



# ADVOCATE

## Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

August 2017

### IMPORTANT DATES SEPTEMBER

- 4<sup>th</sup> LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL
- 9<sup>th</sup> SCONE WELCOME BACK PICNIC
- 11<sup>th</sup> OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
- 12<sup>th</sup> OMTA/CTA CALSTRS TRAINING
- 14<sup>th</sup> OMTA KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE
- 14<sup>th</sup> OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
- 16<sup>th</sup> SCONE LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST/FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
- 25<sup>th</sup> OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

## FROM MARYKAY TO YOU



Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you had an amazing summer. My summer was filled with family fun, coupled with education advocacy. I had the privilege of representing you as a State Delegate to the National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA RA) last month (see articles by Trudy Cowan and I-Esha Scott). It was interesting to see that, across the country, the union agenda is largely the same: Empowering teachers to take control of our profession for the benefit of our students.

We live in changing times. As trusted adults, when our students feel anxious or frightened, teachers are often on the front lines. In the aftermath of the threats of deportations last fall, NEA provided members with language local school districts could use to profess their support of students. In response to NEA's recommendation, and at our urging, our OMSD Board of Trustees adopted a Resolution proclaiming OMSD's commitment to providing a "world-class education" in safe and supportive environments. Conflicts across the country continue. In response to the events in Charlottesville, CTA President Eric Heins reflects: "Our hearts are heavy following the horrific violence in our nation. . . We know there are more good people than hateful people and that by standing together against the terrorism of hate, we will prevail as Americans – and as humans." Despite any ideological differences we may have, I believe our students need to know that we find value in each of them and in our shared humanity.

In addition to providing comfort and solace in these troubling times, we must continue to remind elected officials that we – teachers – are the education experts. Every educator should be paying attention and responding with strong voices, as decisions affecting our students and our livelihoods are made in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Among the hot topics in education are: Charter schools (2 of which are currently operating within our boundaries), funding, and testing.

Even with the continuing challenges facing our profession, I know we are stronger together. As I walked schools and classrooms during the last two weeks, your strength and dedication were evident and impressive. You are to be commended and celebrated for your hard work and expertise. Have a productive and rewarding school year.

Always remember, I am here to serve you,  
MaryKay Scheid, OMTA President

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# Leadership in Action...

## WHAT IS THE NEA RA?

By: Trudy Cowan

Do you know about the NEA RA? NEA RA stands for The National Education Association Representative Assembly. Every year, members you elect attend this meeting to give the NEA directions for the coming year. A lot of work happens on the RA floor. We start before 7:00 AM and often work very late into the night.

More than 8,000 teachers and several thousand guests gather in one (very large) room. When you walk around the convention floor and speak with delegates from other states, you realize they have many of the same joys of teaching as you do. You also realize they face many of the same challenges.

This year we had a chance to see students in action. Several students got up and gave speeches. They stood in front of an audience of more than 10,000 and spoke as comfortably as if they were in their own classrooms and as eloquently as any adult. It gave me goosebumps thinking about how many lives we have impacted as teachers, how many of our students stand up and speak for what they believe in.

While there is a lot of work at the RA, there is a lot of fun, too. We had a chance to walk the freedom trail in Boston. We stood on the site where the first public school was built. Knowing that public education started at a time when the country was struggling gave

me hope that we could stand up to the bullies who want to destroy public education today.

The evening of the 4th of July was amazing. Being in the harbor to watch the incredible fireworks show and hear the Boston Pops made this RA a stand-out experience.

It is hard to describe the work we do unless you have been to an RA. I just want you wise educators to know that we work long hours to make sure that California's voices are heard. And that means that OMTA voices are heard as well. 🍏



Row 1: Tracy Taylor, MaryKay Scheid, Trudy Cowan;  
Row 2: Rosa Whitton, I-Esha Scott; Row  
3: Daniel Salcido, John Egan

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## OMTA Member News...

### OMTA SITE REPS

Welcome to all the new and returning representative council members. The input, concerns and questions you bring forward are what this organization is all about.

