Volume 15, Issue 10

June 2011

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CTA State of Emergency Action Week Update

Kudos to the educators and parents who participated in the Statewide Week of Action last month. The culminating event was a rally in Pershing Square. Whether by train or by chartered bus, UTP’s teachers were out in full force. All Aboard!

Next Stop, Pershing Square, where we joined thousands of like-minded supporters of quality education. The evening included music, rallying speakers who offered inspiration and insight on the status of public education in the State of California. Among those who addressed the crowd of more than 40,000 was our own Alice Petrosian, Chief Academic Officer.

UTP’s Mission

The United Teachers of Pasadena (UTP) strives to empower its members so that they may provide the best conducive educational environment for the students of the Pasadena Unified School District. The UTP endeavors to raise the standards of the teaching profession, secure competitive salaries and benefits, better the working environment, strengthen the contract, and improve communications between unit members and the PUSD administration.

The UTP Voice is a monthly publication created by UTP’s Communications Team. We welcome your input!
Looking Back and Moving Forward

President's Message — by Alvin Nash

For the 2010-2011 school year, UTP’s action plan included an assessment component so as to evaluate the effectiveness of accomplishing goals on a continual basis. Appropriate training was imbedded into all aspects of UTP’s “constant organizing goals.” As I reflect on my first year as UTP President and plan for the next year, I realize how setting goals narrowed our attention and directed our efforts to making the most meaningful, effective, and reaching impact on UTP procedures, goals, and results. Working from an objective-based plan of action facilitated great member involvement, structured ways of working through setbacks, and effective organizational strategies to direct UTP’s policies and actions. Reviewing and assessing our goals, actions, and actions has established a precedent prioritizing member ownership and participation, as well as UTP transparency and accountability. Next year we will continue to plan, act, and evaluate our organizing goals for an increasingly effective Association. UTP is an organization, a unit, a family that means so much to me. I am honored to represent and lead you all and I am proud and motivated when I look at what has been accomplished and strengthened. This school year, we identified new leaders, evolved programs and objectives, achieved and maintained parity, built communications systems, and developed alliances.

The Bargaining Team wrote contract language that reflects the interests of the membership. UTP obtained the highest level of health benefits and minimized the members’ monthly out-of-pocket contribution. We reached agreements on the Official Calendars for the 2011 thru 2014 School Years, eleven paychecks for each year, and Transfers and Reassignments.

This past year was, in the words of my grandmother, “a doozie.” Education was a hot topic in local and state arenas. In November, the Political Action Committee successfully worked to elect the following CTA recommended candidates: Jerry Brown for Governor, Tom Torlakson for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Barbara Boxer for U.S. Senate. UTP supported the passage and defeat of initiatives per CTA’s recommended positions. In March, the Political Action Committee successfully worked to elect the following UTP recommended candidates: Kim Kenne to the PUSD Board of Education and Jacque Robinson and Steve Madison to the Pasadena City Council. UTP maximized the percentage of CTA members who live in Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre to support the recommended candidates. We expanded and strengthened UTP’s coalition with groups that represent the diversity of PUSD and that are committed to public education.

The Organizing Committee built union power, communications systems, and implemented a highly functional and effective membership education and recruitment program around bargaining issues and building Association capacity. The UTP Organizing Team established relations with Invest in PUSD Kids, the Parent-Teacher Association, and other parent and community organizations in PUSD.

UTP has an active Communications Committee responsible for a monthly newsletter and regular flyers for members and materials for media and parent/community groups. UTP regularly communicated with members using a variety of communication modes through Site Representatives, site meetings, and general meetings. We encouraged feedback from members and utilized an interactive mechanism for gathering member input.

The Contract Management Team was aware of and able to address issues related to grievance processing and representation. Site Representatives knew and effectively used the grievance process. Members were made aware of their basic contractual rights as well as the outcomes to grievances.

The Social Activities Committee increased member outreach and recognized member service through a variety of activities including the Holiday Open House, Day of the Teacher Dinner, and Retirement Recognition. We hosted several after-school socials that gave members a chance to meet, greet and eat.

For 2011-2012, we must continue to advance our cause and develop new goals in the areas of bargaining, political action, organizing, communications, membership accountability/ outreach, and parent/community relations. This is not the end; it is only the beginning.

