

# The TORRANCE TEACHER

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1619 CRAVENS AVENUE, TORRANCE, CA 90501 (310) 320-8200 [www.torranceteachers.org](http://www.torranceteachers.org)  
March 27, 2026

## We Honor Ours

### WHO Award Nominees and Winner Named

The Torrance Teachers Association named the WHO Award nominees and winner this past week. The WHO Award, which stand for We Honor Ours, is an annual recognition awarded to members for their service to the local Association. The nominations come from rank and file members who want to honor the hard work of their colleagues on behalf of all TTA's bargaining unit members.

This year's **nominees are Sara Aloteibi (SHS), Dena Ludwig (JMS), and Kimberly Schultz (ATP/SLP).**

Sara Aloteibi is the South High School Director on the TTA Executive Board. She was elected to that position in May 2024. Prior to that, she served as a Site Representative. Sara has been teaching math for 16 years, and she currently co-chairs the Competitive Compensation Committee and works diligently on collecting and analyzing TUSD financial information. One member said of her, "Sara has been an inspiration to the TTA members at West High. She has worked tirelessly to crunch numbers regarding how TUSD financial management is so poor." She also serves on the Organizing and Communications Committees. TTA honors Sara for her hard work on behalf of the Association.

Dena Ludwig is a 25-year veteran of TUSD. She began serving on the TTA Executive Board four years ago, first as a Middle School Director, and currently as TTA Treasurer. She also chairs two committees, the TTA Finance Committee and the TTA Special Education Action Committee. Dena also serves on the Safety Committee, School Board Liaison Program, and on the Grievance Committee. She is a dedicated and vocal advocate for all members, especially those who traditionally have fallen under the radar. One member said of her, "Dena works tirelessly with the special education providers, which include teachers, speech/language pathologists, and psychologists. Dena is a dedicated steward of TTA's finances. She works to make the budgeting process clearer and more efficient. Dena's innovative ideas will ensure that TTA's resources are used to the maximum effect in service to members." TTA honors Dena for her incessant work on behalf of the Association.

Kimberly Schultz is a Site Representative who has doggedly served on the TTA Special Education Action Committee and as an advocate for the Adult Transition Program (ATP) and the speech/language pathologists. She is a 26-year veteran of the classroom here in TUSD. Kimberly has answered the invitation to leadership by stepping up to ensure that the voices of her programs are heard. She worked diligently to organize ATP, a site that went from having no members to 100% membership. She has continually educated Association leadership on the needs of special education programs in the district. One member said, "Kim has been instrumental in giving a voice to members who traditionally feel unseen and underrepresented. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. We appreciate Kim for helping us to find our power."

**This year's local WHO winner is Dena Ludwig.** She will represent TTA at a CTA celebration of WHO winners on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Universal City Sheraton.

## Negotiations Are Underway

The TTA Negotiations Team has met with the TUSD Team twice now. The Negotiations Update and Video Update were posted and sent out via eblast last week. The key takeaways from the first two sessions are:

1. A handful of wins for both sides with agreement on three years of calendar (27-28, 28-29, 29-30) and other language pieces updating the recognitions article and agreeing to maintenance of agreed upon contract standards.
2. Differences were contentious. The District refused to help even on minor issues, like providing release time for the TTA team to work on proposals or ensuring the TTA team had adequate office supplies at the meeting site.
3. TUSD, led by Julio Hernandez, was busy exerting their power and control—even to the point of hiring lawyers to write their language for them and then deferring to the lawyer's schedule to come present their proposal. TTA made record of our dissent to bringing lawyers to the table because it moves us further away from any attempt at working together in an interest based way.
4. TUSD's proposals have been about you doing more work and them doing the bare minimum required by law.
5. TUSD is trying to lengthen workdays for some members without extra pay for that extra work.
6. TUSD is all about management rights and not solving employee issues.
7. TUSD has rejected two proposals saying they don't like the format because it is too difficult for them to read. They refused to ask questions or make a counter. They just rejected the proposals outright.
8. TUSD wants to finish this bargain this year—meaning they want us to leave your issues behind in order to secure a bargain more quickly.

