



ASTA Action

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Dean Elder, President



President's Report

Congratulations to our newly elected ASTA leaders! Vice President James Goran (Dale) and Treasurer Geoff Morganstern (Brookhurst) will be returning to continue their work with the ASTA Executive Board. The Board is welcoming two new leaders: Director at Large Ian Sabala (Kennedy) and CTA State Council Representative Christie Bettendorf (Kennedy). Ian and Christie have both been long time site reps and Christie has been serving on our Bargaining Team and as our CTA State Council Alternate. The new Executive Board meets for the first time on April 27 to begin planning for next year. Teachers in the AUHSD have a long history of fighting for our rights as a union. There is a plaque in the office that recognizes "Anaheim Public Schools" for 100% enrollment in NEA for the five school years between 1928 and 1932. ASTA became an affiliate of CTA on April 2, 1955, and twenty-two years later, April 12, 1977, ASTA

agreed to its first negotiated contract. Another eleven years later, faced with an ever-growing list of responsibilities, former ASTA President Norma Potter negotiated the first full-time release ASTA President. While classroom teachers do the real work of the District, the ASTA President does much important work on behalf of teachers in the areas of advocacy, contract negotiations, community relations, and, more and more, politics. And now a political group is challenging our right to have a full-time release President because I stood up to speak.

Our profession has been dragged into the political arena. We are the subject of heated debates and unfounded criticisms and outright lies. We have been belittled and dismissed. Our union and our voices are being challenged on every level, even our right to our own internal organization. But the truth is that education is not political.

Education is personal. Education is not about money, it's about opportunity. Education is not about failure, it's about needs. Education is not about privilege, it's about equity. Education is not political, education is about the personal journeys of our students. And our students need teachers who are not afraid to speak on their behalf. Our students need teachers who can focus on the needs of the classroom and not be distracted by concerns of how to support their own families. Our students need much, much more of our time. Our students need for our voices, and our union, to be strong and to be heard. I am thrilled that so many have expressed a desire to get involved in our work. There is much to do and many ways to do it.

We need all of you.

We make a difference. Together, let's make our voices powerful.

by James Goran,
Vice President (Dale)

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State Testing is here,
We've got no fear,
We'll use our powers to
Finish the year!

Bargaining Update

Negotiations have concluded for this year, and now is the time for ASTA members to carefully review the settlement for ratification. Your school has been given copies of all the proposed contract language that will be changed once the new contract has been ratified. The ASTA bargaining team serves you by working with the District to settle the contract each year and we recommend that you vote "yes" to the contract when your site representative offers you a ballot. The team consists of Ken Kanouse (Brookhurst), Grant Schuster (Dale), Cindy Brazda

(Anaheim), Christie Bettendorf (Kennedy) and I serve as chair. CTA Staffperson Lisa Eck also sits with us at the bargaining table. We thank you for your continued support and welcome any questions you may have.

There is always business to attend to for bargaining. Up soon for the bargaining team will be the calendar. Thanks to everyone who participated in the calendar survey. The results of this survey will give us direction in negotiating the calendar for the years 2018-19 through 2020-21 later this year. Later in

May, Bargaining Team member Cindy Brazda (Anaheim) and I will attend a School Services state budget presentation with members of the District's bargaining team. School Services is a consultant for many District's throughout the state. This presentation will give us some insight into the latest developments of CA's education budget. The state budget will likely be finalized sometime in June. This will be useful for next year's round of negotiations.

Community Literacy Project on the Rise

by Juan Álvarez,
Director-At-Large (Gilbert)

Operation L.E.E. (Literacy Engaging Everyone) was formed by community members and Anaheim teachers two years ago on social media with the intent to build Book Stations and place them in front of private residences in an effort to build literacy and spread the love of reading in Orange County. Since then, Book Stations have become a valuable resource for our families where they can get free books. In the past few months the organization formed a board and filed the paperwork necessary to be considered a 501(c) nonprofit entity in California. Operation L.E.E. will be working alongside AUHSD teacher Matt Bidwell from South Junior High who jointly received an AUHSD Innovative Teaching and Learning grant in support

of the building of further Book Stations. Through the grant Mr. Bidwell will be given the opportunity to upgrade the South Junior High woodshop. The grant will allow for South Junior High students to build more Book Stations in support of the program. Students will be working to identify residents and apartment managers to partner with and will connect with the community through future literacy events. On April 7, 2017 Operation L.E.E. held a ribbon cutting and book reading to promote the opening of a Book Station that was donated by a local Eagle Scout troop. The Book Station was positioned directly across the street from Paul Revere elementary school in Anaheim. This will make it the 6th Book Station that has

opened up for use in just one year. The Anaheim Elementary School District had the ribbon cutting and book reading documented on video. Operation L.E.E. hopes that the video will inspire other community members to partner with them.

