

ADVOCATE



Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

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nea

October 2012



2012 NOVEMBER ELECTION



YES on Proposition 30: Schools and Safety Protections Act (The Governor's Tax Initiative)- Prop 30 is the only funding initiative that prevents an additional \$6 BILLION in cuts to our schools and colleges and provides billions in new funding for our schools starting this year-money schools need for smaller class sizes, rehiring educators and preventing more tuition hikes. Prop 30 also helps keep local law enforcement officers on the street and helps save billions in future prison costs.



NO on Proposition 32: The Special Exemptions Act- We can't fight for our students and the middle class if we don't have a voice. This measure was designed to appear balanced but really creates special exemptions allowing corporate special interests and Super PACs to spend with NO LIMITS in politics, while eliminating the voice of workers. This measure threatens the work, rights, wages and retirement of educators like us.



LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD RACES

These candidates running for school board are endorsed by the local teachers association. If you live in one of these districts please vote and spread the word about the following candidates:

Ontario-Montclair School District: Sam Crowe and Steve Garcia

Chaffey Joint Union High School District: Shari Megaw and Sue Ovitt

Fontana Unified School District: Rick McClure and Louis Vaquera

Chino Unified School District: James Na, Brandon Blanchard and Eileen Hernandez-Blare

Upland Unified School District: Steve Frazee and Linda Angona

Central: Allan Morales, Kathy Thompson and Joan Weiss

Alta Loma Unified School District: Dave Roberts and Brad Buller

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
AMY TOMPKINS**



Election Day 2012 is about a week away. As you all know by now, we have two extremely important Propositions on the ballot that will affect educators in California. It's not too late to talk to your friends, families, and neighbors about Prop 30 and Prop 32. Wear your buttons, drive around proudly with your "yes on 30, no on 32" sticker. It will make a difference. In addition to the statewide election, we also have a local school board race here in Ontario-Montclair. Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

has endorsed Sam Crowe (current school board President) and Steve Garcia (past school board member). A panel of 6 teachers interviewed all the candidates and took their recommendations to rep council. Rep council approved the interview panel's recommendations. Please spread the word to your friends and family who live in Ontario-Montclair. I appreciate everything you have done to help us with all the elections. OMTA had 20 schools participate in phone banking, 23 school sites participating in a tailgate breakfast to hand out information to parents, many put up yard signs around the community and in their yards, and we hosted 10 minute meetings at 29 school sites to learn about the Propositions. We couldn't have done it without you; we thank you and hope for great results on November 6th.

In negotiations last year we negotiated an ongoing increase in our insurance benefits. I have had many questions about this and wanted to let you know what this year's benefits amounts are compared to last year. In 2011-2012, Single Party received \$6,350 in benefits; a \$750 cash bonus was added to your paycheck at the end. This year, the Single Party benefits amount is \$6,850. In 2011-2012, Two Party payers received \$6,850 in benefits with a cash bonus at the end of the year of \$3,125. This year, the Two Party benefits amount is \$9,500. In 2011-2012 Family received \$7,520 in benefits with a cash bonus at the end of the year of \$3,350. This year, the Family benefits amount is \$11,670. Another thing that was negotiated for 2012-2013 is that not only do families get additional monies in opt-out pool money but now two parties also receive extra money in opt-out pool money. Two Party receives \$869 extra in opt out pool money and Family receives \$2,850 in opt out pool money. This opt out pool money is money put in a pool from the teachers who opt out (because they are able to show benefits coverage through a spouse or significant other) and don't use their benefits money. The people who opt out receive a cash bonus of \$1200. Families and Two Parties saw less coming out of their pocket to pay for benefits in October and more money in their paychecks. I know our benefits are far from perfect and it is a high priority for us in negotiations to improve our district benefits. If Prop 30 passes we will be going back to the bargaining table to negotiate our benefits for this year on your behalf. Let's all hope Prop 30 passes.

I have been working with Brad Richards and Cindy Newey on our OMTA website. It is almost up and running. Our goal is to make it a place where you can go for up-to-date information on what's going on locally, statewide and nationally. A few things you will find on the website will be video links to important CTA and NEA videos, current calendars of both locally and statewide events, a Facebook link, the contract and all The Advocates from the last 2 years. There is a tab for member benefits that will take you directly to useful websites such as CALSTRS, TSA Services, Schools First Credit Union, Discounts and Travel, and a few more. Recently at rep council we had reps sign up for a few new committees. The website will give you information on what the committees are doing to better serve you and your needs. The committees tab will have information about TIF, Bargaining, IPD (instruction and professional development), communications and much more. We are very excited to be launching our new website soon. Your site reps will share with you when it is ready to go!

