

# ADVOMTACATE

CTA

## Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

417 West "E" Street, Ontario, CA 91762 (909) 986-2414

nea

February 2013

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### DO YOU KNOW YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS?

Educators sometimes have to make crucial decisions that could affect the rest of their careers and lives. These decisions may need to be made quickly without an opportunity to consult with chapter representatives. OMTA is offering training on your legal rights. Have you ever wanted to know about your legal obligation for reporting child abuse? How about your STRS disability rights? Do you know your rights on the Family Medical Leave Act? Have you ever wondered about the use of district computers and social media privacy rights? How about your legal rights of the teacher dismissal process? Come to the OMTA office on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:15-4:45 and get these questions answered and many more. We are fortunate to have booked a CTA lawyer to put on this training for us. We will have snacks and raffle prizes. Please RSVP to the OMTA office at 909-986-2414 or email [officemanager@myomta.org](mailto:officemanager@myomta.org) by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Look out for a flyer from your OMTA rep and posted on your OMTA bulletin board.

The California Education Code drives what we do and how we go about doing it. There are over 100,000 educational codes that we have to abide by. Some of the Ed Codes (EC) that protect teachers rights in the classroom, are as follows:

- EC 48910- Teachers may suspend for day of suspension and day following from only that teacher's classroom, after exhausting all correctable remedies.
- EC 49066- Make the final decision as to student grades.
- EC 49091.10- Be notified within a reasonable time before a parent visits your classroom.

Parents have Ed Code rights as well. Some of their rights are as follows:

- EC 48904- Parents are liable for willful misconduct of minor children that causes injury.
- EC 44811- A parent who disrupts a class or school activity is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- EC 35291- Standards of discipline are developed at each school.

Don't forget to RSVP for this fabulous training and learn some of your legal rights!



### BENEFITS ALLOCATIONS FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Look out on your March 1<sup>st</sup> paycheck for the extra benefit money that was negotiated and ratified in December for this current school year.

If you are an Opt-Out or take Single insurance you will receive \$250. If you take Two-Party insurance you will receive \$750. If you take family insurance you will receive \$1,500. If you are a married certificated couple in the district you will receive the benefits money on the spouse's paycheck that takes the benefits. These amounts are effective if this was your enrollment status as of November 1, 2012.

Effective July 1, 2013 the district shall allocate to each regular full time employee the following sums for their benefits:

Single: \$7,200  
Two-Party: \$10,500\*  
Family: \$13,570\*



\*Included in the Two-Party and Family allotment is the Opt-Out Pool money that is **added to these amounts** and varies in amount from year to year based on the number of Opt-Out. The amounts to be added to the 2013-2014 year will be determined at a later date.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Amy Tompkins



We are entering a very busy, stressful time –the long race from now until “The Test” is over. There are many tasks for educators to do: lessons to plan and prep, common assessments to make and give, data to analyze, collaborative meetings to attend with your grade level, trainings, and don’t forget the most important: delivering quality, engaging instruction to your students. A few things to keep in mind as you begin your STAR sprint. Never teach to the test or use the test-released questions in packets to teach directly from. This could cause you to lose your credential and put your career at risk. It is not worth it. According to the California Department of Education, the appropriate use of test-released questions “include analyzing whether

classroom assessments: (a) address standards with the same rigor as the state assessments; (b) adequately cover the content standards; and (c) present a variety of ways in which the standards can be assessed.” If you have questions on what you are being asked to do, please don’t hesitate to ask clarifying questions of your administrators or to contact me with your questions. There are two more years, this year and next, of the STAR, and then there will be the Smarter Balance assessments which will look nothing like the current STAR test, please protect yourself and your career.

