



CTA Award-Winning Newsletter of the Garden Grove Education Association

ADVOCATE

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The Garden Grove Education Association's mission statement is: **"An association of educators who advocate for the well-being of our membership and the students we serve."**

I don't think there has been a better example of such advocacy than during this pandemic. I have seen the union membership come together and work long hours to ensure students would get the best possible education despite the circumstances we are facing. I am proud to serve as your Executive Director and I think you should give yourself credit for the especially challenging work you are doing and continue to do as a team to serve our students and their families.

With that said we worked with the communications team (big shout out to Sara McCarthy) to design a small poster to share our mission statement proudly. We will be printing a limited number of posters so if you are interested in picking one up please email us at the office.

Paul Kim
GGEA Executive Director



GGEA

**An association of educators
who advocate
for the well being
of our membership
and the students we serve.**

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President's Message



Back in September 2019 I wrote: “Welcome back! I hope that the summer break has left you refreshed, rejuvenated, energized, and excited for the year ahead. For some of you, this is your last year of teaching with retirement ahead of you, for many you are somewhere in between, and for others this is your very first year of teaching. No matter where you lie on the continuum you have chosen to be a public-school educator.”

September 2020 – I still welcome you all back to the 2020-21 school year. I still hope your summer break left you refreshed, rejuvenated, energized, and excited for the year ahead. There are some of you in your last year of teaching and will retire, and we even have some that are in their first year.

A shift in our mindsets has been required since mid-March as we began teaching during a pandemic. Much of what was done from March through June was by trial and error. Now, we are teaching with more structure. As we transition back to in-person, change will occur again.

Even the operations within GGEA have had to shift from in-person to virtual. Our meetings are now zoomed. Even zoom meetings have been trial and error as many of you have experienced when you couldn't get in due to the room reaching its max.

This is definitely a time where we need to have patience and be reasonable with ourselves and each other. Make that concerted effort to speak to other educators to provide emotional and psychological support. While you might not have that in-person company, you need to keep that virtual company of people who are experiencing what you are. We've all heard the expression we're all in the same boat, we're in this together, and many more, but we are all in different places on that boat.

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” ~Maya Angelou



Calendar of Events

10/13	Segments	11/30	Non-Student Day/Staff PD
10/27	Rep Council	12/1	Board of Directors
11/3	Board of Directors	12/8	Segments
11/10	Segments	12/15	Rep Council
11/11	Veteran's Day	12/19-1/3	Winter Recess
11/17	Rep Council	1/5	Board of Directors
11/21-29	Thanksgiving Recess	1/12	Segments

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 by **Sept 12, 2020**. We can't wait to hear from you!

JOIN our FACEBOOK group TODAY!

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.



**Attorney available.*

For contact information please call the GGEA office at 714-638-7480.

Advocate Editorial Staff:

Willie Burghard, Sara McCarthy, Kelly Nolan, Susan Kaylor

Contributors this Month:

Cammie Devereux

Welcome NEW GGEA Members!



Vanessa Acuna
Alejandra Aguilar
Sandra Aitken
Amor Bueno
Shannon Buller
Cindy Chavez
Daniel Cory
Alexandra Dyson

Giselle Fernandez
Victoria Garcia
Katherine Leith
Maria Ota
Christina Reyes
Arsanios Salamah
Chrystal Tello

Adorable Pre-K Students Engaging in Online Learning Activities!

Garden Grove Education Association

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Executive Director
Paul Kim
GGEA Office



WHAT IS THE IMAD AWARD??

The Human Rights Committee recognizes GGEA members who make a positive contribution outside of the classroom with the "I Make a Difference Award." This award is given to members who volunteer their time and energy to benefit the school community or the community at large. Past IMAD winners have been involved in working in local charities, after school tutoring projects, library reading programs, soup kitchens, charity runs and human rights endeavors.

Nominations can be submitted to the GGEA Human Rights Committee via our website online form (located on Human Rights Committee page at GGEA.org) or emailed to humanrights@ggea.org. Nominations can be submitted by a single member, by a group of members, or by the entire school staff. Please include the following in your nomination:

- The nominee's name, school and contact information
- His/her specific contribution (please provide details)
- Your name and contact information

Each month, the committee will honor an IMAD recipient at a Rep Council meeting and feature him/her in the *GGEA Advocate*.

NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE TODAY!!



FAMILIES WELCOME

When you're a Member of SchoolsFirst FCU, your immediate family is eligible for Membership and all the benefits that come with it.

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Zooming to Success at the NEW GGUSD VLA!



Mrs. Cabrera passed out backpacks full of learning supplies to her new students during the first week of school.

