

LVEA TODAY



Thanks for a great 2017-18!

Thanks to ALL employees for another great school year! Your leadership team has worked very hard all year to uphold your rights and we couldn't do it without our awesome LVEA site reps – they have been incredible in so many ways this year! Yes, there has been a big emphasis on Student 360 this school year but your site reps have worked hard to ensure that Employee 360 is important as well! As we visited all of the sites in LVUSD, we saw tons of creative and courageous efforts to make our district the best learning environment for all students! You may not hear it enough, but your efforts are deeply appreciated and we look forward to continued progress in 2018-19!

Thanks also for the years of contributions by our certificated, administrative and classified employees that have decided to retire. Specifically, the following ten certificated employees that have chosen to retire and start the next chapter of their life: Sharlene Church, Barbara Fitzer, Alice Garcia, Patti Harris, Shari Keba, Bunny Peoples, Phyllis Ratenberg, Patricia Roth, Kim Wildman and Donna Woodlock-Watts. Thanks to all of you and good luck with your future plans!

LVEA Awards

Each June, LVEA presents two awards: the Roberta Consani Distinguished Member Award and the Sandi Pope Friend of Education Award. This year's Distinguished Member is Susan Levy of Chaparral. Sue has been an active certificated advocate for the Chaparral staff and districtwide leader on our Executive Board as our Elementary School Liaison. Sue is a go-to person for reasoned and articulate advice when we're strategizing on how to proceed with any issue at her site or our district. This year's Friend of Education goes to two awesome advocates of education: Jacqui Irwin, our local assembly member (44th Assembly District), and Henry Stern, our local senator (Senate District 27). Both support increased educational funding, improved employee rights, and are welcome faces when we share districtwide concerns and our need for more help from the state. Congratulations!

LVEA Executive Board

Craig Hochhaus, President
LasVirgenesEA@gmail.com
(805) 402-7347

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Joanne Kress, White Oak, Bargaining Chair

Jake Anderson, CTA Staff
janderson@cta.org
(818) 309-7206

Las Virgenes Educators Association

100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, #124
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(P) (805) 497-8220
(F) (805) 497-1458
(W) www.lveateachers.com



All Pink Slips Have Been Rescinded!

LVEA is thrilled that all 18 employees who received a pink slip will be returning in 2018-19. That's right – all of them! Nicholas Jaskolka, a popular AE Wright Physical Education teacher, is coming back at 60% as of now but we hope that will increase to 100% by this August. All others are coming back at 100%. LVEA and LVUSD worked jointly to create and execute a creative plan to bring everyone back. LVEA felt it was *strategic* to fight for all of them! This was the right thing to do, from a humanistic and financial perspective, and for the future of LVUSD. Our newest employees will continue to positively influence our students for years to come! LVEA thanks the district for its collaborative efforts to bring them back.

That said...LVEA remains firm that this lay-off process could have been avoided from the start. It created stress, uncertainty and fear for 18 employees and their colleagues (including administration). If the district perceives the need to right-size next spring, we encourage admin to collaborate with LVEA to develop a more creative plan, one that factors in the long-term financial implications of retaining our newest employees. LVEA encourages the district to consider bringing back our hugely successful and popular early retirement plan that helped retirees bridge the gap between retirement and receiving Medicare insurance beginning at the age of 65. Many potential retirees are fearful of forgoing medical benefits until Medicare and this plan provided a cost-effective opportunity to stem that fear. Other options can be discussed as well, but keeping our newest employees and creating a medical benefits bridge for retirees are the right and strategic things to do!

Bargaining Update:

Your Negotiations Team is already working on 2018-19. We received your input from two surveys: one covering our whole labor contract and another follow-up that pertained to the district's Staff Development program. Our current three-year contract expires this month, so your team is hard at work, reviewing your suggestions and discussing modification to the whole contract. Once the state's budget is finalized later this month, monetary issues will be discussed as well. We want to thank your Negotiations Team for their ongoing efforts to improve employees' working conditions, salaries, benefits, etc. Thanks in advance for the hard word they'll put in over the next two months. Joanne Kress is the Bargaining Chair and leads the team of Ian Godburn, Lisa Hatfield, Darci Miller, Joan Woods, Christine Zahka and Jake Anderson from CTA. Stay tuned for more updates!

LVEA Climate/Healthy Kids Survey Update:

The results are in! This is the second year that your LVEA Organizing Team and Rep Council have authorized the embedding of the twelve most pertinent LVEA Climate Survey questions from May 2016 into our LVUSD/LVEA Healthy Kids Survey and we consequently have three years of climate data to review. LVEA's report on these results has been reviewed by your Organizing Committee and the district and customized site reports were sent to your site reps on Friday, June 8. Your Organizing Team also hopes to meet with the district's Cabinet and Board to discuss areas of improvement and focus in 2018-19 based on these survey results. Thanks to everyone for your efforts to make LVUSD a better learning and working environment for students and employees!

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