

GTA ADVOCATE

The Official Newsletter of the Glendale Teachers Association



President's Message

By: Taline Arsenian, President



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The 2019-2020 school year has been like no other. Our union has had some successes and a few challenges. In my 5 years as president, I have never experienced a challenge that comes close to a world pandemic. That being said, what has been resounding these past ten weeks is the capability of our members to pivot, adjust, and participate in emergency remote teaching. I am not surprised by your ability to change course at a moment's notice. Within a matter of days, you were asked to discontinue teaching as you knew it, participate in intense professional trainings, and implement online platforms/apps/programs in order to meet the educational, emotional, and physical needs of students via your laptop. You practiced, you researched, you collaborated, you worked all hours of the day, while worrying about the calamity occurring in the lives of your students, all during self-quarantine. You continue to amaze me and I am convinced there is nothing, absolutely nothing, you can't accomplish. I am also convinced, the impossible needs to no longer be an ask of educators. Together, we need to work on balance so that our working conditions are reasonable/sustainable, we have the support and tools necessary, and students receive the benefits of our work.

Congratulations to our 2020 GTA retirees. You did not receive the in-person ceremonial celebration you deserve. Please know, I am committed to celebrating you at a time when we can come back together. I am dedicating this advocate to you. Thank you for dedicating your life to public education. You spent your lifetime mastering your craft, implementing curriculum and everchanging framework/standards, while using infinite learning strategies/modalities. You spent countless hours lesson planning/collaborating, participating in professional developments, and writing/grading assessments. Your most valuable contribution has been the relationships you've built with your students by learning their stories, making them feel cared for and considered, helping them develop character and kindness, motivating their curiosity and thinking, and allowing them to have a safe space in which to thrive and exist as their true selves. Thank you educators for your life-long commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of so many students. GTA wishes you happiness and good health as you begin the next chapter of your journey.

As we begin to prepare for the end of this school year, let's also prepare to address the challenges that lie ahead. Public education cuts are looming and our working conditions will continue to look different. We are committed to advocating at the state level for fair funding and negotiating at the local level to ensure educator autonomy is protected. We will have a special representative council meeting on June 23rd. Make sure you have shared your personal email address with your site representative as they will need to share private union information with you via email this summer.

Thank you all for your membership and involvement in GTA. I wish you safety, health, and much well needed rest this summer.

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HEALTH BENEFITS UPDATE

Hope you are safe and sheltering at home. Below are next years health benefit premiums. There are no changes in our health benefits coverage. The out of pocket tenthly cost for PPO family has gone down approximately \$21.20. The maximum District contribution for health benefits for the 2020-2021 school year is \$29,246.96 yearly, which equates to \$2,924.70 tenthly .

Medical Coverage Type	2020/2021		
	10thly Cost	District Pays	Employee Pays
HMO Employee Only	\$882.24	\$882.24	\$0
HMO Employee + 1	\$1,517.11	\$1,517.11	\$0
HMO Employee + Family	\$1,887.55	\$1,887.55	\$0
PPO Employee Only	\$1,448.42	\$1,448.42	\$0
PPO Employee + 1	\$2,491.27	\$2,491.27	\$0
PPO Employee + Family	\$3,099.64	\$2,924.70	\$174.94

Blue Shield of California

- Web: www.blueshieldca.com
- Phone: 1-888-774-9131

Teledoc

- Web: www.teledoc.com/bsc
- Mobile App: [teledoc/mobile](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.teledoc)
- Phone: 1-800-Teladoc (835-2362)
- Now offering mental health services



Thank you members who have participated in the 2020-2021 Health Benefits Committee: Alicia Harris, Jana Wells, Tammy Tiber, Luis Guevera, Melvin Barrientos, and Maria Giraco. Your service and commitment to our members is very much appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS 2019-2020 RETIREES*

First Name	Last Name	School Site	Years of Service
Faith	Abboud	Fremont ES	30 years
Sherri Ann	Aiken	Fremont ES	22 years
Margaret	Billings	Rosemont MS	24 years 6 months
Martin	Briner	Verdugo Academy	24 years
Genoveva	Cervantez	Hoover HS	25 years
Kimberly	Frank	Toll MS	36 years
Frank	Fox	Roosevelt MS	20 years
Cheryl	Hamel	Valley View ES	18 years
Michael	Hawley	College View	39 years
Sherry	Knauf	SELPA	30 years 7 months
Patrick	Lancaster	Glendale HS	30 years
Ken	Le Blanc	Mountain Ave	24 years
Carol	Leining	Mountain Ave	20 years
Scott	McCreary	Valley View	23 years
Arline	Milton	Wilson MS	21 years
Donna	Mohamadi	Daily HS	31 years
Sirvart	Mouradian	Hoover HS	33 years
Lynn	Parker	Crescenta Valley HS	30 years 3 months
Carol	Peters	Rosemont MS	30.25 years
Cindy	Ravitz	Glendale HS	31 years
Elaine	Rivera	Fremont ES	22 years
Richard W.	Saunders	SELPA	30 years
Martin	Smith	Crescenta Valley HS	25 years 2 months
Susan F.	Tenpas	Dunsmore ES	33 years
Karen	Whittington	Franklin	30 years
Stephen	Wong	Hoover HS	30
Barbara	Zatarain	Wilson MS	29 years

*as of 06/02/2020

PARTING WORDS!



