

ADVOMTACATE

CTA

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

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September 2012

"PROP 32 WILL SILENCE 'SPECIAL INTEREST' MONEY AND KEEP IT FROM CONTROLLING POLITICS." THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN TOLD. IT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA. But who, exactly, will be silenced?

By: Tracy Taylor

Do you think of yourself as a 'Special Interest'? I'm fairly certain no one in Sacramento thinks I am 'special'. But if many of us who have the same interest join together, we can send a representative to talk to those in power. With the collective interests of thousands of people, we have the power to be heard. That's the mission of our union.

So, along comes Prop. 32. The summary from the Official Voter Information Guide includes this, "*Prohibits unions from using payroll-deducted funds for political purposes. Applies same use prohibition to payroll deductions, if any, by corporations or government contractors.*"

Unions use payroll deduction to collect dues. Some of our dues money is used for political purposes. Corporations or government contractors DO NOT use payroll deduction. The money they use for political purposes comes from their profits and from the pockets of the persons running those companies. Unions (US) would be silenced; corporations and the wealthy would still be heard.

OMTA represents the teachers of Ontario-Montclair School District. We pay union dues to support that representation. Members of OMTA negotiate with the District for our salaries and benefits. OMTA is able to endorse and support candidates for our School Board. OMTA works for the good of the students as well as the teachers in the District. By extension, CTA does the same in Sacramento. If we take away their ability to use payroll deduction for those purposes, we lose the power to work as a unit to achieve our goals. Without the ability to collectively bargain, we'd have little to no opportunity for fair contracts and wages, and rules about class size, evaluations and hours of work would be out of our control.

We need to get past our differences and work together, effectively.

NO on Prop 32

PROP 30: "THE SCHOOLS AND LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY PROTECTION ACT"

VOTING "YES" IS VITAL!

By: Melody Kelly

Until a permanent solution is found, the only way to assure adequate funding for public education and services is for us to support Proposition 30. Under Prop 30 couples earning more than \$500,000 per year will pay more income tax. Sales tax will increase by a quarter of a cent for a four year period. Governor Brown tells us we will be paying less in sales tax than we have in the past, before a one cent surcharge expired in July of 2011.

This temporary tax increase would be sent to a specific, audited account that would be unavailable to legislators. Despite the fact that California schools have already experienced deep cuts, if the proposition fails, schools and colleges will be left with the wreckage of a \$6 billion dollar budget loss this year. These budget cuts would include a \$3.7 million cut to community colleges.

Governor Brown has stated this is the most critical issue on the ballot, other than the presidency, and is hopeful that our highest earners will give us their support.

You can help this effort to keep classrooms running the full year and safety employees' boots on the ground by taking advantage of local volunteer opportunities that OMTA President Amy Tompkins and CTA will keep you informed of. Share this message with family, friends, and tell community members how the passage of Prop 30 will benefit your students. Despite the national media feeding frenzy against education, our neighbors respect us and value our leadership.

A Message From Your President: Amy Tompkins



I hope everyone is enjoying their new classes this year and is starting to feel settled into the school year. As last spring's STAR test scores come out, I would like to congratulate all of you for your hard work and dedication to the students in OMSD. Our district continues to grow each year in our test scores and it is because of you. There were a lot of schools that had tremendous growth, congratulations! Of course, we all know that students are more than a test score. It is what you do every day in the classroom in all curricular areas that makes a whole- educated child.

Once again our profession is coming under attack in the media. This time it is in the form of a Hollywood movie distributed by 20th Century Fox and produced by Walden Media (the same guy who co-produced "Waiting for Superman"). This movie is called *Won't Back Down*, and it's a fictional account of parents seeking to transform a school in Pittsburgh. It will open in theaters around the country on September 28th. It features Viola Davis and Maggie Gyllenhaal. The movie has extremely negative depictions of unions and teachers and is already being used by advocates for parent-trigger laws to leverage the star-power of this widely anticipated film to push for anti-union and anti-public education laws across the country. In Los Angeles, we have a group of parents called the Parent Revolution and they are proud promoters of this movie. The NEA and CTA are working to distribute materials to engage parents and community partners in a discussion on "parent trigger" laws and leverage the movie to bring real attention to real partnerships between unions, educators, and parents to improve schools across the country.

As you read from our Political Action Chair's article on page 1 of *The Advocate*, we have to educate our family, friends and neighbors on Proposition 32. Being part of a union gives you some rights that Proposition 32 would like to take away. One of those rights is called the Weingarten Right. The Weingarten right is the right to union representation when being questioned: "If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I request that my union steward be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions." This is now our right under a Supreme Court decision called Weingarten. If you are in a meeting that you feel is turning into a discipline meeting, you may stop the meeting and request a union rep be present. If Proposition 32 passes, you will lose that protection.

I want to thank all the schools, teachers, and especially reps for coordinating visits and allowing CTA to meet with you and talk about the November election and Proposition 30 and 32. We need to educate ourselves and fight this anti-education, anti-union battle together. By the time you read this CTA, will have visited 24 out of 32 of our schools with more visits to be scheduled. Your reps will be asking you to participate in phone banking activities in October to help get the word out. Of course there are prizes and other incentives (like dinner) that will be offered to those who participate.

