

JANUARY 2016 CTA STATE COUNCIL

STATE COUNCIL UPDATE



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Representing PVFA, RBTA and CVSTA

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Dear Members of PVFA, RBTA and CVSTA,

Happy New Year!! I hope this update finds you well and at the beginning of an exciting second half to the school year. I have always found the cyclical nature of teaching to be unique to the profession. There is a feel to every part of the school year; September is exciting with the beginning of the year, November and December usher in the holiday season, January and February bring on the second half and the spring months with their longer days means the end of the year is near. Then we do it all again in September.

The knowing that every year will bring new challenges and opportunities to try new things in the classroom is one of the many features of the teaching profession I enjoy. The freedom to toss out or amend things that did not work and add new things from colleagues that bring about success is critical to providing the best education for our students. Over the past 15 years, the freedom to teach has been hindered by an unhealthy emphasis on testing. I am happy to report that there is movement away from testing for the sake of testing but towards meaningful assessment that will allow us to grow as educators.

This movement began with the most recent passage of ESSA to replace NCLB. ESSA puts an emphasis on instruction where NCLB placed its emphasis on testing. The passage of ESSA was not easy but with the support of members of CTA and NEA we were able to get Congress to do the right thing and pass this important legislation. Our collective action made this possible.

A portion of the Saturday State Council was dedicated to understanding assessment and its role in public education. More importantly, we must seize the opportunity in front of us to be the drivers of assessment in public education. We are the professionals that have first hand knowledge of what good assessment is and how it is best used. A point that was made clear at State Council was that assessment should first and foremost be used to improve instruction but NEVER to judge or evaluate a teacher's ability to teach.

In Solidarity and Aloha,

Jason Y Calizar

CTA State Council Representative, District ILA6

Reformatted State Council, Part2

The January State Council continued with its new format focused around organizing. On January 11th, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments on *Friedrichs v CTA*. As mentioned in previous Updates, this landmark case is a direct attack on our organization and our efforts to defend public education and the students we serve. Attorneys for CTA were well prepared and presented a strong and compelling argument against *Friedrichs*. There is an informative video on the CTA Website highlighting the day in Washington DC. You can view it at www.cta.org.

CTA and its locals are dedicated to organizing through member engagement. At the October State Council, council members engaged in the 3000 Conversations campaign. Over the three months since CTA State Council members have had over 4000 conversations with its members around shared belief in public education and its importance to a democratic society.

District I Caucus Report

3000 Conversations Campaign—At the Sunday District I Caucus meeting, Hilary Hall(Newhall Teachers Assoc) and I spoke to the caucus about our success with the 3000 Conversations Campaign. A common theme of the discussion was the importance of membership engagement and the relationships we build with each other. I cannot overemphasize the important role each of you play in this organization. Our solidarity will be very critical to our long-term success and our ability to protect public education from becoming private. It truly is, **“Our Union, Our Voice”**.

Please reach out to me at anytime with any issue/concern you may have. I may not have the answer but I will work to find one for you.

Healthcare Issue—Got Hit With a Surprise Out of Network Bill?

Did you follow your insurance company’s rules by picking a hospital, lab or outpatient facility in your plan’s network, but then got a huge surprise medical bill from providers not in your plan’s network—providers you didn't choose or had no control over?

Health Access (CA Health Consumer Advocacy Coalition) is working on legislation(AB 533) to do away with these unfair and outrageous medical bills. Please share your story to help pass this legislation. Go to this link to share your story:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SVRM5KC>

Committee Report from the Credentialing and Professional Development Committee (CPD)

California Teacher Shortage—There is a looming crisis in a huge shortage of teachers needed to replace the thousands of teachers retiring within the next 10 years. Students in college are not entering the profession and the ones that do leave the profession within five years. The shortage is both a recruitment and retention problem.

In the short term this means, districts that may have once considered offering an early retirement incentive may not be doing so as there is no one in the queue to replace the retiring veteran teacher. In the long term, new ways to attract teachers to the profession need to be explored.

To see what the shortage looks like in your area: <http://learningpolicyinstitute.org/ca-teach-short-ind/#/>

CTC Accreditation Committee Opening—The Commission on Teaching Credentialing has an opening on its Accreditation Committee. This committee is charged with accrediting teacher prep programs at various institutions of higher learning throughout the state. You must be a current K12 educator to apply. For more information and an application,

www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/coa-about.html

State Council Documents—At every State Council I receive numerous documents that simply cannot be attached to my Update. I have created a Dropbox containing those documents. To view these documents visit the link below

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4kzoocvnddcwmdc/AADh7lit6MYKpijp5aDcQGKwa?dl=0>

- State Council (Committee) Reports
- Board of Directors Report
- CTA Scholarship Info
- Minutes of the Oct 2015 State Council