

LVEA TODAY



Thanks For All Your Hard Work In 2018-19!

Thanks to ALL employees for another successful yet exhausting 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! With a continued push on Student 360 this school year, your LVEA leadership team has continued to remind the district to focus on Employee 360 as well! As we visited all of the sites in LVUSD, we saw many creative and courageous efforts to make our district's learning environment the best possible for all students! We're sure you haven't heard it enough, but your efforts are deeply appreciated and we look forward to continued progress in 2019-20!

Thanks also for the years of contributions by our certificated, administrative and classified employees that have decided to retire. Specifically, the following certificated employees have chosen to retire and start the next chapter of their life: Stephanie Shipow (Chaparral), Joni Duim (Sumac), Deborah Lynch (Mariposa), Catherine Crisman (Sumac), Larry Walker (Calabasas HS), Marcee Glucksman (AC Stelle), Lucy Taylor (Agoura HS), Dana Biederman (Calabasas HS), Gail Tomaszczuk (Agoura HS), Sherry Miller (Willow), Julie Katz (Chaparral), Neelam Anand (Agoura HS), Michael Raleigh (Calabasas HS), Evelyn Klein (Lindero Canyon), Kim Speth (Calabasas HS) and Jody Dugandzic (Lindero Canyon). Thanks to all of you and good luck with your future plans!

Negotiations Update

Your Negotiations Team is already working on 2019-20. Once the state's budget is finalized later this month, monetary and other issues will be discussed. 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 work 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 – you will hopefully hear from us in early August.

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LVEA Awards

Each June, LVEA presents two important awards: the WHO award and the Roberta Consani Distinguished Member Award

The We Honor Ours (WHO) recipient goes to Darci Miller from AE Wright Middle School. Darci has been an awesome teacher, a strong leader and an educational advocate for her school and LVEA for many years. She started off as a site rep and proved to be a tenacious and firm proponent for her site membership. She was asked to join our Bargaining Team and has been an outstanding asset who helped negotiate cumulative raises of 19.5% over the past six years. Recently, she became our Middle School Liaison where she coordinates input from members and responses to middle school issues throughout our district. She even lets us use her classroom for Rep Council meetings! She passionately defends members and pushes administrators to enhance their effectiveness in many ways. Nothing gets by her. Darci is creative and challenges her colleagues to reach high levels of support for our members. She's an incredible asset to LVEA and we're pleased to have her as one of our leaders!

This year's Roberta Consani Distinguished Member recipient is Ryan Bergstrom of Calabasas HS. Ryan has been a successful LVEA site rep for a few years. He attended CTA Leadership training and learned some impressive skills, like setting up small group membership meetings to help colleagues understand the benefits of working together to make our collective efforts stronger. He then became our LVEA Treasurer and is doing an excellent job. Perhaps his greatest attribute is to successfully and gracefully meet with new employees to explain the benefits of LVEA membership and obtain their commitment to work with colleagues to make LVUSD a better place to work. Congratulations Ryan Bergstrom!

Social Security and Your STRS Pension

As a California public school educator, you do not contribute to Social Security; however, many of you have contributed from your non-educator income over the years and the Social Security pension you'd normally receive from these contributions will most likely be reduced because of your CalSTRS pension. This reduction is referred to as the Windfall Elimination Provision or WEP.

If you were expecting to receive spousal or survivor Social Security benefits, your CalSTRS pension will probably eliminate this opportunity as well. This is referred to as the Government Pension Offset or GPO.

Attached to the email (that is sending this newsletter) are documents that will explain how these unfair provisions work: The CalSTRS article called "Social Security, CalSTRS and You" is an excellent start to learn about WEP and GPO. The more detailed Social Security publications on WEP and GPO are attached as well. You can also find these documents on our website at www.lveateachers.com.

LVEA, CTA and NEA have fought for years to get these unfair Social Security provisions reversed, and the fight continues. We suggest that all members write to their U.S. Representative and explain how this negatively impacts public educators because many of them are woefully ignorant that this is happening. Attached are sample letters and contact information for your U.S. Representative. These provisions impact our members significantly and we suggest to you let your representative know how you feel.

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