

# Inglewood Teachers Association



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December 2016



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## WILL TRUMP'S ELECTION AFFECT UNIONS?

*By, Douglas Mirk (Organizing Chair)*

On December 10, I attended a Post-Election Key Leaders Meeting of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor on behalf of ITA. The purpose of the meeting was to generate ideas for responding to the challenges unions will face under the new Trump administration. According to LA Fed Secretary Treasurer, Rusty Hicks, the key issues we will need to address, that require immediate planning, are the impacts the new administration

will have on both Labor and Immigration.

- **Labor will be impacted directly** in terms of hiring, pensions, and wages.
- **Immigration concerns will impact** both union membership and the communities in which we work.
- **We need to address Racial and Immigrant Justice** by building strong organizations
- **Every member** in every local union must be a part of this.

We are in for some difficult challenges and according to Hicks, "If you wanna live, you gotta fight." I took this to mean that **ALL UNION MEMBERS** will need to become active and fight for their rights if they want to survive the coming years with solid jobs and working conditions intact.

Union leaders discussed and suggested methods to tackle this situation. Key among the ideas were that all unions need to show solidarity, pool resources and work to show how labor has improved people's lives through member education.

There was concern that **California schools will be directly affected by the California Charter Schools Association**. It is probable that they may attempt to introduce something else, like the Friedrichs case, which was stuck down at the Supreme Court level last summer. While this was a huge victory for teachers and public sector unions across the country, there is cause to be concerned under a Trump administration.

More concern was expressed for students who are currently benefiting from the

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** policy, which enables undocumented students to remain in the country.

In regards to voting, different union leaders mentioned that:

- 75% of millennials did not vote and need to be educated on the issues that will affect them.
- There is a need for locals, when possible, to negotiate for longer term contracts protecting members that cannot be easily struck down by new federal policies.
- California unions need to support statewide initiatives for single payer health care and to show the rest of the nation what can be accomplished in our state.

**ITA is currently organizing** members to attend the Women's March on Saturday, **January 21** from 9:00am – 4:00pm. If you have been wondering what you can do to make a change in the current political climate, this is a great place to start! Contact the ITA office at [inglewoodteachersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:inglewoodteachersassociation@gmail.com) if you would like to attend and to get more information. **ITA will reimburse the cost of Metro tickets to Pershing Square with Metro receipts from the day of the march.**



## Past and Up-

## coming Union Actions:

- **December 18:** United Nations International Migrants Day at Pershing Square
- **January 19:** UTLA. Teachers will join hands across schools to show that they are willing to stand with and protect their students from actions that might be directed against them
- **January 20:** Roofers Local 36 lead protest on Trump's Inauguration Day at LA City Hall. 12:00pm. **All invited.**
- **January 21:** Women's March Los Angeles. Saturday, 9:00am – 4:00pm in Pershing Square, Downtown Los Angeles. **All invited.**

"Labor will be affected."



**Douglas Mirk**  
*Organizing Team Chair*

### *Newsletter Chair*

~ *Gail Bunch*

### ITA Officers

Kelly Iwamoto, President  
Aba Ngissah, Vice President  
Doug Mirk, Treasurer  
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Aba Ngissah, IPD Chair  
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**Andrew Staiano, CTA Staff**

[astaiano@cta.org](mailto:astaiano@cta.org)

(310) 215-0326



**THANK YOU *LA MARITIME INSTITUTE & NORRIS FOUNDATION*  
FOR \$30,000 TOPSAIL STEM GRANT FOR IUSD STUDENTS!**

IUSD’s sixth, seventh, eighth grade students and Continuation High School students have the opportunity to engage in hands-on STEM through the Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI).

Through the work of ITA’s IPD Chair and CTA/Stanford/SCOE ILC Member, Aba Ngissah has spent about one year working with the Los Angeles Maritime Institute to bring hands-on STEM to Inglewood students.

