



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

January 2018

IMPORTANT DATES FEBRUARY

- 1st** OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
- 2nd** OMTA WINTER SOCIAL
- 5th** OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
- 12th** LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY NO SCHOOL
- 15th** OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
- 19th** PRESIDENTS DAY NO SCHOOL
- 26th** OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

FROM MARYKAY TO YOU



Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your time off. It may be hard to believe, but we have passed the 100-day mark. Spring break will be here before we know it.

The district is already planning for 2018-2019. On December 7, 2017, OMSD held their annual School Board meeting to set the 2018 calendar and appoint a President, Vice President, and Clerk. Elvia

Rivas was nominated once again for President. Sam Crowe and Alfonso Sanchez reminded the board of the past practice of rotating who served as president; they argued that there is value in allowing board members to experience different leadership roles. Ultimately, in a 3-2 vote, Ms. Rivas was elected for a 3rd year to be President. The board acknowledged she will continue to be an excellent leader. But I appreciated the opportunity to hear some discussion about the issue before a decision was made; and I publicly thanked Mr. Crowe and Mr. Sanchez for posing the question.

District administrators are making staffing and curricular plans for the coming year as well. Your collective voices have been critical in the process. After presenting the results of our recent surveys, Learning and Teaching explained: "We have reviewed the bargaining survey and instructional rounds survey results and are considering that information, along with the information from multiple surveys to administrators, in making preliminary plans for next year." We look forward to seeing changes that improve conditions for teachers and students. We will continue to solicit input from you about district initiatives and to share those perspectives with our elected leaders and district administrators.

Recently, twelve of your colleagues participated on a Certificated Advisory Council to share their insights about challenges and successes in the classroom. Dr. Hammond shared his concerns about declining enrollment and deficit spending. The teachers described concerns about excessive testing and the pressure to keep up with pacing guides. Thanks to the following teachers who volunteered their time and their wisdom: Erica Ambriz, Wiltsey; Megan Gallagher, Arroyo; Monica Lite, Vista Grande; Celina Marshall, Hawthorne; Brian Mcneely, Edison; Daniel Metzler, Oaks; Kathryn Olsen, Sultana; Denise Randall, Corona; Rosa Ronquillo, Berlyn; Sheena Roybal, Haynes; Jasmine Saunders, Elderberry; and Judy Westbrook, Vernon.

Our CSEA colleagues spend time with us in our classrooms and fill important roles at our school sites, so I am working with them to understand how we can labor together to ensure our joint concerns are addressed. Standing together, we are more powerful. One jointly-made decision concerns insurance. We have agreed to come together with management and classified in order to expand our insurance pool and ensure we will have a choice in medical providers in the years to come.

Continued on Page 2

 Find us on
Facebook

www.myomta.org

Affiliated with



Continued from Page 1

CTA members are standing together as well. At our January State Council meeting, we cut our general session short so that all of the delegates could participate in the Women's March in LA. With colorful signs and proud voices, thousands of participants marched through the streets of downtown LA.

Truly, there is power in numbers. I urge you to engage in the political process during this election year and share your challenges and successes with district leaders and our elected Board Members. As we prepare to protect our members in a new era, I will continue to raise your concerns, advocate for your rights, and serve the needs of our teachers.

MaryKay Scheid,
OMTA President 



CTA Members participate in the LA Women's March on January 20, 2018

SAM CROWE

By Tracy Taylor



Samuel Crowe was first elected a member of the Ontario-Montclair School Board in 2008. During his time on the Board, he has been a constant friend to students and their families, and the staff and teachers of the district.

Samuel Crowe graduated from Chaffey High School. He went on to UCLA for his undergraduate studies and then to USC Law

School. He has practiced law in Ontario for more than 50 years and currently has a very busy business and probate law practice in the city.

Before his time as an OMSD Trustee, Mr. Crowe served on the Ontario City Council, the planning commission, and worked as Ontario City Attorney. He has served as a Board Member for Casa Colina Hospital and for the Traveler's Aid Society. Even with such a rich resume, Sam Crowe has felt most at home among the students and staff of OMSD.

We owe much gratitude to Sam. He has helped bring many programs to OMSD. The annual Arts and Food Fair is among his fondest achievements in OMSD. He also worked hard for several years to change the Trustee elections so each member would represent a certain part of the District. This idea has finally become reality and now residents can feel they have more connection to their Board Member.

