



ALVORD EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

THE PODIUM



ISSUE 7 MAY 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I sit writing this last message for the year, the election results are now known and I am humbled and proud of the support from you. I am incredibly proud of the trust and support the results show for your Executive Board and by extension, your Bargaining Team. Our focus and pledge has been to be honest, truthful and do what we believe is right and that you would know you could trust us. We will never veer from this vision!

My pledge to all of you is that I will work to fairly and equally represent you. I promise that I will work hard to make you proud of AEA. I know that not everyone will always agree or understand all that we do, but I will discuss issues with you and be honest about them. Feel free to contact me by phone or email anytime.

You will receive this after the last Board demonstration of the year. We continue to stick to our fair and reasonable salary offer and to push for a settlement. I have been awestruck at the demonstrations around the country by our fellow educators. There really is a movement afoot to focus on educators and the jobs we do. As I said in a recent message, we are tired of not being given all that we need to do our jobs and a professional salary commensurate with our education and experience. If the strikes and demonstrations are any indication, the tide is turning for governmental leaders to focus on our students and educators. Here's hoping that the Alvord School Board gets the message!

Have a great summer break and be sure to give your home email address to your site reps so that they can keep you updated on our negotiations progress.

Thank you again for your support ,

Leigh



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 5/17 | AUSD Board Meeting— We need you there! |
| 5/28 | Memorial Day Holiday |
| 6/7 | Last Day for All Students |
| 6/8 | Teacher Work Day—No Students |
| 6/14 | AUSD Board Meeting |

TONY THURMOND'S PLAN TO MAKE CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS THE BEST IN THE NATION

Edited from CTA, March 23, 2018

Public schools saved my life.

I was born in Monterey at Fort Ord military base. My father was a soldier in the Vietnam War, who didn't return to our family after the war. I met him for the first time when I was 39 years old...He told me that the physical and mental scars of war made it too hard for him to return to his family.

My mom was an immigrant from Panama who came to San Jose, California to be a teacher. She raised four children by herself until she lost her battle to cancer when I was six years old. After she passed, I moved to Philadelphia to live with a cousin who raised my brother and me as her sons.

Growing up in a low-income household, we struggled at times...Despite it all, this amazing woman who raised me provided the love we needed and made sure we got a great public education. That education led me to a public university... [and] set me on the path to have a 20-year career as a social worker, and to work for 12 years in education, running after-school programs and teaching life skills, civics, and career training.

In my life, education has been the great equalizer that allowed me to overcome humble beginnings. I want the same opportunities for all of California's kids. **I'm running for Superintendent of Public Instruction** because I believe that every California child should get the education they need to realize their potential.

My plan for making California's public schools #1 in the country includes:

- Keeping our students safe from gun violence in schools
- Prioritizing funding to provide schools and educators with the resources they need
- Leading the fight against Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos's efforts to privatize our public education system
- Increasing transparency in public education funding
- Ensuring accountability for charter schools
- Creating a 21st Century curriculum focused on STEM education that will prepare our students for jobs of the future
- Supporting English Learners and bilingual education
- Renewing our commitment to special education for students of all abilities
- Creating inclusive schools that protect LGBTQ students from bullying
- Empowering teachers to instill critical thinking and creativity in students, not just teach to the test
- Addressing the teacher shortage by removing barriers to entry and improving affordability
- Prioritizing early education and after-school programs to close the achievement gap
- Providing school-based physical and mental health services for all students, regardless of income or immigration sta-



**CA PRIMARY IS JUNE 5
YOUR VOTE IS YOUR
VOICE**

What Will Our Future Hold? Thoughts from one member to another.

By Natasha Hutson Kohls
The Podium Editor



It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.

These words ring true right now as we reflect on where

we have been, where we are, and where we may be headed as an association, as a union.

Teachers all over this country are banding together, united, to fight for respect and compensation for the work they do and *are winning these battles*. Why? They are acting as one body of professionals with a clear message.

Adversity can bring out the best and worst in people. It is evident that our district has been surrounded with chaos and negativity and yet within the walls of our classrooms, we continue to go about our business: educating the students of Alvord Unified School District. Changes

in district personnel, bargaining conflicts, board members' activities, budget discrepancies and association elections are just some of the issues which are stirring the cloud of dust, yet each day the teaching and learning continues because it is what we do.

But now is the time to truly consider if your job has been made easier or more challenging over the past eight years and to use this answer to motivate your own actions.

