

Chapter Talking Points

November 29, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

Area meetings Wednesday, December 1

- Critical Area meeting this Wednesday: We will discuss the data from the Issue ID campaign and the draft bargaining platform that will be presented for a member vote early next year. Chapter Chairs will be providing feedback on the platform in the meeting before a final platform is produced. Your school or work site must be represented in this important meeting. Please be sure to attend or have someone representing your chapter.

NORTH- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=fa6eba0391](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=fa6eba0391)

SOUTH- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=9dca155ce3](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=9dca155ce3)

EAST- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=71e223865c](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=71e223865c)

WEST- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=d394a56587](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=d394a56587)

HARBOR- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=7fdd41aaa8](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=7fdd41aaa8)

VALLEY EAST- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=19582b7769](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=19582b7769)

VALLEY WEST- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=cfc26c5483](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=cfc26c5483)

CENTRAL- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=e8473b309d](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=e8473b309d)

ECE- [https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e= test email &u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=8d92303b29](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=e51f39a03d845e2cafae71eff&id=8d92303b29)

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 ChapterChairs 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

Talking points for chapter meetings

COVID safety protocols

- We continue to call on the district to delay any major changes to COVID testing protocols until we can assess the impact of holiday travel and the trajectory of the new variant.
- LAUSD has announced its intention to, starting January 10, test only unvaccinated students; allow students at all secondary schools and students at elementary schools where 85% of students are vaccinated to be maskless outside; and modify quarantine protocols for close contacts, which would allow more students to stay in their classrooms. Indoor mask requirements and the Daily Pass system would stay in place for all students and staff.
- In multiple meetings with LAUSD, we have stressed that the district is moving too quickly in the face of too many unknowns and that it is especially critical to conduct post-holiday baseline testing for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students.
- The district has not agreed to a delay, but they have expressed a willingness to look at the data on COVID positivity rates that they will get in December to see if Thanksgiving holiday travel had an impact on positive test rates. More information will be coming as that data comes in.

Make the Call to LD Central to Stand Up Against the Permanent Closure of Trinity Elementary!

- This week, the Trinity Elementary Community is continuing the fight to stop the permanent closure of its school. Please join Trinity educators and families today and [make a phone call to Local District Superintendent Frances Baez](#).
- More than 230 Trinity Street Elementary students will be displaced if LAUSD continues with its plan to close Trinity in the 2022-23 school year and hand the building to a private charter school. The community is fighting to protect the right of children in every community to receive academic, emotional, and mental support from a neighborhood public school.
- Over the past months, the Trinity Community has delivered thousands of your signatures to LAUSD Local District Superintendent Frances Baez, hundreds of community members have rallied in person at multiple events, parents and

educators have met with LAUSD Board members, and hundreds of community members have sent emails to Superintendent Baez. Over and over, we have delivered the same message: Keep Trinity Elementary open.

- Let's show LAUSD that the community is united against the permanent closure of Trinity Elementary, and that we won't back down until our students are guaranteed their school will stay open.
- Follow [THIS LINK](#) to enter your information and make an automatic phone call to Local District Central Superintendent Frances Baez telling her to not close Trinity!

[Link to call campaign with sample script](#)

[Read more about the Trinity struggle and sign the petition](#)

Update on Contract Platform Development

- Over the past several months, UTLA members have participated in over 530 school site chapter meetings; dozens of health and human services, Special Education, itinerant, and special categories meetings; and three regional community meetings organized by Reclaim Our Schools LA to identify the most important issues to address in our next contract campaign.
 - The platform will build off the historic wins of our 2019 strike and will be a statement of what UTLA members are committing to fight for, collectively, as we respond to both the COVID-19 pandemic and the historic neglect of our public schools, educators, and students.
 - The UTLA Board of Directors has met multiple times to review and discuss input from these meetings and has formed a draft bargaining platform that will be shared with chapter leaders for feedback at the December 1 UTLA Area meetings.
 - 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.
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UTLA calendar

Dec. 1: Area meetings

Dec. 8: House of Representatives meeting

Dec. 15: Board of Directors meeting

Dec. 20: Winter recess begins