Cindy Ravitz, Glendale HS

It has been an honor to work in the Glendale USD where I have met incredible colleagues, students and friends. Thank you for 31 wonderful years.



Susan Tenpas, Dunsmore ES

From the time I taught my little Suzy school doll (even came with her own desk) until this very month I have loved teaching! I am so grateful for a career that has given me so much joy.



Genny Cervantez, Hoover HS



Elaine Rivera, Fremont ES

I have really appreciated everything GTA has done to support us through the years. Blessings to all of you going forward.

PARTING WORDS!



Cheryl Hamel, Valley View ES

This is bittersweet, and I have so many memories. I'll miss my Valley View family!



Patrick Lancaster, Glendale HS

I hope I have done enough to earn a diploma after all I have learned these past 30 years. It has been a pleasure and an honor to be a teacher in the GUSD. #Classof2020



Richard Saunders, SELPA

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop". Mother Teresa

PARTING WORDS!

Sirvart Mouradian, Hoover HS

Having thought about retirement for so long--it's hard to believe the time has come! As I join the "Retiring" Class of 2020, I will miss many things, mostly the friends I worked with everyday! Your love and friendship have warmed my heart throughout the years and you will remain with me forever!
My very best to you all!



Scott McCreary, Valley View

Will miss you much!



Michael Hawley, College View



Kimberly Frank, Toll Middle School

I feel so BLESSED to have worked at Toll MS for my entire education career. Toll is "HOME " - a magical place filled with an amazing group of people that are truly my family ! "Be the Change..." Once we can break out of quarantine, I'll be back to visit regularly! ~ "ONCE A TITAN, ALWAYS A TITAN"

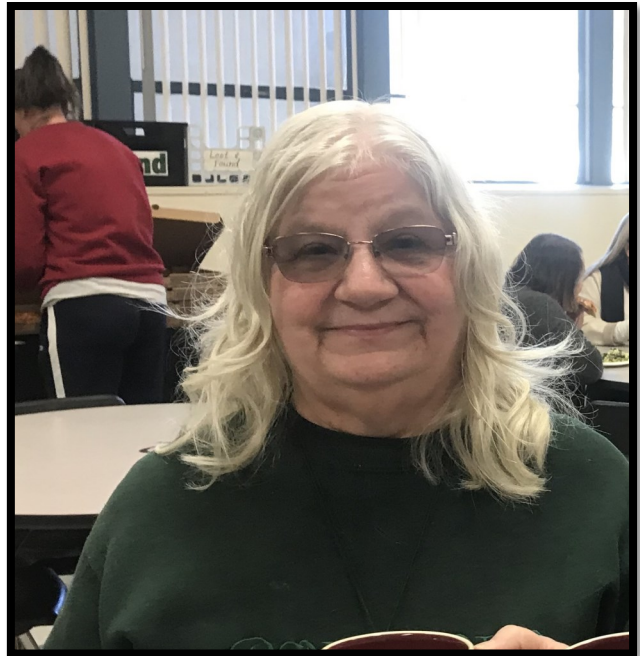


Lynn Parker, Crescenta Valley HS

I want to thank GTA for always looking out for teachers and students and Allen Freemon, in particular, for his support and guidance over the years. Stay strong and carry on.
Your hearts are in the right place.

Sherri Aiken, Fremont ES

It doesn't matter that I am retiring, I still feel for all the uncertain waters that are ahead for all.



Arline Milton, Wilson MS

June—August 2020

June 2020

- June 2 GUSD Board Meeting
- June 15 First Day Summer School
- June 16 GUSD Board Meeting
- June 23 GTA Rep Council
- June 30 Last Day EEELP 225 Day

July 2020

- July 1 First Day EEELP 225
- July 4 Independence Day—No School
- July 14 GUSD Board Meeting
- July 17 Last Day Summer School
- July 27 First Day Counselors

August 2020

- August 17 First Day Teachers
- August 11 GUSD Board Meeting
- August 19 First Day Students



Name or Address Change?

Please notify the GTA Office of any name, address or phone number changes. You may send in the form below to the GTA Office via school mail. GTA will update our records and notify CTA of any changes.

Name: _____

New Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email (Non-GUSD): _____

School Site: _____



Visit our website at www.glendaleteachers.org for bargaining updates, organizing news, forms and flyers, and pertinent information.

Follow us on Facebook [@glendaleteachers](https://www.facebook.com/glendaleteachers), on twitter [@glendaleGTA](https://twitter.com/glendaleGTA)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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