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# Chapter Talking Points

*October 29, 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

Diego Rivera Learning Complex  
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).

### Chapter leaders need to attend the last Area Meeting of 2019 on November 13

- At the November 13 Area Meetings we will be holding the advisory vote on presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders. We will also get into deeper details about 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 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

- Continue reporting the state of compliance and any issues at your site on the [updated Chapter Power Checklist](#).
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## Talking points for chapter meetings

### Getting the jump on LAUSD School Board races

- Our endorsed School Board candidates—George McKenna, Scott Schmerelson, Jackie Goldberg, and Patricia Castellanos— will give us the school board majority we need to fight privatization and ensure our contract wins are readily implemented. Because of the importance of this race, we have started our campaign earlier than usual. 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

- As UTLA members engage in the process of discussing the possibility of our union endorsing Bernie Sanders in the primary elections, we are reminded of the recent wave of strikes, including our own and now Chicago, and their signaling that the labor movement is on the rise. Bernie Sanders is the preeminent labor candidate. His policies could double union membership in two years by eliminating at-will employment, banning anti-union “right to work” laws, setting minimum standards for pay and benefits across sectors, making it easier to strike, and punishing employers who engage in union busting. His platform—the most progressive for unions in decades—will change the conditions in which we negotiate with the district and improve the lives of our students.
- After the advisory vote, the UTLA House of Representatives will vote on the endorsement.

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

### Our members are staying engaged during the fires

- Members have been reporting their site specific conditions and concerns during the recent spell of wildfires. We will continue to monitor and report the situation as it develops and are communicating with LAUSD to ensure these emergencies are handled as effectively as possible. The district is posting updated info [here](#). Stay safe.

**RESOURCE:** For those directly affected by the fires, the [CTA Disaster Relief Fund](#) provides resources for members who suffer significant losses due to a natural disaster.

## Special Education teachers: make sure you enforce your new contractual right under Article XXII section 14.0

- 14.0 Assessment: Upon request, special education teachers shall be given up to one (1) full release day per semester, at no loss of pay, to complete a federally mandated assessment for students in their class/caseload.
- All requests should be in writing. The funding for these days is addressed in [Memo 072901.0](#), attached. Learn more about our Special Education wins by downloading the [Contract Win Chart](#).

## UTLA members strongly support CTU strike

- On Monday, the Chicago Teachers Union strike entered its eighth day. Messages of support from our members for their Chicago colleagues keep coming in strong. CTU is fighting for common sense demands like more nurses, counselors and social workers.

—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