

GTA ADVOCATE

The Official Newsletter of the Glendale Teachers Association



President's Message

By: Taline Arsenian, President



December 2018

Vol. 36
Issue 16

As we conclude 2018, I am reminded of all the successes we have had this year by working together for the betterment of our profession, public education, and, most of all, our students. This year has been a challenging one, but as an Association we have so much to be grateful for.

In March, our negotiations team worked tirelessly to bring to our membership a wage increase for 2016-17 and 2017-18, plus we were able to maintain our health coverage, and approve updated language to strengthen our Collective Bargaining Agreement. Nearly 70% of our members voted to ratify the 2017-2020 contract with a 96% approval rating.

In June, the Supreme Court's Janus decision found that bargaining unit members no longer had to pay for services that the union does on their behalf. This along with other attempts by our legislatures to defund, and therefore, depower unions has NOT had as big an impact as privatizers had hoped. The state of GTA is still going strong thanks to members such as yourself who continue to empower all of us by remaining dues paying members. Please look inside the Advocate to see some of the important things your dues pays for. We had 25 agency fee payers who automatically became non-members (they no longer financially contribute to the services they automatically receive). A few of these agency fee payers became members because they want to pay their share for the work GTA does. We were also able to sign up nearly 98% of new hires thanks to our reps at the sites. To date, we have had 8 long time members drop membership and are now not paying for the collective work we do, but still reap the benefits. GTA remains 1251 members strong and we will continue to work for our collective good.

In November, California voters elected in public education friendly candidates. Our new Governor, Gavin Newsom, and our new Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, are both CTA endorsed candidates, thanks to all of the work you did to help educate voters on what is best for public school students. Governor Newsom is interested in supporting public schools and keeping charter schools accountable. He sees the pitfalls of charters and will assure money is not misused at the expense of our students. He is a firm believer in preschool and fully funding public education. Superintendent Thurmond is also an avid supporter of public schools from TK to higher education. He will work to influence our legislatures to fully support public education with common sense education laws and increased funding for all public schools.

Our most important success as a union is the work that you do every day to meet the needs of the students you serve. Your ability to adjust, alter, update, change, reteach, re-asses, and continue to show up daily to do what is in the best interest of our students amazes me. It has never been more difficult to be a public school teacher. You keep doing it with innovation, expertise, and dignity. Because of you, our students lives are positively impacted. And for that, I am most grateful.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you all. Looking forward to all of things we will accomplish together in 2019!

Inside This Issue:

President's Message	1
Executive Director Message	2
Vice President's Message	3
Union Dues	4
Seasons Greetings!	5
Photos	6
Photos	7
Calendar	8

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Executive Director's Message

By: Nate Banditelli, GTA/BTA Executive Director



Our Voice, Our Union

Tony Thurmond will serve as California's next State Superintendent of Public Instruction after defeating Marshall Tuck by less than a half of a percentage point in the November election. CTA endorsed him and mobilized members to get out the vote. As a result, Thurmond narrowly fought off Marshall Tuck's second attempt at election to the office. Thurmond is a current member of the state assembly, former social worker, former school board member, and a product of public education. He has a proven track record of supporting California's students and workers' rights. Tuck is the former president of Green Dot, a charter school company based in Los Angeles. Tuck unsuccessfully ran against incumbent State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, in 2014. Tuck's wealthy backers turned this race into the most expensive race for this office in the history of the state, with nearly \$60 million spent on the race. Your vote, and the activism of CTA members, made the difference.

What does the election of Tony Thurmond mean, though? As State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Thurmond will not actually set policy for education in California. The legislature and governor pass laws that impact education policy. Thurmond does wield a great deal of influence, though. Thurmond will be the highest-ranking K-12 official in California. According to EdSource, his duties are described as:

State superintendents take positions on bills; draw attention to issues... and shape conversations...They convene leaders to set priorities...The state superintendent can influence policy by sitting on public bodies: as an ex officio member of the California State Teachers Retirement System ... as a voting member of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and a new state agency — the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence — and as secretary of the State Board of Education.

In short, Thurmond has the bully pulpit in the area of California's public education. We should feel confident that Thurmond will work with Governor Newsom and the state legislature to improve education in California. He will stand side-by-side with educators to fight for California's students. In times when public education is under attack, Thurmond's election marks a strong statement in support of public education from California voters. While California has a long way to go to reach educational equity, Thurmond's victory is a step in the right direction.



Your new Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Tony Thurmond!

Vice President's Message

By: Alicia Harris, Vice President

Midterm Elections: Teachers Ran For Office in Record Numbers



It seems that the phrase “the personal is the political” range true for teachers across the nation this year as approximately 1,500 current and former educators ran for state and federal office. According to data from the National Education Association this is triple the number who usually run.

The spike in candidates is in part a direct result of the widespread successful teacher strikes held in North Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, and West Virginia. With about 2/3 of candidates Democrats and 1/3 Republicans, their broader political platforms varied, but almost all agree that **the government needs to invest a lot more in public education**. This message resonated with voters.

While not all teacher candidates were successful in their first campaigns, election night was considered an overwhelming victory for the pro-public education movement with some incredibly significant wins including, Connecticut’s Jahana Hayes and Wisconsin’s Tony Evers.

