



Santa Ana
Educators' Association



www.sateach.org

Happy Holidays!

It is difficult to believe it's December again... What happened to 2011? Fortunately, this means we are close to the three-week winter break. For most of us this means spending time with family and friends, catching up with chores around the house, and if we are lucky relaxing.



During this time of giving and thanksgiving, many educators volunteer their time helping others less fortunate. Many SAUSD educators volunteer at the yearly CENA (Caring Educators Nourishing All) Holiday Event organized by Dr. Audrey Noji, SAUSD School Board President on December 24th. CENA provides two thousand Santa Ana children a toy, a book and a hot meal for them and their families. Over a hundred volunteers --- teachers and their families, District employees, High School students and administrators --- make this yearly event possible!

From 7 am to 9 am a troop of volunteers decorate Valley High School cafeteria, set up over three-thousand donated books and dictionaries and organized two thousand toys by age and gender. In the meantime, hundreds of Santa Ana residents, mostly SAUSD students, line up and wait patiently for the doors to open. From 9 am to 1 pm, children from all ages choose a toy and a book, pencils, pens, coloring books, crayons and a dictionary. Lastly, they hug and shake hands with Santa and get another gift from him. Next, each family is seated and served a hot meal by volunteers while other volunteers play holiday music.

If you would like to volunteer in this wonderful event, on December 24th please contact Eileen Maddox, at (714) 558-5523 or extension 75523.

As the holiday season approaches, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and thank the many educators who volunteer their time and energy to make SAEA a wonderful and effective Association.

May your holiday season and the 2012 be filled with much joy, health, happiness and success.

Have a restful and enjoyable three week break!

Susan Mercer, SAEA President

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IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- **SAEA**
Tel: 1714-542-6758
Fax: 1714-558-7333
- **SAUSD**
Personnel: 1714-558-5792
Benefits: 1714-558-5681
- **SchoolsFirst Credit Union**
Information: 1714-258-4000
Teller Phone: 1714-258-4100
- **OC Dept of Ed**
Tel: 1714-966-4000
Fax: 1714-662-3570
- **Credentialing**
Tel: 1888-921-2682

SAEA Executive Officers

- Susan Mercer President
- Ron Shepherd 1st Vice President
- Peter Boyd 2nd Vice President
- C. Scott Miller Treasurer
- Barbara Pearson Secretary

SAEA Staff

- Norma Ortiz CTA Staff
- Rue Chijimatsu Office Staff
- Paul Hatton Office Staff

Office Hours

- 8AM – 5PM, Monday-Thursday
- 8AM – 4PM, Friday



Chalk Talk

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CTA Will Lead the Way in Initiative Battles Ahead

In his first speech to State Council as CTA president, Dean E. Vogel vowed that the 325,000-member union will lead the way when it comes to defeating a deceptive paycheck initiative about to qualify for the November 2012 ballot, and in passing a school funding measure that's still in the works. CTA is part of a broad coalition seeking a public funding initiative that supports education and all essential public services.

Council members voted to oppose the paycheck scam, called the "Stop Special Interest Money Now Act." They also approved CTA spending up to \$8 million next year to oppose or support ballot measures. Vogel reminded delegates that whatever coalition funding initiative is settled on in the next few months, Council policies say it must be based on the union's principles of tax fairness and it must be based on progressive taxation. Also, it should generate at least \$8 billion to help heal years of unprecedented cuts.

Noting that U.S. corporations already outspend unions by about 15 to 1, Vogel vowed that CTA will work with a strong labor alliance to defeat the paycheck deception scam next year for a third time since 1998. By banning all California unions from using payroll-deducted funds for political purposes, the initiative would unfairly silence the political voices of the middle class, while letting wealthy corporate interests spend as much as they want. They are picking this fight here because "California is one of the last union strongholds," Vogel warned.

On another front, CTA's recent support of the Occupy Wall Street movement, Vogel said, has everything to do with public education. "Public education is central to rebuilding our country and to shrinking the growing chasm between the haves and the have-nots."

Happy Holidays from THE STANDARD!

The busy holiday season is underway and, as always, The Standard is available to answer any of your questions about Disability and Life Insurance coverage. Our dedicated CTA Customer Service Department can be reached at 800.522.0406 (TTY) from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time. You can also learn more by visiting www.cta.org/thestandard or emailing ctaservice@standard.com.