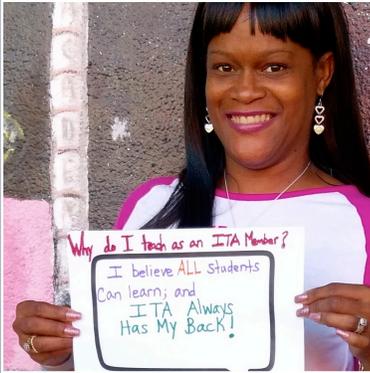
**What is TopSail?**

Recognizing the extraordinary value of “hands-on learning,” TopSail founder and retired science teacher Jim Gladson designed an innovative program that incorporates every aspect of operating a large sailing vessel to engage youth in a real-world classroom at sea. In addition to bringing subjects like science and math to life, the shipboard environment challenges youth to work together, improves communication skills, stimulates critical thinking, builds confidence, and provides a safe environment to address feelings of inadequacy. We use the navigation component of our program to enhance students’ interest in mathematics. Our navigation curriculum is designed to teach students the basics of simple navigation and how to identify the symbols and data on a nautical chart. In this process they are introduced to charts, its geometry, and many of its symbols. They use this information to determine a course. During this program, students will also focus on the aspects of mechanical advantage on board a tall ship and the skill of rigging block and tackle. It is here at sea, where students realize that mathematics can have very real and practical uses.

Aba Ngissah, has been working with LAMI to find ways to include IUSD students in their twenty-four year old program. About the partnership with LAMI, Aba states, “This was possible through the support of ITA President Kelly Iwamoto, ILC, commitment of support from Tiffany Rudek and Venecia Lizarzaburu from district office. Through our ILC Professional Development workshops, my colleagues and I met Kirk Amato, Environmental Education Specialist from the California Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI). Being part of the CTA Curriculum and Instruction Committee team who reviewed and made recommendations for the NGSS Framework, I noticed that EEI was mentioned throughout the framework. “EEI is a free K-12 curriculum that teachers critical skills in science and history-social science using environmental topics, such as water and energy, as a lens.” Our Inglewood/Lennox ILC team members therefore facilitated integrated EEI Science/HSS workshops. Searching for a Science Grant for students, I contacted Kirk to ask for organizations I could approach. He connected me with Joleen, the *Director of Development and Communications* of LAMI and the rest is history - a \$30,000 grant from the Norris Foundation to work with our students.”

“In the 23 years since the Los Angeles Maritime Institute was founded, more than 60,000 young people from throughout Southern California have had the opportunity to directly benefit from participation in hands-on learning experiences through the TopSail Youth Program. LAMI continues to give “real life” context to subjects like science, mathematics, engineering, history, and literature, and to raise awareness about environmental impacts to our oceans and local waters.”

# WHY I TEACH...



SHARE WHY YOU  
TEACH! YOUR REP  
HAS YOUR BUBBLE.

# Member Spotlight

## *Why I Teach?*



**Margie Teitell**  
*Second Grade Teacher*  
*~Hudnall Elementary School*

Throughout my 22 years of teaching in Inglewood, it is a thrill to greet my students every morning and encourage enthusiasm for the day.

**"The best part for me is when I observe them have that 'I get it' moment."**

I enjoy learning about the lives of my students when they share their "weekend wonder" every Monday morning. This allows them to describe something

personal about their life. Through these weekend narratives, my students learn to speak, write, and present.

The best for me as a teacher is when I observe them have that "I get it" moment. Those moments come after times such as; learning about the concept of regrouping with two-digit subtraction.

As I anticipate the New Year, I resolve to continue to try new strategies to help bridge the achievement gap so that all of my students can be successful.

# Member Spotlight



**Terri Norwood**  
*Second Grade Teacher*  
*~La Tijera K-8 Charter School of Excellence*

"Good Morning, Super Star Students!" , "Keep Shining Brightly!", "Reading Is So Much Fun!", "Be Sure To Invite Me To Your College Graduation!" are some statements I'm known for saying on a regular basis to my primary students over the years.

