

Chapter Talking Points

December 13, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

Citywide Chapter leader meeting Thursday, January 6

10am to 12pm - 2pm to 4pm - 6pm to 8pm

- On Thursday, January 6, Chapter leaders will meet to vote on endorsing the final draft of the bargaining platform, which will have been updated based on chapter leader feedback in the December Area meeting.

After the January 6 meeting and vote, Chapter Chairs will distribute and review the platform with members in preparation for an all-member ratification vote in February. It is imperative that you are present at this meeting to vote on the endorsement and so that members at your site are well informed and prepared prior to the final vote.

Save the January 6 date and make plans to attend or have someone representing your chapter. Three meetings have been set up for your convenience. You can choose to join either the 10 AM, 2 PM, or 6 PM meeting.

- **The meeting links are:**

10 AM to 12 NOON

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldu-trDgiHdeFY5qu9QDzrcO5fgSuBJGt](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldu-trDgiHdeFY5qu9QDzrcO5fgSuBJGt)

2 PM to 6 PM

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctc-yurzovGtXcbSi_xi_pYQDd_nUsW2UV](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctc-yurzovGtXcbSi_xi_pYQDd_nUsW2UV)

6 PM to 8 PM

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qde2pqz0sGtOOtCU4Y9OvZK95u14KxjzL](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qde2pqz0sGtOOtCU4Y9OvZK95u14KxjzL)

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, but union membership is not automatic, they must fill out the UTLA membership application.

We know from experience that the highest rate of success comes when a chapterleader asks a new educator directly to sign up. Most have not been asked and 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

Talking points for chapter meetings

Health & safety win: LAUSD agrees to keep current COVID testing in place for January

- LAUSD announced last week that it will continue COVID testing of all students and staff, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, through January. Last month, the district had said it was going to begin testing only unvaccinated students.

As UTLA members and leaders reiterated over multiple meetings with the district, it is both critical and logical to continue testing all students and staff to assess the impact of holiday travel and the trajectory of the new variant. We will continue to

monitor community infection rates and will call for testing to extend beyond January if needed.

Two other changes in protocol will go forward: Starting in January, students at schools where at least 85% of students are vaccinated can be maskless outside, and modified quarantine protocols will allow more students to remain in their classrooms. Indoor mask requirements and the Daily Pass system stay in place.

LAUSD to consider delaying student vaccine deadline

- LAUSD is considering delaying enforcement of the student COVID vaccine mandate until the 2022-23 school year.

More than 86% of eligible students have provided proof of vaccination — a solid achievement — but if the existing January 2021 deadline is enforced, more than 30,000 students would be unable to attend their physical school campuses beginning in January and would be automatically transferred to City of Angels. Extending the deadline would keep those students in their current classrooms and prevent widespread disruption to schools and master schedules across the district.

We continue to call on LAUSD to provide more effective access and education to increase vaccination numbers, including implementing a ground-game campaign to reach out one-on-one to unvaccinated students and their families. Vaccines remain our communities' best line of defense against COVID.

The School Board will be meeting on the student vaccine deadline on Tuesday.

LAUSD names Carvalho as next superintendent

- While we are learning more about newly named LAUSD superintendent Alberto Carvalho, we are ready to partner with anyone to uplift public education in Los Angeles. The real questions will be answered by how he engages with us on the platform of proposals that UTLA members and community allies have been working to develop to address the urgent needs of our schools. UTLA members will be voting to approve that platform as the basis for our bargaining proposals early next year.

At this pivotal moment for our schools, we know that any superintendent will be defined by how they stand up for public education and the needs of students, educators, and families, and whether or not they embrace Community Schools, expanded support for Special Education, the prioritization of student mental health, an authentic Black Student Achievement Plan, and other critical initiatives.

Equally, we know that any school leader who tries to push forward internal voucher schemes like Student-Centered Funding, promotes the failed market concept of “choice” as a path to equity, or threatens the closure of a neighborhood public school will be met with a swift and organized response by UTLA educators, students, and families.

UTLA opposes the recall campaign against LA City Councilman Mike Bonin

- The UTLA House of Representatives voted last week to oppose the recall of LA City Councilman Mike Bonin, citing that he has been one of the few elected officials who has advocated for humane treatment of homeless people. Bonin has promoted housing instead of criminalization of the unhoused. Allison Holdorff Polhill, who currently works for School Board member and privatizer's friend Nick Melvoin, plans to run against Bonin.

Be UTLA's voice at the AFT Convention in July 2022

- UTLA/AFT members will elect delegates at the virtual January 20 AFT 1021 General Membership Meeting at 6:00 p.m. to represent the union at the National Convention of the American Federation of Teachers in Boston, July 14 - 17.

At the convention, AFT members from around the country will gather to debate and vote on important resolutions and constitutional amendments. The biennial AFT convention is the most important policy-making body of the national federation.

All UTLA members are eligible to be elected delegates to this event; delegates who fulfill their official obligations will receive a stipend to cover a portion of their expenses. Interested members can fill out [this coupon](#) to nominate themselves. The coupon must be returned by January 12.

[UTLA/AFT Resources page](#)

UTLA/NEA – Representative Assembly Elections at the February 2 Area meetings

- A reminder to those who will register for a ballot by January 20 to vote in the UTLA/NEA RA Local Delegate election via Simply Voting. Voting will take place during the February 2 Area meetings between the hours of 4:00 - 5:30 pm. **Only members who register for a ballot by Thursday, January 20, will be eligible to vote in the election** (and in any runoffs, if necessary). Register for a ballot by January 20 at <https://www.utla.net/resources/nea-ra-elections>.

If you are not a chapter leader and would like to attend an Area meeting, please **contact your chapter chair after January 31 for the Zoom link. You are not required to attend an Area meeting to vote.**

Have a safe and happy holiday break and New Year

- Enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Be proud of the accomplishments in 2021: the negotiated rigorous standards of our safety protocols, our strength and flexibility returning to the classroom in less than optimal conditions and making it work, and our recent contract wins, to name a few. Come back rested and ready to face new challenges in 2022: full contract bargaining, winning School Board seats with the BOE elections, and defeating privatizer initiatives in the November 2022 ballot, among others.

UTLA calendar

Dec. 15: Board of Directors meeting

Dec. 20: Winter recess begins

Jan. 6: Citywide Chapter leader meeting