Attacks on Unions Are Nationwide

Coordinated attacks on collective bargaining and basic union rights are mounting across the country, CTA Executive Director Carolyn Doggett said in her speech, and the battle is on "for the very heart and soul of the America we believe in."

"It's a battle for an organized democracy that values economic opportunity, equality and social justice for every American. And it's a battle for the belief in every child — not just a select few," Doggett said.

This year alone, 11 states passed anti-collective-bargaining and dues reduction bills, and educators and public employees in six states lost full bargaining rights. There are threats to collective bargaining rights in 20 other states. In addition, "38 states introduced legislation this year to impede voters at every step of the electoral process," Doggett said. Six states now require voters to show a government-issued ID before they can cast ballots.

Attacks on public education continue, but Doggett reminded delegates that those attacks come from a small segment of the population. Polls show the public strongly trusts teachers. A recent CTA poll showed that 70 percent of California voters "had a favorable opinion of teachers and CTA's ratings were at an all-time high," she said.

Invoking labor expert Dr. Elaine Bernard, who directs the Harvard Trade Union Program, Doggett said building community coalitions and showing union solidarity are critical as we move ahead. "Our future really is up to all of us, and the best way to predict the future is to create it!"

Win a \$7500 School Lounge Make-Over

Four lucky schools will win a lounge make-over. Simply visit the website below and register. The more registrations – the more chances to win!



WIN ONE FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Win a California Casualty School Lounge Makeover. Tell all your colleagues as well. The more your school enters, the greater your chances of winning.

<http://www.schoolloungemakeover.com/>

Paycheck Deception Initiative 2011

This initiative is misleading, deceptive, and full of unintended consequences that hurt us all. The truth is that Wall Street and other corporate backers of this initiative intentionally limited the voice of middle class workers and small businesses, but wrote in a giant loophole for big corporations. Instead of reforming campaign finance laws, this initiative creates more problems and wastes our tax dollars.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Not What It Seems

- ▶ This initiative claims to be about stopping special interest money in politics, but instead it's a trick that tries to deceive voters into passing a law that would change the rules to benefit wealthy corporate interests at the expense of middle class workers and their unions. That's why independent good government groups with a long track record of fighting special interests oppose it.
- ▶ This deceptive initiative was carefully written by an attorney for big corporate interests to appear as if it limits corporations and unions equally. But when you read the details, you will see this measure does not limit corporate contributions at all.
- ▶ In fact, this measure creates a big loophole that allows corporations to continue to make political contributions without restrictions. By only limiting workers and unions, more power will be given to corporations to spend as much as they want on lobbyists and influence politicians.

Singles Out Middle Class Workers for Unfair Treatment

- ▶ Big corporations, their high-paid lobbyists and their political friends in the state legislature are scapegoating teachers, nurses, firefighters and other union workers to distract us from the fact that while middle class Californians struggle, big corporations are still getting rich. This initiative gives the big corporations a free pass at a time when their profits are at a record high and they are getting large tax breaks.
- ▶ The initiative does nothing to stop big corporations, elected officials or CEOs from contributing to political campaigns or lobbying to sway legislation or influence government contracts. But it intentionally limits the ability of workers who provide services.
- ▶ It is an attack on the middle class and attempts to silence the voices of teachers who fight for lower class size, firefighters who fight to lower emergency response times, and nurses who fight for safe patient staffing ratios in hospitals.

Creates More Problems than it Solves and Wastes Taxpayer Money

- ▶ Union members already have the ability to stop their dues money from being used in political campaigns. This measure attempts to fix something that doesn't need fixing to hide its real intent – to give corporations more influence over politics and to stop unions from speaking out.
- ▶ This initiative is unnecessary and would cost California taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is an unfunded mandate that increases the cost to government at a time when vital services like education, health care and public safety are being slashed.
- ▶ The measure has too many unintended consequences, putting us all at risk. If this flawed initiative passes, teachers would be prevented from advocating for students, nurses would be prevented from advocating on issues like appropriate patient staffing levels and firefighters could not advocate for training and equipment to deal with industrial disasters or forest fires.