What you do every day is critical to your students. You need time to meet with your grade level, work in your classroom, prepare and plan your materials. Your time is precious and must be used wisely. Remember, according to the contract there are some protected times for you to begin to accomplish the work you need to get done to be an effective educator. You have two Tuesdays a month that are called teacher Tuesdays (If you are at a school with an MOU on your meeting days, this does not apply to you. Your teacher time is on the Tuesdays you are not meeting and Wednesdays since you don’t have staff meetings on Wednesdays). Teacher Tuesdays are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. These Tuesdays are for you! They are not for voluntary meetings or for being required to complete a task that may be left over from another meeting. These are for you to accomplish what you need to accomplish. If there happens to be a 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in a month, that day is also a teacher Tuesday. Another time that is protected is elementary PE. Your 1 hour a week of PE prep is for you! Nothing should be required for you during this time and you should not be asked to meet or complete work with your grade level during this time. Middle school prep time is protected for 4 prep periods a week. One of your preps during the week can be used by your administrator for PLCs, but the other 4 preps in the week are for you. If these days and times are not being honored, please go talk to your administrator about it.

All of you should have received a letter in the mail from our CTA President Dean Vogel. CTA is beginning to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Can you believe CTA was founded when Abraham Lincoln was President? Since public education is always being attacked, CTA is looking deeply into how we do business so we are prepared for the future. CTA has a small group of leaders going through a strategic planning process. It is critical that we all take part in a short 10-15 minute survey so that all of our voices are heard. You are CTA and your opinion will affect how we shape CTA’s future. Now is the time to tell CTA how you really feel about their efforts on your behalf, whether you are extremely happy with them or not so much. All voices are heard and valued under Dean Vogel’s leadership. You can find the survey at [www.cta.org/ourfuture](http://www.cta.org/ourfuture). Click the take our future survey button. The survey deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let your voice be heard as we fight for public education with CTA.

**REGION III  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE –**

*Vickie Harri*

CTA held its annual Region III Leadership Conference in Manhattan Beach over the first weekend in February. Nine OMTA members were able to attend; President Amy Tompkins, Treasurer Mary Kay Scheid, Service Center Reps John Egan and Tracy Taylor, and Site Reps Daniel Salcido, Tisha Curry, Kathleen Gregson, Lora Dahms and Vickie Harri. Attendees were able to participate in a variety of training sessions on topics which included education reform, teacher evaluations, workplace bullying, and common core standards, as well as many more.

CTA president Dean Vogel was the guest speaker at Sunday's brunch. He thanked the assembled group for their hard work during November's election and reiterated the continued need to work with the state legislature to improve public education in California through improved funding and protecting teachers' rights. Dean Vogel also stressed the importance that all CTA members respond to the strategic planning survey sent out earlier this month. Below is information regarding a couple of the workshops attended by OMTA representatives.

**TREASURER'S WORKSHOP –**

*Mary Kay Scheid*

I always enjoy the Region III Leadership Conference. It's a great place to connect with educators from our area. The keynote speakers are inspiring, the sessions informative, the vendors generous, and the collegiality refreshing.

The treasurer's workshop I attended this year provided me with a wealth of information. Perhaps the most "business" focused presentation of the entire weekend, the session provided information on our IRS reporting requirements, FDIC insurance concerns, the differences between the cash basis and accrual methods of accounting, and much more. Mikki Cichocki, our CTA Secretary-Treasurer, was in the audience as the CTA staff representative presented the program. She was able to share some of her experiences with the group, which was eye-opening.

CTA is a large and powerful organization. Because of its size, the potential for fiscal abuse is real. The abundant checks and balances that the local treasurers must conduct protect the organization's resources so that CTA is able to get about its work –the business of ensuring that all California children receive a quality education and that all California teachers are treated fairly. I am proud to be a small part of the mission.

