



Unified Association of Conejo Teachers

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UACT Executive Board

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Briner-Schmidt

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CTA Staff

Jake Anderson

Call For UACT Elections For Executive Board

UACT offices are open to any UACT member who is interested in serving. The Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for all offices with expiring terms.

If you would like to run for a position, please submit the name on the form provided on the UACT website under the forms tab at www.conejoteachers.com. All terms will be for two years. Return the completed form to the UACT office by **MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014, NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M. (Postmarked date not accepted.)**

You may scan and email to uactsec@aol.com or fax to 805-497-1458. **No late nomination forms will be accepted.**

The open positions are currently held by the following teachers:

PRESIDENT:	Colleen Briner-Schmidt
HIGH SCHOOL REP:	Steve Johnson
MIDDLE SCHOOL REP:	Randy Smith
UPPER ELEMENTARY REP:	Christine Steigelman
LOWER ELEMENTARY REP:	Renee Vlerick
SPECIAL ED REP:	Joyce Parks

Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Representative Council meeting on April 7, 2014. If there is only one person running for an office, the Rep. Council will vote to elect those who are unopposed at the April 7, 2014 meeting. Otherwise, ballots will go out on April 11, 2014, to the school sites and will need to be returned to the UACT office on May 7, 2014, no later than 4 P.M.

HEALTH CARE CHANGES FOR RETIREES- Correction.

In the last newsletter we alerted you to planned changes in health benefits for retirees. In the past, retirees have been given a district-paid HMO until they reached Medicare age. In addition, retirees were allowed to buy into the PPO, provided that he/she paid the FULL cost of the plan. UACT, CVPPA, CSEA, and CVUSD have been making modifications to our plan for the last five years in an effort to manage our health care costs.. The bargaining team decided that it would be in the best long-term interest of our health plan to BEGIN to move retirees out of the PPO. The agreement reached with CVUSD will not allow people who retire **AFTER** this school year (June 30, 2104) to buy into the PPO. Retirees will continue to be given the HMO as we do now **however, retirees will also be paying the monthly contribution for the employee. If you retire THIS** school year, you will **not** pay the monthly contribution and you will still have the chance to buy in to the PPO, but **after** this school year (2013-2014), the option is gone. Contact the UACT office if you have questions.

Did you know....?

+ If you are called for jury duty during the school year and you voluntarily postpone it to non-work days, you "shall be compensated at the current daily substitute rate for each non-work year day of actual jury duty served." Article 10E Jury Duty, page 25 of the contract.

+ Both NEA and CTA websites have lesson plans. In addition, NEA has joined with Better-Lessons.com to provide access to lesson plans aligned to the Common Core standards across all grade levels. Go to NEA.org and click on the tools link.

+ Teachers have lost their jobs because of Facebook posts. See the NEA story on Social Networking Nightmares at <http://www.nea.org/home/38324.htm>

+ CTA is offering a full day Common Core workshop on May 3, in Oxnard, for \$25. See the attached flyer.

+ According to Ed Code 44014, whenever a school employee is attacked, threatened or physically threatened, it is the duty of the employee and supervisor to report the matter.

+ On Monday, June 2, UACT will host an information meeting with the Chair of CalSTRS, Dana Dillion at 3:45 at the University Center. Watch for more information.





NATIONAL
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

NEA Update

From NEA Director Colleen Briner-Schmidt

The NEA has joined labor and civil rights organizations around the country in supporting a national petition for a National Day of Service in honor of Cesar Chavez's birthday, March 31. NEA members, are encouraged to sign and [share the petition](#) at <http://www.takepart.com/chavez> asking President Obama to declare the National Day of Service in honor of the labor leader and civil rights activist who championed the rights of farm workers and their families.

Watch the Movie

The farmworkers' struggle for rights and recognition is also the subject of the first-ever feature film about the civil rights activist and American hero.

[Cesar Chavez](#), a family-friendly film directed by Diego Luna and starring Michael Peña, America Ferrara and Rosario Dawson. The film is a passionate and powerful depiction of how collective bargaining has been a tool for equity and justice and opens in theaters March 28, 2014. Educators around the country are encouraged to use the film as a teaching tool in the classroom and organize student and community service activities and celebrations to continue the work begun by Cesar Chavez.