2012 Annual Plan Contribution Limits Increase to \$17,000 from \$16,500 for 403(b) and 457 Plans

The IRS announced that 2012 annual elective deferral (contribution) limits for 403(b) or 457(b) plans will increase to \$17,000 from \$16,500, but the annual catch-up contribution amount for participants age 50 and older is unchanged at \$5,500.



Contribution Limits for 2012

	Contribution Limit	Age 50 Catch-Up	Other Catch-Up Provisions
403(b)	\$17,000	\$5,500	15-year rule*
457	\$17,000	\$5,500	3-year provision**

* Eligible employees with 15 or more years of full-time service may be able to contribute up to \$3,000 more for five years, or a maximum of \$15,000.

** Employees may be eligible to defer up to two times the contribution limit in effect for the final three years of service. Employees cannot participate in the 3-year catch-up and the 457 plan age 50+ catch-up during the same tax year.

CTA & NEA Member Benefits of the Week

CTA's Member Benefits program provides for rentals at a defined flat rate as low as \$33.00 a day, regardless of location. While it does not include other potential rental related charges, like optional insurances, the flat rate is very competitive particularly in areas where vehicle rentals are usually the highest, including major airports. Because rates vary by location, it is a good idea to shop with and without the CTA discount to make sure you are getting the best deal.

It is fast and easy to make arrangements for your car rental needs nationwide with Enterprise Rent-A-Car!

Online:

- Visit www.enterprise.com
- Enter your Account Number: NACA068
- Enter CTA as the Company Name

By phone:

- Call (800) RENT-A-CAR for the nearest branch
- Provide your Account Number: NACA068
- Make your reservations with the rental branch

Visit www.cta.org to obtain more information about the CTA Rental Car Program through Enterprise Rent-a-Car.

Also, **check out NEA's discounted member rate with Enterprise**, plus a Free Upgrade on your next rental at Enterprise. The Free Upgrade applies to an economy through standard size car reserved in advance at participating U.S. and Canada locations. To learn more, visit www.neamb.com and look for Enterprise under the Travel & leisure tab, then "Benefits" and Discounts".

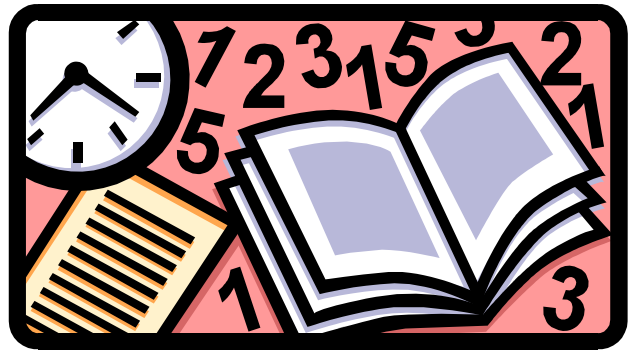
Get to the Fun Faster with Alamo!

Save up to 25% and get additional offers to save even more on your car rental! Find out more and book your reservation today—visit www.neamb.com and look for **Alamo** under the Travel & Leisure tab, then "Benefits" and "Discounts."

Hertz Rent a Car

They're at the airport and in your neighborhood. Renting a car, SUV, or minivan? Be sure to take advantage of the savings on car rentals with Hertz that are part of your benefits as an NEA member.

Include CDP# 50655 in your reservation and save up to 20% every time you rent.



School Dates	2011/12
Winter Break	Dec. 17-Jan.8
MLK Holiday	January 16
Lincoln B'Day	February 13
Washington B'Day	February 20
Spring Break	March 31-April 8
Memorial Day	May 28
Last Day of Instruction	June 14
Last Duty Day	June 15

SAEA Rep Council Dates	(4PM)
January 17	2012
February 21	
March 20	
April 17	
May 22	

Newsletter Dates	2011/12
<u>Publish</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
January 20	January 21
April 9	March 30
June 4	May 31

Does SAEA have your UPDATED:	
Email Address?	Don't Miss Out!
Home Address?	Contact SAEA with
Phone Number?	your current INFO!
School Site?	

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Sign up for regular email notifications. We're sorry but SAEA cannot use district email accounts!

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