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# *Liaison News*

By CTA Vice President Dean E. Vogel and Secretary-Treasurer Gail Mendes

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## **PTA: Disconnect Between Governor's Message and His Budget Proposal**

Members of the California State Parents Teachers Association heard an organizational representative spell out the sharp discrepancies between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's assertions in his State of the State message and his January budget proposal. The PTA noted that the governor said he would be protecting public education, but his actual spending plan would cut schools another \$2.5 billion.

During the January meeting, CTA Liaisons urged PTA representatives to get fully involved in the March 4 Statewide Day of Action for Students.

As part of the meeting, the representatives also heard from Cecilia Ayala, chair of the California Early Learning Quality Pre-school Improvement System for the California Department of Education. That part of the meeting focused on the nature of a quality preschool.

*The California State Parents Teachers Association website is [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).*

*CTA's Liaisons to the California State Parents Teachers Association are Greg Bonaccorsi and Les Nakasaki.*

## **Close-up Public Employment Relations Board Oversees Public Sector Bargaining**

CTA Liaisons work closely with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), which will celebrate its 35th year in 2011.

PERB, which oversees public sector bargaining in California, was created as "a quasi-judicial administrative agency charged with administering the collective bargaining statutes covering employees of California's public schools, colleges, and universities, employees of the State of California, employees of California local public agencies (cities, counties and special districts), trial court employees and supervisory

employees of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority."

PERB has two major functions: it evaluates and adjudicates unfair labor practice charges, and it oversees the selection process through which employees choose an organization to represent them. PERB cites as examples of management unfair practices such things as refusing to negotiate in good faith, disciplining or threatening employees for engaging in union activities, and unilaterally changing employment conditions and terms without bargaining. For their own part, unions are liable to be accused of unfair practices if they threaten employees for not joining or do not fairly represent them. Legislative creators of the agency imagined it to be the venue where public employee unions and their employers could settle disputes without the full formality of court proceedings.

The Board is composed of four members drawn from California's public and private sectors. Current members are Alice Dowdin Calvillo, Acting Chair; Karen Neuwald; Sally M. McKeag; and Robin W. Wesley. PERB is headquartered in Sacramento and maintains regional offices in Oakland and Los Angeles.

PERB's web site is located at [www.perb.ca.gov](http://www.perb.ca.gov).

*CTA's Liaisons to the Public Employment Relations Board are Kevin Colburn and Cliff Kusaba.*

## **Mexican American Educators Unveil New Poster, Provide Workshops**

Liaisons report that the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) is especially proud of the organization's 2010 poster celebrating the Day of the Teacher.

AMAE held its 44th Annual Conference in Hollywood on January 15-16. The conference's theme, "Ellos Viene Primero — They Come First," summed up the meeting's focus on academic achievement strategies for Latino English Language

Learners. More than 20 workshops were offered for educators, parents, and community members.

The organization also recognized CTA's own Dr. Theresa Montano for her work in education issues and the Latino population. She received the El Fuego Nuevo Award.

The AMAE website is located at [www.amae.org](http://www.amae.org).  
CTA's Liaison to AMAE is Christina Valdez.

## Group Concerned About RTTT's Impact on Special Education Students

Members of the California Association of Resource Specialists (CARS+) are expressing concerns about the impact on Special Education students should California qualify for federal Race to the Top (RTTT) grant funding. Specifically, CARS+ members are concerned that the extra resources needed to close the achievement gap between students with special needs and students in regular classes will not be available. The group is looking to CTA to provide guidance and leadership on this important issue.

CARS+ members are also seeking information from CTA about bargaining strategies affecting the evaluation of certificated personnel working with Special Education students.

CARS+ continues to work with CTA on strategies to help stave off efforts to raise Special Education class sizes that are tied to massive education cuts at the state level.

The CARS+ web site is [www.carsplus.org](http://www.carsplus.org).  
The CTA Liaison to CARS+ is Denise James.

## Career Educators Warn that Budget Cuts Could Harm Key Programs

Members of the California Association of Regional Occupational Programs (CAROP) is working with other school supporters to find ways to protect program funding at a time the governor is proposing still further cuts in public education appropriations.

The members are particularly concerned about the fate of Career and Technical education, which the

governor's budget puts in the lowest tier for funding purposes.

CAROP members lobbied lawmakers on several days in February and will be continuing to meet with key legislators on March 18.

The CAROP website is [www.carocp.org](http://www.carocp.org).  
CTA's Liaison to CAROP is Mike Patterson.

## Children Count: They Need to be Counted

CTA is a proud partner in California Complete Count, the effort to ensure that all Californians — regardless of their citizenship or immigration status — are counted by the U.S. Census Bureau. A lot is riding on the outcome, for our state and for our schools.

For starters, the 10-year count of all residents determines what portion California and our schools will get of \$400 billion in federal funding distributed each year.

For every person residing in the state — child, woman, or man — California will receive more than \$1,400 annually, and that compounds to more than \$14,000 per person for the 10-year reign of the new count.

These funds go to programs like Title I schools. The appropriations also help underwrite a plethora of other federally funded programs within the state.

The Census also determines how many US representatives each state has in Congress.

For more information, go to the CTA web page ([cta.org](http://cta.org)) and check out the *CTA Up for the Count publication*. It will link you to state-approved lesson plans on the Census and other materials that can help you get the messages to students and their parents.

Speaking of counting, you can count on us to get you important information about CTA's work with state agencies. To join our list, simply e-mail us at [budgetadvocates@cta.org](mailto:budgetadvocates@cta.org).

Remember also to contact [dbasurto@cta.org](mailto:dbasurto@cta.org) to receive e-mail copies of the *Liaison News*. You can also download the publication at [cta.org](http://cta.org).

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