



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

August 2018



IMPORTANT DATES SEPTEMBER

3rd LABOR DAY –
NO SCHOOL

10th OMTA EXECUTIVE
BOARD MEETING

13th OMSD BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING

15th SCONE LEGISLATIVE
BREAKFAST/FALL
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

24th OMTA REP
COUNCIL MEETING



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

First of all, I want to wish every single one of you back as to what promises to be a very interesting year to say the least. The landscape of public education has its challenges this year locally, state-wide, as well as nationally. The single most challenge to our profession as most of you know is the spectre of the Supreme Court ruling of Janus vs. AFCSME. I will address this decision last.

Locally, in November we have the local elections for Ontario-Montclair School District's Board of Trustees. Just last year the school board unanimously voted to move Ontario-Montclair School District from an At-Large district to a Trustee Area district.

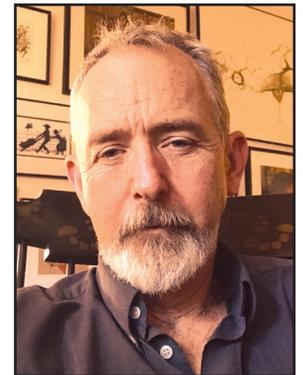
This decision partitioned Ontario-Montclair School District into five "proportionate" areas to be represented by Trustees who live in those respective areas. Three of those areas are up for election in November. Area 1 is the entirety of Montclair; Alfonso Sanchez is the Trustee there. Area 2 is south-west Ontario; Elvia Rivas is the Trustee. Area 3, north-west Ontario is represented by Sam Crowe. Area 4 Trustee, Sarah Galvez is in north-east Ontario. Last, Area 5, south-east Ontario was entrusted to Michael Flores.

Three Trustee Areas are open for election: Area 2 (Rivas); Area 3 (Crowe), and Area 5 (Flores). The importance of these areas cannot be stressed enough. The Board of Trustees is entrusted with the responsibility of directing the Superintendent of Ontario-Montclair School District, Dr. James Hammond, to insure that the district maintains a comprehensive and academically rich educational setting that meets the needs of all of its learners, as well as being run in a fiscally responsible manner.

The biggest change from the move of At-large to Trustee Areas is that now those areas are represented by an individual board member that, if working properly, should be able to be contacted by community members, parents, teachers, even students, if they have concerns re:



school environment, school safety, school nutrition, district curriculum, PBIS, Measure K, etc. that can then be taken back to the Board of Trustees and further addressed at Ontario-Montclair School District's scheduled Thursday night meetings. It also gives the opportunity for these Trustees to further help represent their respective areas by actively reaching out to their constituents by holding open forums, town hall meetings, school site meetings, etc.



 Find us on
Facebook

www.myomta.org

Affiliated with



Continued on Page 2

State elections are also important this November. I know this can be a hot-button issue for many. What I will say in regards to this is, CTA believes the best candidates to promote and further public education, and protect all students in the diverse state that is California, are Gavin Newsom for Governor, and Tony Thurmond for Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Returning to Janus vs. AFCSME, this decision was the last case on the docket before the Supreme Court recessed for the summer. Basically, the high court ruled that a member may opt out of a union and still have representation. This decision was based on a misnomer that members were either coerced to join a union, or were not informed that they were joining a union. In the nineteen years of being employed in this district, as I have never known anyone who has said they were forced, let alone intimidated, to join OMTA, CTA, or NEA.

Regardless, this decision has resonated across the nation, impacting all labor unions, including this local. Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association, with the guidance of the California Teachers Association has implemented a procedure for those wanting to opt out. If you're reading this I sincerely hope you understand the importance of teachers being able to organize as well as having a voice in matters that impact our students, and our profession. During the course of this year, you will be learning more about member benefits from me

and the Executive Board of OMTA via site visits, site representatives at staff meetings, and here in the Advocate.

As a summary reminder, a short list of those benefits for members are: voting privileges on contract ratification, having a voice on legislative issues, having a voice on union positions, as well as legislative policies, professional development trainings, employment liability coverage up to \$1 million, legal services, death & dismemberment insurance, complimentary life insurance, and exclusive discounted CTA & NEA programs such as car rental, travel discounts, theme park tickets, hearing and vision discounts, etc.

