



# ALVORD EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

# *THE PODIUM*



ISSUE 1      OCTOBER 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you have hopefully settled in to this virtual teaching world, I hope this message will find you and your families safe and well. What a year this has been! In my 33 years in education, I never could have imagined the virtual teaching world you have found yourselves adapting to. I've thought for veteran teachers and brand new teachers, it must feel like an alternate universe. As you've no doubt heard by now, the School Board has decided not to begin the Hybrid model until after Winter Break. I know there have been mixed reactions to this decision and AEA does not have a position on it. What we remain focused on is making sure you have a safe working environment and teaching schedules that are in your and your students best interest. These things are within our control and we will remain laser focused on doing the very best we can for all of you.

Additionally, as you've heard, negotiations are not going well. Your Bargaining Team and I remain completely dumbfounded that when everything we have been saying for over a year about the budget is IN FACT TRUE, the School Board did not act immediately to approve our raise. Instead they have chosen to believe inaccurate and nonsensical information from their "CBO" who created most of the inaccurate projections! Settling this raise is solely in the School Board's hands now. Rest assured, we WILL get our well-deserved raise and retro pay. I don't think the School Board understands the damage that is being done in the meantime. The damage to the trust and belief in our School Board, administration and District may never be repaired.

As I told you in a previous email, I am a teacher and a counselor. As your President, I always keep you foremost in my mind. As an Association, we remain focused on being truthful and doing the right thing to the best of our abilities. We continue to do so! Please know that you are in my thoughts every day as we navigate this uncertain and, sometimes, wacky world. Just know that I will do the heavy lifting on my end, so you can remain focused on the difficult job of educating our students.

Be safe and well.

*Leigh*

Follow Alvord Educators on Twitter @aeaprez10 and like us on Facebook at Alvord Educators



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Comments, articles and letters to the editor are welcome.

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## News from AEA

### 2019-2020 AEA Cesar Chavez Art Winners

Student	School	Grade	Teacher	Place
Ron Cotter	Myra Linn	3	Wilcox	First
Genesis Aguilar	Myra Linn	3	Wilcox	Second
Alina Gonzalez	Myra Linn	3	Wilcox	Third
Cindy Diaz Serrato	Loma Vista	7	Schaafsma- Smith	First
Samuel Nava	Loma	7	Schaafsma-	Second
Jaylen Ramos	Loma	8	Schaafsma-	First
Elsie Bernal	Loma	8	Schaafsma-	Second (tie)
Marco Chavarria	Loma	8	Schaafsma-	Second (tie)
Brianna Marquez	Arizona	8	Larkins	Second (tie)
Jian Ella Natalicio	La Sierra	11	Whiting	First (tie)
Vanessa Romero	Norte	11	Ribaudo	First (tie)
Julianna Hernandez	Norte Vista	11	Ribaudo	Second
<b>Vladimir Jimenez</b>	<b>Norte Vista</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Ribaudo</b>	<b>First (tie)</b>
Yulia Ramirez	La Sierra	12	Whiting	First (tie)
Axel Ibanez	La Sierra	12	Reynoso	Second (tie)
Jennifer Mendieta	La Sierra	12	Whiting	Second (tie)
Britany Heredia	Norte	12	Ribaudo	Third

### 2019-2020 AEA Cesar Chavez Essay Winners

Student	School	Grade	Teacher	Place
Angela Curiel	Myra Linn	3	Wilcox	First
Alina Gonzalez	Myra Linn	3	Wilcox	Second
Allysen Caballero	Myra Linn	3	Wilcox	First
<b>Desiree Hernandez</b>	<b>Alvord HS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Kohls</b>	<b>First</b>
Joanne Le	Alvord HS	12	Kohls	Second
Emily Lopez	Alvord HS	12	Kohls	Third

Congratulations to **Vladimir Jimenez** and his teacher **Jeff Ribaldo** from Norte Vista High School, and **Desiree Hernandez** and her teacher **Natasha Kohls** from Alvord High School for being recipients of the CTA Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Educational Awards. They each will be recognized on the CTA website and in the California Educator magazine and received \$550.

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT EFFECTIVE JULY 1 OUR BENEFITS NOW INCLUDE COMPLETE CARE?

Complete Care gives you financial benefits when you and your family choose to enroll in your spouse's group medical plan instead of choosing Alvord's medical plans. It gives you and your family the opportunity to have up to 100% coverage of your out-of-pocket medical expenses.