Look for the **Common Core Standards toolkit**, **Dennis Van Roekel's call for a course correction on the Common Core Standards**, and other resources for parents and staff at <http://www.nea.org/home/46653.htm>. For more resources, sign up for the Great Public Schools network at <http://www.gpsnetwork.org/>

BetterLessons.com: NEA created the NEA Master Teacher Project, a revolutionary effort to highlight and share the best teaching practices around the Common Core. Our new product, cc.betterlesson.com, is designed to showcase the results of this audacious effort. This project brings together 130+ brilliant, creative teachers in grades K-12 math and ELA. These folks are sharing lessons as they teach them each day! There are over 3,000 super accessible and classroom-ready common core lessons. Our MTs even share reflections, real-life insight into what worked, what misfired and tips/tricks to successful Common Core implementation. This treasure trove of Common Core knowledge is growing every day. To make this all come together in a palatable way, we figured we'd better build a new website. So we did-- cc.betterlesson.com.

"Degrees, not Debt," is dedicated to improving state funding and financial aid policies, as well as helping current and former students pay off the overwhelming \$1.2 trillion education debt in this country. This new NEA initiative was featured at the NEA Higher Ed conference in St. Louis last week, where faculty and staff pledged to work for institutional and state reform. "When we sign these pledge cards, we are making a commitment to go back to our states and speak up," said Theresa Montaño, president of NEA's National Council for Higher Education, a California State University, Northridge professor. During the conference, faculty and staff from Massachusetts to Michigan to Oregon pledged to do so. In a *letter to a U.S. House of Representatives committee*, NEA laid out some of the solutions to the college affordability crisis. They include: more need-based aid, like federal Pell Grants; more affordable students loans; expanded loan-forgiveness programs for those in public service careers; and increased institutional aid. Seven in 10 college graduates owe money, and the average amount is \$29,400. Go to <http://neatoday.org/2014/03/16/college-costs-increasing-dramatically-for-poor-students-for-wealthy-students-no-so-much/>

Common Core Seminar Series

Common Core and Beyond: A Practicum on Literacy in the Content Areas, Mathematics, Instructional Strategies, and Assessments

**Location
Changes**

Sponsored by
CTA, CDE,
the Comprehensive Center at
WestEd, the Secondary Literacy
Partnership of CTA, CDE,
WestEd, and ACSA

- **Saturday, April 5, 2014, Stockton, Hilton Hotel, 323 Grand Canal Blvd**
- **Saturday, May 3, 2014, Oxnard, Embassy Suites, 2101 Mandalay Beach Road**

**8 am Registration
9 am General Session
4 pm End**

Register at www.cta.org/conferences.
Select Common Core Trainings

Don't Miss Out on This Opportunity!

These seminars offer extensive practice on the Common Core Standards in the areas of curriculum, literacy strategies across the content areas, technology, assessments, and performance tasks. Whether you are new to the Common Core and Smarter Balanced Assessments or are more advanced, come and learn more about the implementation of the new standards and the new timelines for assessments.

Sample Workshops for Elementary and Secondary Educators

- Common Core Basics
- Smarter Balanced Basics
- ELA Instructional Strategies
- Using the Newly Revised Math Curriculum Frameworks
- Instructional Strategies for Students with Disabilities
- ELA Assessment and Performance Tasks
- Math Assessment and Performance Tasks
- Technology Integration for the Common Core
- Bridging and Scaffolding Student Learning
- Overview of ELD Standards and Instructional Strategies
- Structured Learning Groups to Increase Literacy
- Content Literacy for Secondary Teachers in Science, Social Science

Many workshops are provided by teacher practitioners using the Common Core Standards.

Registration Fee: CTA and ACSA Members, \$25.00. Non-members, \$75.00 (Includes materials and meals). Possible funding streams: Title I, II, III, SIG, QEIA, 2013 Common Core funds

Registration Questions? Contact: CTA Conference Coordination Center at 650-552-5355
Content Questions? Contact: Martha Buenrosto at 650-577-5181 or mbuenrosto@cta.org