

The CNTA CONNECTION

WITH CHRIS RODRIGUEZ & MEG E'AMATO

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HEY YOU! WHAT'S NEW? Mean Green Negotiating Machine

From my first day as an Executive Board member the question I have been most frequently asked is... *How does it look for negotiations this year?* Members want to know if we will see a raise? Increased Fringe allocations for Benefits? Class-Size/Caseload/Workload reduction? I try to share a general snapshot of the external factors (state budget, local budget, projections, etc) that effect getting those things accomplished at the Negotiations table. BUT, did you know... **it isn't LUCK!** 

 **The GREATEST determinant of successful negotiations is MEMBER ENGAGEMENT!!!** 

When CNTA takes a concern to the table, we have a stronger voice with members engaged and clearly behind us! Think of it this way... suppose you had a concern with Blockbuster Video's Rental Policy (aging myself). If you went into the store to share your concern, they may or may not take your concern seriously. If you found 3 other customers with the same concern, they might resolve your concern but with minimal reactivity/cost (here's a free rental for your trouble). BUT, if you had 2,400 other customers all supporting the concern... Blockbuster would be more invested in keeping their customers happy and might actually change the policy. And what if they didn't? Then perhaps those 2,400 customers would go to the media, boycott, or protest outside the store. Surely, Blockbuster would be more responsive with that many disgruntled customers. The larger the group of concerned people; the greater the response. The **POWER** of a Union is in **UNITING TOGETHER!** If an employer knows members aren't that invested in the outcome, why give the union what we are asking? "The union" can't do it FOR you, without YOU.

YOUR PROVIDE THE STRENGTH & POWER!!!



5 Ways YOU can make us ~~Luckier~~ STRONGER this year

1. Read **CNTA EMAILS** that are sent to your Personal email account!
2. Take the **digital negotiations survey** in MARCH!!
3. Log into our **Website/Facebook Members Only Group** to get Negotiations updates in MAY.
4. PARTICIPATE !! **"WEAR Red for Ed"** days visibly SHOW you support our Negotiations Team in APRIL & MAY!
5. Engage & Help us show the **strength** of our membership!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR KEEP CALM AND CONNECT WINNERS!!!

We can't wait to pamper the hardworking members at **all 3** of these sites with mini-massages during their workday! **THANK YOU** to all who "got connected"!



- 1st: Victress Bower- 90% participation!!
- 2nd: Franklin Elementary
- 3rd: Washington Elementary



SURVIVING

March Madness



Our Members are amazing givers of instruction, support and care! But, many of us forget to provide the same love and compassion to ourselves. Remember to give yourself permission in this month of "March Madness" (we all know it's a real thing) to do these things for **YOU!**

1. Sleep (8hrs)!
2. Eat well!
3. Stay Positive: Avoid Negativity!
4. Take a break! (focused breaths, music, meditation, stretch= just relax)
5. Take "May-do's" off of your "Must-do" list
6. Be kind to yourself... in your thoughts & words.



SPRING CLEANING is near; bring your items here!! Start collecting papers for shredding and any teaching supplies you want to give away, trade, sell or exchange!

Shredding (free of charge) 9am-1pm
Supplies Swap is from 10am-12pm

What a great way to tidy up & also help each other prepare for next year!

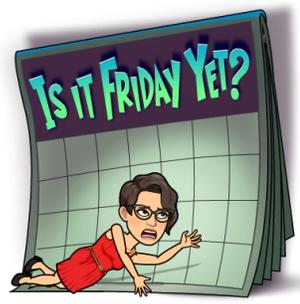
Sign up to swap, sell or exchange supplies:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/CNTAswap>

No Food/Product Vendors, please!

Important Dates!!



- March 19th- Rep Council, 4pm (All Site Reps!)
- April 9th- "Go Live" on Facebook "Members Only" Group @wearecnta, 4pm, (All Members!)
- April 12th- "Wear Red for Ed" CNTA Negotiations Support Dress Up Day! (Everyone!)
- April 13th- CNTA Shred & Swap Event 9am-1pm, (All Members!)
- April 16th- Rep Council, 4pm (All Site Reps!)
- May 21st- Rep Council, 4pm (All Site Reps!)
- May 24th- "Wear Red for Ed" CNTA Negotiations Support Dress Up Day! (Everyone!)



We know how hard you work & understand the exhaustion you feel... but TOGETHER, WE MAKE EACH OTHER STRONGER!

Contact Information

Chris Rodriguez, President CNTA
President@wearecnta.org
Office #: (951) 737-3414



Meg E'amato, Vice President CNTA
Vicepresident@wearecnta.org
Office #: (951) 737-3414

We are committed to serving our members and want to provide answers your questions quickly. Since we are in and out of meetings with Members, sometimes email is a more expeditious way to get an answer to your question. Please reach out to us anytime!