

ADVOCATE



Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

417 West "E" Street, Ontario, CA 91762 (909) 986-2414



November 2012

ARE YOU ENJOYING ALL THE BENEFITS OF YOUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP??



I would like to invite everyone to a CTA/NEA Member Benefits presentation on Tuesday, December 11th from 3:15-4:45 at the OMTA office. There will be a CTA representative and an NEA representative there to share the benefits of being part of both associations. As a member of the OMTA, you are eligible for many exclusive programs and discounts designed for CTA and NEA members of all ages. There are even deals that your family is able to take advantage of. Remember, you need to be a member to take advantage of all these fabulous deals and discounts. If you don't know if you are a member, please check with the OMTA office at 909-986-2414; we'd be happy to sign you up if you are not currently a member.

NEA discounts can be used for your spouse, kids, parents, and parents in law. NEA offers shopping discounts, local restaurant discounts, financial deals with credit cards, home and personal loans, and retirement advice. NEA has partnered with such companies as Costco, Jenny Craig, Whirlpool, Nordstrom's, and Bank of America. They also offer discounts with health insurance and life insurance for you and your family. NEA offers complimentary life insurance, have you filled out the paperwork to name your beneficiary? There are many travel deals and professional resources available too. NEA has deals with Red Roof Inn, Carson-Dellosa, Curriki for free 5 star lesson plans and more. You are even eligible for free magazine subscriptions as an NEA member. If you would like to start using some of these great discounts, you can sign up on the NEA member's benefits website at www.neamb.com.

CTA discounts can be used mostly for your spouse and kids. CTA offers discounts for travel, theme parks, auto purchases and car rentals, and hotel stays. They also offer financial services for credit cards, mortgages, and credit unions. CTA offers a complimentary death and dismemberment plan. This is an automatic benefit you receive as a CTA member; just make sure you have named your beneficiaries. For more information on your CTA member benefits, you can sign up on line at www.ctamemberbenefis.org.

This is only a very small portion of what is available to you and your family. We are able to benefit from these great deals because NEA has over 3 million members and CTA over 300,000 members that allow us to get big group discounts. If you would like to get more details and learn more about how to take advantage of being an OMTA/CTA/NEA member please come to the short presentation on Tuesday, December 11th. We will have refreshments, handouts and lots of great information for you. Please RSVP by December 3rd by emailing Amy Tompkins at president@myomta.org. Look for the flyer advertising this presentation. Make an early New Year's resolution to be frugal and financially savvy in 2013, and bring a friend with you to the meeting to get a head start!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

AMY TOMPKINS

The election is finally over and our students and schools won! Proposition 30 won with 54% of the votes. This means that our schools will not have to pull the “trigger” for \$6 billion cuts statewide. Proposition 30 will increase the sales tax by a quarter-cent on the dollar for four years and raise the income tax on annual earnings over \$250,000 for seven years. Proposition 30 does not promise any new money; it simply ensures the cuts will stop. The increased revenues from Proposition 30 will result in an increase to the minimum guarantee for schools and community colleges under terms of Proposition 98 (approved by voters in 1988). Revenue generated by Proposition 30 will be deposited into a newly created state account; 89% of the funds will be devoted to schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade, and the other 11% will go to community colleges. For Ontario-Montclair School District, this means we can put \$441 per student back into the budget instead of keeping it out. The district developed two different budgets, one assuming Proposition 30 didn’t pass and one assuming it did. We can now go with the Prop 30 passing budget, which means our district no longer has a \$15 million deficit. Proposition 30 doesn’t mean our schools will have new money to spend, but will keep us at the same funding for next year as this year. Now that Proposition 30 has passed, we will be going back to the bargaining table to negotiate salary and benefits. We have an MOU with the district saying if Prop 30 passed we would continue to negotiate for the 2012-2013 school year. The district has an interest in and a commitment to the association to continue improving our health benefits. Improving our health benefits is a high priority for us and we will continue to negotiate the best we can on your behalf.



Proposition 32 failed with 56% of voters saying No. Proposition 32 would have banned union contributions to state and local candidates and also would have banned automatic deductions by unions from employee paychecks. This is the third time California has defeated such a bill, a similar proposition, Proposition 75 was on the ballot in 2005 and Proposition 226 was on the 1998 ballot. California voters have spoken once again. Thank you once again for spreading the word about these Propositions and helping in the effort on behalf of California’s students.

