



January, 2018

# TANLA TALKS

*The Teachers Association of the Norwalk-La Mirada Area, 11310 Firestone Bl., Norwalk 562.868.6251*



## ***President's Message TANLA President Clay Walker***

On behalf of the Teachers Association of the Norwalk-La Mirada Area (TANLA) I would like to extend sincere Happy New Year! The months of December and January were a busy time for all, and the same holds true for your Association!

In order to continue the work of Membership Engagement, TANLA recently applied for a Membership Engagement Grant from the California Teachers Association (CTA). We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Member Engagement Grant worth a total of \$46,400 from CTA! This grant will create additional capacity to further the ongoing work of Membership Engagement!

TANLA's fall membership Blitz began on November 15<sup>th</sup> and continued thru December 15<sup>th</sup>. Our goal was to visit all sites within the District and to speak with as many of our members as possible about their concerns and questions. As a result, we hope to better serve and advocate for the interests of our members throughout the District.

On Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, TANLA held its New Leader Event entitled *Caring for Your Colleagues!* This activity recognized those individuals who were identified by their colleagues as the "go to" person at their sites during our TANLA Climate Survey that was conducted during the fall. Over 60 TANLA members attended this event and were treated to a great meal, prizes, and the good company of their colleagues!

In addition to our Blitz activities, TANLA has also been working to provide workshops that support our members in the classroom. On Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, CTA's Phyllis Peters provided a workshop reviewing *Student Discipline*. Another workshop was presented on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> entitled *Retirement Made Easy*. This workshop reviewed those items worthy of consideration designed to facilitate a successful retirement.

I would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication to the ongoing work of educating our students! In the midst of the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, I trust the holidays provided time to relax and renew with family and friends as we anticipate a very busy 2018!

***Don't Forget, You Are TANLA!!***



## *Message From The Executive Director*

### *Dr. Christopher Arellano*

Greetings TANLA Members.

What an incredible 12 weeks it has been at TANLA... and I'm enjoying every second!

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Christopher Arellano, I am honored and pleased to serve as your new Executive Director. I previously served as an East Area Representative with United Teachers Los Angeles for over fourteen years. In that capacity, I worked on organizing members, parents and community members to support and fight for public education. In addition, I served as the staff liaison for the Prop 39 committee. The Prop 39 committee worked to support our members and schools against being co-located by charter schools, which are continuously encroaching on LAUSD schools. My passion is working with educators, families and youth and creating innovative strategies to link students to the resources they need to be successful. I am excited to be working with you and we definitely have our work cut-out for us in the 2017-2018 school year.

My goals going into the 2017-2018 school year are:

- 1) Overcoming the end of agency fee:** I look forward to working to ensure that our members are educated about the upcoming Supreme Court case of *Janus v. AFSCME*. This is the case that will end agency fee (non-members fair share) for public sector unions. The *Janus* case and the forces that are supporting it want to destroy unions and hurt our ability to organize and represent our members. For more information on the case please visit TANLA website and scroll down to see the *JANUS* case for a complete description on the case and how it will diminish public sector union's ability to represent union members.
- 2) Member engagement and organizing:** I have participated in several TANLA school site Blitzes and it has been a great opportunity for me to hear and see what is working for TANLA members and where there are areas for improvement. The TANLA Member Engagement Committee was awarded a member engagement grant for our 2017-2018 member blitz. I look forward to working with the committee on future school site blitzes and the upcoming principal surveys.
- 3) Community and parent engagement:** I feel that is imperative that we work with and include parent and community members in our quest to sustain quality public education for our students. I look forward to reaching out to our TANLA members and getting ideas and input on the best way to work with and engage our parents and community members. These relationships will allow us to brainstorm together on what are our students needs are and we can give valuable input into the LCAP funding.

I wish a Happy New Year to you and your family.

## *We Are TANLA*

Our membership includes 1,000+ educators in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District. Did you know that TANLA membership includes more than just classroom teachers? **Nurses, speech and language pathologists, counselors, TOSAS, adult school and preschool teachers**, are all part of our bargaining unit and play a significant role in educating our students.