No matter what age you are, you should be thinking about your retirement. Effective January 1, 2013 many changes will go into effect under the new California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013.

If you would like to read more about all the changes made to CalSTRS under AB340 you can go to www.ctainvest.org to find out more. One big change that may affect you is that, under the new law, we will no longer be allowed to purchase nonqualified service years, sometimes called "airtime." The change is effective January 1, 2013. Currently members may purchase up to five years of nonqualified service (as allowed by the IRS) and pay the entire cost based on the actuarial assumptions. About 700 members purchase this type of service each year. It's never too early to have a meeting with a STRS advisor to ask questions and plan for your future. Anyone considering purchasing years should contact CalSTRS immediately. You must be under contract to purchase airtime by December 31, 2012; you may spread the payments out over multiple years.

TEACHER INITIATED FUNDS (TIF)

The Teacher Initiated Fund is there to assist you with your self-initiated professional development needs. OMTA has negotiated with the district to set money aside for this purpose. The 2012-2013 members on the TIF committee are Brad Richards, Shari Megaw, Lauren Maitland-Francoisse and Miriam Locklair. The following is the contract language pertaining to TIF:

ARTICLE XII - LEAVES OF ABSENCE-

Professional Growth Leave: "Unit members may initiate application for paid leave for the purpose of participating in a workshop, conference, seminar, observation, or other professional growth activity. Unit members seeking such a leave shall apply to the Teacher Initiated Professional Growth Committee which shall be charged with evaluating and selecting those who are to receive the leaves from among the applicants. The committee shall be composed of an equal number of representatives of the Association and the District. The Professional Growth Leave fund shall be \$35,000 per year. This leave fund shall be independent of any other available staff development

funds or programs which may be available in the District. Unit members who are permitted such leaves shall not be deemed or hold themselves out as official representatives of the District unless specifically authorized by the Superintendent or designee."

There are guidelines that need to be followed to qualify for TIF. Bargaining Unit Members may use this fund multiple times per year but may not exceed \$450 per year. You must apply for your conference one month in advance and wait for approval before you sign up. When applying for monies you need to have your application filled out completely and attach the flyer to the conference. One of the requirements the team is looking for is that the conference is self-initiated. This means if it is a program that is specific to your school site such as IB, AVID, or specific writing programs, TIF would not apply; it is up to your site to send you and pay for these trainings.

This is a reimbursement program so you need to pay for everything ahead of time and put in a request no more than 90 days after the conference to get reimbursed (if all paperwork is done correctly is usually takes about 2 weeks to get reimbursed). When applying for reimbursement, you need to attach the conference paid registration, hotel receipts, and any receipts for meals. You may stay overnight if the conference is more than 50 miles from your school site. The mileage reimbursement is calculated as the roundtrip distance from your school site to the conference. If you require a sub, the cost of your sub is approximately \$143 a day (deducted from the \$450).

You can find more specific information and the application on the district website under Learning and Teaching. We are in the process of updating our OMTA website. Soon, we will post information on different conferences you may want to attend. After we finish the updates, both information and the TIF application will be on the OMTA website at www.myomta.org.

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 Borromeo, 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



facebook

OMTA now has a Facebook page!

If you have a Facebook account search Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association (you'll see an apple OMTA logo) and LIKE the page. It's a great tool to communicate important and fun things that are going on in education. The more the merrier. You can also find a Facebook link on our new website, once it launches at www.myomta.org.

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



**OMTA
Executive Board Meeting
November 5th
Rep Council Meeting
November 26th**

**OMSD
School Board Meetings
November 1st & 15th
7 pm at Central Language
Academy**

OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

President
Amy Tompkins
1st Vice President
Brad Richards
2nd Vice President
Shari Megaw
Secretary
Susan Yee
Treasurer
MaryKay Scheid

CTA State Council
Representatives
Cindy Lopez Elwell
Melody Kelly
Amy Tompkins

Service Center 1
Representatives
John Egan
Bruce Sarver
MaryKay Scheid
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Tracy Taylor

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