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# Chapter Talking Points

*October 22, 2019*

## Info for chapter leaders

### Don't miss the Chapter Leader Training on November 2

- The first of four full-day trainings for chapter leaders is scheduled for Saturday, November 2 from **9:00 am to 4:30 pm**. Module 1 will focus on how to enforce key provisions of the contract and will cover basic issues such as representing members during disciplinary conferences and the Matrix process. Choose any of these four locations:

Wilmington Senior Citizen Center  
1371 Eubank Ave.  
Wilmington, CA 90744

UTLA  
3303 Wilshire Ave.  
Los Angeles CA 90010

Rivera High School  
Auditorium  
6100 S. Central Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90001

Monroe High School  
Odins Hall  
9229 Haskell Ave.  
North Hills CA 91343

- Space is limited. Please RSVP, with the location you will be attending, to Evy Vaughn at [evaughn@utla.net](mailto:evaughn@utla.net).

### November 13: Last Area Meeting of 2019

- On the November 13 Area Meetings we will look ahead at our work towards the end of the year. In addition to holding the advisory vote on presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders, we will get into deeper details and the work that has to be done around bargaining, the School Board race, and the many other issues facing us. Materials will be available, including petitions for the Schools and Communities First Funding Act which will close commercial property tax loopholes and restore \$11 billion a year to schools and other community services.
- **SCHOOL BOARD:** Work the rosters handed out at the October 2 Area meeting to identify members who are registered to vote in board districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 (marked in last column) and encourage them to sign the petition to commit to vote for candidates. **This is an essential first step in building GOTV and organizing to win.**
- **CHAPTER POWER CHECKLIST:** A new link was sent to chapter leaders for an updated Chapter Power Checklist. Continue reporting the state of compliance and any issues at your site.

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

### Special education scores big wins at the bargaining table

- UTLA won major improvements to the LAUSD pilot program to expand general ed inclusion for our students with special needs. We met nearly all of our goals to maintain critical class-size caps and provide increased support, collaboration time, and involvement of stakeholders in the rollout of this important program.

We continue to fight for caseload caps, which are critical for optimal working and learning conditions. Our bargaining team included both special ed and general ed teachers, and they were relentless in getting LAUSD to understand the realities on the ground. Inclusion is the right thing to do for our special-needs students, and this agreement helps ensure that the rollout is supported with resources and site-level engagement. The UTLA Board of Directors will review the agreement this week. **Read the [inclusion agreement](#).**

### Getting the jump on LAUSD School Board races

- The importance of the upcoming School Board election cannot be emphasized enough. We are starting our campaign earlier than ever because the board majority hangs in the balance. Starting early gives us the time to set a solid foundation for the campaign and allows us to highlight the issues that are most important to us as well as influencing the tone of the race.
- Our endorsed candidates—George McKenna, Scott Schmerelson, Jackie Goldberg, and Patricia Castellanos— walked the picket lines with us during our historic strike. Now is our time to do the work to get our team elected. Chapter chairs have been given rosters that will let members know if they are registered to vote in one of the four board districts on the ballot. **Check the roster and then sign the School Board petition and say YES to voting for one of these four candidates.**

### Member engagement on possible Bernie Sanders endorsement

- UTLA members are engaged in a six-week process of talking with one another about our union possibly endorsing Bernie Sanders for US president in the primary. As we expected, our early discussion of this possible endorsement has caught the attention of other candidates and we are beginning to see the results: candidates are spending more time talking about education issues, more progressive platforms are being proposed, and some candidates are now coming up with their own detailed education plans.

Canoga Park Elementary Chapter Chair Wendy Lozano will be voting “yes” to endorse Sanders at the advisory vote on November 13 because “Sanders is the only presidential candidate who has been consistent in supporting workers, public education, and the fight against privatization over the last two decades.”

After the advisory vote, the UTLA House of Representatives will vote on the endorsement.

—**Read the engagement timeline and [Why a Bernie Endorsement Matters](#)**

## **Update on aftermath of Saddleridge fire**

- UTLA has approached the district and is demanding to be included in a process, along with other stakeholders, to establish clear guidelines and procedures for dealing with emergency situations such as the one created by the Saddleridge fire. We believe that the affected schools should have been closed and remained closed until a throughout cleaning of the schools and grounds was completed. We are at the frontlines and understand the safety issues and hazards that our students and our members face. We should be part of this discussion.
- UTLA has also pressed the district to clarify how absences during the fire will be reported and demanded that teachers not be punished for time lost during this emergency. The district has provided step by step instructions on how to report time for employees that were impacted due to the school closure on Friday, 10/11/2019.

See the [CAT2 Time Entry Sheet instructions](#) to report time for employees who were unable to perform their regular or substitute assigned duties due to an unforeseen event.

## **We stand with Chicago**

- We continue to support our Chicago colleagues on the fifth day of their strike. Weekend negotiations did not yield an agreement. Here are ways you can show your support for our Chicago sisters and brothers who are now fighting for the same improvements for their schools and their profession that we fought for last January:
  - Go to the [CTU Solidarity Page](#) to donate and get the latest info.**
  - Post support on social media with the hashtag #putitinwriting and tag @utlanow and @ctulocal1**
  - Check out this [toolkit](#) for sample posts and talking points**
- Read the UTLA statement of solidarity at [utla.net](http://utla.net).

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## **UTLA action calendar**

**November 2:** Chapter leader training

**November 13:** Area Meetings