

ACT NOW

Associated Chaffey Teachers



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As winter break approaches, we wait for the December 15 update from the state on the condition of current year revenues. The current budget was built on projections for increased revenue, which did not materialize at the rate necessary to meet revenue projections. Current information, though, is only based on revenue for the first quarter of the year, and there are some small encouraging signs that the rest of the year may be somewhat better. Even the December 15 report will be built on revenue from the first half of the year and projections for the second half. It won't be all hard data, so it's possible that any cuts necessary to deal with revenue deficiencies could be put off until the next budget year.

Governor Brown has released his proposal for public employee pension reform, which includes several provisions that are already incorporated into STRS rules: prohibiting retroactive pension increases, prohibiting pension holidays, and limits on post retirement earnings, prohibition on pension spiking. His proposal for increasing the retirement age to 67 does not seem to make much sense for teachers. His proposal also included the disclaimer "as legally permissible," which would allude to some of the provisions for STRS already included in Ed Code.

There has been a change in election law to limit the inclusion of propositions to November elections, but there are a couple of propositions in the works that we may have to end up fighting in November of 2012. Maybe we can take a lesson from Ohio, where workers were able to have a referendum on the anti-collective bargaining law that the legislature and governor passed and were able to overturn it. CTA supported Ohio workers by sending some of our field staff, including our own staff person, Phyllis Peters, to help get out the vote. Congratulations, Ohio!

I hope your first semester has been successful and rewarding and that you will have a wonderful winter break.

Jan

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*Happy
Thanksgiving*

On the Job**Author Refutes Christie's Logic in Linking Teacher Evaluations With Student Performance.**

In a column in the [Newark \(NJ\) Star-Ledger](#) (9/16, 235K), Bob Braun writes about New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's promotion of his "plans for education overhaul, including the use of student test scores to evaluate teachers," juxtaposed with the release of "Uneducated Guesses" by Howard Wainer of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. The book, Braun writes, "raises significant questions about the premise on which much of Christie's crusade is based – using student test scores to evaluate teachers." Wainer "is no anti-test ideologue, no apologist for teacher unions. Much the opposite: For many years, he was principal research scientist at the Educational Testing Service, the people who brought us the SAT and Advanced Placement tests. He believes in tests." However, he argues that there is no evidence that tying such tests to teacher evaluations is valid.

Tennessee Papers Call On Legislators To Revise RTTT Teacher Evaluations.

An editorial in the [Murfreesboro Daily News Journal](#) (10/17) encourages Tennessee legislators to pay heed to complaints from state teachers about the new teacher evaluation process which the state set up "when it applied for federal Race to the Top funds. The state received \$501 million, but as part of the grant application the state's teachers union agreed to have student achievement scores to be used in teacher evaluations, in addition to more classroom visits by an administrator or certified evaluator. This appears to be a case of doing just about anything to get the money." Teachers are reporting the evaluation process to be "too stressful and too time-consuming. That's because administrators are supposed to conduct four classroom observations of tenured teachers annually, two announced and two unannounced, to determine how well teachers are meeting a checklist of state teaching methods."

The [Tennessean](#) (10/17) also runs an editorial on this issue, noting that among the "dizzying" number of reforms the state has implemented in its push for Race to the Top funding, the issue of teacher evaluations may be RTTT's "first gut check," adding that "School boards, principals and teachers all are complaining about the new evaluation system, which, among other things, assigns a numerical score of 1 to 5 that largely determines whether a teacher receives tenure. Teachers have begun to spend less time with students, as they linger over lesson plans to make sure they satisfy a three-page checklist used to rate the teacher. And administrators feel hard-pressed to schedule six classroom observations of each teacher they supervise.

Michigan School "Flips" Homework, Sees Positive Results.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/24, Higgins) reports on the success that Clintondale High School in Clinton Township, Michigan, is seeing in increasing academic performance and decreasing discipline problems using "a novel program that literally 'flips' around instruction: Students watch short online videos of lessons at home and do homework in class with their teacher's help. 'Flipping' is a radical change gaining steam across the nation, with the Clinton Township high school the first in the country to try it school-wide," according to Principal Greg Green. "The early success has sparked interest, with Green lately lecturing to often packed rooms at education conferences."

*Autumn Leaves***In The Classroom****California Conference Explores Best Classroom Technology Concepts.**

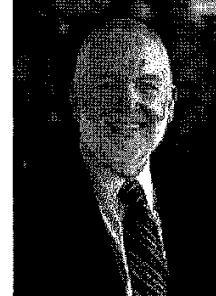
The [Miami Herald](#) (10/4, Pecenti) reports that the technology currently exists to allow teachers to customize lesson plans to students' individual abilities and to spend "less time grading papers and more time interacting one-on-one with students who are struggling-or who need to move ahead faster." Moreover, "real-time data on student progress makes a once-a-year standardized test obsolete...In an age when we use technology to customize every other form of information delivery-from Netflix to news feeds-experts around the country believe we're at a tipping point that could transform education. The Silicon Valley-based Innosight Institute and the Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media hosted a conference last month at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., to showcase to the media some promising innovations for using technology in the classroom."



