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# Garden Grove Education Association

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President: Bridget Holdermann, Electronic Communication AdNotes – Aug 31, 2023
12912 Brookhurst St, #360, Garden Grove (714) 638-7480 www.ggea.org

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### GGEA Mission Statement:

**GGEA is an association of educators who advocate for the well-being of our membership and the students we serve.**

### GGEA 2022-2023 Goal:

**Engage membership through internal organizing to build a stronger union.**



*CTA Award-Winning Newsletter of the Garden Grove Education Association*

## ADVOCATE

GGEA is affiliated with the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association

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(714) 638-7480

### RETIREMENT TRIBUTE

Congratulations to our 2022-23 Retirees! We hope you are enjoying the start of your new chapter. We appreciate YOU and your tremendous service to our students and community!



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- President's Message
- Recent AAUSD Board Meetings
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- NEA Representative Assembly 2023

- |                    |                   |                                                                                       |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lois Adams         | Laura Dard Isafin | Linda Ramirez                                                                         |
| Danette Azzier     | LeAnne Johnson    | Stella Russomanno                                                                     |
| Carol Bary         | Linda Kaskis      | Sharia Staab                                                                          |
| William Braubier   | Darcy King        | Nicole Thompson                                                                       |
| Sylvia Bennett     | William Lou       | Debra Thomson                                                                         |
| Cynthia Besat      | Sunshine Lundy    | Laura Vogtling                                                                        |
| Sue Bradford       | Catherine Matarik | Marie Walts                                                                           |
| Robyn Boydston     | William Monroe    | Patricia Wong                                                                         |
| Gilja Choi         | Cynthia Monty     | Mark Zaluski                                                                          |
| Megan Clark-Dibona | Denise Munson     |                                                                                       |
| Noelle Dickinson   | Jennette Nearhood |                                                                                       |
| Michael Egan       | Dominique Nguyen  |  |
| Conrad Freese      | Evelyn Oorts      |                                                                                       |
| Rocky Gray         | Jodi Parvin       |                                                                                       |

## WE'VE MOVED!

**Garden Grove Education Association**  
12912 Brookhurst, Ste. 360  
Garden Grove, CA 92640

Phone: 714-638-7480  
Fax: 714-638-9167  
Website: [www.ggea.org](http://www.ggea.org)  
Email: [president@ggea.org](mailto:president@ggea.org)

### Board of Directors

**President**  
Bradley Haldemann  
(GGEA Office)

**Vice President**  
Nicole Occorrell-Land (Lake)

**2nd Vice President**  
Steven Sevance (Paine)

**Secretary**  
Rebecca Karpowitz (Jordan)

**Treasurer**  
David Cho (Baha Grande)

**High School Segment Directors**  
Anquella Howard (Rancho Abencio)  
Cork Seider (La Quinta)

**Intermediate Segment Directors**  
Miki Goley (Alhambra)  
Veronica Conkle (Lake)

**Elementary Segment Directors**  
Sarah Held (Garden Park)  
Karyn Lai-Silverberg (Allen)  
Deva Floyd (Clifton)

**Executive Director**  
Paul Kim  
GGEA Office

GGEA moved offices this past spring and we are now located on 12912 Brookhurst St, Suite 360 and Suite 365. We are behind the Amarith Table in the Greenbrier Plaza. Please stop by and say hi!



## WHAT IS THE IMAD AWARD??

The Human Rights Committee recognizes GGEA members who make a positive contribution outside of the classroom with the "I Make a Difference Award." This award is given to members who volunteer their time and energy to benefit the school community or the community at large. Past IMAD winners have been involved in working in local charities, after school tutoring projects, library reading programs, soup kitchens, charity runs and human rights endeavors.

**Nominations** can be submitted to the GGEA Human Rights Committee via our website online form (located on Human Rights Committee page of [GGEA.org](http://GGEA.org)) or emailed to [humanrights@ggea.org](mailto:humanrights@ggea.org). Nominations can be submitted by a single member, by a group of members, or by the entire school staff. Please include the following in your nomination:

- The nominee's name, school and contact information
- His/her specific contribution (please provide details)
- Your name and contact information

Each month, the committee will honor an IMAD recipient at a Rep Council meeting and feature him/her in the GGEA Advocate.

**NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE TODAY!!**



STAR PROMISE

CTA Members, take advantage of Auto and Home/Renters Insurance that is...