Thank you for a positive and productive year. Enjoy your summer break!

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General Information

UTP Office:
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aenash@bscglobal.net
utplara3@yahoo.com
www.utpof.org

UTP Officers:
Alvin Nash, President
Jeff Lening, Vice President
Monica Villegas, Secretary
J. Manuel Carcido, Treasurer

UTP Area Directors:
Tia Acosta, Elementary I
David Berk, Elementary II
John Lira, Elementary III
Jean Buenanegel, Elementary IV
Darius Hines, Middle School
Carol Locke, High School

Frequently Requested:
P.U.S.D. Numbers:
P.U.S.D. Ed Center (626) 396-3600
- Human Resources ext. 88380
- Health & Benefits ext. 88383
- Substitute Line ext. 88382
- Payroll ext. 88360

Frequently Requested Numbers:
CAL STRS (800) 228-5453
CTA Group Life and Disability Insurance (800) 522-0406
CTA Auto and Home Insurance Program (800) 800-9410

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Important Dates — June

June 3-5 — CTA State Council, Los Angeles CA
June 6 — Executive Board Meeting
June 14 — PUSD Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm, Board Room
June 15 — Retirement Dinner
June 21 — Second Semester Ends
June 22 — 10-Month Work Year Ends
June 23 — 11-Month Work Year Ends
June 28 — PUSD Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm, Board Room
June 29 — Summer School Begins
June 30 – July 5 — NEA Representative Assembly, Chicago IL.

June is GLBT Pride Month
**Important Dates**

**July/August**

- July 4 — Independence Day
- July 15 — UTP Office Closed
- July 29 — Summer School Ends
- July 31 – August 5 — CTA Summer Institute, UCLA
- August 1 — UTP Office Opens
- August 10 — 11-Month Work Year Begins
- August 15 — Admission Day
- August 29 — 10-Month Work Year Begins
- August 31 — First Semester Begins

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**Honoring our Retirees**

- Ralph Cioffi, Teacher, Roosevelt
- Gregor Edwards, Teacher, PHS
- Jeremy Ervin, Teacher, Marshall
- Mary Hanson, Teacher, Roosevelt
- Gale Inadomi, Teacher, Marshall
- Maria Keshishian, Teacher, Longfellow
- Alice Krumian, Teacher, Marshall
- Janean Preston, Counselor, PHS
- Sandra Mims, DSC Teacher
- Christine Rosa, Nurse, Marshall
- Leora Trujillo, Teacher, Wilson

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**Rotary Teachers of Excellence**

The Pasadena Rotary believes that “teachers provide a foundation of growth and knowledge for tomorrow's leaders” and that “our society needs to celebrate educators and the work that they do.”

As one of its many endeavors to recognize and promote excellence in teaching and dedication to education, an annual tradition is the Teachers of Excellence Award Program. A competition that recognizes exceptional teachers and rewards teachers who stand out in Pasadena Unified School District.

Teachers of Excellence, with funding from the Pasadena Rotary Foundation, awards five teachers a sum of $1,500 and their schools $500 each year. This year, the 21st year of the program, The Rotary Club of Pasadena recognized five outstanding teachers from all over PUSD.

**2011 Rotary Teachers of Excellence:**
(Shown clockwise from top left)

- **Rebecca Caruso**, Cleveland Elementary
- **Tamyke Edwards**, Longfellow Elementary
- **Dawn Goldenberg**, Willard Elementary
- **Lisabet Nepf**, Sierra Madre Elementary
- **Kelly Oxley**, Blair High School
Heard in the Hallways at Jefferson Elementary

Fourth grade teacher, Fran DeLaRosa coordinated a very special fund raising effort for the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. In just two weeks, her 4th grade class received a total of $1,000 which has been donated to the American Red Cross, earmarked for Japan. Part of Room 6’s challenge to the rest of the school was that an origami paper crane would be folded for each quarter that was collected. Included in the $1,000 was a total of 1,150 quarters. A group of parents made 1,000 cranes, and students in Room 6 added about 100 more to the total. Soon these beautiful birds will be hanging in the entrance of the school, reminding visitors that the hearts and minds of Jefferson are making a difference.