November 2011

Articles for Chapter Newsletters

Welcome to the CTA Member Benefit Department's Articles for Chapter Newsletters program. To unsubscribe, please review the instructions at the bottom of this message. If you are having trouble viewing this page, simply visit www.cta.org/About-CTA/Leadership/Chapter-Leader-Corner/Chapter-Newsletters.aspx and log in. This link will take you to the CTA Member Benefits website where new and previous articles will be archived.



Dean E. Vogel

Sincerely,

Dean E. Vogel, CTA President

Now's the Time to Apply for a Grant of \$1,000 or More for Your High School's Athletics Program



Applications for the Thomas R. Brown athletic grants will be accepted through January 15, 2012 and award recipients will be announced in April 2012.

The California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant was established to provide support to public high school sports programs impacted by reduced budgets. As an employee of the school and a member of CTA, you can apply for a grant award for your school's sports program.

Last year California Casualty, CTA's trusted auto and home insurance partner for over 60 years, presented athletics awards to six California public high schools. Each school received a check of \$2,500 to be used for much needed safety equipment and uniforms, for a grand total of \$15,000. The six districts were: Mira Loma High School (Sacramento), Pacific High School (San Bernardino), Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy (Los Angeles USD), Mt. Diablo High School (Concord), San Ysidro High School (San Diego), and Mount Pleasant High School (San Jose). Dan Barclay, California Casualty AVP and one of the grant presenters last year said, "It was rewarding to be able to give back to schools at a time when they are struggling with budget shortfalls."

See the attached flyer for more details or go to www.CalCasAthleticsGrant.com.

California Casualty provides CTA members with specialized auto and home insurance products. If you have not received quote from California Casualty recently, now is a good time to do an insurance comparison. You may be pleasantly surprised. Call 1-866-680-5142 or visit www.calcas.com/cta.

*News from The Standard***Happy Thanksgiving!**

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.

Enrollment opportunity for new hires is ending soon

If you're a newly hired CTA member or new in your district, now's the time to get coverage. During your first 120 days of new employment, you have a special opportunity to apply for Disability Insurance and/or up to \$200,000 of Life Insurance. Don't miss this limited-time opportunity –call The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 for more information or apply online at www.cta.org/thestandard.

For costs and further details of the coverage and this enrollment opportunity, including the exclusions, benefit waiting periods, and reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800.522.0406 (TTY).

Limited time opportunity to switch your coverage to the CTA-endorsed plans

Until November 30, 2011 you have a special opportunity to switch your Disability and Life Insurance coverage to the CTA-endorsed plans offered by Standard Insurance Company. To begin the process, call The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 (TTY) 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

For costs and further details of the coverage and this enrollment opportunity, including the exclusions, benefit waiting periods, and reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800.522.0406 (TTY).

Keep your records up-to-date

Remember to call The Standard if you've moved to a new address, changed districts or need to make changes to your beneficiary designations. It's very important to keep your records up-to-date, and it's easy to do. Simply call The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 or go online to www.cta.org/thestandard.

About CTA

The preeminent voice for educators in California's public schools and colleges, CTA is also a powerful and passionate advocate for students and public education.

[Learn more »](#)

CTA Member Benefits

As a member you have at your fingertips access to a variety of benefits and programs to enhance your life and your career.

[Learn more »](#)

CTA Conferences

CTA offers statewide conferences designed to provide knowledge and skills for members as they go about the work of the organization.

[Learn more »](#)

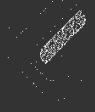
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California Casualty
Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant

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**Apply for a grant of \$1000
or more for your high school's
athletics program**

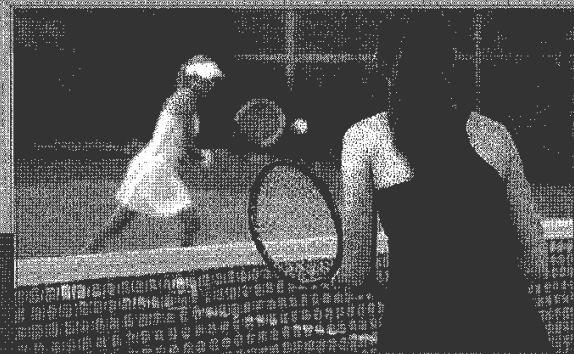
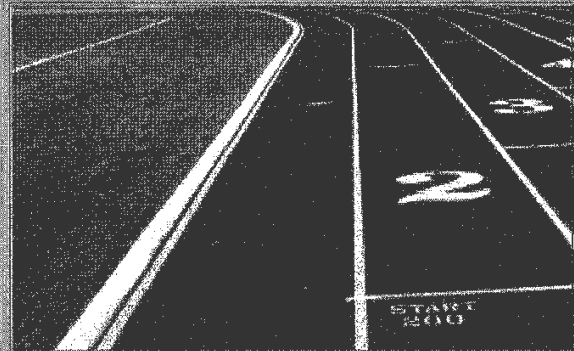
The California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant was established to provide support to public high school sports programs impacted by reduced budgets.

