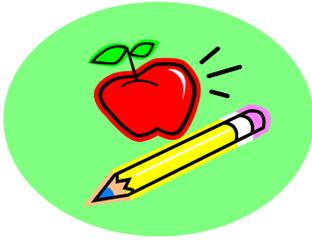


Volume 4 Issue 1

# TAL Newsletter August 2013



Teachers Association of Lancaster

## Welcome Back to School!



### President's Message

The 2013-2014 has begun and I hope everyone is off and running as we chase the elusive and sometimes confusing Common Core Standards. There is much to accomplish to improve our working conditions. One such goal is our newly formed Political Action Committee (PAC). Please have discussions at your site about the association contributing to this arm of TAL. It is especially important as school board elections quickly approach. I will be reaching out to members to volunteer to phone bank and walk precincts. We will update the TAL website ([www.talnewsonline.org](http://www.talnewsonline.org)) as soon as we know all of the candidates receiving associations' endorsements. We will also have an ample supply of voter registration forms if you need them for yourselves, parents, or neighbors.

I want to remind everyone again to be very careful what you post on social media sites. I absolutely feel that our lives outside of work should be private and are not anyone else's business; however, the truth is, they aren't private. Not when a friend of a friend can access your information. Or, that someone you considered a friend, would share your photos or sentiments with district personnel. There is just not an expectation of privacy on these sites. Never post photos of students, their work, or criticism of students or their parents. If you need to vent, talk to someone.

You will be receiving a hard copy of the new contract soon. Please take some time to look it over. All of the MOU's are included as well for your convenience. This is an enormous expenditure and we will not be able to replace lost copies. Please protect your contract.

Some good news: there will not be a charge this year for classroom refrigerators!!

Take care of yourself and one another!

~Gina

**Welcome back, teachers!** We are starting a new year, with new students and new challenges. Please know that your colleagues in the Association are here for you! I'm Dwight Young, and I'm the 2nd Vice President-Organizing for TAL. My job has two parts: I communicate the concerns of the members to TAL's Executive Board, and as our plans evolve, I bring forth those plans to the membership. Our union is only as strong as our members make it. Your involvement is key to our success!

The key to my success is communication with our unit members. I communicate in three ways: by direct e-mail to your HOME e-mail address, by our Face book page, and by our Twitter feed. Many members have already given me their home e-mail address, but if you haven't already, please send your HOME e-mail address to [nagmagnet@gmail.com](mailto:nagmagnet@gmail.com). Let me know what your name is and where you teach, and I will add you to the list. Next, "like" Teachers' Association of Lancaster on Facebook. Finally, follow @TAofLancaster on Twitter.

If you need to get hold of me for any reason, I am a third grade teacher at Miller Elementary. You can text me at 661-547-9939. If you have questions involving something you may need help from TAL to handle, you can also e-mail me at [nagmagnet@roadrunner.com](mailto:nagmagnet@roadrunner.com) Have a great year!

<b>2013-2014 Calendar</b>	<b>Rep Council Meetings</b>	<b>Exec Board Meetings</b>	<b>School Board Meetings</b>
August	8/27	8/13	8/6 and 8/30
September	9/14	9/10	9/3 and 9/17
October	10/29	10/8	10/1 and 10/15
November	11/19	11/5	11/5 and 11/19
December	12/17	12/10	12/3 and 12/17
January	1/21	1/14	1/7 and 1/21
February	2/15	2/11	2/4 and 2/18
March	No March Mtg.	3/11	3/4 and 3/18
April	4/29	4/8	4/1 and 4/15
May	No May Mtg.	5/13	5/6 and 5/20
June	6/3		6/3 and 6/17

**NEA Representative Assembly**

This year's Representative Assembly, or RA, was held in Atlanta, Georgia, from June 30 through July 6. I was elected to serve as a California state delegate by teachers from Lancaster, and from all the other districts in the High Desert area as well. Seven of us were elected, and along with others sent by their local chapters, we joined the other 1000 or so teachers from all over California who represented CTA in Atlanta. California has, by far, the largest delegation of all the states. We then joined with the other 9,000 teachers from all over the United States and our Federal Schools in overseas locations on the floor of the RA to discuss and debate how our national union will move forward and continue to serve the needs of American teachers. Spirited discussions were had on many issues, but in particular, members urged the union to continue to take a strong stand against the use of standardized tests as a measure of teacher performance and proficiency. This was a special cause for concern given that so many states are adopting the Common Core State Standards, and along with them a whole new set of assessment tools. While I have heard from the developers of those assessments that they are not appropriate for measuring teacher performance, nor are they meant for that purpose, there is very real concern that state legislatures and boards of education will ignore that advice. Given our experience with NCLB and Arne Duncan's misguided Race to the Top, you can bet we will be watching these developments closely and keeping our members informed about the implications of legislation and state board policy.

**2012-2013 Grievance Team Site Coverage**

**Bertha D'Agostino- bad1995@roadrunner.com.**

Amargosa  
Jack Northrop  
Linda Verde Center  
Miller  
Sunnydale

**Kym Hickman- delkym@att.net**

Puite  
Desert View  
Discovery  
Lincoln  
Linda Verde

**Tina Diaz—alexisszach@sbglobal.net**

**Wendy Clark - tricyko@yahoo.com**

Endeavor  
Crossroads  
Mariposa  
Joshua  
Nancy Cory

**Edith Turriza- eturriza@yahoo.com**

New Vista  
El Dorado  
Monte Vista  
Sierra

West Wind and Special EdRSP

**Early Childhood Education-** Dues paying TAL members contact Grievance rep that covers the site you are at.