



# California Teachers Empowerment Network

*Standing out from the crowd, fully informed on the issues*

November 11, 2007

Dear Colleague,

There is some very timely information in this month's letter that affects many of us. Please take heed.

- If you are filing for agency fee status, **you must do so by Nov. 15 to receive the full rebate**. If you file after that date, you will receive a partial rebate. For more information please go to <http://www.ctenhome.org/knowMembership.htm>
- Many of you have asked for information about the social security offset situation. The attached information from our friends at AAE and has some very important information on this matter.
- Apparently, the reauthorization of NCLB has been postponed until next year. CTEN takes no position on this. However, the half-truths and deceptions coming from the CTA raise some red flags. What follows are three articles that you won't find on the CTA website. Coach Brown, a union rep and blogger has a particular bone to pick in this entry - <http://ukiahcoachbrown.blogspot.com/2007/09/hey-cta-im-paying-you-least-you-could.html> . The Democrats For Education Reform are upset about what they perceive to be union bullying - [http://www.dfer.org/2007/11/nea\\_to\\_congress.php](http://www.dfer.org/2007/11/nea_to_congress.php) . Koret Task Force member Chester Finn, wrote the following in the Wall Street Journal last month - <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119154392619949671.html>
- Sometimes the teachers' unions act in ways that are not in the best interests of teachers or students. Union bullying, power-grabbing and deception frequently serve to diminish the professional status that we teachers have earned. If you have come across situations where these techniques have been employed, please let us know about them. Anonymity will be respected.
- We very much want to spread the CTEN message. As such, we would love to meet with you and any of your colleagues who would be willing to work with us. Since we are all working teachers, we could come to your area on a Saturday or perhaps during a vacation time.

- We thought we'd have the California Teachers Online Community (our chat forum) up and running by now but ran into a few technical problems. We're working on getting those resolved and expect it to be operational shortly. When we're ready to go, we'll send instructions to those of you who have expressed an interest on how to create your own username and password so the dialogue can begin!

Please visit our website – [www.ctenhome.org](http://www.ctenhome.org) for more information about CTEN. And finally, we wish you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Larry Sand, President  
California Teachers Empowerment Network