

## U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Collective Bargaining Rights for America's Workers and their Families!

### Decision in landmark case a victory for educators and students

CTA President Eric Heins issued the following statement March 29, 2016 about the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *Friedrichs v. CTA*:

"Today's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court upholds a mandate that has been in effect for more than 40 years and affords America's workers, including educators across California, the opportunity to come together to improve their working and student learning conditions.

"This decision is a victory for educators and all public employees, but most importantly a victory for the millions of students of California and across the U.S. By having the ability to join together to make our voices heard on issues that affect all of us such as a quality, safe and healthy schools for our kids, we ensure that our public schools remain strong and our students get the quality public education they need and deserve.

"By upholding current law, the Supreme Court rejected a political ploy by the wealthy corporate special interests backing this case to make it harder for working families and the middle class to come together, speak up for each other and get ahead. The decision recognizes that stripping public employees of their collective bargaining rights in the workplace is a step in the wrong direction. America's working families will prevail over money, corporate power and political maneuvering."

## 'Purse It Forward' Event Produced Over 100 Purses for Women In Need



Merced Mariposa Teachers UniServ Council Secretary and Women's Issues Contact, Jennifer Wilkin (in the photo to the left), created an opportunity for CTA members to donate purses and toiletries for area homeless women and charitable organizations who assist those in need. Donated purses and toiletry items were assembled Saturday, May 7th in Los Banos with the final count of completed purses at over 100!

Thank you to those

who donated items, and to the CTA members pictured who assembled the purses. Volunteers not pictured were Jennifer's daughter Brynn Wilkin and CTA staff person Terri Pinkney.



Above: Francine Baker  
Left: Vern Hixson



**Important Date:**  
CTA Office will be closed  
Monday, May 30, 2016

## Conferences & Events

- Day of the Teacher, May 11, 2016
- SCC Award Banquet, May 11, 2016
- CTA Education Support Professionals Day, May 17, 2016
- State Council meeting, June 3-5, 2016
- NEA Assembly, Washington DC, July 3-8, 2016
- President's Conference, San Jose CA, July 21-24, 2016
- Summer Institute, UCLA, July 31-Aug 4, 2016

Check our website for grant applications:  
[www.mymmtuonline.org](http://www.mymmtuonline.org)

Merced/Mariposa Teachers UniServ and Service Center Council  
510 W. Main Street, Suite E  
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E-mail: [mmtuccta@gmail.com](mailto:mmtuccta@gmail.com)

Office hours M-F  
8:30am—5:00 pm

Office Staff:  
Sandy Gonzales, Secretary II  
Lisa Kayser-Grant, Executive Secretary

### Merced County Office Teachers Association (MCOTA):

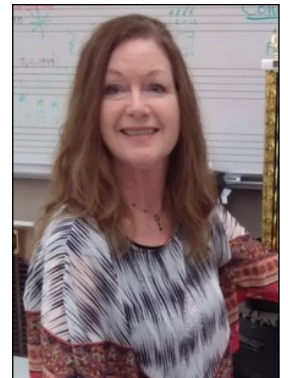
Contract negotiations are settled! 3% salary increase for 2016-17 and 3% more in 2017-18.

We would like to congratulate Diane Pappas 23 years, Joan Kelley 17 years & Bev Logue 11 years, on their upcoming retirement. They have 50+ years of teaching. **Thank you Diane, Joan and Bev.**

### Livingston Elementary Teachers Association (LETA):

Good luck and congratulations to our LETA members that are retiring or moving on to new opportunities. We thank you for your service to LETA, our students and our community. Sincerely Rene Banda, President LETA

Congratulations on your retirement Ms. Maureen Whittaker! LETA is grateful for your dedication to the students, staff and community in Livingston. Your commitment for the last 30 years has changed countless lives! We wish you the best in your post teaching endeavors such as traveling, social dancing lessons, musical theater, singing karaoke, spending time with family and not having to get up early every morning! And we sincerely appreciate all of your support in making our union stronger. Your activism on several occasions helped our teachers!



LETA holds deep gratitude for your commitment, time and voice in advocating for our teachers and students



throughout your 26 years of service at Livingston Middle School. Your efforts in serving as Vice President for our LETA Executive Board impacted all the members in such a lasting manner! Your post teaching service in CTA and continued support for ESL Literacy will positively impact so many more lives. We wish you the best Mrs. Sheila Stark in writing your book on your family genealogy, and hope you enjoy all the extra time with your grandchildren and all the opportunities to travel.

Congratulations and best wishes on your new position as principal Ms. Kristal Barrigar! For twenty years you have committed your talents as a teacher and coach to the students, staff and community in Livingston. We will miss you and will always remember the impact you've left at Livingston Middle School! LETA also thanks you for all of your time, efforts and advocacy in serving on the Executive Board to support our teachers and students.

