



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

May 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As we close out this year that ends with uncertainty, we will also begin the upcoming academic year with uncertainty. As of this writing two meetings of each of six task force groups have met to discuss and will continue to discuss the possibility of returning and opening school in August. Currently, we are still under stay at home orders. Yet, again, as of this writing, many of you are at school sites performing duties under the direction of your principal, either a myriad of chores, or the bare minimum of actions to close down your classrooms. It is frustrating that the district could not direct and specify a simple set of procedures for both elementary and middle school teachers to get in and out of their classrooms during this health crisis.

I will say it once and I will say it again, you members at school sites are the real heroes. In all honesty, I did not get a lot of complaints from members during this stressful time. Most of you, took up the challenge of reaching out and educating (at least trying) your students and extending learning opportunities. Some were up early and some were up late, talking and counseling parents concerning their child's academic development. Many of you did it with your own children at home. Some of you with your parents at home too. If you were like me, you found time to Skype with your parent(s). I don't share my personal life very often, but my mother broke her hip last October, and only after we found out she had the onset of dementia. This has been a challenging year to say the least. But enough about me.

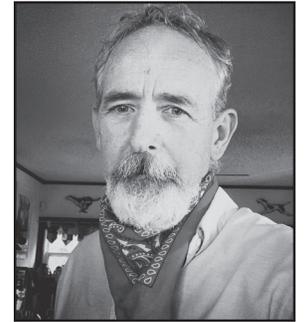
The coming year will bring many changes and challenges. We do not know what school will look like in the near future. There is talk of staggered schedules, and split schedules. There is talk of alternating schedules, and talk of continuing distance learning in supplementing classroom instruction. There will be social distancing. I'm guessing that teachers will not be able to be too creative with classroom seating. I mean, who wants to wipe down a beanbag chair, anyway? There will

be hand-washing stations, and hand sanitizer stations. Gloves, masks, etc. will populate and possibly litter our campuses, unless coronavirus has a cleanliness gene. Students will have to be closely monitored from the onset of their day until the time they leave. There is talk of measuring temperatures of students as they walk onto campuses. There should be no talk in this regard. I think this should be a given.

But then again, we may not make it back into the classroom. We know from news sources that Cal State Universities are going to conduct on-line classes in the fall. If our universities are not going to be populated with students, why do we think that we should populate our campuses with students? I know that there has been no set decision that we will return to campuses in August, and that only preliminary discussions have taken place, but shouldn't we err on the side of caution?

Unfortunately, with everything that has happened with COVID-19, we will not be celebrating our retirees like we normally do at this time of year. As well, we also had to forego the member appreciation as well. These events are always something I look forward to as small ways of honoring those who devote their lives for the betterment of our students. We are hoping, if virus permits, that we will be able to honor you this fall. This is also the time of year when our elected representatives start looking forward to National Education Association's Representative Assembly which is held every year. Representatives were scheduled to go to Atlanta this year, but because of coronavirus it will now be held virtually.

Continued on Back



Meetings 2020-2021 School Year

August 17

E-BOARD

August 31

REP COUNCIL



Previously written was the loss of funding to public education that will take place due to the amount of closures around the cities, and counties of California. No work means no money; no money means no spending; no spending means no tax revenue, no tax revenue means no funding for public services. I know most of us do not like calling our congressional representatives. However, if there was ever a time for us to do this, IT IS NOW. Seriously, we are at a very critical juncture at this time and place. Every single one of us needs to make this most important of phone calls, and ask that your representative to support in asking Congress to provide \$175 billion in education funding to be distributed to all states. Also in the ask is an additional \$2 billion for the E-Rate program which will assist with helping schools obtaining and distributing Wi-Fi hotspots, and connected devices for students who don't have them at home.

I do not know when we will return to our school sites next year. I do know that I will be monitoring the situation closely with the help and guidance of the OMTA executive board and CTA. I will try to keep you updated through OMSD email. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with any concerns. I wish you all a restful and restorative summer break.

~ John 

COVID-19 Pandemic Budget Crisis

Call your Representative today!

It is very simple, dial 1-855-977-1770.

You will be easily connected directly to your member of Congress. No worries, normally you will just leave a message. If not, don't sweat it, the contact people are nice, and want to help you.

Here's the script:

I am <blank>, and I live in <city, state>.

I am asking that Senator <Blank> support in providing at least \$175 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund to distribute to all 50 states.

I am also asking Senator <Blank> support \$2 billion for the E-Rate program to close the homework gap. Thank you.

You can then hang up the phone.

OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

President: John Egan
president@myomta.org
1st Vice President: Tracy Taylor
2nd Vice President: Monica Lite
Secretary: Tisha Curry
Treasurer: Daniel Salcido

CTA State Council Representatives
John Egan, MaryKay Scheid, Tracy Taylor
Service Center One Representatives
Trudy Cowan, Isabel Santos, Judy Westbrook,
Vickie Harri, Tisha Curry
Bargaining Chair: Tracy Taylor
Elections Chair: Sendai Parker

Office Manager: Cindy Newey
officemanager@myomta.org
Advocate Design: Dorreen Petersen Davis
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, Debbie Roose Baker
Buena Vista: Michael Hatter
Central: Marina Garcia
Corona: Julie Rafeedie
DeAnza: Inaki Bizkarra
Del Norte: Natalie Cantos
Edison: Diana Eberle
El Camino: Susie Imrich/Sandi Missick
Elderberry: Kevin Dixon, Dennis Kelly
Euclid: Wendy Beltran
Hawthorne: Monique Gray, Joyce Johnson
Haynes: Robert Mariani, Cecil Malacarne

Howard: Kelly Pawley
Kingsley: Michelle Montes, Robert Paulak
Lehigh: Robin Carr, Jennifer Barringer
Lincoln: Holly Baca, Alice Mungia
Mariposa: Sendai Parker,
Dionne Treadway Contreras
Mission: Debby Hilak
Monte Vista: Jose China
Montera: Ana Zoque, Dawn Falkenberg
Moreno: John Ross
Oaks: Lisa Eckersley, Malinda Hurley
Ramona: Kelly Albers, VACANT
Serrano: Ana Moreno, Curt Albers
Sultana: Breanna Jones, Terri Tucker

Vernon: Regina Kranzer, Rosa Whitton
Vina Danks: Noe Ortiz, Glenn Wong
Vineyard: Nila Delise, Brett Waters
Vista Grande: Annmarie DeHerrera
Wiltsey: Kim Hunter, Brad Joplin
Counselors/Orcs: VACANT
Early Ed/Pre-School: Alison Guadalupe
HFB/Hardy Center: Jeff Quick
Health/Nurse: Dana Smith
Music: Daniel Salcido
PE/APE: Daryl Durston
Special Ed: Aurora Mejico
Speech: Ulla Tang Larsen