



CTA Award-Winning Newsletter of the Garden Grove Education Association

# ADVOCATE

GGEA is affiliated with the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association

VOLUME XXXXII

ISSUE 1

Sept/Oct 2016

(714) 638-7480

## IT'S ELECTION DAY!

*We encourage all GGEA members to go out and vote on Tuesday, November 8, 2016!*

GGEA endorses the following candidates for the GGUSD School Board:

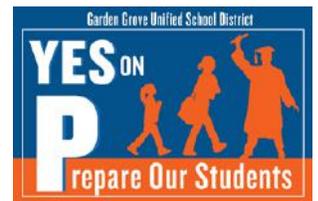
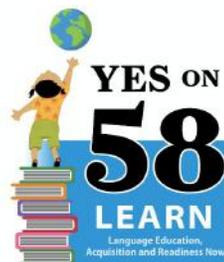
**Teri Rocco and Walter Muneton**



Visit [TeriRocco.com](http://TeriRocco.com) and [WalterMuneton.com](http://WalterMuneton.com) for more information.



CTA endorses a YES vote for the following propositions:



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# President's Message



Speaking up and letting my voice be heard is a regular part of my job. This month I have been speaking on behalf of our members and the students we serve to get Measure P passed, Prop 55 voted for, and our GGEA endorsed candidates Teri Rocco and Walter Muneton elected. As I have been visiting sites around our district, I am speaking about the importance of this election. However, I am not just speaking up for what will affect us on the ballot, I am speaking up for our members when I meet with school board trustees or speak at the School Board meetings. When I meet with various district personnel, I relay information that I have heard and we work together to come up with solutions. When we have Bargaining, I caucus with our team and listen to how they speak up for our membership.

How do you speak up? How do you stand up for what you need when you are at a training or a staff meeting? How do you problem solve with your principal? My goal is to make sure you CAN speak up as I do. Rebuilding our site FACs is one way to have a team address issues at a site. Working with your site reps is another important avenue. I want our reps and members to be able to bring up issues and professionally handle them in any situation.

As we are moving onward in our quest for an organizing model rather than a service model, I have seen amazing changes with sites addressing their needs by members working together. We are reworking our school climate survey and upgrading our rep/principal training to address ways to improve our communication and problem solving abilities. Our reps have shared how important it is to have our members' voice heard.

I will continue to speak up to make sure we can take care of issues we face. Thank you for your willingness to speak up for yourself and the students you serve. We can all find ways to reach out to one another in our professional lives to build a strong GGEA and GGUSD.

## NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Representative Assembly (RA) consists of roughly 8,000 delegates representing state and local affiliates. These delegates are elected by their local and state Associations and represent preK-16 educators, including education support professionals, student members, retired members, and other segments of the united education profession. The RA is the primary legislative and policymaking body of the National Education Association (NEA) and derives its powers from, and is responsible to, the membership. The Annual Meeting and RA is held every year during the last week of June and/or first week of July. The Annual Meeting kicks off with conferences, committee meetings, and events. Our representatives had a blast this summer! If you'd like to get involved, look for information in January. Elections are held in the spring!





## Protect what matters to you.

You do a lot of things for a lot of people. But while your students count on you to teach, your family depends on you for just about everything else. That's why it pays to protect their way of life with CTA-endorsed Life Insurance from The Standard. It can help pay for the things your loved ones might need in the event of the unexpected — like car payments, college tuition, the mortgage and more. Get the confidence that comes with knowing you've protected their future so you can focus on being your best today. Learn more at [CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard](http://CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard).



For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800-522-0406 (TTY).  
Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204  
GP 190-LIFE/S399/CTA.3 SI 17311-CTAvol

## Calendar of Events

<b>11/1</b>	Board of Directors	<b>11/21-25</b>	Thanksgiving Break
<b>11/4</b>	Craft Fair	<b>12/1</b>	Rep/Principal Training
<b>11/8</b>	Segments (Election Day!)	<b>12/6</b>	Board of Directors
<b>11/11</b>	Veterans' Day	<b>12/13</b>	Segments and Rep Council
<b>11/15</b>	Board of Directors	<b>12/14</b>	Rep/Principal Training
<b>11/17</b>	Executive Board	<b>12/15</b>	Executive Board

*\*Attorney available November 9, 30, and December 15 2016.  
Please call for appointments.*

### Advocate Editorial Staff:

Willie Burghard, Sara McCarthy, Tina Gustin-Gurney, Susan Kaylor

### Contributors this Month:

*Paul Portner and the Human Rights Committee*

# IMAD AWARD – Jaydee Choompoo

## Garden Grove Education Association

12966 Euclid Street, Ste. 100  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Phone: 714-638-7480  
Fax: 714-638-9167  
Website: www.ggea.org  
Email: president@ggea.org

