



The Advocate

April 2026

A Message from Your President

As we approach the close of another year, I'm reminded of how bittersweet this season always feels. This year, like so many before it, has been filled with both challenges and meaningful successes. Through it all, your hard work has made a difference.

I hope you've all made it through state testing and are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. This time of year demands so much, and your continued commitment to your students and your sites does not go unnoticed.

PROP 55 EXTENSION: A COLLECTIVE WIN

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the effort to collect signatures for the Prop 55 extension. Because of your hard work and outreach, more than 1.6 million signatures were submitted by CTA, which is well beyond the 875,000 required to qualify for the November ballot.

This is an incredible accomplishment and a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we work together toward a common goal.

MEMBER SHOUT-OUTS

A special recognition goes to two of our representatives who achieved 100% participation across their sites: Michael Hatter and Lisa Dilonardo! Thank you for going above and beyond.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Negotiations will begin in the coming weeks. Our bargaining team will be actively engaged in this process and will send regular updates to keep you informed every step of the way.

This year, the articles scheduled for negotiation include: Salary, Benefits, Hours of Work, & Special Education.

These are critical areas that impact all of our members, and we are committed to advocating for strong, meaningful outcomes.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we finish out the year, I encourage you to take pride in all that you've contributed, both seen and unseen. Our strength lies in each member's daily efforts, and this year has shown just how impactful that can be.

Wishing you all a strong finish to the year and a well-deserved opportunity to rest and recharge.

Little Lake Needs Our Help!

Little Lake Education Association has entered their 2nd week on the strike line and can use our help. Please consider making a donation today! Click on the picture below to make a donation.

This is a critical strike for educators already struggling to make ends meet - their district made mid-year cuts to their healthcare benefits that had previously been fully covered for decades. Some educators had a pay cut in January of \$1,400 per month.

The district is now demanding that they increase class sizes and permanently make contributions to their healthcare. They are rejecting educators' proposals to improve special education support. Meanwhile, the district's spending on outside contracts has ballooned to 20% of their budget. This is unacceptable.

[LLEA members have not had a pay increase since 2023. Some members are facing serious financial hardship. Donate to their strike fund today.](#)

SUPPORT THE LLEA SOLIDARITY STRIKE FUND

Stand with Educators

Share your support and solidarity with Little Lake educators as they fight for fully staffed schools and stability for our students. Your donation will directly support educators on the picket line.



Little Lake Education Association



Not All Heroes Wear Capes!

Every day, educators go above and beyond—not only for their students, but also for their colleagues and the school community. We believe these quiet acts of dedication deserve recognition. We invite you to nominate a fellow educator who demonstrates exceptional commitment, inspires others, and makes a lasting impact through their service to both peers and students.

Who can be nominated:

Any educator who has shown outstanding work, collaboration, mentorship, and dedication to our shared mission.

How to nominate:

Simply click on the Heroes Wear Capes image and complete the form!



Your nomination can help shine a light on the individuals whose passion and hard work often go unnoticed—but make all the difference.

Unsung Hero Nominations

Together We WIN!

Even with all of today's challenges, there is much to celebrate. Over the past four years, OMTA has successfully negotiated:

- Over 17% in on-schedule salary increases over last 4 years!
- Over 10% in off-schedule over last 4 years.
- More than 3% increase in benefits allotment
- Lower Special Education caps than surrounding districts
- Higher hourly rates for timecarded work
- Daily prep for middle school teachers at K–8 sites
- Two new minimum days for report card and conference preparation
- Weekly prep time for elementary teachers (2 hours)
- Release days for Special Education teachers (added one more too!)
- PLCs within the workday and not after school
- SLP compensation for overage finally in the contract
- Release days for Elementary Combination Teachers
- District will move your stuff if you are transferred! (Voluntary transfers too!)
- Release days for Admin or non-voluntary room changes increased to 4! Moving rate isn't sub rate either!

Quick Links

Workplace Violence Form