**Member Benefits –**

*Lora Dahms*

Would you like to re-coup your union dues? With CTA's member benefits, you can save what you spend on dues in a year by taking advantage of the CTA/NEA Member benefits, products and services. There are more services available than I can possibly list, so, your best option is to go online to [www.CTAMemberBenefits.org](http://www.CTAMemberBenefits.org). Services range from discounts for eating out (restaurant.com), to college loan forgiveness. As CTA members, we are even eligible for discounts on Whirlpool products, car rentals, pet insurance and free magazine subscriptions (just go to [www.neamag.com/GET2FREE](http://www.neamag.com/GET2FREE)). Having recently replaced a kitchen, I certainly wish I had known about the Whirlpool discount, it could have saved me several hundred dollars. The best part of being a member of such a large organization as CTA/NEA is that CTA/NEA stands firmly behind all products and services that they offer to us. This means that these resources are closely monitored and in the unfortunate event of poor customer service, CTA goes to bat on behalf of its members in order to see that problems are resolved in an agreeable and timely fashion. Further questions? Call OMTA office and they will be glad to point you in the right direction to take full advantage of your benefits!

## OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

**Arroyo:** Karen Hirschfeld  
**Berlyn:** Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick  
**Bon View:** Wayne Bradley, Nancy Mason  
**Buena Vista:** Michael Hatter  
**Central:** Tina Foglesong, Marina Garcia-Guevara  
**Corona:** Paul Leal, Julie Rafeedie  
**DeAnza:** Linda Bell  
**Del Norte:** Tish Curry, Kathy Gregson  
**Edison:** Rayvelyn Swift  
**El Camino:** Susie Imrich-Snow,  
Chris Scoleri  
**Elderberry:** Kevin Dixon, Renita Hernandez  
**Euclid:** Debbie Covarrubias, Anna Young  
**Hawthorne:** Monique Gray, Dale Johnson  
**Haynes:** Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller  
**Howard:** Vacant  
**Kingsley:** Allison Borromeo, Monica Smirl  
**Lehigh:** Carol Alvarez, Stacia Neer  
**Lincoln:** Crystal Cuautia, Denise Dryden  
**Mariposa:** Sendai Parker, Jeff Williams  
**Mission:** Ann Roozee, Daniel Salcido  
**Monte Vista:** Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott  
**Montera:** Erine Ames, Kelly Cook  
**Moreno:** John Hamman, John Ross  
**Oaks:** Lora Dahms, Vickie Harri  
**Ramona:** Trudy Cowan, Vacant  
**Serrano:** Dalia Aref, Brad Holtan  
**Sultana:** Terri Caldwell,  
Bertha B. Fitzgerald  
**Vernon:** Isabel Santos, Diana Verdugo  
**Vina Danks:** David Hennessee, Vacant  
**Vineyard:** Lesia Beasom/Nila Delise  
**Vista Grande:** Helen Cieslik  
**Wiltsey:** Ken Aven, Linda Boren  
**Music/PE/APE:** Daniel Salcido  
**Speech:** Kimberly Cieslik  
**Health/Nurse:** Marissa Sitz  
**Early Ed Center:** Leticia Martinez

## OPEN ENROLLMENT IS COMING.....

It's getting close to that time of the year, signing up for your benefits. Information will be coming out soon through your district email and posted on school site bulletin boards. For those of you who opt-out, make sure you start thinking about getting your paperwork into the district. The dates for open enrollment are tentatively set for April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>. The district is working on setting up some road shows again to assist you in the signing up process. We hope to have negotiations finished so we will know if there are any new contributions from the district towards your benefits allotment.

**OMTA  
Executive Board Meeting  
March 4th  
Rep Council Meeting  
April 1st**

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**OMSD  
School Board Meetings  
March 7th & 28th  
7 pm at Central Language  
Academy**

## OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

President  
**Amy Tompkins**  
1st Vice President  
**Brad Richards**  
2nd Vice President  
**Shari Megaw**  
Secretary  
**Susan Yee**  
Treasurer  
**MaryKay Scheid**

CTA State Council  
Representatives  
**Cindy Lopez Elwell**  
**Melody Kelly**  
**Amy Tompkins**

Service Center 1  
Representatives  
**John Egan**  
**Bruce Sarver**  
**MaryKay Scheid**  
**Chris Scoleri**  
**Tracy Taylor**

Bargaining Chair  
**Shari Megaw**

PAC Chair  
**Melody Kelly**  
**Tracy Taylor**

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