



ALVORD EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

THE PODIUM



ISSUE 3 OCTOBER 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this issue of The Podium comes to you, we are pleased the tentative salary agreement was finally reached with the District. It has been a long fought battle and while we don't see it as a "great" settlement, we believe it is a fair one for the current financial state of the District. I am proud of our Bargaining Team and our Association. I believe we have established a good path for future negotiations and a more cooperative environment.

I also will have completed all of my site visits by the time you are reading this issue. It has been great to get out to the sites again, and I hope to plan several more visits this year. One thing that became very clear on my visits was the desire by all of you to get past the turmoil and to just have the focus back on the students and your hard work. I had several interesting conversations regarding our District and the state of affairs. One such discussion centered around the concern that the public would think less of us because we were fighting for higher wages. I was a bit taken aback by the view that a teacher felt "guilty" about earning a professional wage and that in some way they would have to "explain their salary to a parent making so much less." I responded by saying that we do not have to apologize for the salaries we make and that in almost every state in the country, the parents were the first to support the teachers in their fight for a professional salary. With the education and experience we have, the lives we shape every day and our responsibilities, our salaries don't begin to compensate us fully.

We all know why we went into education and what we endure in order to remain in the profession. At the very least, we should have a salary that rewards us for the meaningful and impactful work we do everyday. It does not make it less meaningful nor significant.

I look forward to seeing all of you again on my visits.

Leigh



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/1	AUSD Board Meeting	7 p.m.
11/7	Exec. Board Meeting	4 p.m.
11/12	Veteran's Day holiday	
11/14	Rep. Council Meeting	4 p.m.
11/15	AUSD Board Meeting	7 p.m.
11/19-23	Thanksgiving Break	



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Comments, articles and letters to the editor are welcome. Please direct to: aeaneewsletter@aol.com

News from AEA

AEA Exec Board Opening is Now Filled

- Sherika Larkins is the newly elected member of the Executive Board as Middle School Director. Thank you to her opponent Rick Moore and congratulations to Sherika.

Contract Ratification Vote Is On Its Way

- Site Reps will need your participation in a vote to ratify the newly-settled salary agreement between AEA and Alvord USD. Voting will take place from October 31 through November 7. Please see your Site Reps for more details.

MLK Essay and Poster Contest Needs Participants

- The Martin Luther King Essay and Poster Contest deadline is Monday, December 3. All entries must be received by 4:00 pm at the AEA office. Teachers are encouraged to support their students in their efforts to participate in this annual contest. It can be used to teach English and Social Studies standards and promote goal setting.

Thank You AEA Bargaining Team

***Mike Kolonics
Stephanie Weber
Bert Eckelhofer
Aaron Huntington***

For Your Time
For Your Stress
For Your Confidence
For Your Perseverance

The AEA Members appreciate the hard work you have done over these many months.

You served us well. You did us proud!

We all are grateful for your commitment to our union.

**Job
well
done!**

MLK Teaching Resources

From NEA, Classroom Resources for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Grades K-5, "Lesson Plans, Activity Ideas & Other Resources for Teaching MLK Day" By Phil Nast
<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/mlk-day-gradesK-5.html>

From the National Park Service, The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Legacy of Racial and Social Justice: A Curriculum for Empowerment
<https://www.nps.gov/malu/learn/education/lessonplansandteacherguides.htm>

From The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University, Liberation Curriculum Lesson Plans
<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/liberation-curriculum/lesson-plans>

From PBS, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech as a work of literature
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons-plans/i-have-a-dream-as-a-work-of-literature-martin-luther-king-jr/>

FROM NEA

WHAT IS RED FOR ED?

When we think about the promise of education today, we see the future leaders of our nation and the qualified educators who reach, teach and inspire them. We see classrooms with modern tools that help students prepare to make an impact on the world. We see students getting the support they need to thrive and educators having the support they need to serve.

We see progress and hope.

But today we also see budgets being cut, overcrowded classrooms and outdated materials. We see educators working around the clock to make a difference in the lives of their students and standing up to lawmakers to ask for better pay and school funding. We're raising our voices together for our students, for our schools and for ourselves as educators.

#RedForEd #WeAreCTA

Fighting for Our Students

Budget cuts and underfunding have made it harder for educators to prepare their students. Our students deserve better, and so do we. That's why we push public officials to make funding decisions that better account for school needs.

Upholding Our Value

Students benefit from educators who know them by name, know their community and have a say in the policies that govern their schools. We must ensure that talented educators can afford to stay in the profession they love.

Advocating for Change

CTA and NEA gives educators a voice to advocate for the better pay, benefits and working conditions that have long been ignored. We deserve, and have earned, pay and benefits that match our expertise, education and professional experience.

#OUTOFMYPOCKET

This year, educators are reaching further into their own pockets to make sure their classrooms have all the supplies students need.



DID YOU KNOW?

1 out of 5	71%	16%
educators must take another job to make ends meet.	of people think teachers are not paid enough.	less funding goes to districts with the highest poverty.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?



The “thankful” time of year is fast approaching. There will be many symbols of thanks and gratitude online and at shopping malls. But before all of that comes undone in one very ungrateful day known as Black Friday, I encourage all teachers to take a moment to write a Letter of Gratitude to someone in your life who deserves special recognition.

This can also be an excellent writing assignment for our students. Scholastic has a lesson plan and reproducible organizers aimed at grades 3-5 at www.scholastic.com/teachers/sponsored-content/USPS/writing-letters-of-gratitude/.

An adaptable lesson “What is Gratitude?” can be found at <https://heartmindonline.org/resources/lesson-plan-what-is-gratitude>.

Teacher Hub offer many ideas on teaching students about appreciation and gratitude including letter writing, Gratitude Check-In and a Gratitude Jar. For the complete list of ideas and more useful resources visit “Teaching Strategies: The Power of Appreciation” by Janelle Fox at <http://www.teachhub.com/teaching-strategies-power-appreciation>.

Here’s my own Letter of Gratitude--

Dear Alvord Family,

Thank you to the staff at Loma Vista Middle School. When I arrived on my first day in 2001, I was so lost that I tried to enter the school through the kitchen. The kind people of that school never let me make the same mistake twice. I survived my indoctrination as a teacher because of so many people who refused to let me fail.

To the members of my first PLC, I thank you too. There was more laughter during data analysis than seemed possible and I also found my witnesses for my wedding here too. You have my gratitude for showing me that teaching is actually a team sport.

To all the counselors I encountered who ended up counseling me under the pretense of needing help for my students, please know that I appreciate you.

Big thanks to all custodians who had to suffer through the messes and sugar highs of one of my many class parties and for the countless other ways you work to make our schools beautiful and safe. I hope you at least enjoyed the food.

A shout out of gratitude to my alternative education brothers and sisters. Nobody else really understands what we do. Let’s keep it that way.

Thank you to every teacher who took one of my students for a class period to help me maintain sanity and dignity.

Thanks to every union bargaining team member and union president for doing all the work I wouldn’t want to do and yet of which I love to reap the benefits. I appreciate you making my professional life better in every possible way.

Thanks to administrators who guided, supported and treated me with fairness and respect.

Thanks to my students who never stop teaching me and allow me to earn the title of teacher each day.

To every teacher, be grateful for what we have, but don’t ever believe that you don’t deserve it. This is a hard job and supporting our family is tough work too. Don’t feel guilty for your salary, just keep working hard to earn it.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Natasha Kohls

The Podium Editor