



Acalanes Education Association

# Newsletter



[www.acalanesteachers.org](http://www.acalanesteachers.org)



@AcalanesEA

## HOW TO FIND YOUR SICK DAYS

Go to the district webpage [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us)

Click on STAFF

- > Useful Links
- > Employee Self Service (ESS)

Log into MunisSelfService

Username: first initial last name last 4 of your SS (flast####)

Temporary password: last 4 of your SS

Password: create own upon 1st time log-in

Forgot password? Contact payroll dept. (The 'forgot password' link will NOT work.

(If you need help with this or resetting your password Email the *new payroll person*, Cindy Dorman. [cdorman@auhsdschools.org](mailto:cdorman@auhsdschools.org))

A note from the payroll department: At the end of June the district has to take out sick leave and roll it back into the new year starting July 1. So it "looks" like you were marked absent but you were not. You'll notice those days get put back on the books as soon as the next month rolls over. Do not worry about this.

## CTA HOLIDAY/VACATION BENEFITS

Are you planning your summer holiday yet?

Check out CTA's Member Services to get discounts on car rentals, theme park tickets, movie tickets, hotels, cruises, skydiving, museum tickets and much more! Some of my favorite discounts are:

- Buy a 4-day Disney World Park hopper ticket and get 1-day free
- 25% off of a Budget Rent A Car or AVIS
- 20% off of Howard Johnson hotel stays

Go to [cta.org](http://cta.org) and click

on Member Services.

You'll need to log in with a username and password to access these discounts and



coupons. Or, get the MyDeals app and set up your account with Program ID 200449.

## FILLING OUT TIMESHEETS

For those of us that are fortunate enough to get paid for extra meetings or obligations you'll need to fill out a timesheet and give it to your site administrative assistant by the end of each month. To ensure correct and speedy payment you'll need to fill it out properly including:

- Employee # (*yes you need this!*)
- Signature
- Description of work
- Date(s) worked
- Funding source (provided by admin)

## PROTECT YOURSELF

Cell phones are everywhere these days, including our classrooms. While cell phones have many positive uses, they have been used to record teachers (still photos, voice recordings, videos) in the classroom without their permission. This is

against ed code and if you catch students doing this, you should refer them to the administration and let your AEA reps know what happened. There have been instances of recordings and videos being made without consent and then posted online or used inappropriately. Bottom line: Be aware of students with cell phones in your classes.

## CTA WANTS YOU TO HAVE A LONG AND HAPPY RETIREMENT

Article by Elizabeth Gough, AEA Rep, AHS

Last month I had the privilege of attending the CTA Good Teaching Conference in San Jose. I wanted to pass on to you information about one of its information sessions: “Journey to Financial Independence.” CTA leaders ran this workshop because they are worried about members who fail to save enough money for a comfortable “dignified, happy and long” retirement.

The main problems that they highlighted were: over-reliance on our pensions, inadequate investments and retirement plans, and misunderstandings regarding fees and Social Security income (which we do not receive and most likely will not receive from a spouse either, due to the Windfall Elimination Provision).

According to their data, a member’s pension tends to cover just slightly over 50% of his or her post-retirement expenses. CTA risk management analysts Carole Anne Luckenbach and Henry Ahn warned us about high-fee retirement plans with costly surrender charges, often sold to educators by salespeople who work on commission and prey on us in our lunchrooms or classrooms after school. Ahn advised against all types of annuities and promoted good mutual fund options, explaining that there’s a “risk in not taking enough risk” in our portfolios, if fees cost us more or slightly less than the investments make. Both advised us to look out for broker advice fees, which

“aren’t worth it”. According to them, the difference between an annual .12% investment/administrative fee or low flat fee and an annual 2.2% investment/administrative fee in an annuity translates to \$200,000 or more over a 20-year career!

**Our union has published an excellent booklet entitled “The CTA Educator’s Retirement Planning Guide” that explains and compares 403(b), 457, Roth 403(b), and Roth 457 investment options.** CTA can send you this booklet and answer many questions if you phone: 650-552-5200 or [Business\\_Initiatives@cta.org](mailto:Business_Initiatives@cta.org). In addition, we are encouraged to peruse the 403(b) comparison in the members’ section of [CalSTRS.com](http://CalSTRS.com).

**Our union has also gone one giant step further. It recently established the CTA Retirement Savings Plan for us.** This retirement fund option has no annuities, a competitively low annual administrative fee (.12% asset-based fee plus \$65 for recordkeeping and \$15 for custodial fees), no hidden fees, and funds based on our target retirement dates. The funds for people closer to retirement add in more bonds and cash investments, but you can also unselect target date funds if desired.

**CTA president Eric Heins encouraged us to check out the financial consulting firm RVK along with the CTA Retirement Savings Plan.** RVK was hired to act as the CTA Retirement Savings Plan fiduciary (i.e., a firm of financial advisors that does the investment legwork but has no connection to particular mutual funds, insurance plans, or brokers and pledges to act only in our best interests).

He and Ahn also stressed that members who are already in a current 403(b) plan can “exchange” it for the CTA Retirement Savings Plan (though beware that some 403(b) vendors may have surrender fees that impact the exchange). There are several steps to this process. **You can call the CTA Retirement Plan Center at 855-604-6222 for details and look for a copy of exchange instructions on the AEA bulletin board at your school.** Good luck saving!