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# WWW.GGEA.ORG

**Did you know your union has a website?**

**KEY FEATURES designed with YOU in mind:**

- EASY CLICKABLE CONTRACT
- NEGOTIATIONS UPDATES
- BY LAWS & STANDING RULES
- INSURANCE INFORMATION
- CALENDARS
- CTA & NEA BENEFITS
- ADVOCATES ARCHIVE
- ADVOCATE ARCHIVE

SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT GGEA.ORG

## SEND US YOUR ARTICLES!

**WE HAVE A NEW GOOGLE FORM FOR ADVOCATE SUBMISSIONS.**

The Advocate is GGEA's monthly newsletter highlighting the fantastic teaching, events, and successes happening across our district.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE AND PHOTO!**

LOOK FOR A LINK IN THE MONTHLY FORM

## Member Benefits 4 You

Join CTA Member Benefits every first Tuesday of the month, 4 pm PST, to learn about your member benefits. We will concentrate on a new topic each month and sessions will be up to 30 minutes.

You can access the session here: [https://www.cta.netex.com/oaq.php?VTC=m0412015\\_00250677v1302507v13](https://www.cta.netex.com/oaq.php?VTC=m0412015_00250677v1302507v13)

For more information and a schedule of the upcoming sessions, please visit: [www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/MB&U](http://www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/MB&U)

## RECENT GGUSD BOARD MEETINGS

The following is a message from GGEA President, Bridget Holdermann, regarding the recent School Board meetings:

Most of the time GGUSD School Board meetings are free from controversy. However, at the last two school board meetings, July 18 and August 15, individuals have spoken during public comments. Some were there to support a teacher, while others were attacking the district and teachers for following education code which prohibits a school from "outing" an LGBTQ+ student to their family without the student's permission. The audio of the GGUSD School Board meetings can be accessed on the District Website at <https://ggusd.us/board/meeting-agendas>. I would like to share with you the comments I made at the school board meetings.

### July 18, 2023

Good evening board members, colleagues, and community members my name is Bridget Holdermann, my pronouns are she, her, and hers. As I have mentioned before, I'm incredibly proud to be homegrown. I attended Post and Carrillo elementary schools, Irvine Intermediate, and graduated from La Quinta High School. I'm also a proud member of the Garden Grove Education Association, California Teachers Association, and National Education Association. As president of the Garden Grove Education Association, I have had the opportunity to see how amazing the teachers, nurses, and teacher-librarians are in this district. Most of the incredible professional development our teachers receive is from other teachers in the TOSA ranks.

Most of the time GGEA and the District work collaboratively for the benefit of our educators and students. Through bargaining we have reduced class sizes while maintaining a competitive salary. Much of the support we provide to our members takes place behind the scenes during weekly meetings that the executive director and president have with the Office of Personnel or our monthly meetings with the Offices of Elementary, Secondary, K-12, and Special Education.

There are times when the Union and District do not agree on a course of action. This is one of them. I'm grateful to work in a state that recognizes the right of unions to protect a teacher's right to due process. To be completely clear, I support my teachers 100%. GGEA recognizes every teacher as the expert in their classroom. I personally support diverse views and diverse teaching styles. It is good for our students to have teachers from diverse backgrounds. I believe this encourages critical thinking, a skill we want all our students to have.

Most teachers never know about the work the union does on behalf of individual teachers, because we respect their right to confidentiality. I want every member in my local to know that if you call the GGEA office your privacy will be respected. Also, if you need your GGEA president and executive director at your side, we'll be there. Regardless of your race, creed, who you love, how you identify, or political affiliation, the union has your back.

In closing, I know the district and the union agree, that in the Garden Grove Unified School District there is "No Place for Hate."

Thank You.

### August 15, 2023

Good evening school board members, district leadership, colleagues, and community members. My name is Bridget Holdermann; pronouns she/her/hers. I'd like to share some insight into the work the amazing educators in the Garden Grove Unified School District perform.

Many of us request our classroom keys at the beginning of August to begin preparing the room environment for our students. We all understand the importance of a room environment that sends the message, "this is a safe space conducive to learning."

During the month of August many educators attended trainings or provided trainings to ensure that we are all up to date on the most recent research based instructional strategies in the areas of academics, social emotional learning, and technology. Others provided summer bridge courses to ensure students had the prerequisite skills necessary for success this year and beyond. On August 19th we all reported to our sites for informational meetings, site trainings, and time to plan and prepare for the upcoming school year.

As the year progresses educators will be expected to adhere to the pacing guides and adopted curriculum in the areas of history, language arts, mathematics, science, physical education, visual and performing arts, world languages, etc. All which requires hours of planning, preparing, and grading.

Many of our teachers volunteer their time to advise clubs on campus or provide a safe space for students to gather while they, the teachers, eat lunch at their desks. Many will provide before and after school intervention for struggling students or teach an extended learning opportunity where students are exposed to computer programming, cyber security, and additional visual and performing arts opportunities.

During their breaks teacher-coaches will travel with their students to sports competitions, music directors will take their students on field trips to perform and compete, AVID instructors will take their students on college visits, ASB advisors will take our student-leaders to leadership conferences, elementary teachers will travel with their students to science camp, and other teachers will travel with students to Washington D.C. All of this to provide students with real-world life experiences while still ensuring proper supervision.

