehicle.
2. Allowing the dealer to tell you your creditworthiness – before stepping foot on a dealership's lot, you should know your credit score (often referred to as your FICO score). Your credit score determines the interest rate you'll receive on your auto loan. If a dealership determines that you don't know your score, they can mislead you—often costing you thousands of dollars over the course of the loan.
3. Cash rebate vs. low interest rate at the dealer – do your homework before deciding your best option; in most instances, you cannot take both offers. Both offers can sound enticing, but do the math to determine which nets the best cost-saving results over the life of the loan.

First Financial offers CTA members some of the lowest auto loan rates in the industry and an Auto Buying service that takes away the hassle of haggling. Call First Financial at (800) 537-8491 to see how we can take the burden from you.

Article courtesy of First Financial Credit Union. This article is not intended to represent First Financial Credit Union's views or opinions, nor does it represent First Financial as an expert on the subject discussed. This article should be used for information purposes only.



What's Up with Volunteers?

Virtually every school district in California reaps benefits from community members who volunteer their time and skills for our public school students. However beneficial it may be, the Ed Code is very specific about the role and use of volunteers in accomplishing the work of the District. **Specifically, Education Code Section 35021 prohibits the use of "volunteer aides" in lieu of reemployment of laid-off classified employees.** E.C. 35021 Part B states,

"No district may abolish any of its classified positions and utilize volunteer aides, as authorized herein, in lieu of classified employees who are laid off as a result of the abolition of a position. A district shall not refuse to employ a person in a vacant classified position and use volunteer aides in lieu of filling the classified position. (c) It is the intent of the Legislature to permit school districts to use volunteer aides to enhance its educational program but not to permit displacement of classified employees nor to allow districts to utilize volunteers in lieu of normal employee requirements."

CTA ESP WEEK

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS
PARTNERS IN CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES
EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS DAY, MAY 18, 2010



CTA CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVE CROSLAND

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**MONDAY, MAY 16TH
SITE REP
APPRECIATION DINNER
RESPA OFFICE
4:30 PM**



Saturday, May 21st
End of Year BBQ /
Retiree Appreciation
More Info on Page 5

NOTICE

Do you ever receive mail or email messages from companies claiming to be a CTA endorsed vendor? If so, you're not alone. Recently, several members received an email from someone identifying himself as "Michael Cohen, California Teachers Association" and referring teachers to "www.refi.org/teacher". Please understand that Mr. Cohen does not represent CTA, the company to which he is referring is not a CTA endorsed vendor, and steps are being taken to stop these emails.

CTA does endorse the following companies:

- The Standard Insurance Company – Life and Disability Products
- California Casualty – Auto and Home Insurance Program
- First Financial Credit Union - Financial Services
- Provident Credit Union (available in Northern California only) – Financial Services
- TSA Special Member and Insurance Services, Inc. – Travel, Entertainment and Discount Services
- Bank of America – Credit Card Services

CTA also has agreements to recommend the following companies:

- NEA Member Benefits
- Mayo – Well-Baby Program
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car – Rental Car Program
- CalSTRS 403(b)Comply

Companies endorsed by CTA must go through a rigorous screening and review process, and must be approved by the Vendor Evaluation and Screening Committee and the CTA Board of Directors. Those companies who receive endorsement by CTA must agree to be subject to the processes of the CTA Advisory Panel on Endorsement Services. The Panel provides advocacy for our members should they have a concern or be unhappy with the products or services of an endorsed vendor.

If you receive information from a company claiming to be CTA endorsed and want to verify whether it is true, or just want to know what companies and products and services are endorsed, visit the Member Benefits section of the CTA website at www.cta.org, or call the Member Benefits Department at (650) 552-5200.

R.E.S.P.A.



End of the Year BBQ & Retiree Appreciation

For all R.E.S.P.A. Members and Their Families

Saturday, May 21, 2011 - 10:00AM to 2:00PM

At Brookside Park

(on the corner of Terracina and Brookside)

Fun for Kids of All Ages!

Come Enjoy the Games, Prizes, Jumper House, Cotton Candy, and more!

R.E.S.P.A. will provide:

Hamburgers, Garden Burgers, Hot Dogs,
Chips, Drinks & Cake.

Please Bring Your Favorite Side Dish to Share

Bring your folding chairs and EZ-Ups!

