

sdta HOTLINE

September 15, 2017

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Message from the President

Over the past month I have had the opportunity to visit all six of the school sites in our district to present our annual Know Your Contract Packet and answer member questions. It was thrilling (if a bit warm, given the heat wave we've endured) to see the rooms filled with our members. If you were unable to attend, I hope that you will visit the SDTA website to learn more about your rights under the contract.

But SDTA doesn't end at the end of that site meeting – your site reps will communicate to you about other opportunities to get involved in activities to support your colleagues and our students throughout the year and I look forward to getting as many of our 600+ members involved.

-Edith Salvatore

THE STANDARD OPEN ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

SDTA's triennial Open Enrollment campaign for disability insurance through The Standard reached its target, meaning that all those who applied during the campaign period will receive guaranteed disability insurance.

SEQUOIA DISTRICT CATASTROPHIC LEAVE BANK

Our contract provides the wonderful benefit of a catastrophic leave bank by which we can support our members who cannot work due to catastrophic conditions and who have exhausted their sick leave and have no other form of income. In order to qualify to make a claim from the bank, you must have contributed a day. Usually, members do this when they originally sign their contracts, but with electronic paperwork taking over this year, some newly hired may have missed the form.

In addition, if you have at used days from the bank, you must re-contribute in order to be eligible to make any subsequent claims. The time to donate your day is now – if you've never donated and you want to, you must do so by October 1st. To donate a day (or check if you've already done so), contact Toni di Cicco in the HR department (tdicicco@seq.org).

DISASTER RELIEF FOR TEACHERS AFFECTED BY HURRICANES

As you know, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have had devastating effects on the people living in their paths, including teachers. At their September Legislative Council Meeting, SDTA voted to donate \$500 each to the disaster relief funds established by our national association, the NEA, and its sister organization, the American Federation of Teachers. Money donated to these funds will be made available to teacher members of the Texas State Teachers Association and the Florida Education Association for help rebuilding and just surviving the aftermath of these horrific events.

We encourage you to also give, if you can.

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund

Hurricane Harvey is having a devastating impact on thousands along the Gulf Coast, including educators just starting their school year. At <https://www.neafoundation.org/donate/#donate-form> the NEA Foundation is accepting contributions to support NEA members affected by Hurricane Harvey, personally and at the schools where they work. Simply visit select the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund as your gift designation. We will work with the appropriate NEA state affiliate(s) to disburse funds.* Thank you for your support!

Hurricane Irma

NEA has joined forces with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in establishing the AFT Foundation's Hurricane Irma Relief Fund for members living in Florida. The AFT Foundation is accepting donations for hurricane relief that will go directly to educators living in the state of Florida. Visit <https://www.aft.org/disaster-relief-fund> to donate.

MYSDTA.ORG

Updated Salary Schedule A-1, 2017-2018 contract, 2017-18 District calendar, current Know Your Contract Packet, Current Legislative Council membership and meeting schedules and a link to the District evaluation website are all available on SDTA's website.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SUHSD DISTRICT STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following letter has been sent to the District and Board of Trustees and will be presented by SDTA President Edith Salvatore at the Board's September 27th meeting. We hope to have you join us at the meeting to speak about the need to support our undocumented students and to support your colleagues and students who plan to speak.

15 September, 2017

Superintendent Mary Streshly, President Carrie Du Bois, and
Members of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees
480 James Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94062

Dear Superintendent Streshly, President Du Bois, and Members, of the Board,

I write to you today about the District's responsibility to ensure the safety, both physical and emotional, of our students. While the current Presidential administration has made no secret of its position on immigration, as teachers and as a district we have worked to reassure our students, those who are undocumented as well as their friends and classmates, that the Sequoia Union High School District supports and cares for them and that we will remain steadfast and focused on their education and success. Toward that end, in December of 2016 the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution no. 1587, which assured that the District will not collect nor share information on students' immigration status and that the District will not share sensitive student information with authorities except under specific legal circumstances.

In the nine months since that resolution, we have seen ICE enforcement activities ramped up throughout our state and across the nation, adding to the fear many of our students confront when they leave their houses to come to school. That fear was compounded with a sense of hopelessness for many when the Attorney General announced the President's decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, potentially closing the door to higher education and the life they dreamed of for many of our students.

This is the time for our district to stand up and make a stronger statement to our students. To follow the lead of districts like those in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Berkeley that have taken concrete steps to ensure students' safety on campus by establishing policies that bar ICE enforcement agents from entering campus without District personnel and establish a commitment to educating and supporting their undocumented students about their options and rights.

Our students and their families need to know they will be safe when they come to school and our teachers and other school personnel need to know that the District is taking the lead on this issue and what we can do to support that vision. We implore you to go beyond the language of Resolution no. 1587 and to clearly communicate your commitment to protecting our students.

In Solidarity,
Edith J. Salvatore
President, Sequoia District Teachers Association.

Join our Facebook Group for Updates
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/MySDTA>

Your SDTA Site Reps:

Carlmont

Katya Burton
Connie Dominguez
Matthew Miskelly
Hai Nguyen
Kelly Redmon*

Menlo-Atherton

Leia Asanuma
Tim Bowler
Cat Burton
Tania Kranzler
Patrick Maier*
Cary Milia
Liane Strub
Ana Ventura

Sequoia

Belén Álvarez-Iglesias
Debolina Dutta
Laura Larkin
Nick Muys
Edith Salvatore
Jasmine Schimek
Dylan Shelley*

Woodside

John Arner
Greg Gruszynski*
Lexie Pretto

East Palo Alto Academy

Caren McDonald

Redwood

Javier Galaviz
Chris Beetley-Hagler

District Office

Jose Rosario