Once in a meeting of local political leaders, Sam was speaking about being a member of the OMSD Board. He said that the students and families, staff and teachers in the District were the most important constituency he'd ever worked with. He said that many political hopefuls run for a school board first, hoping to 'move up' in the political circles. Sam said that he felt you couldn't do anything more important than be a committed member of a local school board. The decisions school boards make directly affect children and their futures.

As one of our Board Members, Sam has said many times that he would like to hear from District staff and teachers. He wants to know how things are going in OMSD. He welcomes our thoughts and insights. The best way to contact him is at his email sam@samcrowelaw.com, but be sure to give him some time to get back to you. It might not be immediate, but he will respond.

Sam has decided not to seek re-election. Although there are no formal term limits on our School Board, he believes it is important not to hold the same office too long. He will be with us officially until next December. He encourages community members to run for his open seat next November. OMSD needs prospective Board Members who are strong supporters of Public Education, teachers, and young people, and who live in the area his current seat represents. 

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT: ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS

We have been fortunate in Ontario-Montclair to be the beneficiaries of supplemental Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) monies based on the demographics of our student population. One feature of LCFF is the intention that districts, once they are fully funded, should staff K-3 classrooms at a 24-1 ratio. Governor Brown's January budget indicates that LCFF will be fully funded for the 2018-2019 school year. Unfortunately, even a 24-1 ratio in K-3 will not balance out our declining enrollment. There will be some changes in staffing. I am working very closely with Human Resources to make sure the process follows contract and goes as smoothly as possible for the affected members. This article is currently being negotiated; but until the contract is ratified we are operating under the current language. If you are affected and have any questions throughout this process, please email or call me.

ARTICLE XI - TRANSFER PROCEDURES

Administrative Transfers . . . When the District initiates a transfer, all unit members being administratively transferred shall be granted interviews at existing openings. Administrative transferees, including those who volunteered to be administratively transferred, will have first opportunity to interview for available openings, in preference to transfers voluntarily initiated by unit members. Those administrative transferees not selected and placed during the interview process will be placed into openings deemed appropriate by the District prior to placement of voluntary transferees. When a choice of positions is possible, unit members may indicate an order of preference for appropriate consideration. Anyone granted an interview but not selected shall, upon request, be notified in writing within ten (10) days as to the reason(s) for denial . . .

Reasons for Initiating Administrative Transfers: Transfers shall be made only for educational program reasons, such as the examples listed below, and shall not be made for vindictive, capricious or arbitrary reasons.

- a) Placement of Unit Members Returning from Leaves or Categorical Aid Programs.
- b) Instructional Program Needs This category is intended to cover changes in pupil enrollment, in programs or in curriculum, as well as acknowledge the need for particular instructional skills, experience or specialized services. It also includes situations where another school has a greater need for an employee's specialized services than does the school of current assignment . . .

Assistance in Assignment Change and/or Administrative Transfer: When there is an assignment change and/or administrative transfer within the school year, a unit member may request a reasonable period of non-teaching preparatory time of up to three (3) instructional days. At the request of the unit member, up to the equivalent of (1) one school based minimum assignment day, as defined in Article VIII – section A of this agreement at the work shop rate, may be substituted for two (2) release days. Permission for such release time shall not be unreasonably withheld or unreasonably limited by the immediate administrator.

If a site change occurs beyond the contractual year, the unit member will receive a stipend of up to \$450/\$150 per non-contract day worked.

The District will also furnish reasonable assistance to move personal teaching materials and equipment. 🍏

GOV. BROWN'S FINAL STATE BUDGET PROPOSAL

Eric Heins, president of the 325,000-member CTA, issued this statement about the governor's proposed 2018-19 state budget: "We commend Gov. Jerry Brown for his leadership and resolve to deliver a surplus budget that fills the Rainy Day Fund and fully funds the Local Control Funding Formula two years ahead of schedule. Educators and students in our neighborhood schools have been doing such good work with the gradual restorations over the last several years. This budget proposal builds on that education investment to make a difference in our communities as teachers, administrators and parents work together to identify priorities for their local students. We're seeing this increase in revenue thanks in large part to the overwhelming support of voters who passed Proposition 30 in 2012 and Prop. 55 in 2016 to prevent another round of devastating cuts that were so detrimental to our students.