I know that you have a lot on your plate to juggle and learn right now in the classroom and I appreciate all you do. Thanks again to everyone who took the time to complete OMTA's survey on how we can better serve you. Working collaboratively and constant communication will allow us to be more successful for the tough road we have ahead. If you didn't get a chance to complete the survey but would like to give your input anytime this year, please email me at president@myomta.org, suggestions are always welcome! Another thing OMTA is doing to help promote teacher collaboration and communication is that we are planning occasional happy hours throughout the year so we can meet the members face to face. These are opportunities to come and socialize with other teachers in the district and talk to the OMTA executive board about what's going on in your classroom and in education. Our first happy hour was held at Don Jose's on September 14th. It was nice to see those of you who came. Be on the lookout from your reps for information about the next one. I hope you have a great month ahead.

MY WISH WAS “GRANT” –ED

BY: CARLOS SOLIS



365 days ago, I was a different person. Last November, I came across CNN’s Dr. Sanjay Gupta throwing out his annual national FitNation Challenge to anyone wanting to lose weight and get back in shape by training to participate in this year’s Nautica Malibu Classic Triathlon. Since I was 70 lbs overweight, have Diabetes, migraines and a bad back, I thought maybe I was desperate enough to try it. Well, I applied and am proud to say that I am one of CNN’s “Lucky 7” this year!

As a result of being selected, I am “paying it forward” by helping our students at Ramona “Run for Their Lives” in our 100 Mile Club, founded by Inland Empire’s own, Kara Lubin. (www.100mileclub.com.) Our club began last March with 65 students running. With the help of some dedicated teachers and great support from our Principal Jennifer Clark, who also ran with us, we had a blast! I was hooked and wanted more students running, but couldn’t afford it.

Before the end of the school year, I found out about the CTA/IFT Grant application. I jumped at the opportunity, applied and was awarded \$5,000.00 for the 2012-2013 school year! Because of that funding, we started this year with close to two hundred students and staff participating!! Not only has this grant allowed me to fund any student wanting to run, it will also help provide parent ed.

nutrition classes, supplies, student incentives and equipment.

I’m not much of a writer, let alone a grant writer, but with a little extra effort, it can be done. For example, to apply for this grant, I needed to follow the Strength-Based Matrix as a guide which was to describe how the grant would:

1. **Boost student expectations**
2. **Promote student responsibility and self-reliance**
3. **Enrich student creativity, invention, and resourcefulness**
4. **Increase commitment from school-community stakeholders for the teaching and learning process**
5. **Expand positive student interdependence**

If you are reading this and have a passion you want to share with your students and could use a little help with funding, write a grant. Believe me, if I can do it, so can you!

I’m now 60 pounds lighter, taking half my diabetes meds, and feeling better than I did in Military boot Camp in 1982. I will also have crossed the finish line in Malibu by the time you read this. But there’s a new race I’m involved in, and that is to help get our kids “Back on track,” active and healthy. I am so thankful CTA is in this race with me!!



OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

Arroyo: Karen Hirschfeld
Berlyn: Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick
Bon View: Wayne Bradley, Nancy Mason
Buena Vista: Michael Hatter
Central: Tina Foglesong, Marina Garcia-Guevara
Corona: Paul Leal, Julie Rafeedie
DeAnza: Linda Bell
Del Norte: Tish Curry, Kathy Gregson
Edison: Rayvelyn Swift
El Camino: Susie Imrich-Snow, Chris Scoleri
Elderberry: Kevin Dixon, Renita Hernandez
Euclid: Debbie Covarrubias, Anna Young
Hawthorne: Monique Gray, Dale Johnson
Haynes: Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller
Howard: Vacant
Kingsley: Allison Borrromeo, Monica Smirl
Lehigh: Carol Alvarez, Stacia Neer
Lincoln: Crystal Cuautia, Denise Dryden
Mariposa: Sendai Parker, Jeff Williams
Mission: Ann Roozee, Daniel Salcido
Monte Vista: Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott
Montera: Erine Ames, Kelly Cook
Moreno: John Hamman, John Ross
Oaks: Lora Dahms, Vickie Harri
Ramona: Trudy Cowan, Vacant
Serrano: Dalia Aref, Brad Holtan
Sultana: Terri Caldwell, Bertha B. Fitzgerald
Vernon: Isabel Santos, Diana Verdugo
Vina Danks: David Hennessee, Vacant
Vineyard: Lesia Beasom/Nila Delise
Vista Grande: Helen Cieslik
Wiltsey: Ken Aven, Linda Boren
Music/PE/APE: Daniel Salcido
Speech: Kimberly Cieslik
Health/Nurse: Marissa Sitz
Early Ed Center: Leticia Martinez

The OMTA office has discounted LA County Fair tickets on sale until September 28th. Tickets are \$6 for children (a savings of \$6) and \$10 for adults (a savings of \$7). The tickets can be used any day.



All year round the OMTA office sells See's Candy Certificates. The certificates are good for a 1 pound box of candy. They are \$13.50 (regularly \$16.90). They make great gifts.



OMTA's office hours are Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

**OMTA
Executive Board Meeting
October 1st
Rep Council Meeting
October 29th**

**OMSD
School Board Meetings
October 4th & 18th
7 pm at Central Language
Academy**

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