



# ATA NEWSLETTER

*Edition 2 | Oct–Nov 2023*

## **PRESIDENTS' UPDATE**

Dear Members,

With Thanksgiving break just around the corner, this is a good time to reflect on where we are and where we are heading as a union. First off, we want to thank everyone for stepping up with their participation this Fall. The community has seen and appreciated teacher voices at school board meetings and in front of our schools, and they're getting to know our red ATA shirts as a common sighting throughout town. We've also seen member engagement through solid turnout at ATA's first racial justice training, conducted with the help of CTA presenters. We've also just received word that CTA has approved our member engagement grant request for this year. We will use these funds to keep building an engaged community in our union.

Your engagement has certainly helped us in this bargain, and we have one more big ask to make of you. Please mark in your calendar to attend the November 14th school board meeting. That meeting is when the parcel tax consultants will be presenting the results of their surveys to the board. We need a strong teacher voice so that we make sure that any parcel tax passed will be used to keep Albany schools an excellent place to teach and learn, and will be reflected in our salaries. Stay tuned for more specific instructions on when to arrive and the specific messaging we will be using.

Thanks for all you do.  
Chris & Kim

## **CBA FOCUS: EVALUATIONS**

Teacher evaluations are completed according to a process described in Article 23 of our Collective Bargaining Agreement. This includes deadlines, and describes your rights in the evaluation process. As a reminder, this year we have extended our MOU that gives permanent members a 30 day extension on these deadlines, and also allows your second observation to be waived by mutual agreement. If you have any questions about the evaluation process or the MOU you should speak to your site rep.

## **CTA ENDORSEMENTS**

Do you ever wonder how candidates get on the CTA list of endorsements? We, your ATA co-presidents, got to experience it a couple of times recently. CTA invited leaders to interview candidates hoping to replace longtime East Bay Representative Barbara Lee in District 12 and candidates running for state Senate District 7, a seat that Nancy Skinner will need to vacate in 2024 due to term limits. It was interesting to review the candidates' positions on relevant issues, to hear their values and priorities, and to assess their electability. It was time well spent since the endorsement process is politically advantageous to the candidate and an opportunity for our union to advance our shared goals.

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## **RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP RECAP**

On October 26th, ATA held our first Racial Justice Advocacy workshop, Moving Beyond Allyship. We are interested in keeping the conversation going and eventually creating an ATA Equity Team. Let us know if you'd like to be part of the discussion!

## **THE STANDARD DISABILITY INSURANCE**

The Standard is holding a special enrollment opportunity for eligible members between October 1 and November 30, 2023. You can apply for CTA-endorsed Disability insurance and up to \$100,000 of CTA-endorsed Life insurance with no health questions asked. Visit their website: [standard.com/cta/justforyou](https://standard.com/cta/justforyou) to find out more.

## **UPCOMING DATES**

Show up at the school board meeting on **November 14th!** The Board will be hearing a report from consultants on the volume of the parcel tax. Let's show them that ATA supports a strong parcel tax that will help recruit and retain teachers! Stay tuned for more details on arrival time and messaging.