



Coachella Valley Teachers Association  
California Teachers Association  
National Education Association

August 10, 2020


[mycvta.org](http://mycvta.org)

## CVTA Advocate



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Greetings!

Welcome back! I hope each of you were able to make the most of your summer break even during this pandemic. I know I don't feel rested at all, and many of you are probably feeling the same. It's going to be more important than ever that we practice self-care, so I will continue to remind you in future emails.

Like me, you are probably ready to see those eager faces on your screens and get this year started! It's not going to look like anything we've ever done before, and I for one am looking forward to seeing the great things our CVUSD educators will do.

Tuesday and Wednesday are District PD days (and half Site PD on Wednesday). Thursday is your day for prepping for Distance Learning, and should be free from

interruptions of any kind. If there are any meetings scheduled, they must be optional. If there is anything for which the entire staff needs to be present, it should be handled on Wednesday.

Everything should be virtual, and per the MOU, you may choose to work from home or from your site. If you do choose to work from your site, please make sure you follow all the safety protocols, both for your own safety and the safety of others.

### **MOU Ratification**

Voting for the Distance Learning MOU closed on Saturday afternoon, and I am happy to share that the MOU passed with 97.4% voting yes. Thank you for those of you who took the time to vote. If you never received or saw the ballot in your personal email, you may want to send me an email with your personal email to have me check our list and make corrections if needed. You can find the Distance Learning MOU on our website under Documents at [www.mycvta.org](http://www.mycvta.org). **Please make sure you are familiar with your responsibilities while we are in Distance Learning.**

We will be adding a Frequently Asked Questions document to our website shortly, based on questions from the two MOU meetings we held.

### **Secondary Member-at-Large Election**

Electronic voting begins today and ends on Friday. This morning you should receive an email to your personal email address for voting, if you have provided one to CVTA. Elementary members do not get to vote for this position, so you will not receive an email. Please contact our CVTA Elections Chair (Sarah Chavez at [cvtaelections@gmail.com](mailto:cvtaelections@gmail.com)) right away if you do not find your email today (but check junk mail first!). We can double check the email we have on file and resend the link for voting.



### **Important things to know**

- **Grade Level Leads or Department Chair** - this position should be selected by a grade level or department vote. Make sure the process is done correctly, and someone is not just assigned by admin.
- **Use of PN days** - you are only allowed to use 8 out of your 10 days as PN per year. If you have more sick days banked, and you need more than 8 PN, you have to request the ability to use four more. The District will dock your pay without contacting you if you go over 8 PN days in one year. Please keep track.
- **If you are changed to a combo class** after the first instructional day of the year - you are to receive two prep days to prepare for the change.
- **CVTA dues** - these are only deducted beginning in September, for ten months. This year both CTA and NEA increased their dues, while CVTA did not increase dues. You will see your deduction increased by just a couple of dollars per

month. Let me know if you'd like the specifics on amounts for your category of membership.

### **Site Reps Needed**

We have several sites still needing one or more reps. Without a rep, your site is without a vote at CVTA meetings. Contact our CVTA Elections Chair, Sarah Chavez, at [cvtaelections@gmail.com](mailto:cvtaelections@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a rep. We have a process we can follow to elect you during a site meeting. Also, there will be a virtual training at the Low Desert Leadership Conference on September 12, 2020.

AE(1) - **vacant**

BD (2) - Dave Winchester, **vacant**

CC (2) - **both vacant**

CDA (2) - Kyle Endres, Jeffrey Kruger

CMA (2) - Michelle Ramos, Mary Helen Rios

CVHS (5) - Autumn Carberry, Maya De Leon, Cristal Lopez, Doreen Vicario-Morales, **vacant**

DMHS (4) - Maria Blackmon, Jesse Cota, **2 vacant**

DO (1) - Penney Woods

ECE (1) - Annette Vargas

JK (2) - **both vacant**

LF (1) - **vacant**

LP (2) - Kelly Reilly, Shannon Rodriguez

MA (2) - Catherine Loy, Paula Marvin

MV (2) - Kathy Galarze, **vacant**

OA (2) - Mark Roybal, Lorraine Salas

PP (1) - Denise Lamper

PV (1) - Mike Abril

SM (2) - Karen Franke, Martin Holguin

SV (2) - **both vacant**

TC (2) - Linda Luna, Pilar Schlickemayer

VDS (2) - Stephanie Ortiz, **vacant**

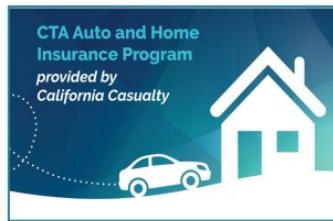
VV (2) - Carlos Villa, Gladys Young

WS (2) - Martin Duran, **vacant**

WSHS (2) - John Sellers, James Steinman

### **California Casualty Home and Auto Insurance**

This is a company vetted by CTA, specifically for teachers. You can only get this insurance if you are a CTA Member! Their homeowners/rental insurance covers personal items in your classroom. Their auto insurance has special coverage when your car is at work and damaged. They have a lot to offer to teachers. Please consider asking for a quote! For a limited time, California Casualty is offering a \$25 Amazon.com gift card for completing an auto quote by [clicking here](#) or using the QR code in the image below. Contact Chris Renn at [www.CalCas.com/crenn](http://www.CalCas.com/crenn).



### CTA Auto & Home Insurance Program by California Casualty

- ✓ CTA endorsed since 1951
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Chris Renn  
949.397.4031  
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## The Standard Disability Insurance

If you do not already have this insurance, or you have it through American Fidelity, please make sure to [watch this quick video about the benefits of this coverage](#). It is geared toward teachers specifically, unlike those offered by other companies, and has several great benefits the other companies do not offer...pay attention to these special coverages just for teachers. **One example is that The Standard covers liability for COVID-19 illnesses while American Fidelity does not.** [Here is The Standard Enrollment Brochure.](#)

### Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- **August 10th** - New Teacher Virtual Orientation, 8:30 am
- **August 11th** - First workday...PD day
- **August 12th** - PD and Staff Meeting day
- **August 13th** - Teacher prep day...**no meetings should be scheduled**
- **August 14th** - First Student Day!
- **August 19th** - CVTA Virtual Office Hours, 4-5 pm (links in next week's email)
- **August 20th** - School Board Virtual Meeting, 5:30pm
- **August 26th** - CVTA Executive Board Virtual Meeting, 4:30pm
- **September** - All month...Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment
- **September 7th** - Labor Day Holiday
- **September 9th** - CVTA Rep Council Virtual Meeting, 4:30 pm
- **September 10th** - School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
- **September 11th** - Deadline for class size requirements
- **September 12th** - Low Desert Leadership Virtual Training for site reps and CVTA Leadership

Please share this email with anyone you know that does not already receive it. There is a link near the top to sign up on our mailing list. These newsletters are always archived on our CVTA Website, also. Thank you!

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Carissa Carrera  
CVTA President

"You can't do it unless you organize."

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