"We appreciate the governor's proposed funding for induction programs for beginning teachers and professional development. At a

time when we face a critical teacher shortage, we must do everything possible to attract and retain the most qualified to our profession. The proposed increases in funding for Special Education, the state preschool program, childcare, and healthcare for low-income families are also critically important.

"We are taking a closer look and have some concerns about a few items outlined in the proposal such as an online community college and the proposed funding for the vital UC and CSU systems. All students deserve the opportunity for higher education as California needs an educated workforce to fuel our economy. We look forward to having meaningful conversations and working with the governor and the legislature in the upcoming year to ensure they enact a budget that provides all students with the quality public education they need and deserve." 🍏

NCUEA FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

By: Tisha Curry

The National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA) is an advocacy organization of local affiliates of the National Education Association (NEA). Their mission is to promote and advance quality public education in urban schools. Along with President MaryKay Scheid and Vice President Tracy Taylor, I was excited to attend this conference with the hopes of learning a lot from other locals across the country. NEA's legal counsel, Alice O'Brien, immediately addressed what was on all our minds: the Supreme Court's upcoming decision concerning agency fee payers. Instead of a bleak and desolate future that some may see, Alice O'Brien filled us with hope for a bright future for our union.

Throughout the time in Portland, I was able to attend break-out sessions led by other locals from across the country. One of the most impactful was a spotlight on the schools from Las Cruces. Working hand-in-hand with the school board, their local association was able to create community schools. These community schools serve as a hub for local needs to the whole community.

Personally, the presentation from our Michigan affiliate was very frightening and empowering. Once a strong union state, Michigan has become a Right to Work state. Michigan teachers have

lost much: loss of full benefits, loss of payroll deduction, loss of a retirement pension for new hires, and more. Instead of completely knocking them down, Michigan teachers are continuing to fight for what's right for their members and their students.

We are still stronger together. Despite the challenges that we face in public education, our union is still working for us and our children. We don't stop when the bell rings. 🍏

OMTA SOCIAL

Whether or not the groundhog sees his shadow, OMTA will host a social at Rodrigo's (formerly Don Jose) in Montclair, this Friday, February 2, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. **Come join us!**

OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

President: MaryKay Scheid
president@myomta.org

1st Vice President: Tracy Taylor

2nd Vice President: Daniel Salcido

Secretary: Tisha Curry

Treasurer: Erine Ames

CTA State Council Representatives

MaryKay Scheid, John Egan, Tracy Taylor

Service Center 1 Representatives

Trudy Cowan, Shari Megaw, Vickie Harri,
Judy Westbrook, Vacant

Bargaining Chair: Tracy Taylor

Elections Chair: Vince DeFabiis

Office Manager: Cindy Newey

officemanager@myomta.org

Advocate Design: Dorreen Petersen Davis

Advocate Editor: Judy Westbrook

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, Nancy Mason

Buena Vista: Michael Hatter

Central: Marina Garcia

Corona: Julie Rafeedie

DeAnza: Alissa Garcia

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, Leslie Miller

Howard: Kelly Pawley

Kingsley: Michelle Montes, Javier Sandoval

Lehigh: Robin Carr, Jennifer Ron

Lincoln: Kellie Wilson, Denise Dryden

Mariposa: Sendai Parker, Guadalupe Mireles

Mission: Debby Hilak, Vince DeFabiis

Monte Vista: Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott

Montera: Ana Waldschmitt, Dawn Falkenberg

Moreno: John Ross

Oaks: Lora Dahms, Lisa Eckersley

Ramona: Kelly Albers, Lindsay Gallagher

Serrano: Ana Moreno, Vacant

Sultana: Terri Tucker, Elsa DeShazo

Vernon: I-Esha Scott, Rosa Whitton

Vina Danks: Lisa Ochoa, Edima Umanah

Vineyard: Nila Delise

Vista Grande: Monica Lite

Wiltsey: Kim Hunter, Brad Joplin

Counselors/Orcs: Tish Tello/Deana Shoultz

Early Ed/Pre-School: Vacant

HFB/Hardy Center: Vacant

Health/Nurse: Dana Smith

Music: Daniel Salcido

PE/APE: Vacant

Special Ed: Aurora Mejico

Speech: Ulla Tang Larsen