



DCTA Slate

February 21, 2017

In this issue:

- Membership Campaign Winners
- Bargaining
- Benefits Update
- Wear Your DCTA Button In Solidarity
- Taxes Reminder
- Upcoming Events
- Educators Demand Action on Gun Sense

Membership Campaign Winners! Thanks to everyone who helped to increase our bargaining strength during our recent membership campaign. We saw DCTA membership increase at 53 schools! **Emily Griffith High School and Lincoln Elementary tied for largest increase in membership** (13%) and DCTA President Henry Roman will host a burrito party at each school!

Also, our two lucky winners of the \$500 drawings are:

Arielle Walker at Barnum and Jordan Zogler-Brown at High Tech Elementary!

Congratulations!



Our Master Contract with DPS Expires in 136 Days on August 31, 2017!



BARGAINING - Master Contract Negotiations:

Upcoming Session: Stand up for your contract! The next bargaining session is on Monday, February 27, 2017 at [North High School](#) at 5:00pm. We would like to continue discussion on making healthcare benefits affordable to our members, and all DPS employees. We will also be proposing to limit the District's ability to close and/or "restart" schools in our community and to put in place a **moratorium on charter schools**.

We have had excellent turnout to public bargaining so far, and we look forward to seeing community members and teachers continue to show their support for making DPS a better learning environment for students and a better teaching environment for teachers.

If you would like to speak at bargaining in support of our proposals to limit school closures and restarts or establishing a moratorium on charter schools, please reach out to [Corey Kern](#).

ACTION: We need your personal contact information! We will be providing urgent, up-to-date information on bargaining, including recent proposals and calls to action via these email addresses and cell phone numbers. There will be times we want you to get information BEFORE we tell the District. [Click here](#) to add your email to the list.

Bargaining 101: Two Terms to Know

1. **Tentative Agreement (TA)** - A tentative agreement occurs when the two sides bargain over a portion of the Contract and agree to new language. All of the tentative agreements put together make up all of the changes from the previous contract to the next. Those TAs are voted together, as a package, by the membership, before they go into effect.
2. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** - an MOU is a temporary change to the contract that is agreed upon by both sides. These usually last a year or until the contract is bargained again.

Benefits Update: Last week the Benefits Board voted to include a Deductible HMO plan as an option for all employees beginning this coming plan year! The plan offers a deductible of \$1,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for families.

DCTA leadership has been fighting for an HMO option for two years with continued resistance from the District. We firmly believe that your support and action, at public bargaining, and through our email-writing campaign, are what pushed the District to have such a major change in philosophy so quickly.

We are happy to win this battle, but the fight to make health insurance more affordable for teachers and SSPs is not over. We will continue to work to find ways to make health insurance more affordable for everyone.

DCTA Elections:

DCTA elections are now open. Ballots will be distributed at tonight's Rep Council Meeting and you can vote starting tomorrow. The following positions are on the ballot: President, Vice President, three Northwest Board of Directors positions, one Northeast Board of Director position, one southwest Board of Director position, NEA delegate positions (top three vote getters attend at DCTA expense) and CEA delegate positions. Ballots will be collected at the Tuesday, March 21 Rep Council Meeting and all ballots MUST be at the DCTA office by 6pm on Wednesday, March 22nd to be counted.



DCTA Buttons:

Wear your button in to show support for teachers/SSPs getting a strong contract! **Don't have a button?** Check with your Rep to see if s/he has them. If you can't get them from a Rep, email [Lila](#).



Reminder - Union Dues Are Tax-Deductible: If you itemize, you can include \$62.10 per month from your dues in your deductions.

Upcoming DCTA Events:



ASIST Suicide Prevention Training, Friday, February 24 & Saturday, February 25

Would you like to earn 15 hours of recertification credit? ASIST is an Evidence-Based Practice designed to teach professionals and non-professionals alike how to recognize suicide risk and what to say and do to keep the person safe until the next level of help can become involved. The \$60 registration fee (payable to DCTA) includes 2-day interactive training, all participants' materials, a certificate of completion, as well as continental breakfasts and lunches both days. [Read more](#)

Educators Demand Action for Gun Sense: Join DCTA member Rachel Barnes in a campaign to keep guns out of schools. Recently, legislation that would have allowed anyone with a concealed carry permit to carry a loaded weapon into a school, was shut down in a state House Committee. We can expect legislation like this to continue to be introduced at the state and federal level. Moms Demand Action has started a campaign, Educators Demand Action for Gun Sense, to fight back against the gun lobby's agenda. Educators have a unique and compelling perspective on the dangers guns pose in schools and on campuses. [Click here](#) to endorse a sign-on letter showing your commitment to keeping guns out of educational spaces.

