



California Teachers Empowerment Network

Standing out from the crowd, fully informed on the issues

December 9, 2007

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for the feedback that many of you gave us about our last newsletter. As our aim is to develop a network of teachers willing to exchange ideas, we really value your input. Please inform us of any events, news stories, websites, etc. that you think would be of interest to other teachers around California. We sincerely appreciate that many of you are starting to look to CTEN as a resource.

This month, we have links to a few stories your school district and teachers' union will probably **not** be promoting --

1. Merit pay or "pay for performance" is certainly a subject of interest to all teachers. Next year there may be a ballot initiative in Oregon on this controversial idea. To read more, go to – http://www.examiner.com/a-1057783~Merit_pay_for_teachers_to_resurface_on_Oregon_ballot_in_2008.html
2. Recently, a teacher in Pennsylvania who had excelled as a sub was given a full time position. When he decided not to join the union, he got the lesson in forced unionism we all experience in a non-right-to-work state. To read this article, go to – <http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/Read.aspx?GUID=7446417D-2CD5-464F-9C84-23A50250849F>
3. UC Riverside has become one of the few public universities to recruit home-schooled students. To read more about this, go to – http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_D_homeschool24.3085ff7.html

Additionally,

- Many of us take advantage of our status as teachers to invest in 403b's. These tax deferred investments come in a dazzling assortment. In the past, many teachers have relied on the unions to provide reliable information. Unfortunately, this has not always been a good idea. To read more about why the unions have been giving bad advice to teachers, please go to – http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-retire25apr25.0.132341_full_story?coll=la-home-headlines

However, we have found a good site where there is no vested interest in the investments you make. The site is strictly informational. Please go to – <http://www.403bwise.com/>

- After many months of trials and effort, our California Teachers Online Community (CTOC) is ready! You can register at www.ctenhome.org/forums.htm and have instant access to our discussion forums. (For those of you who previously registered, we apologize for

having to ask you to do so again, but it will only take a minute--and access is immediate.) We look forward to lively discussions in our Teachers Lounge and Labor Issues Forum. Let the conversations begin!

- Our downloadable brochures can be accessed from our website – www.ctenhome.org If you would prefer a printed copy to distribute to interested fellow teachers, please send us your contact information.
- As mentioned in last month's letter, we are very interested in meeting with you and your colleagues to discuss how we can spread the CTEN message. Because we are all working teachers, Saturdays or one of the holiday breaks would be best for us.

Please visit our website – www.ctenhome.org - for more information about CTEN. Also, note that our “snail” mail address has changed. It is now –

CTEN
2097 E. Washington St.
1E, Suite 185
Colton, CA 92324

And finally, we at CTEN wish you and your families the happiest of holidays. We will see you in January.

Sincerely,

Larry Sand, President
California Teachers Empowerment Network