President’s Message
By: Taline Arsenian, President

In your current political climate, we have experienced nonsensical education legislation. Thanks to the efforts of CTA and pro-public education law makers in California, two laws have recently passed that give California Educators something to be thankful for.

**AB835 (Assemblymember Kalra)** repeals administering the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and the requirement that students pass the exam as a condition of receiving their high school diploma. In 2010, the State Board of Education voted to adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CAHSEE is not aligned to CCSS. As a result of the passage of this bill, all mention of CAHSEE will be removed in the CA Education Code and districts will be required to grant a high school diploma to any pupil who has met all other requirements for high school graduation since 2003-2004.

**AB1035 (Assemblymember O’Donnell)** specifies that interim assessments are intended for the purposes of improving teaching and pupil learning. The bill prohibits the use of interim assessments for any high-stakes purposes such as teacher evaluation or accountability. The bill takes effect 01/01/2018 and will give educators greater autonomy in the use of interim assessments. Here are some of the highlights:

- Deletes the requirement that the California Department of Education (CDE) acquire interim and formative assessment tools through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). This means classroom teachers cannot be required to use SBAC interim assessments and may choose to use other assessments types.
- Requires that all interim assessments offered be developed in close consultation with current classroom teachers at each grade level assessed. Classroom teachers will have a voice in choosing the interim assessments, scheduling and deciding how to administer the interim assessments, and even deciding whether or not the interim assessments will be scored.
- Requires any district that elects to use interim assessments ensure that teachers who administer the interim assessments have access to all information relating to the assessments, and student performance on the assessments. The results must be designed for teacher use. This means that a score report from the interim assessments must clearly report pupil scores by content standard and sort pupils by performance relative to each standard.

CTA has released a detailed advisory document, *Understanding AB1035*, which can be accessed on the homepage of our website at [www.glendaleteachers.org](http://www.glendaleteachers.org). Please feel free to review the document to learn more information about this win-win for students and teachers.

I am grateful for both these legislative victories. It is so important to have law makers understand how to support public education by taking these types of measures. Thank you to CTA for advocating for the passage of these laws. Most importantly, thank you to our members for continuing to do the very important work of educating our youth regardless of all the legal obstacles. **You make the impossible possible.**
Members often wonder what exactly CTA does politically. It is well known that CTA is a strong advocate for students and educators in California, here is one example of recent legislation that CTA had a direct impact on.

California Teachers Association President Eric Heins issued the following statement praising the signing into law of CTA co-sponsored AB 699 by Assembly Member Patrick O’Donnell and SB 54 by Senator Kevin de León which protect California students from discrimination based on their immigration status and require schools to take affirmative steps to eliminate such discrimination, and prohibit state and local agencies from enforcing immigration law.

“California is proud to be a place for Dreamers and, as educators committed to the safety and success of our students, we support safe-haven schools and sanctuary cities that reflect and embrace the diversity of our students and their families, as well as the rich language and cultural assets they bring to our communities. Social justice for all begins with a quality, free public education.

“That’s why we’re so pleased Governor Brown signed into law two key pieces of legislation that ensure our schools, as well as our public facilities, will remain safe places free of threats of deportation and removal for students and families regardless of immigration status.

“We’re proud to have worked with Assembly Member O’Donnell to co-sponsor AB 699 which will restrict access by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to California schools and requires school districts to prevent discrimination based on immigration status. On behalf of thousands of their students, educators all over the state contacted lawmakers to ensure its passage. We deeply appreciate the work and commitment that led to Governor Brown signing this important bill today.

“We are equally grateful that the governor signed into law SB 54, which makes all California schools and public facilities safe spaces for immigrants and prohibits state and local law enforcement from engaging in immigration enforcement.

“We will continue to fight for the rights and secure futures of all California students, including Dreamers.”

In other legal news, unfortunately what CTA has been predicting has come now come true. The United States Supreme Court has announced granting certiorari and taking up the case Janus v. AFSCME this term. This case is attacking fair share fees. Here is CTA President Eric Heins’ statement on the case:

“Janus v. AFSCME is a case with far sweeping implications for working families, our students and the communities we serve. Janus is simply the culmination of decades of attacks on working people by corporate CEOs, the wealthiest one percent and the politicians that do their bidding to rig the economy in their favor, and its outcome could further send our country in the wrong direction. The forces behind this case are the same forces that have pushed for privatizing public education and limiting voting rights, as well as attacked immigrants and undermined civil rights protections.

(continued…)

Executive Director’s Message
By: Sonya Lowe, GTA/BTA Executive Director
“Their goal here, as it was in *Friedrichs v. CTA*, is no secret: they want to use the Supreme Court to take away the freedom of working people to join together in strong unions, because unions give workers a powerful voice in speaking up for themselves, our students, families and communities. Unions have played a critical role in building and protecting the middle class in America. They provide hard-working people economic stability for their families and give them the tools to build a good life, home and education for themselves and their children. For 154 years, CTA has been standing up for working people, our students and the communities we serve. No court case will stop our determination and advocacy for our students and our profession.”

It is more important than ever to unite and stay strong.

---

**Know Your Contract!**

Our Collective Bargaining Agreement allows for the following types of Property Loss Reimbursements (Article 12  Safety Conditions, Section 8):

- loss, destruction, or damage by arson, burglary, or vandalism to any of your personal instructional property/equipment on the site premises, provided that you took care in the security of your items. To qualify for reimbursement, you must have a written authorization form (get a copy on our website at www.glendaleteachers.org) on file with the District;

- job related vandalism and/or damage to your vehicle under the following conditions:
  - your car must be parked during the professional work-day on campus or the surrounding areas normally used for employee parking;
  - the incident must be immediately reported to your administrator and to local law enforcement;
  - reimbursements will be limited to losses exceeding $50, but no more than $500 and claims are limited to losses not reimbursable from your insurance (this means the district reimbursement will not exceed your deductible); If you choose not to notify your insurance, maximum reimbursement is $500.