Ontario-Montclair School District also had a school board election. We were successful in getting one of our two endorsed candidates elected. Steve Garcia, our endorsed candidate, was elected to the school board. Steve is a past school board member who served on the board from 2001-2010. We are pleased to have him return. The other newly elected school board member is Maureen “Mo” Mendoza. She has been serving on the school board for the last four years and will be serving another four. We congratulate Steve and Mo and are happy to have them back to the Ontario-Montclair School Board. Another election took place in the city and will affect our local school board. Our longest tenured member of the school board, Paul Vincent Avila, was elected to serve on Ontario City Council. After attending the board meeting on Thursday, November 15th and hearing the district attorney speak about this issue, there were some interesting facts learned. Since city council shares a boundary with our school district/school board it means there is an automatic vacancy on the board; Mr. Avila cannot hold both offices. The current school board members can decide how to proceed with filling the vacancy. There are two options for them: they can order there be an election for the vacancy (which would take place in June) or they can have a public forum with the applicants and appoint a new school board member who would serve until the next opening in 2014. We will wait and see what happens in the upcoming weeks.

It has been a very busy start to the school year and I hope you enjoyed your much needed week off with family and friends. I hope elementary school parent conferences went well and you are ready for the second trimester of the school year.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT – EVALUATION
BY: SHARI MEGAW

Teacher evaluation is a process that every unit member experiences. The frequency and style of evaluation can vary as well as the experience of being evaluated. The contract language for Article XI – Evaluation Procedures can be found on the OMSD website under My OMSD, in the HR section, under Certificated. It will also be available on the OMTA website soon. Please read this section of your contract anytime you are being evaluated.

The frequency of evaluation is a question we receive in the OMTA office. If you are a probationary or temporary teacher, you will be evaluated every year. The Formal Observation is the only method used for these evaluations. The frequency of these evaluations is based on The California Education Code. That supersedes anything we could write in contract. Permanent unit members are evaluated every other year.

If you are a permanent unit member with at least 2 consecutive satisfactory evaluations (meet or exceed the evaluation standards), you have taught in OMSD for at least 10 years, and you are highly qualified in the NCLB standards, then you may collaboratively work with your designated evaluator to set an evaluation frequency timeline. This means you have the opportunity to work with your evaluator to set up the frequency (up to 5 years) for evaluations for your particular assignment and come to an agreement about the frequency. However an evaluation report must be completed at least every 5 years. When there is a change in the evaluator, the unit member must work collaboratively to establish the frequency with the new evaluator.

Permanent unit members may also work collaboratively with their evaluator to determine the

form of evaluation. Formal observation is always an option, and the method most often selected. Additionally permanent unit members may select from peer coaching, professional portfolios and action research as the form of evaluation. When selecting any of these methods the unit member must create a proposal that spells out the activities involved, timeline for these activities and the documentation that will be available to determine the evaluation. These options have been provided because they frequently fit into the professional



growth plans of our unit members. Teachers who are working on National Board Certification, for example, create professional portfolios that could be utilized in this evaluation process. Teacher teams that are working through a new instructional process may find the peer coaching method useful. Teachers, who are working on higher degrees and/or credentials, may find the action research method helpful.

The method of evaluation you select and the frequency of your evaluation is something you may collaboratively determine with your evaluator.

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
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Hawthorne: Monique Gray, Dale Johnson
Haynes: Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller
Howard: Vacant
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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

**OMTA
Executive Board Meeting
December 3rd
Rep Council Meeting
December 17th**

**OMSD
School Board Meetings
December 13th
7 pm at Central Language
Academy**



Come Check Out OMTA's
New and Improved
Website!

www.myomta.org



After 2 months of reconstruction we are ready for everyone to log on and find information you may need on our user friendly website. You can find executive officers, reps names, contract information, past Advocates, and video links. If you'd like to keep up with OMTA's calendar events, like happy hours, trainings offered and meeting days you can follow along on the website. If you haven't had a chance to like our Facebook page you can find it here. We have many great member benefits links that will take you straight to information that will assist you as a member. Take a minute and log on and let us know what you think!

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