



MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

TOTEM FORUM

TOTEM ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Volume 2017/2018 ISSUE 2

November 2017

2017-2018 TOTEM

Board Members

President Sharon Baker
Vice President Sandy Thompson
Secretary Felicia Woods
Treasurer Amey Tamagni

Members at Large

Cathy Cotterman
 Lisa Hall
 Kathy Miller
 Denise Tilley
 Alicia Woods

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

Sharon Baker 562-1183

AVAIL, Bayshore, Bear Valley, Campbell, Chinook, Dimond High, EISC, Girdwood, Gladys Wood, Goldenview Middle, Kincaid, Klatt, Lake Hood, Mears Middle, North Star, Northwood ABC, O'Malley, Ocean View, Ptarmigan, Rilke Schule, Rogers Park, Russian Jack, Sand Lake, South High, Taku, Trailside, Tudor, Turnagain, Wendler Middle, Willow Crest, Whaley

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Alpenglow, ASD Ed Center, Aurora, Birchwood ABC, Chugiak Elem, Chugiak High, Eagle Academy, Eagle River Elem, Eagle River High, Fire Lake, Gruening Middle, Homestead, Mirror Lake Middle, Mt Iliamna, Mt Spurr, Orion, Ravenwood, Ursa Major, Ursa Minor

Sandy Thompson 742-9000

ACE/ACT Program, Airport Heights, AK Native Charter, Bartlett High, Baxter, Begich Middle, Central Middle, Chester Valley, Clark Middle, Chugach Optional, College Gate, Creekside Park, East High, Fairview, Govt Hill, Inlet View, KCC, Mt View, Muldoon, Nunaka Valley, Scenic Park, Susitna, Tyson, Wonder Park

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Abbott Loop, Benson Secondary, Bowman, Crossroads, Denali, Hanshew Middle, Huffman, Kasuun, Lake Otis, Northern Lights ABC, Polaris K-12, Rabbit Creek, Romig, SAVE, Service High, Spring Hill, Steller Secondary, Student Nutrition, Transportation, West High, Williwaw

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Aquarian, Family Partnership, Frontier Charter, Highland Tech, IT/Data Processing, Facilities/Maintenance, McLaughlin Secondary, Music Dept, Operations, Purchasing, Special Schools, Winterberry

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

A Note from the President...

Thanksgiving, a time to appreciate what we have and Christmas, a time of sharing beliefs and traditions.

However you celebrate, the TOTEM Board and I wish you a joyful and safe Holiday Season. We hope you relax and return to work refreshed and ready to start a new Year.

We extend an invitation to you to join us for the annual TOTEM Holiday Social.

It will be held on Thursday, December 7th, from 4:00-7:00 pm in the TOTEM office at 3310 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 200. Stop by and meet the Board Members and Employee Reps. Share some holiday "goodies" and a cup of punch or cider. Visit with other TOTEM Members.



-Sharon Baker, TOTEM President

Paid Holidays

To be eligible for holiday pay, you must be in paid status (at work or on paid leave) the last work day before and the first work day after the holiday or break.

For Thanksgiving, November 23rd & 24th are paid holidays. You need to be in paid status on Wednesday, November 22nd, and Monday, November 27th.



During Winter Break, December 25, 26 & 29, 2017 and January 1, 2018, will be the paid holidays. For school based, you will need to be in paid status Friday, December 22nd and Monday, January 8th. For non-school based, Friday, December 22nd, and Wednesday, January 3rd.

For the days that are not paid holidays, you have the options of taking paid leave, taking unpaid leave or a combination of both. For those in the PERS System Tiers I, II and III, remember if you take unpaid leave, you will not receive any retirement credit.

Thank You.

We want to thank the following TOTEM members for their participation in the ballot counting for the contract ratification vote. They did a great job.



Election Judge

Election Teller

Election Checkers (Counters)

Crissy Reimers

Mireya Parra

Jean Carpenter

Rose Childs

Donna Freeman

Sandy Oathout

Lisa Young

The vote by the members was to accept the proposed three-year contract. Thank you to those of you who voted.

New TOTEM Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Lisa Hall, Administrative Assistant at IT, to the TOTEM Board of Directors. Lisa will be filling the Member-at-Large, Non-Instructional position that became vacant when Isabel Groff retired. We look forward to having Lisa on the Board!

**Follow us
on our new
Facebook
page!**



New Employee Reps

We welcome Lisa Young, Administrative Assistant at ELL and Leah Prince, Senior Clerk at Transportation as our two new Reps. We appreciate their willingness to take on this important position, helping other TOTEM members.

Area assignments have not yet been established, If you need a Rep, please call the TOTEM office (562-1183.)

Sock Drive

It's time again for the Central Labor Council (CLC) Annual Sock Drive. This event benefits children and adults in our community who are less fortunate than we are. We will be collecting new socks, any sizes, for men, women and children. Bring your donations to the TOTEM Holiday Social or to our office anytime before January 17th. You may also drop them off at I.B.E.W, 3333 Denali Street, between December 17th and January 17th.





“WHAT DOES TOTEM DO FOR ME?”

This question has been asked of me numerous times, especially over the last several weeks as we held our informational meetings; answered telephone calls and had face-to-face conversations with members during the ratification period for our latest contract.

So much of what TOTEM and your Executive Board do on your behalf is “behind the scenes”. We give countless volunteer hours every year for you - our members. This isn’t meant to be self-serving. We do this for our members and our union because you are important; because the work we do every day for our students, parents and community is important, and everyone deserves to be treated with respect whether they are a 3.5-hour a day employee or an 8-hour a day employee. I felt it was important to share just *some* of what we do:

-Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA): this is your contract - have you read it? I encourage you to look at it. The CBA contains a lot of important & useful information. Not just your wage scale, range, and what holidays you get paid for, but information on your rights as members of TOTEM; evaluation process; opportunities for additional recognitions, etc. This is one of the most important documents you can have during your professional association with the District.

-Spring Conference: this takes months of planning & preparation to pull off this two-day professional learning opportunity for members and better yet, you get paid to attend!

-First Aid/CPR/AED training: offered every other month at the TOTEM office during the school year and at Spring Conference. We have trained hundreds of our members to be better prepared to handle emergency situations.

-Mentoring: we have TOTEM members that offer their expertise and support for new hires in a variety of positions, mostly clerical.

-Representation: TOTEM is represented and given a voice by your Board in a myriad of National, State and Local organizations: The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the AFL-CIO, the Central Labor Council (CLC), Alaska Public Employee’s Association, the ASD Health Benefits Task Force and many other ASD policy committees. We share our concerns for not only our members, but for educational issues that affect us & our students with the Anchorage School Board, Anchorage Assembly and our elected legislators in Juneau & Washington D.C. regardless of their affiliated political party.

-Extra’s: The TOTEM board manages the Sick Leave Bank; offers Scholarships for continuing education for members & dependents; gives recognition (KUDO’s) for members who earn their PSP or CAP or any other certifications; offer New Member Orientations every other month; make phone calls to every new member hired to welcome them to ASD & TOTEM, answer their questions and make sure they are off to a good start with us.

So maybe the question should be “*What can I do for TOTEM*” because TOTEM is not just the Board and the Reps, TOTEM is you and every single one of us.

-Sandy Thompson, TOTEM Vice-President & Employee Rep