

ACT NOW

Associated Chaffey Teachers



JANUARY 2012 ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we roll out another semester and look forward to spring and, before you know it, testing season and the conclusion of another year, yet another budget proposal from the governor that includes cuts for education looms. I have attended presentations from CTA, School Services and the San Bernardino superintendent and fiscal services officer. Fortunately, the messages from all of them are consistent although not the good news we were hoping for! They all agree that the best case scenario is flat funding from last year, with the exception of the elimination of transportation funding. Worst case scenario, if the governor's tax initiative fails, is a cut of about \$370 per ADA, plus the transportation cut.

However, the January governor's budget is not the final word. In May, the governor revises his proposal based on the economic outlook from the first of the year. If state revenues improve, the May revision could look better than the January proposal. There are numerous, if slight, improvements in economic indicators: factory orders, housing starts, unemployment, consumer confidence that give one hope.

Then, after the May revision, the state legislature starts working on its budget proposal. In the meantime, there will be much communication with legislators about some of the provisions in the governor's proposal, most notably the elimination of transportation funding. It is the most inequitable proposal: some districts do not provide transportation and would not be affected at all. Some rural districts would lose up to \$1000 per student as well as resulting ADA when students can't find transportation to school.

To help mitigate recent and future cuts to education, there are three education directed tax initiatives making their way to the November 2012 ballot. After much thought provoking, spirited debate, Council voted to support the governor's initiative which would impose a small temporary income tax increase on high income earners and a half cent sales tax, also temporary. The two other initiatives thought to have some merit were also discussed. The governor's initiative seems to have a broader base of support, so its passage would not depend as much on funding from CTA, although we will need to commit both time and money to its passage. The other two initiatives bring in money outside the Prop. 98 rules, which, at first glance, seems like a good thing, but the fear is that the money would just supplant what is guaranteed by Prop. 98: if this other pot of money is available to education, legislators would be less hesitant to suspend Prop. 98.

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1-2
News from CTA	3-5
•2012 Plan Contributions	
•AT&T Discounts	
•Disaster Preparedness	
•All-Star Teacher Award	
•T.R. Brown Athletic Grant	
Awards & Recognition	6
•"Educator of the Year"	
•"The Laramie Project"	
Chaffey Federal CU	7
• 2.99% Auto Loan Rates <i>(expires 3/1/12)</i>	



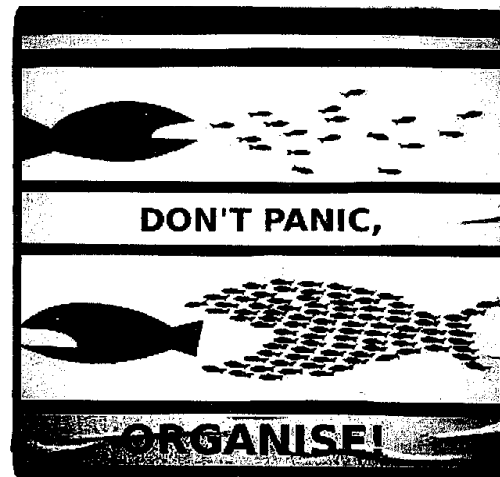
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

The amount of money that we would need to contribute to the tax initiatives is an important consideration because another initiative has qualified for the ballot that would eliminate our ability to spend dues money collected through payroll deduction for any type of political activity, even local school board elections.

CTA would not be able to advocate for our students, our members (think, evaluating teachers on test scores), our profession, or even our state. Fortunately, there will be a coalition of labor partners to assist in this fight.

On the positive side, all polling that CTA has ever done, has shown steady support for teachers on the part of the public: they still (about 65%) believe educators most on issues related to education and their children.

WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IN THESE FIGHTS, BUT WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER.





Sean E. Vogel

CTA California Teachers Association
ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTERS

January 2012



contact | CTAinvest.org

RESOURCES

- ✓ [VIDEOS](#) ✓ [CHAPTER RESOURCES](#)
- ✓ [CALCULATORS](#) ✓ [403\(b\)/457 GUIDE](#)

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.

More News from CTA.....

December 2011

You can save 15% on qualifying AT&T services

AT&T is the only national wireless carrier with over 40,000 union represented wireless employees. And, as members of a labor organization, CTA members are eligible for the AT&T Sponsorship Program **discount of 15%*** on qualifying AT&T services. You'll also enjoy these benefits from AT&T:

- Unlimited usage on the nation's largest Wi-Fi® network
- Simultaneous use of voice and data on the nation's fastest mobile broadband network
- Keep unused minutes from month to month with Rollover®, only from AT&T
- Share minutes and save with a FamilyTalk® plan

To find the AT&T store closest to you, visit att.com/find-a-store. Please have your CTA membership card as proof of union membership or union employment. **Mention FAN: 3508840**

**Discount is being offered by AT&T to members of the California Teachers Association. AT&T Sponsorship Program discount is not an endorsed program of the California Teachers Association. This is not a complete description of the discount program. For more details, please review the attached flyer or contact a [AT&T store](#) closest to you.*

Disaster Preparedness Kit

California Casualty, our endorsed automobile and home insurance carrier, has provided the following Red Cross recommendations to assist you in putting together your own Disaster Preparedness Kit

WATER

A three-day supply of water for everyone. One gallon per person per day. Don't forget your pets. Store the water in opaque plastic containers such as soft drink bottles and put it somewhere easy to reach after the shaking stops. Change this water every six months and treat with chlorine bleach when you use it.

