

## NEGOTIATIONS—Read all about it!

Your HTA bargaining team met with the HUSD team on January 27 and January 28. Members present for HTA were Holly Guntermann, Jim Brigham, Troy Brown, Colleen Barton, Gary Cook and Robert Hudson. Karen Bost from CTA was also present for both sessions.

On the first day, discussion centered on possible program cuts and questions from HTA regarding the District's budget. The District claims that their program cuts were the most they could make. HTA feels that the cuts could and should go much deeper.

For example, even though we are not going to be looking at new textbook adoptions for the foreseeable future, the District chose to budget an additional \$4 million into the books and supplies account. In fact, in looking at the last five years, this \$4 million far exceeds any amount spent in this category – so why move more money into this account? Another example is the fact that the District budgeted over \$1.6 to go to the Deferred Maintenance account. Why add money to this account? The State didn't require them to do so and they could actually have taken money out of this account and moved it to the general fund to be used for other purposes. Is this being fiscally responsible?

On the second day of bargaining, the District proposed a 7% reduction in salary for all bargaining unit members. We were told that this could be configured in a combination of furlough days, salary reduction and/or freezing step increases. To put the numbers into perspective, 1% of salary for all HTA bargaining unit members is about \$828,251.

The District is expecting that HTA, CSEA and administration will all take a 7% reduction. In addition, the five cabinet level administrators will take three furlough days this year, an extra furlough day next year, and an additional 1% reduction in salary. For example, if HTA should agree to five furlough days, cabinet members would take six days. If HTA agreed to a 2% reduction in salary, cabinet members would take a 3% reduction.

Keep in mind that this is just a proposal and HTA has **NOT** agreed to the 7% or **any** salary reduction. We do understand that we are in tough economic times and it is not business as usual. However, we are committed to making informed and responsible decisions. We will continue to work collaboratively with the District to ensure that all possible cuts are made before we agree to a reduction in salary.

Future bargaining sessions have been scheduled for February 10 and 11.

# How Does Our CONTRACT Read?

## ARTICLE 7.7—Elementary Prep Time:

Elementary Prep. Time may be used for conferencing with parents and for attending IEP meetings. You may not be required to use your prep time to attend staff meetings, grade level meetings, trainings, collaboration or PLC meetings. Should you and your colleagues mutually agree to get together and do grade level planning, this is well within your contractual rights. However, your administrator may not require you to do so.



## Disneyland Tickets Are HERE!

Just in time for the February break!

Regular 1-Day Disneyland Tickets  
\$67.00—Adults  
\$59.00—Children ages 3-9

1-Day Park Hopper Tickets  
\$72.00—Adults  
\$64.00—Children ages 3-9

Call HTA at 951-925-8263 or email Renee at  
[reneehta@yahoo.com](mailto:reneehta@yahoo.com) for tickets

Please accept our apologies.  
In the January Advocate, on the back page regarding “Retiree Healthcare” - it stated that the cost of the retiree coverage was \$574.19. That was incorrect. The current cost of the Blue Shield PPO Plan for retirees is actually \$714.50 per month times 12 months. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.



**See's**  
**Gift Certificates**  
are available at the HTA office.

\$12.40 each



## SERP Reminder

- February 9—  
SERP enrollment packages & letter of resignation are due!
- February 16—  
Last day to change your mind and rescind your resignation
- February 18—  
FINAL verification of savings
- May 14—  
Retirement dinner at Soboba Springs Country Club



# Arnold LIED!

Governor Schwarzenegger promised to “protect” education in his January budget proposal. If he calls this proposal “protection”, it is frightening to imagine what his proposal would look like if he were out to get us.

For 2010-11 there is a COLA. Unfortunately it is a NEGATIVE -0.38%. This is the first time since the passage of Proposition 98, and possibly the first time in California’s history, that COLA has been a negative number. COLA will result in a decrease of \$202.2 million to education funding.

Another of the proposed “non-cuts” is an ongoing \$1.2 billion reduction to school district administrative costs. This proposal will limit the proportion of funding school districts can spend on administration to prevent them from using future funding increases to augment administration at the cost of classroom funding.

## What does this mean to Hemet?

In the First Interim Report our district projected a shortfall for 2010-11 of \$14.7 million. As a result of the governor’s January budget proposal “protecting” education, the shortfall has grown by \$5 million to a projected deficit of \$19.7 million. The majority of this additional \$5 million shortfall is directly related to the governor’s **NEW** \$2.1 billion cut to administrative costs.

CTA Bargaining Specialist, Rose Luna, and CTA staff person Karen Bost are in the process of evaluating the HUSD budget.

To put all of these numbers into perspective, HUSD should be receiving \$6,359 for each student enrolled. We are actually receiving \$4,991. The most recent enrollment numbers indicate that we have 22,164 students. That means that we are currently receiving \$30.3 million less for 2010-11 than we are entitled to.

## Benefits from CTA:

**Happy New Year from The Standard!** The New Year is here, and as always, The Standard is available to answer any of your questions about coverage. Their dedicated CTA Customer Service Department can be reached at 800.522.0406 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time, or you can write to [ctaservice@standard.com](mailto:ctaservice@standard.com) with any questions or concerns.

**Wedding or baby due this winter?** Congratulations! Remember that within 31 days of a Family Status Change, you can add or increase Life Insurance coverage up to \$200,000 and/or add Disability coverage, all without providing proof of good health. Family Status Change includes birth/adoption, marriage/domestic partnership and other qualifying events. For more information about this enrollment opportunity, or to file a maternity Disability claim, visit us at [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) and click through to The Standard.

**Retiring this year?** As you plan for this new chapter in your life, please don’t forget that you and your loved ones can continue a portion of your current, active CTA-endorsed Life Insurance if you maintain a CTA-NEA Retired Lifetime Membership and apply within 120 days of retirement. To get more information, contact The Standard’s dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800-522-0406.



SAVE  
THE DATE

On March 4, 2010,

# Start the Day for Students

An Urgent Statewide Day of Action for Students and California's Future

In the last two years, \$17 billion was cut from schools and colleges.  
Entire art, music and PE programs were eliminated.  
More than 16,000 educators were laid off.  
And large California corporations enjoyed tax breaks.

This year, in the wake of all these cuts, our students and schools  
are being threatened again. *We can't let that happen.*

We need your help in this urgent effort to speak out about the painful effects  
cuts are having on our students, schools and communities. On March 4, 2010,  
"Start the Day for Students" and be a part of the campaign to fight for the resources  
our students deserve. We must reform the state's tax structure and repeal the tax  
breaks handed out to large corporations. It's time everyone paid their fair share.

We all know that education is essential to building a better California. Working  
together, we can make sure our students get the resources they need to succeed.



Join this urgent action for our students and our future.  
Start today by making plans for March 4 and joining the  
conversation at [www.standupforschools.org](http://www.standupforschools.org)



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 California Teachers Association | [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org)

**STAND UP FOR SCHOOLS**

 Hemet Teachers Association

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ASSOCIATION 

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EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION

 Hemet Teacher's Association