What can you do to support the team? Keep shirting up and showing up! The next school board meeting is Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Wear your TTA Blue every Thursday. Read the Negotiations Updates. And participate in any surveys or member feedback forms TTA sends out. For example, at THS, knowing that Dr. Egan and Dr. Stowe were making visits to their site, many members decided to wear blue to make a silent, visual statement despite it not being a Thursday. At Walteria, the members continue to picket on Thursday mornings and talk with parents about our classroom needs. Several school sites have started sharing their Blue Thursday pictures so we can highlight them in our messaging. Continue to do so. We will celebrate our wins, but we will call out our struggles at the table. You can find our Negotiations Update [HERE](#).

# TTA Spring Election

## Initial Candidate Slate Is Set

Fourteen of the 16 TTA Executive Board seats are up for election this spring. The election timeline and declarations of candidacy have been available since early February. The below candidates have declared for TTA Executive Board seats by the March 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. At the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Representative Council meeting, the final slates will be set by taking nominations from the floor. An election will be held for the three executive officer seats, any contested seat, and any seat where the ballot has not been waived by the Rep Council. The election will be held May 12-15<sup>th</sup>. For more election timeline information, visit [HERE](#) on the TTA website. If you are interested in being nominated from the floor for any seat, contact Elections Chair Lisa Hamilton for information at [lisa.hamilton.tta@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.hamilton.tta@gmail.com).

TTA uses the CTA alphabetical order for elections. The CTA alphabetical order for 2025-2026 shall be:

**P V Q K H C N Y W E M B R Z O X F S L U G D J T I A**

In the event that the last name of more than one candidate begins with the same letter or more than one candidate has the same last name, the CTA alphabetical order shall continue to be applied throughout the name, including the first name.

Officers	Candidate(s)
President	Carlos Anwandter (Torrance High)
Vice President	Amy Irwin (Bert Lynn Middle School)
Treasurer	Dena Ludwig (Jefferson Middle School)
North High Director	Isabelle Martinez
South High Director	VACANT
Torrance High Director	Ken Johnston
West High Director	Mark Pesusich
Middle School Directors (two elected at-large)	Maribeth Borowski Shawna Leader
Central Area Elementary Director	Amanda Leyland
North Area Elementary Director	America Moreno
South Area Elementary Director	VACANT
West Area Elementary Director	VACANT
At-Large Director	Patricia Jackson

## Quick Hits

**TTA and CTA Scholarships Available:** [Scholarships, Grants, and Awards - California Teachers Association](#) CTA is offering scholarships for members and members’ dependent children. Visit the CTA website for more information about due dates. TTA Scholarships for dependent children are also available. **Forms are due on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, no later than 5:00 PM.** Contact the TTA office for more information. Learn more about the scholarships and find the forms online at <https://torranceteachers.org/scholarships/>.

**School Board Seat Vacated:** Jasmine Park, the TUSD Trustee for Area B, resigned at the end of the February 17<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting. The District now has 60 days to fill her seat with an interim trustee or hold an election. Upon Mrs. Park’s announcement the Board of Education indicated that they would follow the same process that they did to fill Trustee Jeremy Gerson’s seat when he resigned from the Board due to being elected to the Torrance City Council in 2024. That process included citizens from the trustee area applying for consideration and the Board of Education appointing from the pool of interim candidates. The applications for interim candidates are due on March 27<sup>th</sup> no later than 4:00 PM. For more information, visit the TUSD website [HERE](#).

