

# Chapter Talking Points

*March 7, 2022*

## Info for chapter leaders

### **Area meetings on Wednesday, March 16**

- Our next Area meetings will be on Wednesday, March 16. After the challenging but critical task of identifying and prioritizing our bargaining goals, it is now time to get ready for the fight that it will take to attain those goals. At the Area meeting, we will discuss the strategies and campaign of collective action which are essential to secure a win at the bargaining table. Be sure to attend this meeting or have someone representing your site.

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## **Solidarity videos for Minnesota educators**

- Educators in the Twin Cities have set a strike date of March 8. To show our support and solidarity, please make a short 10-15 second video of UTLA members at your site holding solidarity signs with messages such as "**The Time is Now in the Twin cities. Solidarity from UTLA**" or "**They are fighting for living wages, more mental health workers & counselors, caseload caps & smaller class sizes, better COVID safety, and policies to support & retain educators of color**" or your own solidarity slogan. Individual member videos are also welcome.

[Attached is a sign](#) that can be printed and used in the video.

**Upload videos here or text video to 213-712-3533.**

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

### **Nominations open for Chapter Chairs for 2022-2023**

- Now that our democratically developed bargaining goals in the [Beyond Recovery platform](#) have been approved, we shift toward the next phase: Turning those goals into formal contract proposals and building the campaign of collective action that it will take to achieve them.

**UTLA Chapter Chairs will have a critical role in organizing to win the Beyond Recovery platform through the upcoming contract campaign.** Chapter Chairs are the official representatives of UTLA members at school sites and serve as a vital link between the school and the broader union. In addition to keeping members apprised of union activities and policies and organizing school sites to action, Chapter Chairs also defend members' professional rights and help resolve conflicts with administration.

**[Self-nominations](#) are now open for site-based and [Special Category](#) Chapter Chairs for the 2022-2023 school year.** Any UTLA member in good standing can run for Chapter Chair; the deadline to self-nominate is April 8.

[Chapter Chair Election Info](#)

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### **No changes to indoor masking or testing in LAUSD**

- Last week, the state and county released updated masking guidance. In the coming days, masking will no longer be required by the state or county but will be *strongly recommended* for everyone in schools and childcare facilities.

**The indoor masking mandate for LAUSD students and employees will remain in place.** Any changes to the indoor masking mandate must be negotiated with UTLA.

Additionally, the district announced it will continue the weekly COVID testing program at this point, but may move to alter or reduce the program if COVID positivity rates continue to decrease.

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## **Minnesota educators are ready to strike for what their students need**

- Negotiations between the Minneapolis and St. Paul teachers' unions and their school districts have dragged on for months, and as soon as March 8, our union brothers, sisters, and siblings in Minnesota are prepared to strike for what their students need. Educators are fighting for living wages, more mental health workers and counselors, caseload caps and smaller class sizes, better COVID safety, and policies to support and retain educators of color.

While the superintendents push for austerity measures, educators say the districts shouldn't be making cuts because of historic state surpluses and the infusion of federal aid meant to address the pandemic. Despite district messaging to discourage supporting the strike, parents are on the side of educators.

"I think that teachers will always want the best for their students," said Molly Dengler, parent of a child attending a Minneapolis Public Schools Elementary school. "The strike is because they care about the welfare of students."

**[Upload a solidarity video](#)**

**[Donate to Minneapolis Strike Fund](#)**

**[Donate to St. Paul Strike Fund](#)**

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## **PERB to Charter: Bargain with Alliance educators**

- Last week, in a clear-cut decision, the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) announced that Alliance College-Ready charter schools are in violation of the Educational Employment Relations Act for refusing to bargain with Alliance educators.

A supermajority of educators at four Alliance charter schools voted

to unionize with UTLA three years ago. However, the schools' leadership has yet to meet with the educators to [bargain for their contract](#) and instead has conducted an intense anti-union campaign.

The [ruling](#) orders Alliance to cease and desist from refusing to recognize or negotiate in good faith and denying UTLA the right to represent its members.

Alliance is ordered to "recognize and upon request, bargain with UTLA as the exclusive representative of the employees in the certificated units and if an understanding is reached, reduce it to writing and sign it."

It is time for Alliance to finally stop their delay tactics and immediately agree to bargain with Alliance educators, who are seeking a voice to collectively advocate for the schools our students deserve.

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## **NEA – Representative Assembly STATE DELEGATE Elections during the March 21 UTLA/NEA Service Center Council Meeting**

- A reminder to those who will register for a ballot by March 15 to vote in the UTLA/NEA RA State Delegate election via Simply Voting. Voting will take place during the UTLA/NEA Service Center Council meeting between the hours of 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Only members who **register for a ballot by Tuesday, March 15**, will be eligible to vote in the election (and in any runoffs, if necessary).

**Register for a ballot by Tuesday, March 15**  
at <https://www.utla.net/resources/nea-ra-elections>

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## **UTLA calendar**

**March 9:** Citywide Steering Committee meeting

**March 16:** Area Meetings

**March 23:** House of Representatives meeting

**March 30:** Board of Directors meeting

### **Other union meetings**

**March 21:** UTLA NEA Service Center Council meeting

**March 23:** HHS Committee meeting

**April 21:** AFT 1021 Meeting