



# Contact

Montebello Teachers Association/California Teachers Association • 918 W. Whittier Blvd. Montebello CA • (323) 722-5005 • [montebelloteachers.org](http://montebelloteachers.org)

## Are You Registered to Vote? The Deadline Is Monday, October 19

You can register to vote online at [LAVote.net](http://LAVote.net).  
You can also:

- View Your Sample Ballot
- Find Your polling place
- Download a map to the polls

You may apply to **Vote By Mail** October 5 through October 27 at:

**LAVote.net.**

The polls are open from  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m. election day  
**Tuesday, November 3.**



2015 Delegates to the National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA RA) reported on the proceedings at Council Tuesday, September 15. From left to right: Andy Shinn (BGI), Ed Guzman (MOI), Margie Sullivan (MPE), Margie Granado (BAE), Lorraine Richards (MTA), Kathy Reyes (BGI), Sandra Day, and Colleen Nishikawa— Alanis (BAE). Next year's NEA RA is in Washington D.C. Look for declarations of candidacy in January 2016.

## Apply Now! 2016 CTA Scholarship Applications Are Available

CTA has recently announced that applications are now being accepted for 2016 scholarships for members and their children.

1. CTA Scholarships for Members - Up to five \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded.
2. CTA Scholarships for Dependent Children (includes one *D. A. Weber Scholarship* for students attending continuation and alternative education high schools that plan to continue their education in a higher education institution) - Up to thirty-four \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded.
3. L. Gordon Bittle Memorial Scholarship - Up to three \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded to Student CTA (SCTA) members.
4. Del A. Weber Scholarship—Up to one \$5,000 scholarship for a dependent child attending continuation high school or an alternative education program.

Each scholarship requires a separate application, letters of recommendation and verification of membership. **Applicants must request President Lorraine Richards sign each application prior to submission.** In order to be eligible for consideration, all forms must be postmarked by **Friday, February 5**. Applications and additional information are available at [montebelloteachers.org](http://montebelloteachers.org) or [cta.org/scholarships](http://cta.org/scholarships).

Enter the

## CTA César E. Chávez Memorial Education Program

The CTA César E. Chávez Memorial Education Program will provide recognition for students and their teachers who demonstrate an understanding of the vision and guiding principles by which César E. Chávez lived his life.

Group and individual awards are available. The Awards Program will honor the memory of this great man and ensure that the spirit of his work continues in the classrooms of California. Entries are due **Friday, January 15**. Applications are available at [cta.org](http://cta.org) and [montebelloteachers.org](http://montebelloteachers.org).

Over, please...



## **America Works Together Coalition Launched to Protect Rights of People to Join Together and Advocate for Pay that Can Sustain Families, Stronger Communities in Landmark Case Before the U.S. Supreme Court**

A wide array of groups launched America Works Together, a new coalition to protect the rights of public service workers to negotiate together. These longstanding rights are under renewed attack from wealthy special interests in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, a marquee case that will be heard this term by the U.S. Supreme Court. This case, which deals with the rights of people who work in public service like teachers, firefighters, nurses, and social workers, threatens to make it even harder for people to come together, speak up, and get ahead.

"America's economy has swung out of balance. It's getting harder to get by, let alone get ahead," said Dovard Howard, a certified control systems technician at the Metropolitan Water District Henry J. Mills Treatment Plant in Riverside, California. "Almost no one stands up for average Americans these days, and now this Supreme Court case threatens to make it even worse. Everyone who works should be able to make ends meet, have a say about their futures, and have the right to negotiate together for better wages and benefits that can sustain their family."

"We all benefit when working people are able to negotiate together for better wages and benefits and fight for things like smaller class sizes, better learning environments for our students, quicker emergency response times and better staffing at hospitals. These are benefits that impact everyone in our community. We need to ensure that the rights of working people to come together in a union remain strong so that our nation remains strong," said Peter Grebner, a secondary school teacher in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Center for Individual Rights and other ideologically-driven groups financed by wealthy special interests and corporate CEOs are asking the Supreme Court to upend nearly four decades of precedent in order to hinder the rights of public service workers to negotiate together. This would represent a radical reinterpretation of our Constitution and the First Amendment.

"I'm proud to be part of this effort to protect the voices of working people and ensure we can continue joining together. I've been a teacher for 21 years and I've seen all we've been able to do together to improve our public schools, our profession and our communities. We are all stronger together," said Lysa Sassman, a second grade teacher in Auburn, California.

A Gallup poll released last month showed that Americans' support for labor unions continues to climb and stands at 58 percent. A new study released last week by researchers at Harvard and Wellesley Universities and the Center for American Progress highlights the benefits that increased union membership confers on communities. This builds on other research underscoring the connection between increased union membership, economic mobility, and a more balanced economy that allows working to sustain their families.

Oral arguments in *Friedrichs v. CTA* have not yet been scheduled, but the case is expected to be argued in December 2015 or January 2016.