Check out the video at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVx01oYnHXw&sns=em>

For more information about Operation L.E.E. visit their Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/operationlee>

CTA Grants Can Inspire Students

by Ryan Ruelas,
CTA State Rep. (Anaheim)

Through CTA's Institute for Teaching, grants are available for educators who want to improve the educational environment they teach in. These grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and are assessed using a Strength-Based Matrix. They are available to any CTA member and the application is relatively straightforward and easy to fill out. This year, a team of teachers from Savanna, Katella, and Loara High School and I were recipients of an IFT grant and utilized the funds for a project entitled "Students Leading Students: Creating Change in Anaheim."

The project focused entirely on civic engagement in education. It was completely student run and consisted of four teams of 15 students per school, creating what became known as the

Civic Engagement Roundtable. This group met the first Thursday of every month for three hours. At these Roundtable meetings, students heard from various stakeholders in the community, created civic engagement plans to address issues at their respected school sites, and collaborated with one another offering constructive criticism to help ensure one another's projects were a success. And throughout this entire process, students constantly reflected, took ownership of their civic engagement plans, and engaged in great conversations about issues impacting the community, public education, and their personal lives. The monthly meetings were entirely facilitated by the student teams from each school site. Major conferences, held each semester at Anaheim HS, addressed the importance of cultural sensitivity and women

empowerment, and attracted nearly 1,000 students from AUHSD. These two conferences were also completely planned and run by the students a part of the Civic Engagement Roundtable.

The yearlong project funded by the IFT grant really helped my colleagues and me grow as educators. Furthermore, it significantly impacted students from AHS, KHS, SHS, and LHS as they learned about the importance of community service and civic engagement, and worked together to create a positive change in the city of Anaheim. I highly encourage everyone to apply for this grant, which can be accessed at www.teacherdrivenchange.org. But do so quickly – the deadline is April 30.

NEA Board Report

by Karen Ridley,
NEA Director (Loara)

At our February NEA Board of Directors meeting, we discussed many relevant issues. Below is a highlight of just a few of those:

The dues modification was approved by the Board of Directors after a lengthy debate. Originally, our dues were supposed to increase by \$1. However, after the most recently updated 2016-17 salary information from NEA Research, dues will now increase by \$2.

In the report of our General Counsel, Alice O'Brien, it was iterated that the potential for a Neil Gorsuch appointment to the Supreme Court will be perilous for public education and for working families. He was described as the following: "a textualist and an originalist. That is, he believes the Constitution should be interpreted the same as when it was originally crafted." Among cases currently making their way to the Supreme Court are: Trinity Luther-

an which could decide state voucher programs and Gloucester which would determine transgender student guidance enacted during President Obama's administration. O'Brien also highlighted several cases currently in the pipeline that will threaten unions' abilities to charge an agency/fair share fee. She cited eight different cases that are in various stages of litigation throughout the country. The Janus vs. AFSCME Council 31 case is the one most likely to end up before the Supreme Court in the near future. O'Brien conceded that it is likely that fair share will no longer be law by June 2018. Since our February meeting, Neil Gorsuch has been confirmed by the Senate by a rule change known as the "nuclear option" as Democratic leadership attempted to block this vote, knowing the implications for working families should he be appointed.

Please read about "The Frozen Truck Driver"

to get a glimpse of what we can expect with a Gorsuch confirmation:
<http://www.denverpost.com/2017/03/23/in-a-case-of-a-truckers-life-vs-his-cargo-judge-neil-gorsuch-ruled-for-the-cargo/>

During our NEA Superweek, we also had the opportunity to observe Black History Month with honoree, Mary Elliott, a Museum Specialist at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. The Board of Directors was provided the opportunity for a tour of this museum so that we can all reflect back on history and so that we may build a strong awareness of the institutional racism that is imbedded in our history.