*Great Public Schools for Every Child*



## ***Great Things Are Happening In Our Schools-***

**Foster Road Elementary**, along with their community partners, hosted their 19<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving feast and served more than 500 meals.

### ***TANLA Our Association In Action***

#### ***Community Engagement-***

In our ongoing efforts to engage with our school community TANLA had a table at the **NLMUSD College Expo**. TANLA members passed out information about the scholarship we offer for graduating students preparing to enter the education field.

TANLA participated in the **Norwalk Halloween Parade**. It was a joy for the students to see their teachers dressed up and waving along the parade route.

#### ***Membership Engagement-***

This fall TANLA held our **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Caring For Your Colleagues Dinner**. Invited guests were TANLA members identified by their site colleagues for being helpful “go to” people. TANLA was honored to thank and recognize these members for their service to others and to take time to take care of them. Honorees were provided dinner, a chance to win raffle prizes and fun time with the photo booth.

It was a treat to host, along with our community partner Applebees, our members and their families at **Breakfast with Santa**. There was lots of holiday fun had by all who attended. Thank you to the TANLA members who volunteered to be servers and help bus tables and of course to Santa for making a special visit to take pictures with the kids.



#### ***School Board Elections:***

Next fall there will be 4 seats on the NLMUSD School Board open for elections. At this time TANLA is in the process of reaching out to potential candidates. If you know someone who lives in Norwalk or La Mirada and may make a good school board member contact the TANLA office, so that we can get in touch with them. The Political Action Committee (PAC) will be hosting an information dinner for potential candidates in the spring.



***TANLA members dressed up and ready for the Halloween parade***



***A few of the honored guests at the Caring for Your Colleagues dinner***



***Santa with a few of his favorite helpers, Christopher Arellano, Amanda Cobian, Robyn Morgan and Susan Nielson***





## ***Model United Nations Club- A World Class Experience***

*Submitted by  
Norma Williamson, LMHS*

If you want to challenge your high achieving students at either the high school or middle school

level, students who want to develop their communication skills, perhaps a Model United Nations Club might be for you. MUN is a mock simulation of the actual proceedings of the United Nations, the world-wide organization dedicated to promoting world peace based on respect for universal human rights.

Former NLMUSD Board President and California High Government and Politics teacher, Sean Reagan, with 4 of his Model UN students trained several La Mirada High students in the parliamentary procedures of a Model UN conference. La Mirada High students are now confidently looking forward to researching, writing about and debating critical global crises at the upcoming Bruin MUN Conference on the UCLA campus. These monthly conferences are held at local high school campuses and universities across the country. There is an annual, international high school MUN conference, the world's largest, held at the New York based UN headquarters in the UN General Assembly hall. Another annual international high school MUN conference is held at the Hague, Netherlands, where students from around the world debate and draft resolutions to the world's most tenacious disputes. For more information about and resources for Model UN



*School Board member Sean Reagan, 4 California High students, 13 La Mirada High students and LMHS MUN Club Advisor/Teacher Norma Williamson*

## ***Unsung Heroes***

Our **Adult School** teachers are amazing! Our two Adult Schools (Norwalk and La Mirada) serve over 6,000 students, including 600 concurrent HS students in credit recovery. The three major programs at the Adult School level are ESL, Basic Skills, and Career Tech. Ed. The ESL Program focuses on basic language acquisition through life and career skills. The Basic Skills program centers on the elementary and secondary skills needed to receive a HS diploma or GED. Career Tech. Ed. teaches computer programming through direct instruction and a lab setting for further job opportunities and career advancement. There are a variety of other quality classes available to our Adult School students. We want to thank all of our dedicated Adult School teachers. We truly appreciate you and the work you do!

## **Communication**

***- Stay in touch with TANLA to get the latest updates and information.***

Visit our TANLA website. Go to [Tanlaeducators.com](http://Tanlaeducators.com)



**EMAIL-**  
Contact TANLA with your personal email address and receive emails on information.

Join the **TANLA Phone Tree-**  
Contact TANLA with your home or cell phone number and receive messages on important information and reminder.



Members can friend us on Facebook. Look for **TanlaEducators**. Please use this forum to ask questions, address concerns and/or comment.