

mta CONTACT

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NEA RA Will Be in *Washington DC* this Summer

The National Education Association (NEA) Representative Assembly (RA) will be in Washington DC **Saturday, June 30 through Thursday, July 5.**

The State Declaration of Candidacy Form is in the December-January issue of the California Educator (**Due to CTA Tuesday, January 27.**)

The local Declaration of Candidacy Form is on the reverse side of this *Contact* and at the MTA office. (**Due to the MTA office Friday, February 24.**)

All members of the Association are eligible to submit Declarations.

Note: Both the Local and State Declaration forms are available at montbelloteachers.org.



CTA Members 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.*

Council & New Members Celebrate the Holidays

Building Representatives from each site and new members joined together to celebrate the holidays at the Council Dinner and New Member Meeting December 13. Enjoying the celebration at Tamayo's Restaurant are representatives from Montebello Intermediate School Alejandra Alorza and Rhoda Carbojal.



Questions & Concerns Regarding School Loop

The Executive Committee is working with the District in the implementation of school Loop. Vice President Gilbert Gomez (MHS) is gathering information for a meeting with the District. If you or your Faculty have any concerns regarding the program, contact Gilbert at Gomez_Gilbert@Montebello.K12.CA.US. Gilbert will be gathering more information about the addition of attendance input in School Loop.

Cal STRS Retirement: Possible Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

It is common for teachers and other certificated professionals to face complex issues related to STRS retirement benefits. The following are common issues that may arise and practical advice offered by CTA to avoid problems.

Issues to Consider Prior to Retirement

- Employees must timely file for retirement. STRS is its own entity and completely separate from the employing school district. Consequently, STRS will not pay a retirement benefit until notified by the member that he or she has retired.
- Salary may not be "spiked" to increase STRS benefits. STRS benefits are based on final compensation figures. Not all earnings can be credited toward the amount. If you have a question about Extra Duty Assignment pay, check with the District and STRS on how this amount applies to final compensation.
- STRS caps the amount a retiree can earn. Retirees should be aware of certain restrictions on their ability to work and earn income after they retire. Check with a STRS counselor on general rules applying to post-retirement employment.

Practical Advice

1. Get it in Writing. If you need to talk to a benefits counselor over the phone, be sure to ask the person for something in writing that confirms what he or she told you. You should also be sure to get the person's name and/or phone number, if applicable.
2. Review and Understand Your Paperwork. Retirees should review all STRS correspondence they receive and should also make sure they understand it. Retirees should also review their benefit statements periodically, to make sure there are no significant changes to their benefit levels. Review your beneficiary designees.
3. Attend a Retirement Workshop. If you are contemplating retirement, consider attending a STRS retirement workshop. Be sure to review any retirement literature you receive and ask questions if you do not understand something.
4. Be Timely. If you notice something unusual in your benefit statement, or if STRS contacts you about a problem, you should inquire with STRS immediately. If the answer you receive is not satisfactory, do not delay in seeking assistance.
5. Join a Post Retirement Group. Overseeing the rights of retirees is a key function of the CTA-Retirees Committee. Contact CTA about enrolling in this program.