We will continue to guarantee and provide that non-members will be represented only so far as the contract warrants. That means salary, benefits, and working conditions as stipulated by the contract between OMTA and OMSD, as well as representation on matters pertaining to the collectively bargained contract and other classroom issues.

The Janus vs. AFSCME decision will continue to have an impact throughout the country as unions will continue to be attacked through copy-cat lawsuits that will challenge our ability and right to convene and organize around issues that impact the education and lives of our students, as well as our livelihood.

Together We Are Stronger,
John Egan, OMTA President



NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tracy Lee Taylor

Each year approximately 9,000 of our colleagues from across the United States, and some US schools abroad, gather to work through issues facing Public Education and set policy for the organization.

This year we met in Minneapolis, MN. The California delegation is about one-tenth of the entire group with nearly 900 members of its members elected to represent locals around the state. OMTA had six representatives in attendance. John Egan, Mary Kay Scheid, Tracy Taylor, Trudy Cowan, Judy Westbrook, and Isabel Santos represented us well through five days of debate and voting on the direction of the NEA for the coming years.

At this year's RA delegates discussed, debated, argued, and voted on Constitutional Amendments, Policy Statements, and New Business Items to help guide NEA's path forward. Topics ranged from immigration and the recent government policy of separating families at the border, racial and social justice, McTeacher Nights, charter schools, community schools, and suicide prevention among our students, among so many other items of interest to our delegates and members.

As you might imagine, with so many people from so many differing backgrounds attending the RA, debate is often very passionate. With the 8,000+ delegates eligible to join the debate and nearly 1,000 support staff and volunteers there to help things run smoothly, the program features 4 debate-packed eight hour days. One full day and two hours each morning are left for state delegations to meet and discuss topics before continuing the debate on the RA floor.

This event, although held throughout the United States every year, is far from a vacation. However, it is worth it; entailing six days of meetings, debate, and molding the policies of our organization that influence education all the way to the local level. Working together, the many faces and belief systems that make up our membership find a common path in the face of those who would see Public Education ended as we know it.



KNOW YOUR CONTRACT – ARTICLE VIII – C & D

The beginning of the new year always brings us back to knowing what our responsibilities are, as well as our rights, when it comes to Hours and Duties, as well the number of hours we are to spend attending to the myriad of meetings we are responsible for (within reason).

C. Additional Hours and Instructional Duties:

In addition to assigned classroom teaching duties, unit members may be required to perform other duties, many of which will occur outside of the minimum school-based assignment hours, and some of which may be performed away from the worksite after hours. Such duties may include preparing materials for instruction; reviewing and grading work of pupils; conferring and counseling with pupils, parents, staff, and administrators; keeping records; supervising aides as assigned; attending site level meetings, subject to the limitations specified in Section D. Additionally, unit members may be assigned to adjunct duties supervise school related activities, and provide leadership to pupil organizations, and serve on committees providing advice and service to the school site and District. In assigning the adjunct duties set forth in this paragraph, site administrators shall make a reasonable effort to see that the hours of work involved are equitably distributed among the staff, with volunteers sought prior to making an assignment.

The duties set forth in this section are listed by way of example rather than limitation; however, it is understood that other duties

must be reasonably comparable in nature to the above-listed examples. Unit members in non-classroom assignments shall continue to perform duties appropriate to their assignments.

D. Site Level and Staff Development Meetings:

Prior to the start of the academic school year, as well as throughout the year, the site administrator shall consult with the staff regarding the content of professional development.

Prior to the start of the academic year, the District and the Association will determine the weekdays reserved for site level and/or district meetings and publish a site meetings calendar. Under special circumstances, the calendar for meetings can be deviated from with the approval of the District and the Association. When such meetings occur on an early-release Tuesday, the meeting shall not extend beyond the contract day. When such meetings occur on regular instruction days—in accordance with the site meetings calendar—the meeting shall not exceed an hour and one half in duration. Meetings (e.g. staff meetings, committee meetings, SST meetings) extending beyond the normal minimum school-based assignment hours shall not require more than five (5) hours of unit member attendance in any calendar month. Exceptions to the above may be made in the event of an extraordinary circumstance. 🍏

WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS ARE YOU DOING IN CLASS?

