



Chapter Talking Points

January 14, 2020

Info for chapter leaders

First Area meeting of 2020 on January 22

- Be sure to attend the first Area meeting of the new year on Wednesday, January 22, to pick up organizing tools, including a parent flyer for January 30 leafleting and a four-pager about our three-year plan, to be used to spark dialogue among members. We'll also discuss our January-March sprint for the School Board elections and the Schools and Communities First initiative. It's critical that every site be represented at the meeting.

School Board & SCF petitions

- Keep working the School Board and Schools and Communities First petitions. Send the School Board petitions in on a regular basis and bring the SCF petitions to the January 22 Area meeting.

Talking points for chapter meetings

Today, on the anniversary of our historic strike, we mark our wins and embark on a year of action, building to our full contract fight in 2020.

Rain or Shine We Walked the Line

- One year ago today, UTLA members stepped onto the picket line and into history, leading the largest educator strike in the US. When we showed up to our schools that first rainy morning, we knew we had put in the organizing work to win — but we did not yet know how successful our strike would be: that our numbers would build every day; that parent & community support would be passionate and widespread; that we would capture the national consciousness, including shout-outs on Saturday Night Live; and that eventually 60,000 people would join us in the streets of LA.

- Over the next six days, follow UTLA on social media as we commemorate every day of the strike. Post your own strike memories and photos with the hashtag #wearepublicschools and #UTLAStrong.

2020: A Year of Action, Building to Full Contract Bargaining in 2022

- Now we embark on a year of action to score wins in contract reopeners, win all four School Board seats, defend our healthcare, and pass the Schools and Communities First funding measure. These are all critical elements to our three-year plan to build to 2022, when we have full contract bargaining.

PRIORITY: Scoring wins in contract reopeners

- On January 29, we begin contract reopener talks with LAUSD, focusing on issues that need the most attention before full contract bargaining in 2022. Our demands:
 - Compensation increases, including an across-the-board salary increase, expanded bilingual differentials, and greater pay equity for Adult Ed, Early Ed, and CTE teachers.
 - Special Education supports, including lower caseloads and more school psychologists.
 - Increased HHS staffing, such as PSWs and PSAs, crucial to student mental health and school discipline plans.

PRIORITY: Winning all 4 LAUSD School Board seats

- The School Board is our boss. Board members vote on our contract, our pay, our healthcare, class size, staffing, and more. With healthcare bargaining in 2020 and full contract bargaining in 2022, we need people we can work with on the other side of the table.
- All four of our endorsed candidates walked the picket lines with us during our strike, and now we need to talk with voters about the importance of electing our team: Patricia Castellanos, Jackie Goldberg, George McKenna, and Scott Schmerelson. Voting starts February 22 and ends March 3.
- The charter privatizers will drop millions of dollars behind their candidates. We need to work this election hard. In January and February, every one of our schools needs to sign up for 2 chapter precinct walks on the weekends and 2 chapter neighborhood walks on Thursdays.

PRIORITY: Defending our healthcare

- Our strike forced LAUSD to back off its most recent attack on our healthcare — but the district will attack again this year. Our agreement expires in December 2020 and is negotiated separately through the Health Benefits Committee. The district has the money to pay for our healthcare and our 2020 reopener demands, but we'll have to fight to make them do it.

PRIORITY: Winning Schools and Communities First

- Our strike gave a huge organizing boost to the Schools and Communities First ballot initiative, which closes a corporate tax loophole, is entirely progressive, and raises \$12 billion per year for schools and social services.
- As we said during the strike, LAUSD currently has the money to pay for progress toward the Schools LA Students Deserve. But to build on that progress permanently, California must get out of 43rd place among the 50 states in per-pupil funding. Passing SCF in 2020 is key to winning the aggressive, comprehensive demands we will bring forward in 2022 full contract bargaining.

Actions to support our 2020 priorities

- **January 20: Launch of UTLA's new Public Awareness campaign**
Look for UTLA's new public awareness campaign, with the faces and stories of UTLA members on more than 60 billboards as well as digital ads throughout LA. After the launch, go to www.wearepublicschools.org to see images and read members' first-person stories about the work we do with students.
- **January 30: School-site leafleting**
We'll be talking to parents and community about what we won together during the strike and how we build on those wins in 2020.
- **January-February: Chapter-based School Board campaigning**
To push our four School Board candidates to victory, every school needs to sign up for 2 chapter precinct walks on the weekends and 2 chapter neighborhood walks on Thursdays. It's what we call $2 + 2 = 4$. Two chapter precinct walks + two chapter neighborhood walks equals four School Board members elected — a board majority.
- **Now-March: Schools and Communities First petition signing**
We'll be reaching out to the community about Schools and Communities First and getting signatures to get the measure on the November 2020 ballot. If you haven't signed the Schools and Communities First petition yourself, talk to your Chapter Chair.

Upcoming events

Book signing & talk on our strike on January 23

- Jane McAlevey, in conversation with UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, will discuss her new book, "A Collective Bargain: Unions, Organizing, and the Fight for Democracy," which features a detailed chapter on the importance of our 2019 strike. Event is from 6 pm to 8 pm on January 23 at St. Paul's Commons Retreat & Conference Center, 840 Echo Park Avenue in LA. Free admission. To RSVP or for more information, contact Edgar Ortiz at eortiz@laane.org or 213-977-9400 x120. Flyer [here](#).

Student Debt Clinic at January 30 UTLA/AFT meeting

- Got student debt and want to apply for Loan Forgiveness? The CFT will be holding a student debt clinic at the next UTLA AFT 1021 General Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 30, at 6 p.m. in Room 911. You'll learn how to qualify for Loan Forgiveness, how to make your payments manageable, and how we can work together to address the student debt crisis in California. Register now—space is limited: <http://go.aft.org/StudentDebtClinicRSVP>. At that meeting, members will also be electing delegates to represent UTLA at the AFT Convention in Houston, TX from July 27-30.

Conference for Racial and Social Justice on February 1

- The UTLA Racial Justice Task Force is sponsoring a conference, "Teaching for Black Lives in Segregated Times," for UTLA members on February 1, at UTLA, from 8 am to 3 pm. Patrisse Cullors, co-founders of Black Lives Matter, and Stacy Davis Gates, VP of the Chicago Teachers Union, will speak. Go to <http://bitly.com/UTLAConference> to register.

UTLA action calendar

January 22: Area meetings

January 23: Book signing & union talk

January 27: New UTLA media campaign launches

January 29: Contract reopeners begin with LAUSD

January 29: PACE meeting

January 30: School-site leafleting

January 30: Student Debt Clinic at UTLA/AFT meeting

February 1: Conference for Racial and Social Justice

February 5: Board of Directors meeting

February 12: House of Reps meeting

Member communication not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.