GGUSD's new TK-6th Virtual Learning Academy is Zooming to Success in 2020. Our teachers and students are full of excitement and anticipation for a fully virtual year of school together. At the VLA, we realize the importance of focusing on our District Goal #2. Helping our students build and strengthen their personal skills only helps foster a positive culture in our virtual classrooms which bring together students from all over the district, as well as build community beyond our virtual walls. VLA teachers have started strong by establishing digital citizenship expectations and teaching a variety of online strategies to their new students. Because we are building something brand new for our district, our teachers have been working especially hard navigating curriculum, designing lessons, and planning engaging experiences to make our first year of VLA memorable for all of our school community!

the necessary tools for success in a virtual learning environment. Students will be online all year so building community, providing opportunities for connection, interaction, school spirit, and camaraderie help to break down the barriers of distance and screens. The 7-12 students recently held a schoolwide mascot challenge to come up with a new mascot for the 7-12 VLA and we are proud to announce that the new 7-12 VLA mascot is the Phoenix! These students have faced many challenges over the past few months and have risen to meet and overcome them with determination, motivation, and positive attitudes, emerging even stronger, much like a Phoenix. The teachers, students, and administration at the 7-12 VLA are excited to be a part of this new district endeavor and have become a tight knit family. The 7-12 VLA Phoenixes are looking forward to the year ahead and continue to rise strong with each new challenge this school year brings!

Similarly, the district introduced the first ever 7-12 Virtual Learning Academy, serving students from all over the district in 7th through 12th grade. At the 7-12 level, teachers work hard on building students' socio-emotional and academic skills, arming them with



Miss McCarthy's 8th Graders are excited to be making history at the GGUSD Virtual Learning Academy. Happy Zooming!



Your Advocate. Your Partner. *Your CTA.*

There are benefits when we stand together.

Do you know the benefits of your CTA membership?? There are so many!!



Your membership with CTA comes with many benefits such as life insurance, legal services, travel and theme park discounts!

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP		MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS*
Salary, benefits and working conditions as stipulated by the collectively bargained agreement or "contract" between the district and the local association.		✓	✓
Voting privileges on contract ratification of the collectively bargained agreement between the district and the local association		✓	
Representation on matters pertaining to your collectively bargained agreement and other issues in the classroom		✓	✓
Joining an organization that advocates for students, staff and the education profession		✓	
Having a voice on legislative policy issues that impact student learning and working conditions in schools and colleges		✓	
Voting privileges to have a voice on positions advocated by the union, as well as in electing local chapter leaders and leaders at the state and national levels		✓	
Professional and leadership development training opportunities sponsored by CTA at the local, regional, state and national levels		✓	
Access to CTA and NEA professional development trainings by members for members looking to improve professional skills, social awareness and leadership		✓	
\$1 million employment liability insurance coverage should you get sued		✓	
Legal services and professional advice provided for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Due process, leave rights, layoffs and California Commission on Teacher Credentialing cases o Certification and classification issues o Discrimination under federal/state laws based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, etc. o Discrimination based on union activity o Retirement issues 		✓	
Subscriptions to California Educator and NEA Today professional publications		✓	
CTA Death & Dismemberment Insurance		✓	
NEA Complimentary Life Insurance		✓	
Disaster Relief Fund Grants		✓	
Exclusive Discounted CTA and NEA Member Benefits programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Auto and home insurance o Voluntary life and disability insurance o Travel, restaurant, theme parks and purchasing discounts o CTA 403(b) Retirement Savings Plan and financial tools and resources o Financial services such as credit cards, credit unions, special mortgage and auto loan programs o Resources including "CTA Guide to Federal Student Loan Forgiveness Programs," and "Balancing Family and Work: A Guide to Pregnancy Disability and Baby Bonding Leave" o And many more products, services, and discounts negotiated on behalf of, and provided to, members only 		✓	

* Under the Educational Employment Relations Act (EERA), bargaining unit members have the right to representation by the exclusive representative ("local association") in their employment relations with the public-school employer.



You Got This.

Your confidence shines through.
So do these new CTA benefits.

In these uncertain times, CTA membership makes more sense than ever. CTA provides new educators with **9 months of CTA Introductory Disability insurance** at no cost to you when you join CTA for the first time within 90 days of your first day of work.



CTA Introductory Disability insurance available to eligible new educators starting work on or after 7/1/2020 who become CTA members for the first time within 90 days of their first day of work. Disability insurance eligibility requirements apply.

For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, benefit waiting periods, 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 GP190-LTD/S399/CTA.1 21688-CTAvol (08/20)

Learn more at
CTAMemberBenefits.org/Disability



