

August 26, 2024



Coachella Valley Teachers
Association
California Teachers
Association
National Education Association

Join our mailing list!

Good morning! Congratulations on a wonderful start to the school year! I spent Thursday morning at Cesar Chavez helping students and parents find their way, and the students were so happy to be back at school.

You may have seen the email from the district about the upcoming American Fidelity site visits. As educators, we do not get State Disability, so we must protect ourselves by purchasing disability insurance. While American Fidelity sells this insurance, CTA endorses The Standard for disability insurance and life insurance. The Standard works only with educators and therefore can be more specialized than American Fidelity. [Take a look here](#) to see what The Standard offers so you are fully informed of your options. The Standard includes many options with their plan that you have to pay extra for with American Fidelity, so take a look.

Your dues are increasing slightly this year. CTA increased dues by \$30 a year (\$3 per month), and NEA increased dues by \$5 a year (\$0.50 per month). CVTA local dues have not changed, so your monthly dues will increase by \$3.50 per month. Category 1 members should see monthly deductions of \$125.40 (regular full-time educators), our ECE members should see monthly deductions of \$78.90, and our part-time Adult Ed members \$19.84 per month. Please note that if you do not see dues deducted on your **September paystub**, CTA will consider you a non-member and you will not be eligible for member services. Payroll does make mistakes periodically related to dues, so please check your **September paystub** for accuracy. Don't forget that by taking advantage of CTA and NEA Member Benefits, you can nearly offset the cost of dues.

[CTA Member Benefits](#)
[NEA Member Benefits](#)

Virtual Retirement Workshops

CTA is hosting several virtual retirement workshops. It's never too early to start planning! [Click here to view the flyer](#). There will be materials and discussion of the CalSTRS retirement benefit formula, options, Defined Benefit Supplemental program, survivor benefits, legislative changes, and Social Security Offsets.

Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank

Open enrollment is from September 1-30. In order to withdraw from the Sick Leave Bank you need to enroll and donate a day each year. If you ever need to use this bank, you get 40 paid days and will then have the option to seek donations for another 40 days. Please don't wait until it's too late to join. Contact Jasmine Persaud in HR to enroll.

RIF Update

As of today there are 24 people still waiting to be rehired. We are aware of vacancies at several sites, but the district has placed substitutes in those classes for some reason. They

are not sharing enrollment numbers or the number of vacancies with us, and we have a right to this information. It is our duty to ensure that members' rights are protected. The district has made at least two mistakes in recalling teachers, which is why we need this information. Please let us know if you have classes with subs rather than a permanent teacher.

CVUSD School Board Elections

We are finishing up the endorsement process this afternoon, and will be sharing with each of you how you can help with the campaign. **There is an organizing committee meeting on September 9th (see calendar below).** Please attend to be part of the process. It's going to take all of us working together to make a significant change for our district!

2024/2025 CVTA Site Reps - No representation at AE, ECE, OA, SV

Get to know your site reps, as they are your first step to receiving support from CVTA. Reps will receive training and hold their first Rep Council Meeting on September 7th. If you are interested in filling one of these vacancies, please contact me!

AE (1) **vacant**
BD (1) Kathy Akkerman
CC (2) Raquel Delgado, **vacant**
CDA (1) Richard Diaz
CMA (2) Juanita Mendoza, Julia Cisneros
CVHS (5) Maya De Leon, Leo Perez, **vacant**, **vacant**, **vacant**
DM (4) Richard Ortiz, Maria Blackmon, Xochitl Zatarain, **vacant**
DO (1) Kimberly Lopez
ECE (1) **vacant**
JK (2) Rachel Kuiland, Jessica Rubalcava
LF (1) Matt Ellis
LP (1) Kelly Reilly
MA (2) Justin Brown, Monica Martinez
MV (2) Blanca Ramirez, Elizabeth Cervantes
OA (1) **vacant**
PP (1) Melissa Boomer
PV (2) Jazmin Gomez, Melissa Landfried
SM (2) Sarah Reyes, Richard Reyes
SV (1) **vacant**
TC (2) Luis Barraza, Lisa Hall
VDS (2) Stephanie Ortiz, **vacant**
VV (1) Carlos Villa
WS (1) Lily Zamora
WSHS (1) John Sellers

Have a great week! We will visit your sites soon to check in. :)

Visit Our Website

Important Dates

- **August 26th:** Emergency Rep Council Meeting 4:30 pm Zoom
- **August 27th:** CVTA Eboard Meeting, 4:30 om via Zoom
- **September TBD:** CVTA Welcome Back Social
- **September 1st to 30th:** Catastrophic Sick Bank Open Enrollment
- **September 2nd:** Labor Day Holiday
- **September 7th:** Low Desert Leadership and Rep Council Meeting (Site Rep Training)
- **September 9th:** CVTA Organizing Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm @ Starbucks on Cesar Chavez - community and members welcome!
- **September 12th:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#))
- **September 17th:** CVTA Virtual Office Hours 4:30-5:00
- **September 19th:** Class Balancing Deadline
- **September 24th:** CVTA Eboard Meeting, 4:30 om via Zoom
- **September 26th:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#))
- **September 27th to 29th:** CTA Special Ed Conference (cta.org to register, must pay for yourself)

- **September 30th:** Deadline for Admin to review Site Budget with Staff



Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

"An injury to one is an injury to all."

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