

TANLA TALKS

October 2014

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

TANLA Educators “Caring Beyond the Classroom”

Our First Annual Back to School Fair was an amazing event! Thank you to all of the volunteers who made the day a success! The lines of happy students was a joy to see. With the help of donations from CTA, TANLA members and community partners we were able to provide over 675 knapsacks filled with school supplies.





President's Message
TANLA President
Kelley Rush

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." - Barack Obama

We started the 2014-15 school year with our First Annual Back to School Fair, "Caring Beyond the Classroom". Thanks to a \$5,000 CTA grant awarded to TANLA, the donations made by our own members, community members and businesses, and the countless volunteer hours put in by so many of you, this event was a TREMENDOUS success! Over 675 students from across the district (and all grade levels) took home a knapsack filled with school supplies they needed to start the year off well prepared. Every school in our district had students attend the fair. It was a rewarding experience for all who participated. We are already planning for next year!

At our first meeting with Interim Superintendent, Ginger Shattuck, she reestablished Superintendent's Cabinet. This forum for all stakeholder dialogue was dissolved when Dr. Perez eliminated Shared Decision Making five years ago. The first Superintendent's Cabinet will be held October 21st, and once every month following (as long as she is serving as Superintendent). Additionally, Ginger felt it was critical to hear directly from teachers regarding expectations and implementation of new programs and curriculum. She held two forums, one for elementary teachers and the other for secondary teachers to discuss these issues. And did she ever get an earful! The teachers selected to represent their colleagues at these forums were articulate, passionate and professional as they expressed the frustrations and concerns that you are all feeling each and every day. With the recent addition to Ed. Services of Kristine Cvar as Director of K-12 Services, Dr. Al Clegg as our new Assistant Superintendent of Ed. Services, and Ginger as Interim Superintendent, we are very optimistic that our voice is now being heard and that positive change can really happen.

Thank you for all you do each and every day. Your dedication to our students and our profession is greatly appreciated.



Myth vs. Fact-

Myth- Teachers have summer off.

Fact- Teachers do not have summers off. We spend summers doing professional development and planning

for the coming year—even more so if you are changing grade level or subject for the coming year. This summer with the implementation of common core, our teachers were busy. Members attended trainings and conferences in preparation for all of the new instructional materials. Educators spent their own money to buy classroom materials and attend additional conferences. TANLA members spent hours preparing materials, meeting with colleagues and reading up on best practices, and yes some of this time was unpaid. SO, be a myth buster, next time you hear "summers off, must be nice". Tell them how you really spent your summer!

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. You will learn more about these superstar educators in upcoming issues.





***From the Desk of the Executive Director
Mark Miller***

***TANLA Files “UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE”
charges against the District.***

“Unfair Labor Practices (ULP) are actions that have been taken by employers (or unions for that matter) that are illegal under the Educational Employment Relations Act (EERA) which governs bargaining law for public school employees. Unfair Labor Practices are filed with the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB). Although fairly uncommon here in Norwalk – La Mirada, the Teachers Association has filed two “Unfair Labor Practice” charges against the District.

The first pending charge stems from the administrative transfer of a veteran Norwalk High School teacher to a middle school program. The Association contends that the transfer was a retaliatory move as a result of the teacher’s contact (email and public speaking) with school board members and the Superintendent of the District concerning the decisions being made at the high school which affected several key programs that this teacher, and others, had worked for years to develop.

The second charge, already filed, stems from the District’s refusal to bargain class size increases at the Pre-School program prior to implementing those class size increases. TANLA had submitted a ‘Demand to Bargain’ letter to the District concerning its intention to increase class sizes. The District, upon advice from their legal counsel, notified the Association that the “Demand to Bargain” letter was filed late and therefore the district would proceed to implement class size increases without negotiations. Unfortunately, the Association had been promised by the district administration (verbally and in writing) that the class size increases would not be implemented without bargaining, and shortly thereafter sent a letter to the Association indicating their decision to go ahead with implementation despite our intent to bargain the increases.

We believe that Unfair Labor Practices have been committed and as a result have filed official charges under the Educational Employment Relations Act. We will keep you posted on the developments of these two cases, but know that we will vigorously defend the rights of our members and the Association.