All sites are entitled to one representative for every 30 unit members or major portion thereof. Meetings are held once a month. Typically, these meetings are held on the last Monday afternoon of the month. The meetings begin at 3:45 p.m. and last until about 5:15 p.m.

District, state, and national issues impacting the jobs of teachers are routinely discussed. Often, our CTA Staff Person or elected CTA Board Member join us to share important information, answer questions, or update our representatives about past concerns.

The names of our Site Reps are listed on the back page. Feel free to contact these people with any questions or concerns you may have about any topic related to our district, your profession, or your paycheck and benefits. I welcome hearing from you at any time. 🍏

## NEW EDUCATORS - DON'T MISS THIS DEADLINE!

If you're a newly hired employee and an eligible CTA member, now's the time to get CTA-endorsed Disability and Life Insurance from Standard Insurance Company (The Standard). You have a special opportunity to get Disability Insurance and up to \$200,000 of Life Insurance without answering any health questions if you apply within 180 days of starting work.

You can apply online at [www.standard.com/cta/newhire](http://www.standard.com/cta/newhire).

These plans were created specifically for California education professionals and offer a number of great features, including:

- Coverage for disabilities occurring on or off the job
- Access to the CTA Advisory Panel on Endorsed Services
- Option to add Life Insurance coverage for your spouse/ domestic partner and children with your Life Insurance



# NEWBIE TO THE NEA RA

By: I-Esha Scott

This summer, I had the honor and the pleasure of being a local delegate representing you at the National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA RA) in Boston. It would be an extreme understatement to say that I had a great time! I attended a meeting to prepare for the event, but no presentation could have prepped me for the amazing week I experienced. The NEA is the largest union in America (approximately 3.2 million members), and California makes up a large part, if not the largest part, of that union. It was truly wonderful to unite with educators from all over California and across the country to discuss issues that pertain to our students' education, the preservation of our schools, and our livelihood as educators. Sitting in the RA side-by-side with other educators was empowering in so many ways. I felt strengthened knowing I was not alone and that the issues important to me were also important to other educators. There's a form of magic that happens when you're sitting with a group of people, discussing the merits of a particular issue, and as a group yell "Aye!!" or "No!!" knowing that you making decisions that will impact the lives of educators and students across the nation.

I could go on at length about the magnificence that was the NEA RA, but I must take time to acknowledge, thank, and appreciate the

fabulously fun and fantastic group that accompanied me. Honestly, without their support, guidance and camaraderie, I would have been lost. OMTA is made up of the best of the best, and our Service Center One support was just wonderful. The OMTA group I traveled with explained the process to me, stayed with me, and took me under their wings. For that I will be forever grateful. The NEA RA itself was impressive, but being in that atmosphere with people as nurturing and fun as our delegates made the experience even greater. So, to my OMTA colleagues, much love and thanks to you all.

The last thing I want to say about my NEA RA experience is how great it was to see the passion that lives in so many educators. Whether I agreed with them or not, it was inspiring to see people stand up and bring forth issues important to them. There are many people out there who have no appreciation for educators and feel that educators lack the drive and ability to motivate and educate our future leaders. If those people had attended the NEA in Boston, they would have seen a group of educators (both young and old) fired up and ready to make a difference. This experience has opened my eyes to a world of educators and the world of education as a whole. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and hope to do it again in the future! 🍏

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## KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

### Materials

As you are still gearing up and making your classrooms look awesome, you should be aware of Article IX, Allotment for Materials. The language reads:

"Teachers will be provided basic class-appropriate consumables, such as paper, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, erasers, glue, tissues, etc. In addition, the District shall annually allot to each school an amount equal to \$15.00 per enrolled child for the purchase by teachers of discretionary instructional materials. Teachers new to a site will also be allotted classroom materials and supplies, such as stapler, scissors, rulers, etc. necessary for classroom set up. The method of apportioning such funds among the elementary teachers shall be on a per pupil basis. The method of apportioning such funds among the middle school teachers shall be by dividing the amount on an equitable basis."

