

Chapter Talking Points

November 1, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

UTLA Membership Drive

- At the Area Meeting on October 20, UTLA chapter leaders launched the first unionwide membership drive 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

Next steps: Drafting a bargaining platform

- More than 530 UTLA chapters have held chapter meetings and filed reports on the issues members want to prioritize in bargaining with LAUSD in 2022, when our full contract expires. That's an unprecedented number of schools and worksites participating in a union-wide dialogue.

The UTLA Board of Directors will now use the member discussions— along with feedback from Reclaim Our Schools LA community townhalls and other input sessions — to draft a contract platform to invest in the authentic needs of educators, students, and families. The proposed platform will be subject to an all-member vote before we start negotiations — a vote that is a first for UTLA and how we will build the vision and the power to win in 2022.

Agreement on impact of vaccine requirement

- UTLA has reached a Memorandum of Understanding with LAUSD for members choosing not to comply with the district's vaccine mandate. Under the agreement, UTLA bargaining unit members choosing not to get vaccinated have the option of

resigning or retiring instead of being terminated. Members who take one of these options will also be able to maintain healthcare through December 31, 2021, and permanent members choosing to resign will have rehire rights for 39 months if they get vaccinated. This agreement doesn't abridge the right of a member to appeal their eventual termination if they prefer that option.

[MOU on Effects of LAUSD Vaccine Requirement](#)

Parents, educators, and students locked out as they attempt to deliver Save Trinity Elementary petition

- Chanting “No School Closures,” parents, educators, students, and community members from Trinity Street Elementary and neighboring public schools rallied in front of the offices of LAUSD’s Local District Central to demand that the district cease its plan to permanently close the school, which has served their South Central Los Angeles neighborhood for 117 years. The educators, students, and families attempted to deliver a petition to Local District Central Superintendent Frances Baez that now has more than 2,500 signatures from their community and neighboring schools, but the gates of the LAUSD offices, normally open to the public, were locked prior to their arrival.

LAUSD announced its intention to shutter Trinity after the 2021-22 school year, allowing Gabriella Charter to take over the school site. The district’s plan will displace more than 230 children enrolled at Trinity, after families have already suffered over a year of loss and instability during the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to disproportionately impact their community.

Neighboring schools were out in force at the action to show solidarity. “Lizarraga Elementary is right down the street from Trinity, and I am here today to tell LAUSD that Lizarraga and our neighboring schools stand with Trinity,” Lizarraga Vice Chapter Chair Sally Ortiz said. “We will not accept any plan that puts the desires of wealthy charter school board members over the needs of our students.”

- [Video: Community locked out of district office](#)
[Telemundo 52 on Trinity action \(Spanish\)](#)
[Estrella TV 62 on Trinity action \(Spanish\)](#)
[Sign the Save Trinity Petition](#)
-

UTLA calendar

Nov. 3: Board of Directors meeting

Nov. 10: PACE/Elementary/Secondary meetings

Dec. 1: Area meetings

Dec. 8: House of Representatives meeting