

The UACT Chronicle

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March is Women's History Month, and CTA has resources for it and other awareness holidays for you on its website. Go to www.cta.org/Parents-and-Community/Awareness-Holidays.aspx where you can find information for all of the holidays along with classroom resources and materials.

Assaults on Campus: UACT is collecting stories from its members about instances where they have been assaulted or witnessed an assault while on the job to take to CTA State Council to assist with improving legislation regarding school safety. We just want your story and are not sharing names of anyone involved or names of work sites, so please do not include any names in your sharing. Members who would like to tell their story are encouraged to email Randy at conejoteachers@gmail.com or call him at 805-497-8220 (office) or 805-418-0735 (cell).

Health Benefits Post Retirement

Did you know that you may be eligible to receive health care coverage upon your retirement from CVUSD? Please read the UACT Contract excerpt from Article 7 copied below for details.



Declaring a SCRS Beneficiary at Age 55 Okay, we don't mean to give you another reason to have a mid-life crisis, but UACT wants its members to know that it is important for them to declare their beneficiary with CalSTRS upon turning 55 years young. Declaring your beneficiary ensures that your pension payments pass on to your beneficiary upon your passing, and making this declaration as soon as you turn 55 maximizes that amount as the longer you wait from turning 55 the less your beneficiary receives. CalSTRS will not contact you to alert you of this upon turning 55, so mark your calendars and go to www.calstrs.com or call them at 800-228-5453 when the time comes.

Every Saved Day Counts

Saving your sick/personal necessity days can really enhance your retirement with STRS. If you save 185 days, then you get credit for one extra year of service when calculating your pension. It works on a proportional basis, so if you have 100 days saved, then it will count for an extra 0.54 of a school year (i.e. 100/185). While it cannot be used for anniversary kickers to raise you to 25 or 30 years of service, it will increase the number of years when calculating your actual retirement pension. These days can also make whole years for which you did not receive a full year of service credit due to working in a job share, being on a personal, medical or administrative leave, or for being out of days of leave. Also, if at some point you leave CVUSD and work for another public school district, you can transfer your CVUSD accumulated days to your new district for use there.

Early Retirement

1. Any unit member with ten (10) or more years of District service and who are more than fifty (50) years old and less than sixty-five (65) years old shall, upon retirement and receiving STRS benefits, be entitled to one of the District's HMO plans under Paragraph A above at his/her own expense, but at the District rates, until he/she is eligible for Medicare. The retiring unit member must enroll in the self-pay coverage prior to their effective date of retirement. If the retiring unit member subsequently drops the self-paid insurance coverage for any reason, they shall not be allowed to re-enroll in the program. Payments to the District shall be made one (1) month in advance, no later than the final work day of the month for coverage the following month (e.g., for coverage in February, payment must be made by the last working day in January). Coverage will be terminated seven (7) calendar days following the first day of the month if the retired unit member fails to make timely payment.
2. Employees who elect to retire between the ages of fifty-five (55) and sixty-four (64) years of age with fifteen (15) or more years of actual service in the District may apply for a District-paid medical program, which shall be in accordance with the following conditions and limitations:
 - a) Provisions embedded within this Agreement will impact all district employees who retire after June 30, 2014.
 - b) Coverage must be under an HMO plan contracted for by the District for its active employees.
 - c) The District will pay the applicable premium for the eligible retiring employee. The retiring employee will need to pay the yearly negotiated contribution expense or any re-negotiated contribution expense to participate in a HMO plan offered by the District, until retiree becomes Medicare eligible. The retiree may purchase HMO coverage for his/her spouse, subject to payment no later than the first day of each month or coverage may be terminated seven (7) calendar days thereafter. The retiree is responsible for paying the entire cost of the District negotiated monthly premium for his/her spouse to participate in the selected HMO.
 - d) Retiring unit members should make every effort to notify the District in writing of their intent to retire by March 1 of the current school year to facilitate staffing.
 - e) Retirees under this program who would otherwise not be able to take advantage of the HMO Plan because the District HMO carrier(s) do not provide service at his/her domicile may elect to receive the equivalent dollar amount for the lowest cost HMO provider for insurance benefits.

EVOLVING NEWS Following the tragedy at Stoneman Douglas High School, several nationwide demonstrations are subsequently taking place that are of high interest to students and school staff. As information that UACT is getting from CTA and NEA is developing quicker than this newsletter can be published, please look to your UACT Site Representative who will be forwarding you emails from UACT leadership containing the latest information.

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