As you can see, the allotment given to teachers is to be used for "discretionary" materials (fun projects, special decorations). Basic supplies are to be provided as requested within a reasonable amount of time.

### Class Size

It is next to impossible to predict exactly how many students will arrive on campus at the beginning of each school year, so movement is inevitable.

There is contract language specifying when the rebalancing should be completed, and there is monetary compensation if you remain over your class size maximums. Article X outlines the parameters:

1. Transitional/Kindergarten Goals: 26.5 pupils per class average per school, with the maximum 27 (Sites piloting the extended day kindergarten have an MOU requiring an average of 24 pupils, maximum 25).
2. Elementary Goals: (Grades 1-6): 29.5 pupils per class average per school, with primary grades (1-3) averaging 26, maximum 27; and with intermediate grades (4-6) averaging 31.5, maximum 32.
3. Middle School Goals: (Grades 6-7-8): 32 pupil contacts per class period average, a per-period maximum of 36, and a daily pupil contact maximum of 160.

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There are exceptions to these goals and maximums, including “traditionally large group classes” such as PE (45 pupils per class average with maximum daily contact of 225) and Band.

The district has a grace period of twenty (20) student days at the beginning of the school year to correct over-enrolled classes. After the grace period, any middle school teacher whose daily student contact exceeds the maximum allowed for a period of ten (10) consecutive days shall be compensated \$7.00 for each additional student contact per day and shall be paid retroactively to the first day of over-enrollment beyond the grace period. Elementary teachers who are over-enrolled should alert administration to develop a plan for correcting the issue or compensating for it.

## Evaluation

At the beginning of each year, teachers who are scheduled to be evaluated receive notification of their evaluator. Article XII, Evaluation Procedures, requires the following:

“The site/department administrator will designate the evaluator and provide notice to the unit members by the 20th duty day of school. The designated evaluator will meet with unit members by the 30th duty day of school to discuss and collaboratively determine the form of evaluation. The evaluator shall have the sole responsibility for the final evaluation.”

Here are the specific dates for this year: You must have been notified about your evaluator no later than August 29, 2017. You should meet with your evaluator to collaborate on the method of evaluation (formal observation or an alternative as outlined in the contract) no later than September 13, 2017. If you and your evaluator determine you will be using the formal observation method, it is not imperative that he/she do the maximum 3 classroom observations. After each classroom observation, you should receive a written report within 5 duty days. Per education code, all temporary and probationary teachers must be evaluated with the formal observation method each year. 🍏

## Mandated Reporter Training

As a Mandated Reporter, you are obligated by the state to complete an online training and pass a 20-question test. OMSD has set a deadline of September 6 for you to complete the task. If you haven't already been given some time, you should be dismissed early from a meeting to get it done before the deadline. Be sure to print out a copy of your passing score after you email the results to the district.

*"It is not in numbers  
but in unity that our  
great strength lies . . ."*  
~ Thomas Paine

## 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

John Egan, Tracy Taylor

### Service Center 1 Representatives

Trudy Cowan, Shari Megaw, Vickie Harri,  
Sam Sager

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**Berlyn:** Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick

**Bon View:** Abel De Casas, Nancy Mason

**Buena Vista:** Michael Hatter

**Central:** Tina Foglesong, Marina Garcia

**Corona:** Julie Rafeedie

**DeAnza:** Alissa Garcia

**Del Norte:** Natalie Cantos

**Edison:** Rayvelyn Swift

**El Camino:** Susie Imrich

**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, Vacant

**Mission:** Debby Hilak, Vince DeFabiis

**Monte Vista:** Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott

**Montera:** Ana Waldschmitt, Fran Kranich

**Moreno:** John Ross

**Oaks:** Lora Dahms, Lisa Eckersley

**Ramona:** Trudy Cowan, Lindsay Gallagher

**Serrano:** Sam Sager, Brad Holtan

**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

**Music:** Daniel Salcido

**PE/APE:** Vacant

**Speech:** Ulla Tang Larsen

**Health/Nurse:** Dana Smith

**Early Ed/Pre-School:** Vacant

**HFB/Hardy Center:** Vacant