As an employee of the school and a member of the California Teachers Association (CTA) or one of our other participating educator associations*, you can apply for a grant award for your school's sports program.

To learn more or to apply for a grant offered by California Casualty, visit CalCasAthleticsGrant.com.

Applications will be accepted through **January 15, 2012**.
Award recipients will be announced in April 2012.

*NEA and its state affiliates, ACSA, CASE, COSA, KASA, NASA or UASSP. Grants not available in AK, HI, MA, MI, NY, and WI.



To apply for the grant, go to www.calcasathleticsgrant.com



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RESOURCES

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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.

If you'd prefer not to receive e-mails from [CTAinvest.org](#), please [click here](#).



Learn more at [CTAinvest.org](#)

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As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote in California, we bring you another tory in our fight for the right to vote!

**Argument Against Women's Suffrage 1911 Prepared by J. B. Sanford,
Chairman of Democratic Caucus, Senator of the 4th District of California**

Suffrage is not a right. It is a privilege that may or may not be granted. Politics is no place for a woman, consequently the privilege should not be granted to her.

The mother's influence is needed in the home. She can do little good by gadding the streets and neglecting her children. Let her teach her daughters that modesty, patience, and gentleness are the charms of a woman. Let her teach her sons that an honest con-science is every man's first political law; that no splendor can rob him nor no force justify the surrender of the simplest right of a free and independent citizen. The mothers of this country can shape the destinies of the nation by keeping in their places and attending to those duties that God Almighty intended for them. The kindly, gentle influence of the mother in the home and the dignified influence of the teacher in the school will far outweigh all the influence of all the mannish female politicians on earth.



The courageous, chivalrous, and manly men and the womanly women, the real mothers and home builders of the country, are opposed to this innovation in American political life. There was a bill (the Sanford bill) before the last legislature which proposed to leave the equal suffrage question to women to decide first before the men should vote on it. This bill was defeated by the suffragettes because they knew that the women would vote down the amendment by a vote of ten to one.

The men are able to run the government and take care of the women. Do women have to vote in order to receive the protection of man? Why, men have gone to war, endured every privation and death itself in defense of woman. To man, woman is the dearest creature on earth, and there is no extreme to which he would not go for his mother or sister. By keeping a woman in her exalted position, man can be induced to do more for her than he could by having her mix up in affairs that will cause him to lose respect and regard for her.

Woman does not have to vote to secure her rights. Man will go to any extreme to protect and elevate her now. As long as woman is woman and keeps her place, she will get more protection and more consideration than man gets. When she abdicates her throne, she throws down the scepter of her power and loses her influence.

Woman suffrage has been proven a failure in states that have tried it. It is wrong. California should profit by the mistakes of other states. Not one reform has equal suffrage effected. On the contrary, statistics go to show that in most equal suffrage states, Colorado particularly, that divorces have greatly increased since the adoption of the equal suffrage amendment, showing that it has been a home destroyer. Crime has also increased due to lack of the mothers in the home.

Woman is woman. She cannot unsex herself or change her sphere. Let her be content with her lot and perform those high duties intended for her by the Great Creator, and she will accomplish far more in governmental affairs that she can ever accomplish by mixing up in the dirty pool of politics. Keep the

home pure and all will be well with the Republic. Let not the sanctity of the home be invaded by every little politician that may be running up and down the highway for office. Let the manly men and the womanly women defeat this amendment and keep woman where she belongs in order that she may retain the respect of all mankind. *Received by Secretary of State, Frank Jordan, on June 26th, 1911, for publication as part of a voters' information manual. Document is currently filed in the California State Archives under: Secretary of State Elections Papers, 1911 Special Election.*

In 1893, a women's suffrage bill won approval in the CA state legislature, but it was vetoed by the governor, who thought it was unconstitutional. In 1896, suffragists took the issue straight to the California voters for a statewide referendum, but it was defeated by a sizeable majority. Many blamed the vocal liquor industry and the Democratic Party for the defeat. After forming a coalition of union workers, "social ladies," students and others, they tried again. The eyes of the nation were on California in October 1911, when male voters flocked to the polls to approve the women's right to vote by a wide margin in the statewide referendum. It was the sixth and largest state so far to approve women's suffrage in the United States.



NOTE: The above article was taken from the NEA Women's Rights Caucus and is displayed in this newsletter solely for historical informational purposes.

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Upland Branch Opening November 7, 2011. 1024 W. Foothill, Upland