No contribution is deducted from your paycheck and under your spouse's medical plan, up to 100% of your co-pays, deductibles, co-insurance, and prescriptions are paid for by Complete Care.

This is an incredible opportunity for savings! You can sign up for Complete Care during open enrollment and there will be another opportunity to enroll in the fall. Check out Benefits Bridge for more information and you can also contact Amanda Coats in the Benefits Department at 509-5083 for any questions you may have.

## From CTA

### CTA Disability Insurance Plan Made for Educators

CTA-endorsed Disability insurance from The Standard is designed especially for California educators. Here's how it works:

- **Replaces up to 75% of your daily income** if you're unable to work due to illness, injury, pregnancy or childbirth.
- **Starts paying benefit after you are out of work 7 consecutive workdays** — including a \$25 per work-day benefit on top of your fully-paid sick leave.
- **Covers any preexisting conditions** once you are enrolled and work for 10 consecutive workdays.

Participants in the CTA-endorsed Disability plan may also be eligible for additional Student Loan and Cancer Benefits from CTA while on an approved disability claim.

**Did you find your 2020-2021 Membership Card in your mail?** Your card was mailed to you with your August/September issue of California Educator. The issue also includes a detailed Membership Manual, tips on being a virtual teacher, and voter information for the November election.

**CTA website now includes COVID-19 Resources.** CTA is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its members and the students they serve and will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide updates as they become available. Please visit <https://www.cta.org/for-educators/covid19> for the latest information.

**Taking the temperature of your Financial Wellness.** CTA's goal is your financial well-being. In the Financial Wellness Center we spotlight key financial topics so you can get the most out of your money and achieve your financial goals. It is also a great resource for questions on retirement planning. Visit <https://ctainvest.org/> to get help get your finances healthy.



## ELECTION CENTRAL

AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE TO THE US ELECTIONS



### Election Education Programs Online

- PBS Learning Media's **The Election Connection** has videos, activities and lesson plans about history of elections, voting rights, and how the presidential election works, including the Electoral College map that allows students to predict their own scenarios. There's even a youth media challenge for middle and high school students!  
[pbslearningmedia.org/collection/election-collection](https://pbslearningmedia.org/collection/election-collection)
- C-SPAN Classroom Campaign 2020 is a comprehensive home for presidential election information and teaching resources, including how the candidates compare on the issues, historical videos, and lesson plans on everything from candidate ads to foreign election interference.  
[sites.google.com/view/c-span-classroom-campaign-2020/lesson-plans](https://sites.google.com/view/c-span-classroom-campaign-2020/lesson-plans)
- Gamify the election at iCivics election headquarters, which features electipn-focused civics games on the race for the White House, the duties and responsibilities of the president, and the fight against "fake news." This free-with-registration site also features lesson plans, helpful infographics, and online "webquests" to connect civic concepts to the real world.  
[Icivics.org/election](https://Icivics.org/election)

## Three Unusual Self Care Ideas for Teachers During a Pandemic and Virtual Teaching

### 1. Experience Life In The Fairyland Cottage

Fairyland Cottage is a [YouTube channel](#) that shows a day in the life of an Irish woman who lives – not surprisingly – in the Irish countryside.

It's a slow-paced, back to nature channel that shows her drying fresh herbs, harvesting food from her garden, hanging laundry outdoors and basically living a minimalist, zero waste life. (courtesy of *Live Well Zone*)

### 2. Make Some Soap

Technically, it can be make soap, ice cream or a bookshelf. Just find something you've wanted to try to make at home and turn it into a productive way to relieve stress. Good Housekeeping has a DIY way of making soap at home without lye. [How To Make Homemade Soap](#)

### 3. Clean It Out...

Your handbags, car, closet, pantry or garage. If you haven't done this since the start of the pandemic in March, do it now. Tackling one of these projects helps to make us feel more organized on the inside as well as on the outside.

## CTA GUIDE ON CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS

<b><u>PROP 15</u></b>	<b>YES</b>	
<b><u>PROP 16</u></b>	<b>YES</b>	
<b><u>PROP 20</u></b>	<b>NO</b>	
<b><u>PROP 22</u></b>	<b>NO</b>	
<b><u>PROP 25</u></b>	<b>YES</b>	