I am a dedicated, creative, and resourceful educator who has worked in both Los Angeles Unified School District and

Inglewood Unified School District for over 24 years.

I pride myself on reaching and teaching my students by creating fun and engaging lessons that are meaningful and relevant. I currently teach second grade at La Tijera K-8 Charter School of Excellence and have also taught at Bennet-Kew (5 years), Daniel Freeman (7 years), and Frank D. Parent (4 years).

My passion is promoting literacy among children in and out of the classroom. In 2003, I founded and directed a non-profit organization, the Bright Stars Reading Club where for 11 years I volunteered countless hours and invested personal resources to promote the love of reading in the community on Saturday mornings. "Making an impactful difference in the lives of the youth has been so rewarding."

**"My passion is promoting literacy among children in and out of the classroom."**

Another passion of mine is dance. This love began after I took my first ballet class at an after school program at C.A. Dickson Elementary School in Compton. In fact, I am still in contact with my teacher, Ms. Pat Sweet! Presently, I enjoy teaching Tap, African Dance, Creative Movement, and Oral Recitations to my students.

I am married and my husband and I have two children. ***We are now very excited about becoming new grandparents to two beautiful grandchildren!***

# Member Spotlight



***Carolyn Johnson***  
***Special Education Teacher***  
***~Payne Elementary School***

My name is Carolyn Johnson, a native of Los Angeles, California. I attended 66th Street Elementary, Bethune Junior High, and Reseda High school.

I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from BIOLA University, Master of Education in Cross-cultural Teaching from National University, and Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Argosy University.

In 1990, I joined the teaching staff at Beulah Payne Elementary School where I still teach as an educational specialist providing direct instruction to special need students. As an educational specialist, I have vast experience adapting and modifying general education curriculum to assist students with a wide variety of learning disabilities to succeed academically and in other arenas. I also have an expertise integrating assistive technology and multimedia into classroom settings. An energetic and passionate professional--with a successful track

record of teaching students with cognitive, emotional, and behavioral problems—I have a strong background in providing students with an environment that improves upon traditional education. As a seasoned professional, I have a passion for education, a drive to make a positive impact and an ability to help children with significant challenges learn and grow.

**"A successful track record of teaching students with cognitive, emotional and behavioral problems."**

Educational excursions are my passion. I have developed a program in which over fifteen hundred students have been given the opportunity to learn through travel. San Diego, Sacramento, San Francisco, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington DC, and Catalina are just a few the historical places I have organized student tours.

What are my future goals? I want to expand my educational excursion program to provide more students the opportunity to travel and learn.

**SHARE WHY YOU TEACH! SEND YOUR STORY & PHOTO TO:**  
[itanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:itanewsletter@gmail.com)

## Are You Missing



- TE
- Student Textbook
- Components of Adopted Materials

From President, Kelly

1. Send an e-mail to the Principal alerting or reminding him/her of the materials you are missing. For transparency and accountability purposes, please copy ITA ([inglewoodteachersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:inglewoodteachersassociation@gmail.com)) on the e-mail.

2. If you do not receive a response within two (2) working days, let me know immediately so that I can follow up on your behalf.

3. Once you receive the materials be sure to let me know.

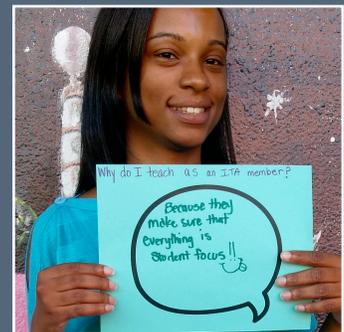
## CONGRATULATIONS SANDRA MANNING!

RECOGNIZED AT BOARD MEETING FOR HER WORK AND DEDICATION TO STUDENTS.



*Sandra Manning*  
*9-12 History/AVID Teacher*  
*~Morningside High School*

## WHY I TEACH...



## YOUR REP HAS YOUR BUBBLE!

December 2016



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



*IT WAS GREAT SEEING EVERYONE AT BJ's!*

Happy New Year!