

# TCEA NEWS LETTER

# Temple City Education Association

[Union Members]

Website  
[www.tcea9.com](http://www.tcea9.com)

April  
2019

## President

Ellen Laughlin

## Vice President

Kyla Hjertstedt

## Secretary

Samantha Jennings

## Treasurer

Christy Taylor

## Membership

Maria Ioele

## Monthly TCEA Meetings

Via Google Hangouts

FIRST Monday every month

@ 3:30pm

Everyone is welcome to attend  
our next meeting:  
May 5

## Upcoming Events

### TCEA General Association Meeting

5/5 at 3:30

A Google Meet/Hangout or ZOOM login will be sent to your private email account soon.

### TCUSD School Board Meeting

4/22

Video and Audio livestream

<https://tinyurl.com/yd2fzv2c>

Closed Session 6 pm

Open Session 7 pm

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

Information on grading should be coming out soon. TCEA has worked collaboratively to review and discuss the different grading options. Pending the 4/22 school board meeting and after the district has had time to support site administration, an announcement will be made regarding how our teachers will report out grades and progress reports at the elementary, middle school and the high school levels.



## Featured Member

[Michael  
Liu]

Hello fellow TCEA members! I'm Michael Liu, one of the English Teachers at Temple City High School. I currently teach Humanities and Creative Style, two senior level English electives.

I went to Alhambra High School and hold a B.A. in English from UCLA, M.A. in Film Studies from USC (I switched sides, but there's enough love to go around) and received my credential through CSULA. This is my third year at TCHS, though I'll often say it's my fourth year because I was fortunate to complete student teaching under the tutelage of Dawn Neufeld before getting hired on full time.

Outside the classroom, I'm a true "cinophile" and try to go see at least a film or two every week. I also dabble in writing and had two poems published in an anthology this past year. Like everyone else, I quite enjoy traveling to new surroundings but nothing is better than a nap at home. On a weekly basis, you can find me playing guitar in front of the pews.

I feel very privileged to be part of the Temple City community, and I hope that I can get to know each of you just a little bit better. My amazing students would love to see you, so stop by room 101 sometime!

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## [ UPDATE on 2.5% Salary Increase]

Our March 31st paycheck had the bargained 2.5% salary increase included within it. The salary increase is retroactive to July 31, 2020 and the 7 months (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb,) of retroactive pay will be mailed to all employees soon. Please look out for your check. The district asks if you have NOT received a check in the mail by Thursday, April 23rd, inform our union. Please email TCEA at [tceanine@gmail.com](mailto:tceanine@gmail.com) about your missing check and we will follow through the appropriate channels for you.

Retroactive health insurance checks will be coming at a later date. Every full time employee (FTE) will receive a \$250 check. Employees that work less than full time will receive their insurance check proportional to their FTE. In the Fall, when signing up for employee benefits the district's contribution (\$9,250) will be proportioned to our insurance.

As of the middle of April, stipend amounts have NOT been increased by 2.5% and stipend retroactive checks have NOT been cut. TCEA will be in contact with our payroll department to ensure these contractual items are fulfilled. However, you can help yourself and TCEA. If you receive a stipend or multiple stipends, keep track of the amount you are receiving. If you are confused, call payroll and ask questions regarding YOUR pay! If you are concerned with the response, contact TCEA at [tceanine@gmail.com](mailto:tceanine@gmail.com).

# Informational Items

\*TCEA started a private FACEBOOK page for our members to talk and connect with one another. Thank you to Kyla for all her work and foresight to begin our page. Please join! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2593349097589685/>

\*Due to the COVID global pandemic, it is suggested by CTA to confirm your beneficiary information on your CALSTRS pension account. [www.CTAMemberBenefits.org](http://www.CTAMemberBenefits.org) or (650)- 552-5200

\*CTA's effort to have the Schools and Communities First initiative put on the Nov 2020 ballot has paid off. CTA recommends voting YES on this Commercial and Industrial CA Property Tax Measure which could bring about the first change to Prop 13 in over 40 years. If passed, the new taxes are expected to bring in \$12 billion annually to our schools and communities.

\*On 4/4/20 TCUSD school board passed a resolution to support Full Day Kindergarten instruction and apply for grants for the construction and modernization of facilities at Emperor, La Rosa and Longden schools. Full Day Kindergarten programs could be ready and scheduled to begin at these three sites in the 21/22 school year.

\*PARS- The application process for the early retirement package is now closed (4/15) and it looks very promising to be passed at Wednesday's (4/22) school board meeting. This could mean a very large number of our members will receive an annuity for 60% of their final compensation!

\*Contract Sunshine - The executive board is currently reviewing our member survey to determine which articles of the contract to open in our upcoming negotiations. Salary and Benefits is always open.

\*Spring is the traditional time to hold building representative and executive board elections. Due to COVID-19, CTA will be adopting new bylaws which allow for extensions in the terms of office. At this time, TCEA is waiting for up-to-date information and guidance regarding our upcoming elections. Be assured that TCEA will follow all CTA bylaws.

\*If you are a TCEA member, you also belong to CTA. It PAYS to look into CTA's scholarship offerings <https://www.cta.org/scholarships> for your children that are in college or about to attend college. TCEA wishes 18 year-old Madison Hoiby, daughter of TCEA member Lisa Hoiby, congratulations for receiving a \$5,000 CTA Scholarship in Honor of Del A Weber which she will use to attend Cal State University, San Diego- Honors College in Fall 2020!



# [ A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ]

Hello,

I hope this newsletter finds you both physically and mentally well. Every day seems to be a challenge and I never know what day it is! Of course, I know I am not alone in this challenge. We are all continuing to provide the best education possible for our wonderful students while simultaneously attempting to stay healthy. Moreover, educators all around the world have had to reestablish classrooms in makeshift spaces around their homes. Teachers have lost the stability that comes from the structure, routine, and cycle of school. It's not only the absence of this routine which I long for but, primarily, I miss my students and all of you.

When times are tough and truly many of us have (thankfully) never faced a time like we are currently experiencing, I like to take stock of my gratitude list. I'm grateful to my co-workers and colleagues that have supported me with their insight and knowledge and inspired me to be a better distance teacher. Thankful to Dr. Fricker and management at the district office for their dedication and expertise in navigating this unprecedented time. There is NO manual for this! I'm appreciative to our colleagues, Kyle Smith and Aaron Loomis who trained staff members in how to use Google Classroom. I'm thankful to our administrators that have sent our members to CUE conferences. I've gone twice! I'll be forever grateful to Dr. Vannasdahl and AUSD for establishing the Arcadia Innovation Summit for Professional Development. I've had the opportunity to attend three times. (I should be better at this distance teaching thing!) I'm abundantly grateful to TCEA Vice President, Kyla Hjertstedt, for EVERYTHING. Finally, I'm thankful to our community of TCEA members who have supported each other as truly essential employees in this endeavor on the frontlines of continuing students' education.

We are an amazing community of educators that is resilient and thriving. You are teachers, counselors, school psychiatrists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists with integrity and heart, who are giving it their best shot and are persevering. I'm so extremely proud to be one of you.

Although, it is unfortunate that both LACOE and TCUSD had to cancel nominations for the Teacher of the Year, I would like to nominate you all Teachers' of the Year!

Stay well!

Until we meet again,

Ellen