Each R.E.S.P.A member will receive 4 free Tickets-Additional Tickets are \$3.00 ea.

Please fill out the bottom portion of this flyer and return it to the R.E.S.P.A. office by Friday, May 13, 2011.

Name: _____ Site/School: _____

Please check one:

- Please send _____ *free* tickets to my worksite (maximum of 4 free tickets per family)
- Number of Additional Tickets Needed @ \$3.00 ea ___ Amount Enclosed: _____

Make Checks Payable to R.E.S.P.A for additional tickets

Return to the R.E.S.P.A. office by Friday, May 13, 2011

CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES CAN VOTE IN THE CALPERS ELECTIONS



Donna Snodgrass *for* CalPERS Board

EXPERIENCE | DEDICATION | PROTECTING YOU

Together we can bring a passionate voice to the CalPERS Board

As a retired emergency dispatcher, I will:

- ✂ Be an ambassador for active and retired CalPERS Members. The most important voices have been ignored for too long.
- ✂ Go public with actuarial figures that prove defined benefits are reasonable and sustainable.
- ✂ Use my experience as CSEA Vice President to enhance communication between stakeholders.

WWW.DONNAFORCALPERS.ORG



California is in “A State of Emergency”

over the drastic cuts that are hurting our public schools, colleges and communities. The Legislature’s failure to pass a state budget that protects basic, essential services is destroying our future. That’s why CTA is asking educators, students and parents to participate in a series of bold actions during the week of May 9-13 to pressure lawmakers to pass a budget that includes tax extensions to protect schools, colleges and essential public services from further cuts.

RESPA and RTA is working hard on a week of activities in our district that is supported by the School Board and Superintendent, Lori Rhodes called L.E.A.R.N.

L.E.A.R.N Plan of Action for RESPA/RTA

Monday, May 9 – “Battle for the Budget” reception at RESPA/RTA office

Tuesday, May 10 – “Dunkin’ For Dollars” event for parents and community to meet and talk with district and community leaders

Wednesday, May 11 – “Cookies for cops and fire fighters” when members will take big cookies to our law enforcement and fire friends as a thank you for their support.

Thursday, May 12 – “Fake Dollar Day” with members wearing fake dollars as a symbol of how bad the budget is affecting our schools and will have talking points on the budget issues and what can be done about it.

Friday, May 13 – “Inland Empire Rally” with members and the community coming together to send a clear message that changes have to be made to our budget as we are all suffering.

More information is available at redlandssp.org and www.castateofemergency.com.



“Classifieds for the Classified”



FOR SALE: Black PSP Go for Sale: \$180 o.b.o. with original box and manual. Five months old. Comes with one game, Harry Potter. Call Yolanda @ (909) 252-2981.

Got an item for sale? Looking for an item to buy? Try our “Classifieds for the Classified” section-It’s free!

President - **Jolene Tripp**

Vice President - **Miguel Ruiz**

Secretary - **Mary Ambriz**

Treasurer - **Barbara Stewart**

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Transportation - **Vickey Johnson**

Paraprofessionals - **Sheri Furtado**

Child Nutrition - **Joleen Carlson**

Maintenance, Operations & Security - **Vacant**

Clerical, Fiscal, Technical - **Celiza Hernandez**

KNOW YOUR BOARD

REP COUNCIL



All Rep Council meetings will be held at the RESPA Office unless otherwise stated. Meetings begin at 4:30 (with a little time to enjoy refreshments)

April 18
May 16

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

In Honor Of John Ross

RESPA Director of Maintenance, Operations & Security



As most of you are already aware, in March we lost a dear friend and fellow board member, John Ross. John served as our Director of Maintenance, Operations and Security. He had also volunteered to chair the End of the Year BBQ. The vacancy that John has left has not only been in position, but also in our hearts. John was always aware of all of his members and knew what each was going through and made sure to keep the Executive Board well informed. He truly believed in his work as part of the RESPA Executive Board. It is for this reason that John has been nominated posthumously by the RESPA Exec Board for a W.H.O. Award (WHO stands for We Honor Ours) through the San Gorgonio Service Center Council. The W.H.O Awards dinner will be taking place on Friday, May 13 following the “State of Emergency Rally”.

John’s mother and sister will be in attendance to accept the award on his behalf.