FOOD

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables also canned juices, milk, and soup
- Sugar, salt, and pepper
- High energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix – foods that will not increase thirst
- Vitamins, foods for infants, elderly, persons with special dietary needs
- Comfort/stress foods: cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, and tea bags
- Pet food, at least one ounce per animal pound per day

Avoid foods like rice, pasta and dry beans that require a great deal of water to prepare. Remember to restock your food once a year.

SANITATION

- Toilet paper, soap, liquid detergent, feminine supplies
- Plastic garbage bags and ties, plastic bucket with tight lid
- Disinfectant, household chlorine bleach
- Poop bags and scooper for pet waste

FIRST AID KIT

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes, assorted sizes of safety pins, sunscreen
- Cleansing agent/soap, latex gloves (2 pairs)
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6), 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6), triangular bandages (3),
- Non-prescription drugs such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medicines, antacid, syrup of Ipecac (used to induce vomiting with the advice of a Poison Control Center),
- laxatives, activated charcoal (used with advice from the Poison Control Center)
- Various roller bandages, scissors, tweezers, needle, moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic, thermometer, tongue blades (2), tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant

Disaster Preparedness Kit (Cont'd)

CLOTHING AND BEDDING

- Study shoes or work boots (keep near your bed), rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags, warm clothing and sunglasses

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- Paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries, flashlight and extra batteries
- Cash or traveler's checks in case banks are closed in the days following an earthquake
- Non-electric can opener or a utility knife, small fire extinguisher, pliers, tape, matches in a waterproof Container
- Aluminum foil, plastic storage containers, signal flare
- Paper, pencil, needles, thread, medicine dropper, wrench (to turn off gas and water)

DOCUMENTS

- Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds, passports, social security cards, immunization records
- Bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers and family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)

***Remember to include special needs family members such as a baby or an older person might have. It is also good to store in a water-proof plastic bag important family documents (passports, wills, medical records, etc.) along with your earthquake survival kit.*

SOURCE: Chronicle, American Red Cross, Disaster Preparedness Handbook, City of Berkeley

The All-Star Teacher Award is Back

One California School Will Receive \$20,000!

It's that time of year...time to recognize our special teachers who knock it out of the park when it comes to the dedication they have for their students and their communities. Provident and Comcast SportsNet have teamed up for the sixth annual All-Star Teacher Award. This award recognizes Northern and Central California teachers at the middle and high school levels. As the official sponsor of the program, Provident and Comcast SportsNet will donate **\$20,000** to the winning teacher's school.



Nominations are currently being accepted and the **deadline is February 13, 2012**. [Nomination forms](#) are being distributed to over 200 schools. They can also be obtained [online here](#). Once the nomination period has closed, a panel will select five finalists. Online voting at csnbayarea.com for the winner will take place starting on April 16th through June 4th. Videos and biographies of each finalist will be featured on the Web site. The winning teacher will be announced during a live Comcast SportsNet pregame broadcast this summer at a San Francisco Giants game. Watch for more details.

[Nomination Form](#)

It's time to nominate those teachers who truly make a difference. Please join us in celebrating our All-Star teachers — [submit your nominations](#) today!

Entry Deadline Extended for Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant Program



Recognizing how hectic end-of-year and new-semester start times are for educators, California Casualty has **extended the application deadline for its Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant program to February 15, 2012.**

“We want to ensure that as many schools as possible are able to apply,” said Doug Goldberg, Senior Vice President for the company.

Following a successful inaugural year, the 2012 California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant program will distribute a total of \$75,000 in grants of \$1,000 or more to support public high school athletics programs across the nation.

California Casualty established the grants program because education budget cuts have drastically reduced support for school athletics, in some cases forcing programs to shut down altogether. Chairman Thomas R. Brown experienced the positive impact of playing sports as a youth. “Athletes learn teamwork, discipline and that hard work pays off,” he said. “They’re a valuable complement to what’s learned in the classroom.”

Applications must be submitted by a member of CTA who is an employee of the school that seeks grant support, and they should be received by California Casualty no later than February 15, 2012. California Casualty will notify selected schools and present them with checks by May 2012.

For more information, as well as application forms and guidelines, visit www.CalCasAthleticsGrant.com.

A trusted partner of CTA since 1951, California Casualty provides auto and home insurance for educators, peace officers, firefighters and nurses. Learn more at www.calcas.com.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Michelle Pruett for being named the ***“#1 Educator of the Year”***. Michelle, a teacher at Chaffey High School in the Math Department, was recently nominated for the “California League of High School Region 10 Educator of the Year Award”. On Dec., 8th, Michelle was honored, among 10 finalists, at the CLHS Awards Dinner at the Hilton; and was later announced as the winner of the Region 10 Award. She will now go on to represent her region as she competes for the “California Educator of the Year” award at the league’s annual conference being held Feb 24 to 26 in Sacramento.
Nice work Michelle!

**CAMPUS CORNER TIDBITS****COLONY HIGH**

THE COLONY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT IS PRODUCING THE PLAY, ***“THE LARAMIE PROJECT”***. THIS PLAY IS BASED ON THE TRUE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN 1998 ABOUT THE LIFE AND UNFORTUNATE KILLING OF LARAMIE, WYOMING COLLEGE STUDENT MATTHEW SHEPARD.

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Offer expires 3/1/2012



* Annual Percentage Rate. Advertised rate is the lowest available and based on approved credit. All rates are subject to change and other restrictions may apply. Contact CFCU for more information.

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.



Convenient
Branch
Locations

Ontario: 410 N. Lemon Ave.

Upland: 1024 W. Foothill Blvd.

La Puente: 210 N. First St.

Walnut: 20265 Valley Blvd., Ste. S

Rancho Cucamonga: 9679 Baseline Road