Above are a few highlights of the week. If you are interested in all topics discussed, you may contact me Karen4teachers@gmail.com and request a full board report.

It's ASTA Scholarship Time!

by Judy Yeaton,
Secretary (Katella)

It is that time of year when graduation approaches and seniors begin to make plans for heading off to college. This is also the time when ASTA awards their Future Teacher Scholarships. The following future teachers received a \$1,000 scholarship. Eric Palacios from Katella HS, Maria Marin from Polaris HS, Kimberly Ochoa from Loara HS, Aiya Kanawati from Katella HS, Andy Ho from Western HS, and Emily Blunk from Cypress HS. These students represent a diverse cross-section of individuals from high school campuses throughout the district, and want to teach in a variety of domains from history to government, special education to biology, and

more. Each of these students comes with two signature recommendations, and one letter of recommendation from teachers on their campus. Each writes a statement of future intent and a rationale for why they want to teach, and each demonstrates both academic strength as well as exposure to a wide selection of well-rounded extra-curricular activities.

It is always a difficult decision to determine who will receive the awards. A reading group is formed and for each recipient, the team must come to consensus. For every one scholarship we award, two or three must be de-

clined. It is our hope that we can strengthen the contributions from our membership, allowing us to award a greater number of opportunities to the rising professionals of our industry. If each of our members were to contribute five, two, or even one dollar each month, it is possible we could afford to double or triple the number of scholarships awarded to our future's educational leaders. If you are not already a contributor, forms can be obtained from your ASTA site representative.

Teachers' Associations Unite for Common Cause

by Grant Schuster,
CTA State Rep (Dale)

In the Fall of 2015, spurred on by the growth of for profit charter schools and negative characterization neighborhood public schools, several districts banded together to create common goals that will strengthen our schools. Presidents from associations in Anaheim, Los Angeles, Oakland, Richmond, San Bernardino, San Diego and San Francisco met to discuss goals and a plan of action. The result is the California Alliance for Community Schools (CACS). After several meetings the coalition has defined its membership, mission, platform and a plan of action. The coalition is made up of California parents, community, educators and students united in a commitment to transforming public education in ways that contribute to a more just, equitable and participatory society. In ASTA, we are currently developing our own local relationships to make a strong coalition in Anaheim. The CACS mission "together, we are fighting for a well-resourced, community-centered, publicly funded and democratically run schools that prepare our students with the intellectual, social, and emotional skills necessary for success in a changing and often turbulent world" provides guidance to our associations as we work to create schools that provide for students in each of our own individual communities. The platform developed by CACS is a joint commitment by member associations to achieve our mission. There are 5 major goals: Low Class Sizes; Adequate Resources for All Schools with Additional Resources for Our High Needs Schools; Shared-Decision Making at Our Local Schools; Charter Schools Accountable to Our Communities; and Safe and Supportive School Environments.

Associations can work towards goals through the collective bargaining process. Parents and teachers can also utilize our local LCAP meetings to make sure district focus remains

fixed on these areas. All coalitions members can also communicate with their state senators and assemblymen to make sure legislation that positively impacts our local public schools is supported. Finally, the coalition has developed a plan of actions that culminate with the 2018 gubernatorial election. Starting out with minor actions (signing petitions in support of our common cause), expanding to site activities (welcome walls and rallies) and growing into major political actions around the next election, CACS is focused on building a statewide capacity of education warriors who will demand a public education system worthy of the reputation California has earned of the last century.