Loma Alta Teacher Wins Broadway League’s 2011 Apple Award

Loma Alta Elementary School teacher for visually impaired students Lisa Okikawa has won the Broadway League’s 2011 Apple Award, which honors the efforts of promoting further development of theatre education and bringing Broadway theatre to the classroom. Ms. Okikawa was selected for the award based on the recommendation of Center Theatre Group’s Community Partnerships department. Joined by her students, she will receive her award on the opening night of "Les Misérables" at the CTG/Ahmanson Theatre on June 17, 2011.

WHO Awards

WHO Awards are presented each year to those members of CTA’s Service Center One Council who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the teaching profession. These people have served on committees, boards of directors, steering committees, and as chairpersons and officers. They have exhibited a continuing willingness to devote endless hours of effort, thought, and dedication to the improvement of the welfare of teachers. CTA’s WHO Awards express our appreciation for their dedicated service. This year, our own Karen Kobe and Yolanda Munoz were honored. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do!

Sadaka and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr

Summer Check List

June 22, 2011, marks the end of the work year. Congratulations! Your hard work and dedication has impacted the lives of your students in ways you will never know. And, to be honest, in ways they may not realize until they are 29 and see that the advice you gave them, the poster you had hanging on your wall, or that the way you hounded them to meet a deadline or to be accountable for their choices actually applies to their life. As educators, we accept and appreciate that we may not always see immediate results, but that ends at summer time! As we enter in to this time of much deserved and hard-earned rest, relaxation, renewal, and reunions with ourselves and our loved ones, try to do something that makes you feel good every day.

To help you to plan this --teachers are consummate planners-- here is a list of things you may want to remember this summer:

⇒ Read a great book (or two) that is not on the Accelerated Reader list
⇒ See a movie that does not involve questions for review or graphic organizers to complete
⇒ Take a 2-hour lunch
⇒ Go to the restroom anytime you want
⇒ Walk around barefoot
⇒ Use an explicative if you drop something or stub your toe
⇒ Take a nap
⇒ Enjoy, Enjoy, Enjoy !!!

Don’t forget:

Visit the CTA website Member Services menu, Member benefits tab for discounts on things like amusement parks, movie tickets, rental cars and other amenities
Shop at “Buy In PUSD” businesses;
Check out UTP’s happening new website, www.utfp.org where you can find links to these sites and other information.
Go to Facebook and “Like” UTP
Take pictures and make memories to share in The Voice when we return in the Fall.

On a final note, you will receive your first paycheck for 2011-2012 on September 1”...BUT do the math, paychecks = annual salary ÷ 11 months (example: $55,000/yr. ÷ 11mo. = $5,000/mo.)
Know Your Contract—Transfers and Reassignments, Article VII
by Karen Kobey, UTP Contract Management Chair

Notification of Next School Year's Assignment
Article VII, Transfers and Reassignments

You have the right now know what your tentative assignment for next school year will be, by June 10. However, that assignment may be changed over the summer.

Each unit member shall be given written notice not later than June 10 of the next year’s assignment. Such notice shall specify the site, grade, grade level, subject area, and position to which the unit member will be assigned. (Section 7.16.1)

If the tentative assignment or work location is changed during the summer, the unit member shall be notified by mail addressed to the unit member’s current mailing address on file with the District. (Section 7.16.2)

Resolved Grievances

#110429a – Violation of Article XIV, Salary and Salary Schedule Rules and Regulations. The District did not provide the $500 stipend to a teacher who completed the math portfolio. Member will be paid stipend no later than June 10. (Informal)

#110429b – Violation of Ed Code. District did not pay state-funded stipend to member with National Board certification who is working at low-performing school. Members affected will be paid stipend no later than June 10. (Informal)

CTA Updates

YOU'RE INVITED!
Plan to join us at Summer Institute 2011
July 31 - August 2, 2011
Visit CTA.org for details

RETIRING?
Don’t lose your association benefits! You are invited to join and become an active participant in NEA/CTA-Retired by calling the CTA Membership Department at 650-552-5278.

“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
—Margaret Mead

A “Thank You” from Jefferson’s Site Reps

Co-UTP reps, Patty Shaw and Ann Palmer, want to send a huge shout out to the entire Jefferson staff for their continued support of UTP this year. From our two-day “retreat” in August, to the many small group meetings in Room 9, the gatherings at district headquarters, and the massive participation in the week long State of Emergency events, our teachers have shown up in force. Our unity can be felt throughout the campus! Thank you.