**The Standard Disability Insurance Special Enrollment Opportunity:** The Standard, CTA’s recommended Disability and Life Insurance company, is hosting a special enrollment opportunity for TTA members. Between March 15- May 15, 2026, TTA members can sign up for The Standard with no health questions asked if the minimum number of participants enroll (46 members are needed). The Standard’s CTA endorsed Disability insurance replaces up to 80% of your pay if you are unable to work due to illness, injury, pregnancy, or childbirth. They provide coverage for disabilities that occur on and off the job and have additional benefits for student loans, cancer, and summer. If you don’t know whether you have disability insurance, you can check on your pay warrant or call the TUSD benefits office. You would either have American Fidelity or The Standard or neither. You should not have both as you can only have one disability insurer.

# TTA Board of Education Solidarity Roll Call

TTA members are encouraged to attend all the school board meetings for the remainder of the school year. To assist with ensuring that our members' voices are heard during the upcoming negotiations, TTA leaders have asked for schools to sign up for dates to attend. This list will be updated after Rep Council on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome even if your school hasn't signed up yet or if your school hasn't signed up on that specific night. Any and all members are encouraged to shirt up, show up, and speak up.

- You can also volunteer to SPEAK if you want. Talk to a TTA leader for more information and/or talking points.

<b>April 20</b>
School 1: Arlington Elementary School
School 2: Yukon Elementary School
School 3: West High School
<b>May 18</b>
School 1: West High School


- Bring at least 5 TTA members from your site with you
- Wear your BLUE SHIRTS
- Meet at the EMB at 6:15 PM (Solidarity Tailgates will be in the parking lot of each meeting)
- Sit in the Boardroom with your TTA colleagues and watch the meeting




## WHY BLUE THURSDAY?

It MEANS you are showing your advocacy, unity, and strength as a TTA member!


It MATTERS because:




**It shows SILENT UNITY, especially to my colleagues who need it.**



**It shows others that educators are TOGETHER and support each other.**



**It shows my administrators that I stand in SUPPORT of my colleagues.**



**It shows everyone if you stand together we continue to MAKE a DIFFERENCE.**

# Send Me A TTA Shirt!



Show your TTA unity and **Support Blue Thursdays** with a new TTA Polo, Long / Short Sleeve T, or Sweatshirt! These high quality shirts are available in a beautiful blue adorned with the TTA logo (see above). Polo and Sweat shirt are embroidered on the front and long / short sleeve T's screened on front pocket and on the back. **Pre Order Yours Today!** Send this form along with your check or stop by the TTA office. Make checks payable to Torrance Teachers Association. For more cool TTA merchandise check out the TTA Store on our web site at [www.torranceteachers.org](http://www.torranceteachers.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Site \_\_\_\_\_

**POLO \$30.00**

Men's Size (circle one):	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large
Ladies Size (circle one):	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large

**LONG SLEEVE T \$15.00**

Size (circle one):      Small      Medium      Large      X-Large      XX-Large

**T-SHIRT \$12.00**

Men's Size (circle one):	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large
Ladies Size (circle one):	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large

**SWEATSHIRT \$20.00**

Size (circle one):      Small      Medium      Large      X-Large      XX-Large

*Make your check payable to Torrance Teachers Association. Order forms can be dropped off or sent via district mail to the TTA office ~ 1619 Cravens, Torrance 90501*



## Luau Promotes Labor Unity

On Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Torrance Labor Alliance partners held a unity Labor Luau. Members from all four locals attended the event, including several from TTA sites representing TK to Adult Education. TTA, CSEA 19, CSEA 845, and SEIU 99 leaders saw many positives from the event and are planning future events that include family, food, fun, and games as we stand together for our schools!

**POSTER MAKING**  
FOR THE APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

**APRIL 16**  
EVENT STARTS AT 4PM  
TTA OFFICE  
1619 CRAVENS AVE.

**SHIRT UP! SHOW UP!**

**LABOR BOE RALLY**

TTA and our labor partners are asking members to show support for the bargaining by attending the April 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting at 6:30 PM.

We will rally for one hour and support any members who wish to share their stories.

A poster-making party will be held at the TTA office on April 16<sup>th</sup> for those who want to create posters for the rally. There will be chants, cheers, music, and shared experiences. Come and add your voice, because our voice is our power!