I would like to initiate something new this year. I would like to visit classrooms, so I can see all the wonderful things that are being taught and accomplished by all your students. If you are comfortable with a visitor and there is something you are excited about that your class is doing, being academic or elective, I would enjoy seeing it! My goal is not to stay long and/or disrupt your teaching; it's simply to pass along the good word to others. If you're interested in having me as a visitor, drop me a line; give me a call with at least three dates & times. And most important, notify your administrator that I'm coming.

Thanks, John Egan

president@myomta.org 909-986-2414

P. S. I'll bring a little something for your students



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

*This is an excerpt FROM: CTA Legal Advisory
re: OPT OUT EMAIL BLASTS*

Does an Outside Organization have a Right to Access the Employer's E-mail System?

As a general matter, the answer is no. Most employer e-mail systems and computer networks are not designed to be “public forums” that are open to all outside entities. Indeed, because such “spam” e-mail communications—often filled with commercial and/or political appeals—can be annoying and waste the time of employees, employers often prohibit such communications. In addition, these communications can be responsible for virus proliferation that can cause damage to individual computers and to business computer systems. The general rule is that an employer must neutrally, uniformly and consistently apply any policies it develops for use of its e-mail system that is, it cannot discriminate against any particular viewpoints or messages.



My thoughts:

Ontario-Montclair School District does allow OMTA to use the e-mail server to deliver notices re: meetings, trainings and events; but does prohibit us from using the server to deliver political speech, such as candidate statements, political endorsements, etc.

In re: to the last sentence of the above, CTA Advisory statement, this is where an argument I believe can be made in that OMSD being unable to gain control over political views accessing their server (which anti-union messages are), then OMTA should be afforded the same right of access to rebut the claims as well endorse the merits of being a union member. ~ John Egan

OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

President: John Egan
president@myomta.org

1st Vice President: Tracy Taylor

2nd Vice President: Daniel Salcido

Secretary: Tisha Curry

Treasurer: Erine Ames

CTA State Council Representatives

Tracy Taylor, John Egan, MaryKay Scheid

Service Center 1 Representatives

Shari Megaw, Vickie Harri, Trudy Cowan,
Isabel Santos, Judy Westbrook

Bargaining Chair: Tracy Taylor

Elections Chair: Vince DeFabiis

Office Manager: Cindy Newey
officemanager@myomta.org

Advocate Design: Dorreen Petersen Davis

OMTA Office

417 West “E” Street • Ontario, CA 91762

Tel: (909) 986-2414 • Fax: (909) 983-0585

OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

Arroyo: Brenda Zola

Berlyn: Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick

Bon View: Abel De Casas, Debbie Roose Baker

Buena Vista: Michael Hatter

Central: Marina Garcia

Corona: Julie Rafeedie

DeAnza: Inaki Bizkarra

Del Norte: Natalie Cantos/Mary Braunstein

Edison: Rayvelyn Swift

El Camino: Susie Imrich/Sandi Missick

Elderberry: Roxanne Hernandez, John Packer

Euclid: Wendy Beltran, Kelly Duffy

Hawthorne: Monique Gray, Celina Marshall

Haynes: Robert Mariani

Howard: Kelly Pawley

Kingsley: Michelle Montes, Javier Sandoval

Lehigh: Robin Carr, Jennifer Barringer

Lincoln: Holly Baca, Denise Dryden

Mariposa: Sendai Parker,

Dionne Treadway Contreras

Mission: Debby Hilak, Vince DeFabiis

Monte Vista: Kay Hoover

Montera: Ana Zoque, Dawn Falkenberg

Moreno: John Ross

Oaks: Lora Dahms, Lisa Eckersley

Ramona: Kelly Albers, Lindsay Gallagher

Serrano: Ana Moreno, Curt Albers

Sultana: Terri Tucker, Elsa DeShazo

Vernon: I-Esha Scott, Rosa Whitton

Vina Danks: Lisa Ochoa, Glenn Wong

Vineyard: Nila Delise

Vista Grande: Monica Lite

Wiltsey: Kim Hunter, Brad Joplin

Counselors/Orcs: Deana Shoultz

Early Ed/Pre-School: Alison Guadalupe

HFB/Hardy Center: Laura Smart

Health/Nurse: Dana Smith

Music: Daniel Salcido

PE/APE: Vacant

Special Ed: Aurora Mejico

Speech: Ulla Tang Larsen