TANLA – Our Members in Action

- In early July your elected NEA delegates attended the NEA Representative Assembly in Denver, Colorado. During the weeklong event your delegates discussed and adopted items that included support for the resignation of US Education Secretary Arne Duncan, support for drop-out prevention programs and ways to combat the privatization of public education.
- In late August, your TANLA Board of Directors met for its annual retreat and strategic planning session. The group had a productive day planning and setting goals for the new school year.
- TANLA is committed to building partnerships with community members and businesses in Norwalk and La Mirada. To accomplish this, our Association had a booth at the La Mirada Olive Festival.
- Our bargaining team has reviewed the district’s sunshine proposal and has begun the negotiations process for this school year.



Great Public Schools for Every Child



*Our representatives at the NEA-RA:
Maureen Quiros, Denise Daguimol,
Mary Lubliner, Kelley Rush, Clay
Walker, Gerri Gandolfo and
Tracey Ayer*

Thank you to our educational partners for making our First Annual Back to School Fair a huge success!



Norwalk-La Mirada Plumbing Heating and Air Conditioning

11661 E. Firestone Blvd., Norwalk 90650

So Cal Pizza

12253 Imperial Hwy., Norwalk 90650

Home Depot

10930 Alondra Blvd., Cerritos 90703

Albertsons

15200 E. Rosecrans Ave., La Mirada 90638

Stater Brothers

12800 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada 90638

Gondola Pizza

15840 Imperial Hwy., La Mirada, 90638

Frantone's

9148 E. Telegraph Road. Downey

La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts

14900 La Mirada Blvd, La Mirada, CA 90638

Churchill Composites Inc.

12033 Olive St, Norwalk, CA 90650

National Education Association

Margarita Rios

NLMUSD Board of Education Member

Pat Estrellas

Retired TANLA Member

Sandra Ichikawa

Retired TANLA Member

Karen Fox

TANLA Member

Bonnie James

TANLA Member

Mitch L'Angelle

TANLA Member

Nancy Crawford Reeves

TANLA Member

Renee Caloca

TANLA Member

Charles A. LaMantia

Abundant Entertainment/Disc Jockey

Pats 605 Cyclery

12310 Studebaker Rd, Norwalk, CA 90638

Northgate Market

11660 Firestone Blvd., Norwalk, 90650

City of Norwalk

Staples Office Supplies

10820 Alondra, Norwalk, 90650

Albert's Mexican Food

11543 Firestone, Norwalk, 90650

Golf N' Stuff

10555 Firestone Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650

Karen Morrison

NLMUSD Board of Education Member

McDonalds

10841 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk, CA

The Haircutters

1230 West Imperial Highway, La Habra

The California Teachers Association

Jesse Urquidi

NLMUSD Board of Education Member

Betsy Haaker

Retired TANLA Member

James McNamara and Franco Laguna

TANLA Member

Mary Stewart

TANLA Member

Melissa Smith

TANLA Member

Erica Nichols

TANLA Member

Cynthia Cronin

TANLA Member

Laura Ancira

TANLA Member

MaryJane McIntosh

Norwalk Community Member

CTA Summer Training

In August, TANLA members *Amanda Cobian, Mike Stave, Robin Ridgeway and Robyn Morgan* attended CTA's Summer Institute at UCLA. There they attended learning strands on leadership, association bargaining, school finance and common core.

Robyn Morgan, who attended the emerging leaders training said, "It was great to learn about the history of unions and to be able to learn what it is our union really does for us. Our union does more than get benefits and salary for members".

Thank you to the conference attendees for donating a week of their summer to obtain valuable training that will benefit our association and its members.



Welcome New Teachers!

TANLA is proud to welcome 40 new members.

These new members include math, science, special education and preschool teachers. New members were officially welcomed at a reception in September. At the reception new members were provided books and classroom supplies, they also had the opportunity to meet with CTA vendors. TANLA would like to thank SchoolsFirst Credit Union for their school supply donation to support the event.

Communication

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

Visit our TANLA website. Go to ***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.

TANLA President Kelley Rush is on **Twitter** you can follow her @tanlapres for updates and news on TANLA, District, and education issues.



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