



MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

TOTEM FORUM

TOTEM ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Volume 2018/2019 ISSUE 2

December 2018

2018-2019 TOTEM

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Vice President Sandy Thompson
Secretary Felicia Woods
Treasurer Amey Tamagni

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 Kathy Miller
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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

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

A Note from the President...

This holiday season I am very thankful for many things:

- We all survived the earthquake and are safe.
- The District recognizes the commitment of their hardworking employees.
- That I am a part of a caring, dedicated group of people, TOTEM.
- That I have been welcomed by members as I visit work sites.
- A bit of humor: that my two cats finally came out of hiding at 7:30 pm Saturday.



The TOTEM Board and I hope you too have many reasons to be thankful. Enjoy your Winter Break and the Holidays. We look forward to working with you in the New Year.

-Sharon Baker, TOTEM President

Since the month of July, the TOTEM Board has had the privilege of going to our many schools and worksites to talk with our many dedicated members. Ironically, the aftermath of the Janus vs. AFSCME case has given us reason to meet our members face to face and to learn more about them. I would like to convey sincere thanks to each individual who took the time to assist with handing out membership commitment cards, gathering them, talking to others who may have not made the meetings, and overall for the kindness and genuine dedication to both their jobs and the association.

The individuals we have in our association make my decision to volunteer easy to justify and continue.

Have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy the winter break.

Amey Tamagni

TOTEM Treasurer



MEMBERS TELL THEIR STORY

All of us have a story to tell. Mine is about going around the District to talk with our valued existing and new members about the law the Supreme Court passed in June. By now you should have heard that this is another way to “bust public employee unions.” Union members are being told things like: “keep your money in your pocket; give yourself a raise, don’t pay union dues!” The good news around the District is that it’s not going to happen to us.

I’ve heard some interesting stories that should be told. During my travels to different schools, I felt a strong sense of pride among our members and what they have done; and they wanted to know more about what we are planning to do. Having the opportunity to connect with TOTEM members has been an enlightening experience. I’ve had a chance to meet our members on their own turf. I felt welcome everywhere I went. I think we are professional about what we do and how we do it. The majority of our members enjoy their jobs and what we do as a union. So far most of you never had to use the union for anything, not even dispute or a discipline meeting. Most of you are so happy to know we will be there if you do need us.

I understand things are not always the way we would like them to be, but this is where we are now and we are not going to give up or give in. We are stronger together than we are alone. Many have worked hard to get the benefits, both in the contract and through our union affiliations.

The outlook is strong for now, however we need to keep that energy high and keep the belief that we can come out stronger than ever. I’m looking forward to hearing your positive stories and how we can help you move forward to the good future.



Congratulations!

A big CONGRATULATIONS go to Suzette Johnstone who successfully passed the CAP test this fall.

Way to go, Suzette!

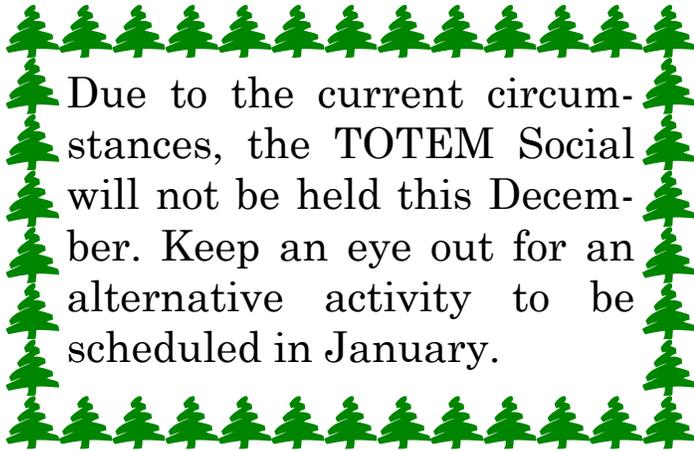


Denise Tilley

Member at Large,
TOTEM Board

The TOTEM Scholarships Applications for the 2019/20 School year will be available on the TOTEM Website after January 7.

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	Do you have a suggestion and/or a presenter you	
	would like to see at the 2019 TOTEM Spring Confer-	
	ence? If so, please email the information to the TO-	
	TEM Office at totemassoc@gci.net.	
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Due to the current circumstances, the TOTEM Social will not be held this December. Keep an eye out for an alternative activity to be scheduled in January.

Paid Holidays

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

During Winter Break, December 24, 25 & 31, 2018, and January 1, 2019, will be the paid holidays. For school based, you will need to be in paid status Friday, December 21st and Monday, January 7th. For non-school based, the dates are Friday, December 21st, and Wednesday, January 2nd.

A BIT OF HOLIDAY FUN: *Can you Name These Carols?*

Answers are available on www.totemassoc.org

1. Oh, member of the round table with missing areas
2. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
3. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling
4. Wanted in December: top forward incisors
5. The apartment of two psychiatrists
6. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
7. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
8. Decorate the entryways
9. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
10. Oh small Israel urban center
11. Far off in a haybin
12. We are Kong, Lear, and Nat Cole
13. Duodecimal enumeration of the passage of the yuletide season
14. Leave and broadcast from an elevation
15. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your yuletide season
16. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully
17. I beheld a trio of nautical vessels moving in this direction



18. Jubilation to the entire terrestrial globe
19. Do you perceive the same vibrations which stimulate my auditory sense organ?
20. A joyful song of reverence relative to hollow metallic vessels which vibrate and bring forth a ringing sound when struck
21. Parent was observed osculating a red-coated unshaven teamster
22. May the Deity bestow an absence of fatigue to mild male humans
23. Rose-colored uncouth dolf is aware of the nature of precipitation, darling