Secondary teachers write letters of recommendation for their students. Elementary teachers plan small group instruction in math and language arts. All teachers differentiate and attend IEP meetings.

Then as our students begin to start thinking of summer break, educators are applying for summer school positions and planning summer bridge sessions. Willingly giving up part of their break because we, educators, understand how important it is to not let our students fall behind.

The educators of the Garden Grove Unified School District are professional, exceptional, and compassionate. So, I wasn't surprised when I heard at the recent keynote presentation that our state language arts and math scores were up to pre-pandemic levels across all grades and that our students are above the county and state averages for meeting a-g requirements and scores on AP exams. We care about the needs of all our students regardless of race, creed, who they love, how they identify, or future political party affiliation. We will follow the law.

Thank You.

I was not able to finish my comments on August 15, because public comments were limited to 2 minutes. But I hope I was able to make my point, which is that teachers are so busy teaching and providing additional support we do not have the time to do the things we were being accused of. In closing, I want everyone to know that we have the most wonderful educators in the GGUSD that constantly strive to provide the best education and learning environment for our students.

**You deserve a greater standard of protection.**  
Here's your chance to protect what matters most.

**Special Enrollment Opportunity for GGEA Members**

- GGEA members have an exclusive opportunity to apply for CTA-endorsed Disability and Life Insurance from Standard Insurance Company without answering health questions.<sup>1</sup>
- CTA-endorsed Disability Insurance replaces up to 80% of your paycheck if you miss work due to illness, injury, pregnancy or childbirth.
- It also gives you exclusive access to the Student Loan Benefit, Cancer Benefit and Summer Benefit<sup>2</sup> at no additional cost.

**Learn More & Apply:**  
August 15 - October 15, 2023  
[standard.com/cta/gardengrove](https://standard.com/cta/gardengrove)

1 No health questions asked if 9% of eligible chapter members apply for Disability Insurance and/or when applying for up to the Guaranteed Issue amount of Life Insurance.  
2 Summer Benefit is offered by CTA to eligible members who meet additional specific criteria during the months of June and July. CTA provides this benefit at no extra cost, and The Standard acts as the claims administrator of this benefit. Summer Benefit is not provided under the Voluntary Disability Insurance policy.  
For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, benefit waiting periods, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800.522.0406.  
Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 | GP190-LTD/S2023/CTA, 1 | GP190-LIF/S2023/CTA, 1 | 94999-CTAstd 9/23

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

We are so excited to welcome over 70 new members to our GGEA family!

|                       |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Richelle Acebedo      | Jose Gonzalez         | Kelly Pham                |
| Karina Andrade        | Brad Hammerling       | Michelle Pham             |
| Alejandra Alfonso     | Rosa Hernandez Cuevas | Vivian Pham               |
| Frances Aze           | Morgan Hirsch         | Juliana Reyes             |
| Erica Calderon        | Andy Ho               | Kristian Rhodes           |
| Adriana Castellanos   | Kylie Horan           | Mayra Rivera Montelongo   |
| Ambar Castaneda       | Amanda Johnson        | Trevor Sallos             |
| Irene Chang           | Isel Joyce            | Kella Gabriella San Pedro |
| Judy Chon             | Christopher Kato      | Kiana Sanchez             |
| Lindsay Cleveland     | Christine Kim         | Brianna Santillo          |
| Kristin Cooley        | Lauren Le             | Eric Schreiner            |
| Diana Corona Martinez | Caroline Leyba        | Margaret Skianakis        |
| Daniel Coral          | Marcedalia Lopez      | Sofia Silva               |
| Emily Dahlen          | Martha Lopez          | Steve Sosa                |
| Karla DeLaCruz        | Richard Lueras        | Corey Stoffel             |
| Jasa Denny            | Christina Macias      | Kristen Stinger           |
| Victoria Dobson       | Jason Millis          | Emily Sweeney             |
| Michelle Duong        | Jazmin Morales        | Hanh Tran                 |
| Alan Ellis            | Grace Morfelo         | Vanessa Trevino           |
| Emily Falck           | Joshua Myers          | Held Tucker               |
| Courtney Flynn        | Kimberly Nguyen       | Daylyn Walsh              |
| Marlene Garcia        | Simon Park            | Robert Webb               |
| Brandon Gay           | Akiko Parker          | Wendy Wiebach             |
| Rogelio Godoy Garcia  | Lizeth Perez          |                           |
|                       | Emily Pham            |                           |

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## NEA Representative Assembly 2023



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***Together Everyone Achieves More***

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**Contact Information**

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Associate Staff Membership, Susan Kaylor: [membership@ggea.org](mailto:membership@ggea.org)

Associate Staff Reception, Jenny Gonzalez: [jennyg@ggea.org](mailto:jennyg@ggea.org)

website: [www.ggea.org](http://www.ggea.org)

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