

Chapter Talking Points

October 25, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

UTLA Membership Drive

- At the Area Meeting on October 20, UTLA chapter leaders launched the first unionwide membership since our return to in person teaching. Over the last year and a half, thousands of new educators have been hired throughout LAUSD. There is no doubt that many of them are excited to be part of the dynamic union we have all built together. Of course, union membership does not go into effect automatically when a new educator is hired. They must fill out the UTLA membership application.

We know from experience that the highest rates of success with new member sign up come when a chapter leader asks a new educator directly to sign up. However, remote teaching and the challenges of pandemic social distancing has meant that most of these new members have not yet been asked. Most will sign up immediately, as educators know we are only able to improve our pay, benefits, working conditions and our students' learning conditions when we are united in our union.

That is why we are taking the next few weeks to focus specifically on signing up non- members in every chapter.

The first step for Chapter Chairs is to access your chapter email using the instructions and default password that were emailed to Chapter Chairs on October 14. (NOTE: The chapter email is only accessible by current UTLA Chapter Chairs).

Your chapter email will contain an updated chapter roster that you can use to identify which educators in your chapter should be asked to sign up for UTLA membership (their name is written in red ink and there is an empty box in the "member" column).

Educators can sign up easily on [this electronic membership application](#), no paper

necessary.

You can use [these talking points](#) to help with the conversation.

If you are meeting with a group of non-members over zoom you can use [this short PowerPoint presentation](#).

Be sure to emphasize the importance of contributing to PACE - it is how we fund our important political work including our campaigns to elect pro public education candidates to the LAUSD school board.

Building our membership is one of the core elements of strengthening our union and making sure that we have the power to win in our contract campaign and in enforcing our rights every day.

[Membership App Link](#)

[Membership recruitment talking points](#)

[Membership Drive PowerPoint presentation](#)

Recruit your Chapter Action Team (CAT)

- Chapter Action Teams (CATs) are committees of member leaders in each school / chapter who work with the Chapter Chair to make sure that every member is engaged in the union. CAT leaders take responsibility for communicating consistently with about 10 members in order to build a strong union chapter that can hold principals accountable at the school site and contribute to holding the district accountable through Area and Union-wide struggles like the contract campaign and the fight against the “Student Centered Funding” voucher scheme.
- Here is a link to the [CAT recruitment training](#) that you can review as you think about who you will recruit and how you will approach them.
- Submit the names of those who have committed to join the CAT at your school/chapter to the UTLA office on this form https://www.utla.net/sites/default/files/catformfillable_202122_final.pdf

Send in the Notice of Chapter Chair Election

- If you were the 2020-2021 Chapter Chair for your school or chapter, intend to continue as the chapter chair for the 2021-2022 school year, and are uncontested, you must submit a [Notice of Chapter Chair Election](#). There is no automatic extension of your assignment as chapter chair - you are required to submit the form via email to Princess Sykes at psykes@utla.net. You were informed by email if you have a contested or uncontested election.

If you are not intending to run, and no one from your chapter self-nominated in the nomination window, please share this announcement with others at your site so that a chapter chair can represent your school. It is important that we receive this form as soon as possible to complete the election process for your chapter and officially record the name of the 2021-2022 Chapter Chair.

[Notice of Chapter Chair Elections](#)

Talking points for chapter meetings

Progress towards a member-driven platform

- More than 530 chapters participated in identifying the Issues we want to include in our bargaining platform, making this our most inclusive, member-driven contract campaign to date. The UTLA Board of Directors will now use the member discussions and feedback to draft a bargaining platform. The proposed platform will be subject to an all-member vote *before* we start negotiations with LAUSD.

Ask a parent to the Reclaim Our Schools LA Town Hall in October

- The community coalition Reclaim Our Schools LA has been holding town hall meetings for parents, students, educators and community leaders to talk about everyone's vision for the future of Los Angeles schools as part of UTLA's development of a bargaining platform.

The last town hall meeting will be on October 30 and is for everyone who cares about public education in LA. This is a chance to talk about priorities for LA schools and about Common Good demands — the kind of demands that can uplift our communities and shape our students' lived realities. All UTLA educators are encouraged to attend and to invite parents at your school to join.

- **October 30, 10 am to noon:** East LA thru Mid-City, Hollywood, West LA

[Sign up for the October 30 Community Town Hall](#)

[Download Town Hall flyer in English](#)

[Download Town Hall flyer in Spanish](#)

Payment of 5% raise and stipends

- The recent bargaining agreement reached with LAUSD includes a permanent 5% pay increase for UTLA members (retroactive to July 2021) and \$2,500 in technology stipends.
- As of now, the district says that the stipends will be paid in December. The 5% pay increase will be reflected in the January paycheck, and the retroactive pay will be issued in a separate check in January. Timing subject to change, per LAUSD.

Join the Fight to Save Trinity Street Elementary

- This Wednesday, October 27, the Trinity Street Elementary community will be taking their fight to save their beloved neighborhood school to the Local District Central Superintendent's office, making their voices heard by delivering a petition signed by thousands of teachers, parents, community members, and students. In June, the Trinity community received notice that LAUSD was planning to permanently close the school and give the facilities to a charter school operator at the end of the 2021-22 school year.
- Trinity Street Elementary has been a hallmark of the community for 117 years and is the oldest and longest serving school in Local District Central. We cannot allow LAUSD to permanently close public schools in order to accommodate charter schools. If LAUSD succeeds in closing Trinity, any public LAUSD school could be next. Stand in solidarity with the Trinity community.

[Sign the Save Trinity Petition](#)
[Info on October 27 action](#)

UTLA calendar

Oct. 27: House of Representatives meeting

Oct. 28: UTLA/AFT Local 1021 General Membership Meeting

Nov. 3: Board of Directors meeting

Nov. 10: PACE/Elementary/Secondary meetings