### Board of Directors

#### President

Tina Gustin-Gurney  
(GGEA Office)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Kelly Nolan (Paine)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Bridget Holdermann  
(McGarvin)

#### Secretary

Rebecca Koopowitz (Jordan)

#### Treasurer

Thanh Nguyen (La Quinta)

#### High School Segment Director

Stefan Dirghalli (La Quinta)

Michael Greer (Rancho)

#### Intermediate Segment Director

David Van Hoorebeke (Irvine)

Mark Sanchez (Irvine)

#### Elementary Segment Director

Lucy Farmer (Peters K-3)

Susan Hansen (Heritage)

Karyn Lui-Silverberg (Allen)

Debi Coleman (Eisenhower)

#### Executive Director

Armon Akerboom  
GGEA Office

September's recipient of the "I Make a Difference" Award nomination is Jaydee Choompoo, a GGUSD district nurse who splits his time between five schools: Allen, Anthony, Marshall, McGarvin and Fitz. Last year GGUSD won a grant to have student's vision screened which allowed students who did not pass the screening to receive a free eye exam and free prescription glasses. In addition to the vision program, GGUSD partnered with Kaiser Permanente to provide free flu vaccinations to many of our elementary sites. About 90 students at both Fitz and McGarvin received a free eye exam and a free pair of glasses. Anthony and Marshall had around 120 students receive the flu vaccination. Organizing the Vision and Flu programs required a lot of extra time and planning to coordinate with school staff, getting and reviewing consent forms from parents, assisting program staff members on the event day, and emailing the program staff members.

On a personal note, Jaydee states he feels "humbled to accept the IMAD because I was not the only nurse who chose to coordinate these extra programs at our school sites in addition to our regular hearing/vision screenings, special education health assessments, and health case management duties." Jaydee feels that "connecting with students to health care that they need helps remove barriers to learning. It is his goal to ensure that when students are sitting in the classroom, they are ready to learn." Jaydee is very enthusiastic about being a GGUSD nurse and states, "I have the best job in America because I get paid to care! I feel so blessed to have found a career that combines both my love for education and my passion for health!"



*GGEA Treasurer Thanh Nguyen, President Tina Gurney, and Jaydee Choompoo*

## Be a GGEA Facebook Friend

**Join Us:** Facebook members search for “Garden Grove Education Association” and ask to join the group. Allow our administrators 24-48 hours to accept your request.

This is a closed group for members of GGEA only and not open to the public. If you have any questions, send a message to the group administrators or ask your rep.



## CALL FOR ARTICLES!

Are you or your colleagues doing something fabulous at your school site? We would love to hear about it! The Advocate Team is looking for articles about YOU, our GGEA teachers and your students. We want to spread the word about the fantastic teaching, events, and successes happening at all the schools across our district. Please email your stories, articles, ideas, and photographs to [ADVOCATE@ggea.org](mailto:ADVOCATE@ggea.org) by **Dec. 8, 2016**. We can't wait to hear from you!

*We focus on you,  
so you can focus on them.*



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# Peace Day at Carrillo Elementary

A relay of children carrying various country flags raced across the playground, students sang and read their poems and essays about peace, and a giant five-foot balloon painted to depict the earth was released after a spirited countdown to float 200 feet above the school.

On September 27, 2016, the students and teachers at Leo Carrillo Elementary School celebrated the United Nations' International Day of Peace. The commemoration included several readings by students about the meaning of peace in their lives:

*"I don't like what's happening in the world," said 5th grader Katherine. "There's too much violence. There's too many people being mean to each other; we need peace in the world."*

*"Maybe peace is a lie," offered 6th grade student, Andy. "But we have to believe," he said. "I believe. Will you?"*

*"Please join us to make peace," offered Brianna a fifth grader. She concluded, "Together we can help."*

Students were encouraged at the assembly to work for peace by three former GGUSD students, each now with families of their own. All three had participated in past Peace Day programs when they were students in Garden Grove. Monica Espinoza Horner, Darlene Tamura Omaye, and Michele McElroy Watson were introduced as former students of teacher Paul Portner who initiated the peace celebration. Monica talked about her work at OC Second Harvest Food Bank; Darlene sang "This Is My Wish," and Michele repeated her role of releasing the giant earth balloon, as she had as a fourth grade student. With their help, a new generation of students expressed their own commitment to making a happier more peaceful world.

Students were introduced to a unique Peace Task Machine. The re-purposed gumball machine takes twenty-five-cent contributions and dispenses a small bead containing a peace task sticker. Students place the sticker in an "Actions for Peace" booklet, and sign their name committing to a small good deed to help others. Thus the students are raising funds for The Orange County Second Harvest Food Bank and for Save the Children, while they spread peace among themselves. In past years Carrillo students have collected funds to help Hurricane Katrina disaster victims, for the earthquake in Haiti, for clean water wells in Africa, and for Middle East refugees. "Peace Begins with Me," reads the sign on the Peace Task Machine. Carrillo students are making that happen.