All claims must be filed within 15 days of the date of loss on District approved forms which you can get from the GUSD Business Office. The aggregate of all payments made in a fiscal year cannot exceed $7,500. Claims shall be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Association President and the Districts Chief Financial Officer, or designees. Decisions will be made within 6 weeks of claims being filed and are not grievable.
Amongst the array of benefits one receives as a CTA member is access to incredibly high quality, relevant, professional development to help you grow as both an educator and a union member. In my nearly 20 years as an educator, it is the CTA professional development that has provided me with some of my most valuable learning experiences, resources, lesson plans and general takeaways. Also, one does not leave a CTA conference without many new educator friends from throughout the state.

CTA is hosting a number of conferences during the 2017-2018 that I trust will be of great value to our GTA members. Below are the dates and a short description of each one.

**GLBT Issues Conference** (December 8-10, Fairmont, San Jose)
CTA is proud to present the 9th annual CTA conference addressing GLBT issues involving educators, students and community. The conference is open to all CTA members and will serve as a venue to discuss a variety of subjects affected the entire membership and California’s youth.

**New Educator Weekend** (February 23-25, Marriot, SFO)
CTA’s New Educator Weekend is a new conference for CTA members. Participants will be educators in their first five years in the profession.

**CTA/NEA-Retired Conference** (March 1-2, Marriot, Torrance)
CTA/NEA Retired and its members is a strong voice for education retirees in state and local policymaking. If you are retired or considering retirement in the next few years, you will benefit from this conference.

**Equity and Human Rights Conference** (March 2-4, Marriot, Torrance)
This conference will capture the essence in CTA’s Mission Statement: to ensure that the dignity and civil rights of all children and youth are protected and to secure a more equitable and democratic society. This unique conference offers dynamic speakers and more than 40 workshops to provide all CTA members with a greater understanding of the issues of divert, equity, and social justice.

**Good Teaching Conference-South** (March 16-18, Hyatt, Garden Grove)
The CTA Good Teaching Conferences continue to support excellent teaching and learning practices for classroom teachers via peer-to-peer instruction. Offering a variety of diverse workshops focused on curriculum content areas for K-12 teachers, the conferences provide opportunities for professional development and offer time to network and share ideas with colleagues and experts in the field of education.

You can find more information on these conferences at [www.ctago.org/conferences](http://www.ctago.org/conferences). CTA grant applications can be found at [www.ctago.org/conferences-grants](http://www.ctago.org/conferences-grants). I encourage you to apply for grants prior to deadline dates. If you are interested in attending a conference and would like financial assistance, please reach out to us at the GTA office.
State of the Schools!

Congratulations to CV HS physics teacher, David Platt, and Roosevelt MS math and robotics teacher, Randy Kamiya, for receiving the Educational Excellence Award at the State of the Schools event. We are so very proud of both of our members for being honored by the Glendale Educational Foundation. To follow is David Platt’s speech from the event:

“Good morning. I’m David Platt, and for the last 20 years I have been the physics teacher at Crescenta Valley High School. Although I acknowledge that physics is considered a challenging subject, I would like to briefly share with you why I also consider it ... a celebration. A typical physics exercise starts with students reading a paragraph describing situation. Based on what's going on, students select one or more equations to describe the situation. Then they find numbers, not just in the paragraph, but also in tables, graphs, even on-line, and set about solving the equation. The result must be interpreted: what does it mean if the answer is big or small, how about a negative answer, even zero and imaginary or complex numbers have meaning. Finally the result must be clearly communicated in writing.

How exactly is this a celebration? I'm glad you asked. I did not teach my students to read. That happened years ago, with caring and patient adults at home, and with no-less-than magical early elementary school teachers. And I did not teach my students number sense or math skills: that happened year after year as they progressed through school. And the tenacity and creativity required to stick with such a long process came not only from the classroom, but from music, athletics, and after-school programs. I have the pleasure of showing my students how much they have learned over the years, and how it all fits together to be useful, interesting, and exciting, and that is a celebration.

I find myself very fortunate to be part of this community. Our students are supported, caringly, creatively, and fiercely, not just by their families and their schools, but by organizations like the PTSA and GEF. Thank you for the opportunity this morning to express my gratitude.”
Congratulations to our president, Taline Arsenian, for being honored as one of Business Life’s 2017 Women Achievers. A reception was held for all honorees at the Pasadena Hilton. Please feel free to review the highlights and articles on all honorees at [http://www.businesslife.com/articles.php?id=3025](http://www.businesslife.com/articles.php?id=3025).
GTA Celebrates Halloween
CALENDAR

November 2017

- 11/10 Veterans Day - NO SCHOOL
- 11/7 GUSD Board of Education
- 11/13 GTA Board of Directors
- 11/16 Columbus Site visit
- 11/16 Negotiations
- 11/20 - 11/24 Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL
- 11/28 Representative Council
- 11/28 GUSD Board of Education
- 11/30 Mountain Ave. Site Visit

December 2017

- 12/05 GTA Board of Directors
- 12/07 Toll Site Visit
- 12/07 Negotiations
- 12/12 GUSD Board of Education
- 12/14 GHS Site Visit
- 12/25-1/5/18 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

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

“Like” us on Facebook at Glendale Teachers Association.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

GTA ADVOCATE STAFF:

Editor: Aline Arsenian, glendaletaoffice@gmail.com
Contributing Editors: Taline Arsenian
Contributing Writers: Taline Arsenian, Alicia Harris, Sonya Lowe,