COAT Awards Honors Darla Dyson

CTA’s Service Center One Community Outreach Action Team (COAT) has the responsibility to make a binding association with the citizens in the communities in which teachers work. We teachers often ask community members to understand and support the many activities that take place in our classrooms and additionally to support the political issues that are important to teachers. Although we are grateful for the help we receive, we are not always sufficiently able to say “thank you.”

In March, COAT hosted a dinner recognizing Invest in PUSD Kids’ Darla Dyson for her untiring support to public education. We appreciate you, Darla!

Darla takes center stage, surrounded by Patty Shaw, Yolanda Murac, Ann Palmer, and Roberto Gallegos

Union Code of Conduct

- I will not criticize any union member except to the individual directly.
- If any member is being criticized in my presence, I will confront the criticism and ask that it stop.
- I will not participate in any conversations with management that criticizes or negatively speculates about any union member.
- I will settle my differences with members within my union.
- I will engage in debate, offer others every opportunity for debate, and respect minority viewpoints. I will, however, observe and support the majority mandate of my union.
Dear UTP Members,

My name is Jose Garcia. I've been painting in Los Angeles now for 22 years. It's hard to believe that I've been making homes and buildings look beautiful for that long. It seems like only yesterday when my cousin Noe (that's Noah in English) and I first came to America. My uncle had told us of the opportunities here in this northern land and Noe and I had to go!

I'm a citizen now, and so are my wife Viviana (in Spanish Bibiana), my beautiful daughter, Sara and my strong young son, Marcos. But originally, I was what is politely called an illegal alien. You might know some of the less polite words!

Noe and I snuck into the country. One night, almost 27 years ago, we climbed over the fence at the border in San Diego. To our horror, we found ourselves in the parking lot of the US Border Patrol! Luckily, nobody was there.

They were all out looking for wetbacks!

We headed North to Los Angeles and I soon found myself working for a painting company. The foreman spoke no Spanish and my English wasn't very good. I had taken English in Mexico, when I was in high school, but everybody here spoke with a funny American accent!

It was hard to understand.

Well, during the day I worked hard as a painter. And at night I went to school and learned English. My boss must have noticed that I was trying hard. When my foreman quit to move to Texas, I got promoted!

It was hard at first, dealing with the customers. And some of my friends on the crew had a hard time getting used to me as the boss. But I learned. And I got to be responsible for making sure that the homes, condominiums and apartments we painted looked great and the customers were happy. It was fun.

I had been making my little corner of America, Los Angeles, a bit more beautiful, by painting it, for 5 years, when I realized I wanted to stay. Back I went to night school. It was time to become a citizen! And so I did. I'll always be Mexican, but now as I make America the Beautiful, more beautiful, it is my country too.

My boss must have liked what he saw. He came to me one day and told me he wanted me to stop being a foreman and become the supervisor in charge of running all the paint jobs! We had three crews. I told him I wasn't sure I could do it, but I sure wanted to try.

It was fun and I was able to help build the company up to 5 crews.

Well, it was time to start my own company. So Viviana and I decided that I should get my license. I named it Bibian Painting in honor of my wife. I've run my own little company for 6 years now.

I'd like to paint for you. Why don't you give me a call? Estimates are free! My number is 818-767-0584. My fax is 818-252-7058. My email is bibianpainting@hotmail.com.

Give me a call for a free consultation.

Sincerely,

Jose Garcia
Dear:
Teachers, Staff, Employees

Whether you are dreaming of buying a new home, lowering your existing payment or taking cash out, CalSTRS Home Loan Program can help by offering competitive rates on a variety of mortgage loan programs.

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Summer Fit Boot Camp

The Teacher Summer Fit Boot Camp is back for Summer 2011!!

Join the Fun and Return to School in a Whole New Body

* 8 Week Fitness Boot Camp
* 4 Days Per Week
* Weekly Diet Support Meeting
* Special Bonus session from Coach Rollie
  (www.FatX101.com)

For Details Contact:
Ricardo Robles (PUSD Teacher, Fitness Instructor, and MMA Fighter)
626-203-8562
SummerFit2011@gmail.com