*"The life of peace is when the family gets together to share their love of joy...that's the beginning of the life of peace." - Solavi, 6th Grade*



# Super Week Training with C. Scott Miller

In an effort to provide our members with the knowledge of their legal obligations both in and out of our classrooms, the Human Rights Committee invited CTA Cadre Trainer C. Scott Miller to present two workshops during Super Week. Over 70 educators attended the workshops at the GGEA office to learn about the laws that push schools to be inclusive and to provide a safe environment for all students. Topics covered included the FAIR Education Act, Privacy Rights, Seth's Law and the requirements of anti-bullying policies, recent transgender bathroom legislation (AB 1266), Title IX, the new California Healthy Youth Act and other legal requirements. Most of the legal information can be found on the GGEA website under the Human Rights Committee tab. If you need help or resources, please email the committee at [humanrights@ggea.org](mailto:humanrights@ggea.org).



## Welcome New GGEA Members!

Lauren Acoutin  
Elsa Aguilera  
Griselda Angulo  
Janet Arbuckle  
Judith Au  
Katya Ayala  
Jessica Bang  
Peter Bobbs  
Chris Borado  
Ashley Bremmer  
Lauren Brounley  
Dana Bui  
Monica Bui  
Katy Chang  
Phary Chhoeun  
Kelly Chloe  
Jean Chung  
Karlene Cluff  
Paul Dang  
Eleanor DeLeon  
Jaime Dinh  
PhongThao Dinh  
Leann Duong  
Anna Erwin  
Tiffany Fang

Darlene Rose Favenir  
Sarah Ferrara  
Chelsea Fletcher  
Daniel Fritz  
Kristina Galbreath  
Yesenia Garcia  
Katherine Gomez  
Elizabeth Hafeli  
Alyssa Hanson  
Malia Her  
Shawn Hill  
Tramy Ho  
Stacy Johnson  
Ya Na Kim  
Matthew Lee  
Minh Lee  
Arthur Loredó  
Shaina Lowe  
Peter Luong  
Amanda Manley  
Jessica McAdams  
Michele Mercado  
Grace Morgenstern  
Crystal Mueller  
Olivia Nassef

Mary Clare Navalta  
Breanna Newby  
Nikki Nguyen  
Austin Pauline  
Kim Chi Pham  
Erich Phinizy  
JoDee Preston  
Tara Robison  
Hilda Rodriguez  
Emilio Sandoval  
Matthew Snodgrass  
Curtis Stirling  
Maria Torres Gonzalez  
Mai Anh Tran  
Michael Trupp  
Paul Tschida  
Kelly Uehara  
Tiffany Anne Uy  
Natalia Vu  
Stanley Weir  
Karen Werstiuk-Johnson  
Monica Wigler-Claxton  
Gina Zahm

## Maternity/Paternity Leave (AB375)

Your Association and GGUSD signed a side-letter in April of this year to implement Assembly Bill (AB) 375. This allows for the use of differential pay up to 12 weeks for paternity/maternity leave.

Maternity/paternity leave is intended for the birth of a child or placement of a child with an employee in connection with adoption or foster care.

When an employee takes a paternity/maternity leave, s/he may use accumulated sick days. With this newly signed side-letter (and law), the employee may also go on differential pay for up to 12 weeks (excluding the number of days taken by using sick days). Differential pay is the pay an employee receives after his/her substitute has been paid. In essence, the employee is paid the difference.

If both spouses are employed by GGUSD, the twelve weeks does not apply to both of them. The twelve weeks are an aggregate for both employees.

This is a true benefit to employees who celebrate the birth of a child or adopt or take on a foster child. In the past, employees would have to go on unpaid status if their sick time was depleted.

This new provision is thanks to the mutual cooperation of both bargaining teams and also forward-thinking of the California legislature.



**GGEA**  
**FALL CRAFT FAIR**

Let's do a little holiday shopping and support members and friends of GGEA – artists, entrepreneurs, and just overall crafty individuals!

**WHAT:** Cards, stickers, jewelry, paintings, Mexican folk art, scarves, Christmas ornaments, homemade jams, baked goods, cosmetics, knick-knacks.... and a little bit of everything else!

**WHEN:** Friday, November 4  
3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.

Refreshments and snacks will be served, too!

**WHERE:** GGEA office

If you are interested in selling please email [jennyg@ggea.org](mailto:jennyg@ggea.org)

## GGEA PRIDE!

We would **LOVE** for all of our GGEA Members to show **GGEA PRIDE** by wearing **blue** and/or the new blue **gummy bracelets** every Tuesday and on Bargaining Days too!

