

OCTOBER 2015 CTA STATE COUNCIL

STATE COUNCIL UPDATE



Jason Y Calizar

CTA State Council Representative District ILA6

Representing PVFA, RBTA and CVSTA

Contact me at jcalizar@aol.com or 310-292-6985



Dear Members of PVFA, RBTA and CVSTA,

I hope this Update finds you well and in the midst of another exciting school year. It is hard to believe that we are rapidly approaching the holiday season and the end of 2015. As we approach the new year, 2016 is shaping up to be an important year for public education. In addition to the Presidential election, we are awaiting the outcome of Friedrichs v. CTA which threatens the idea of Fair Share and works to undermine public education by weakening our organization.

I knew I would be a teacher from a very early age. I found teachers to be the most fascinating and caring people. Growing up, the classroom was my safe place and a family of sorts. I have the uncanny ability to name every teacher I ever had in order from PreK through 12th grade. These teachers are my heroes. I teach today because of them and I have a profound desire to give back to the profession that has given me so much.

I got involved in Union work very early in my career as an educator because I believe firmly in the power of collaboration and collective action. I believe wholeheartedly that we can achieve more together than working alone. That is the backbone of unionism. Our solidarity makes us strong.

In the coming months, your CTA State Council Representatives will be reaching out to have conversations with you about our common values regarding public education and the importance of having a voice in shaping and protecting public education from the never ending fight from those that wish to privatize it. Keeping public education PUBLIC is my highest priority as your State Council Representative. I cannot fight this fight alone. I need your help. Your students need your help. I urge you to join the fight when called upon. Our livelihood as public school educators is at stake.

In Solidarity and Aloha,

Jason Y Calizar

CTA State Council Representative District ILA6

Reformatted State Council

The October State Council took on a whole new look and format with an emphasis on organizing. Marshall Ganz, who helped to organize the United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez, spoke to Council on Saturday to outline the CTA strategy in fighting those that threaten public education. The majority of the weekend was devoted to training and strategic planning for long term success.

Local Board Elections

The following candidates have been endorsed by CTA/ABC and/or your local for School Board:

CVSTA: Daniel Urrutia. PVFA: Barry Rondinella.

Election day is Tuesday, November 3rd. Please endorse these candidates to your colleagues.

NEA Report

EARLY ENDORSEMENT FOR PRESIDENT—NEA has pledged its support for Hillary Clinton for President of the United States in the 2016 election. After careful analysis of all the candidates, it was a clear choice. Our early endorsement allows for access to her education team and will assist in pushing our agenda in the coming administration. Our lack of an early endorsement in the 2008 presidential election yielded Arne Duncan as Secretary of Education.

Retirement Education

I have had several inquiries regarding 403(b) and 457 Plans. CTA will be hosting a workshop entitled, “The Educator’s Guide to 403(b) and 457 Plans” at the March 4th Equity & Human Rights Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Torrance. Attendance to the workshop is open to all CTA members. Release time will be arranged and paid for by CTA with approval from your chapter president. The March 4th workshop is available to three (3) members per chapter.

Register at www.cta.org/conferences or call 650-552-5200.

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

AB 141 was vetoed by Gov Brown. This was bipartisan legislation that prohibited Districts, County Offices of Ed or charter schools from passing the cost of induction programs (such as BTSA) to a beginning teacher. Gov. Brown’s rationale being that with LCFF the money for induction is in the funding and districts will do the right thing and cover the cost of the induction program for the beginning teacher. We know this is not the case at every district.

If you are a new teacher currently in an induction program such as BTSA, please reach out to me at jcalizar@aol.com. CPD is collecting data on who is paying for the program, the cost of the program and the circumstances that place you in your particular induction program.

California Faculty Association (CFA)

At the last State Council, CTA pledged its support for our brothers and sisters at CFA. This assisted in gaining them an additional \$97million in additional funding to the CSU system. Sadly, none of this additional funding has gone towards salary of the members of CFA. CFA has taken a strike authorization vote and results will be released this week. You can assist in participating in one of two ways: 1) Job Action on November 17th at the Long Beach Chancellor’s Office beginning at 6am or 2) pledge your support for the members of CFA by emailing your message to TellTim@calfac.org or use the Twitter Hashtag #FiveisFair(more info can be found at calfac.org)

The Eli Broad Plan to Destroy Public Education

On Saturday evening (Oct 24th) I had the opportunity take part in a joint discussion on strategies to combat billionaire Eli Broad’s plan to convert 50% of the LAUSD schools to charter schools. His plan was leaked to the LA Times and recently was published. ***Make no mistake, his objective is to privatize public education AND weaken our Union.*** This plan will hurt our most vulnerable student populations: ethnic minority students, students with disabilities and students living in poverty; by converting their local school to an unregulated, non-union charter school it leaves them with no place for an education.

This was the first of many planned discussions and upcoming actions to combat this devastating plan by one of the country’s wealthiest individuals. It was inspiring to see many other locals at this meeting in addition to those represented by UTLA. Their fight is our fight.