Hayes, the 2016 national Teacher of the Year, said in her victory speech after winning her race for the U.S. House in Connecticut’s 5th Congressional District, that “this history teacher is making history.” She will be the first African-American woman to represent the state in Congress.

Wisconsin’s Superintendent of Public Instruction and former teacher, Tony Evers, was elected governor in a stunning upset. He defeated sitting Governor Scott Walker who gutted teachers unions and dramatically cut education funding since taking office in 2011.

It was clear that public education was a top campaign issue this November mobilizing voters across the nation. NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia commented, “We now know that whether or not there’s an educator on the ballot, the education voter is going to be mobilized and is going to be organized. And today we begin the race for 2020.”



UNION DUES....WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR??!

Operational costs of our union include but are not limited to the following:

GTA

- Collective Bargaining for the entire bargaining unit (members and non-members)
- Negotiating wage increases
- Negotiating to maintain health benefits
- Negotiating better contractual language
- Negotiating improved working conditions
- Representation for disciplinary action
- Organizing
- Full time release president
- Part time release vice-president
- GTA office manager
- Maintaining the GTA office & building
- Professional Development
- Advocating for due process
- TGIF's
- Celebrating our Retirees
- NEA RA Delegates
- The community voice for public education in Glendale

CTA

- Protecting CALSTRS, our retirement fund
- Advocating for increases in educational funding
- Advocating for laws to decrease wasteful student testing
- Advocating for charter school accountability
- Advocating to reduce class sizes
- Advocating for Collective Bargaining rights (EERA protects our right to collectively bargain)
- Protecting the middle class
- \$1 million dollar liability insurance
- Discounts/coupons
(www.cta.org/memberbenefits)
- State Council Representatives
- The state voice for public education in CA

NEA

- Promoting public education, nationwide
- Holding legislatures accountable to public schools
- Promoting quality neighborhood public schools
- Promoting access to quality curriculum
- Promoting equity and social justice
- Promoting safety for all public schools
- Promoting less standardized testing, more quality teaching
- Advocating for labor rights (NEA is largest labor organization in this country)
- The national voice for public education in the USA

*Happy Holidays
And
Happy New Year*



*Wishing You A Joyful
And
Restful Winter Break*

Montrose Holiday Parade 2018



Allen Freemon and Jana Wells

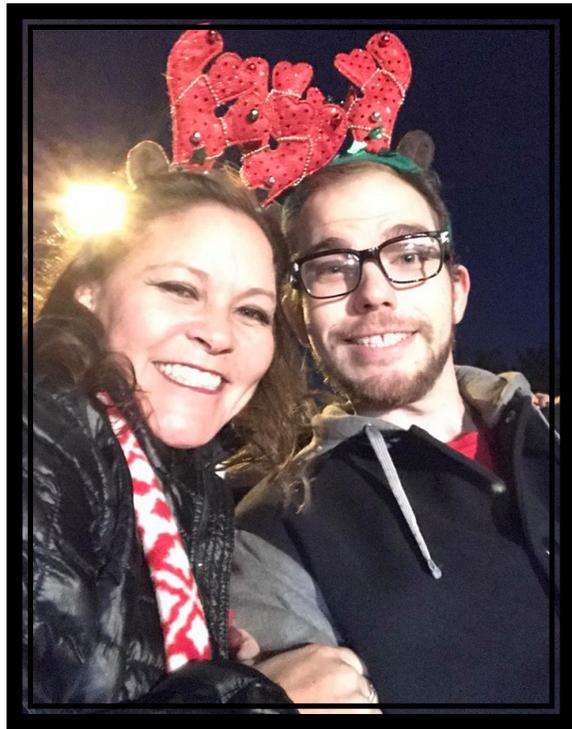


Kristine Lowe, Eric Kursinski, and
Phyllis Miller

Montrose Holiday Parade 2018



Phyllis Miller, Virginia Karanfilian,
and Taline Arsenian



Kristine Low and Eric Kursinski



Sierra Vasquez with her children,
Hunter and Sophia

December 2018/ January 2019

CALENDAR

December 2018

- 12/04 GTA Board of Directors
- 12/11 GUSD Board of Education
- 12/25 - 12/31 Winter Break - No School

January 2019

- 1/01 - 1/04 Winter Break - No School
- 1/15 GUSD Board of Education
- 1/22 GTA Board of Directors
- 1/29 GTA Rep Council



2019 Site Visits	
January 17 th	Edison ES
January 24 th	Crescenta Valley HS
January 31 st	Cloud
February 7 th	Balboa ES
February 14 th	Wilson MS
February 21 st	District Office
February 28 th	Dunsmore ES
March 7 th	Toll MS
March 14 th	Hoover HS
March 28 th	Glendale HS
April 4 th	Fremont ES
April 11 th	Daily HS
April 18 th	Columbus ES
April 25 th	FACTS/PAC
May 2 nd	Mountain ES
May 9 th	Muir ES
May 16 th	Keppel ES
May 23 rd	Monte Vista ES
May 30 th	Mann ES

Visit our website at www.glendaleteachers.org for bargaining updates, organizing news, forms and flyers, and pertinent information.



@glendaleteachers



@glendaleGTA



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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