- * Do you have more or less money to spend in your classroom?
- * Do you have more or less time to collaborate and plan?
- * Do you have greater or fewer resources available to you in your classroom?
- * Do your students have more or less access to counselors?
- * Do you have greater or fewer out-of-pocket expenses for your benefits?
- * Are you class sizes less or more manageable?

- * Are you compensated for more or fewer extra duty assignments?

Times do change, but does that mean we need everything to change too? Among teachers a notion may exist that what we have now cannot be rolled back; that what AEA has fought for over the years is somehow etched in stone. This is not the case and we shouldn't take anything for granted.

When people call out for change, it is crucial to contemplate what change this might be and who indeed will benefit from it. Let's consider what we want as a profession and if the road we were on was getting us there. Is it best to jump the hurdles along the path together, united, or to suddenly switch course?

This message arrives after AEA elections conclude, our next chapter decided. May the end of 2017-2018 school year end with AEA membership strong and ready and move ahead with optimism towards 2018-2019.

AEA ISSUES \$10,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO 2018 GRADUATES

William Bryson	Alvord Alternative CHS	\$500	Naomi Garcia	La Sierra	\$1,000	Loc Tran	La Sierra	\$500
Michelle Cardona	La Sierra	\$250	Harkirat Kaur	Norte Vista	\$1,000	Gina Tran	Norte Vista	\$250
Connor Chappell	Norte Vista	\$250	Nicholas Lawson	Hillcrest	\$500	Georgina Velasco	Norte Vista	\$250
Vanessa Curry	Norte Vista	\$250	Alyssa Manhart	Santiago	\$250	Cameron Vollmer	Hillcrest	\$1,000
Nadine Dubon	Vista Murrieta	\$500	Sophia Mourad	Hillcrest	\$250	Anai Washington	Norco	\$1,000
Bradley Eppinger	Riverside Poly	\$250	Hannah Munyer	Hillcrest	\$500			
Sandra Espinoza	La Sierra	\$250	Pablo Ramirez	Norte Vista	\$250			
Brody Ferguson	Hillcrest	\$250	Andrea Ramos	La Sierra	\$250			
			Stephanie Rodriguez	Norte Vista	\$500			



ANTHEM BLUE CROSS MEMBERS: DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know, effective March 31, 2018, at 12:00 am, Universal Health Services (UHS) terminated their contract with Anthem Blue Cross? Universal Health Services includes hospital facilities in the immediate area as follows:

UHS Hospital/Facility	Alternative Anthem Network Hospitals/Facilities
Corona Regional Medical Center	Chapman Global Medical Center— Orange, CA Health Bridge Children’s Hospital— Orange, CA Parkview Community Hospital— Riverside, CA Placentia Linda Hospital— Placentia, CA Riverside Community Hospital— Riverside, CA San Antonio Regional Hospital— Upland, CA
Southwest Healthcare System: Rancho Springs Medical Center— Murrieta, CA Inland Valley Medical Center— Wildomar, CA	Loma Linda University Medical Center— Murrieta, CA Menifee Valley Medical Center— Sun City, CA
Temecula Valley Hospital	Hemet Valley Medical Center— Hemet, CA Loma Linda University Medical Center— Murrieta, CA Menifee Valley Medical Center— Sun City, CA Palomar Medical Center— Escondido, CA Palomar Health Downtown Campus— Escondido, CA

WAYS TO RELAX AND GROW THIS SUMMER

1. Attend a professional conference... in Napa!

PBL World 2018, June 19-21

American Canyon High School, Napa Valley. PBL World, hosted by the nonprofit Buck Institute for Education, is the premier conference for Project Based Learning. Pblworld.org

2. Read for pleasure!

Look through one of the many book lists available online or floating around social media (Best Beach Books for 2018, 100 Books Everyone Should Read, New York Times Best Sellers, etc) and read for fun.

3. Take an educational road trip with the family.

The Homeschool Mom has a terrific and thorough list of trips around California which can inspire lessons for your classroom or benefit your own kids. <https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/homeschooling-in-california/field-trips/>

4. Make a *Two Do List*, Not a *To Do List*.

Pick one professional and one personal goal you felt you couldn’t accomplish during the busy school year and make them happen over the summer. Instead of getting bogged down with a long list of chores, select two things which cannot get done without a good chunk of free time and make them the priority during the break.