It is incredibly important that we all find a role in this process as the fight for public education is raging. During a 7 day period in February collective bargaining rights were stripped from teachers in Iowa. That followed the decimation of union rights for teachers in Wisconsin. We have often felt shielded from these actions because we live in a state so supportive of public education, but new federal decisions will undoubtedly change that. Current cases on their way to the Supreme Court will limit the ability of our association to organize. Public school teachers have always been and must remain a loud and demanding voice on the front line in our communities to make sure local and state governments honor their responsibilities to the education system. We have already started this movement. The alliance and its members are contacting state legislators in support of 3 bills currently in front of education committees. AB 1478, SB 808 and AB 1360 would go a long way in providing the accountability and transparency that all public schools, including charters, should provide to taxpayers. We are also building coalitions with local advocacy groups to provide communities with

information about the differences in accountability between their traditional neighborhood public schools and public charter schools run for profit. Finally, we are working with local school boards to follow the lead of the Anaheim Union High School District in putting a moratorium on new charter approvals within their districts. This could get county boards and Sacramento to create the oversight necessary to ensure taxpayer money is not being wasted or lining the pockets of those using the current lack of accountability for individual or corporate profit. In lieu of a moratorium, asking districts to require an economic impact study before an approval of a new charter would provide local and county boards with data enabling more informed decisions about the consequences for the community resulting from charter approvals.

California public schools have educated generations of our best and brightest. From kindergarten through university, California has led the way creating an educational system second to none. At the forefront have been teachers and their associations creating, innovating and implementing curriculum and methodology that support and inspire our students to become 21st century global citizens. It is time to stand united against those who are more concerned with profit than progress, with restricting access rather than embracing students regardless of need, and who squander tax dollars outside of public oversight rather than work together as districts, associations and communities to use every last dollar to provide all students with the education they deserve. Join us in support of the coalition and support our actions as we move forward!

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ASTA is an affiliate of CTA/NEA

Mark Your Calendar!



- District Insurance Committee, April 28
- Transparency and Accountability in Public Education (TAPE), May 4
- AUHSD Board of Trustees Meeting, May 9
- ASTA Executive Board, May 11
- ASTA Representative Assembly, May 18
- Last Day of School for Teachers, May 26
- CTA State Council, June 2 to June 4
- NEA Representative Assembly, June 30 to July 5
- CTA Summer Institute (UCLA) July 30 to August 3, 2017

Any ASTA members can receive weekly updates to keep you informed of current issues and events.

If you are interested in receiving the ASTA Weekly Update, please inform your site reps.

Meet John Bautista: Teacher of the Year

by Dean Elder,
President

Congratulations to John Bautista of Katella HS – one of our three 2016-2017 AUHSD Teachers of the Year!

John began his 15-year AUHSD career as a student teacher at Katella HS. Of his first job in the AUHSD, at South JHS, John says, “Everyone should start at a junior high, it’s a great learning experience and the kids are great.” While he loved his two years at South, he eventually moved back to Katella.

John grew up in Orange Co, graduating from Century HS in Santa Ana. He earned his English literature degree at CSU San Francisco, where he met his wife and mother of his 6-year-old son, and then moved on to CSU Fullerton to complete his credential and Masters in Education. Inspired by his 9th grade basketball coach and history teacher, John always wanted to be a teacher. He loves it when a former student returns and says, “you were an inspiration to me.”

John loves listening to music of all types - a love he picked up working at Amoeba Records while in college in San Francisco. He attends

the jazz festival at the Hollywood Bowl and LA Philharmonic concerts. He also enjoys reading and films.



gone on to work for the video game company, Blizzard, while another works as an editor for Nickelodeon. In passing up offers to take on other positions, John replies, “I enjoy teaching, I want to stay in the classroom because I can make a bigger impact on students.”

A film literacy class he began several years ago has led to the formation of a Summer

John finds his students to be creative and open-minded, “they inspire me, our students have incredible talents, they just need opportunity.” He keeps in contact with former students, one has

Film Academy, an internship opportunity that will help students develop filmmaking skills, create short documentaries, and receive college credit. He is also developing a Student Film Festival to showcase student work from schools across our district in the categories of Short Film, Short Documentary, Music Video, Short Animation, and PSA/Commercials.

With collaborators Dean Delgado (Cypress) and Jeff Numainville (Katella), John will be starting a Film and Digital Media Arts Academy in the fall, which will feature training for students in applied arts such as film, video, graphic design, and digital animation.

John also sponsors Katella’s TED Talks, an idea that came to him during a self-imposed sabbatical from extra-curricular duties after his son was born. You can view a short video on Katella’s TED Talks here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nP2ledeFeP0&list=PLrkAHw3-2tpNhIPY_udhvvNLkbaz_BmSY

Congratulations John! You are truly an inspiration to your students and your fellow teachers!