



MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

TOTEM FORUM

TOTEM ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Volume 2018/2019 ISSUE 4

May 2019

2018-2019 TOTEM

Board Members

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Vice President Sandy Thompson

Secretary Felicia Woods

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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

TOTEM Office 562-1183

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

END OF THE YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

A Note from the President...

SUMMER BREAK



TOTEM Members,

Here we are at the end of the school year. Looking back, this was a difficult year. We survived doing what we always do, putting kids first and working to help them succeed.

Many of you know I am retiring the end of June. I want each of you to know how proud I am to be a member of this incredible dedicated, professional organization. I wish you the very best.

Sandy Thompson is the new TOTEM President. She was elected by acclamation on March 12th during the TOTEM 2019 Spring Conference. Sandy's term of office begins July 1st. You can reach her at the TOTEM office at 562-1183.

-Sharon Baker, TOTEM President

TOTEM Start and End Dates

Months	2018/19 End	2019/20 Start	End
9	05/23/19	08/14/19	05/22/20
10	**06/03/19	*07/23/19	**06/01/20
11	**06/14/19	*07/17/19	**06/12/20

*-represents the earliest date a position may return to work

** - represents the latest date a position may report to work

Professional Standard Program (PSP) Certificate Recipients

Congratulations to all PSP Certificate recipients!

September 15, 2018

Donna Barker	Gabriele Beltz
Rose Childs	Diana Dominguez- Kutcher
Julie Ellison	Chao Kue
Ana Petersen	Sabra Peterson
Cheryl Pierce	Kelly White
Lorena Wilson	

January 15, 2019

Melanie Carey	Colleen Deese
Anna Fernandez	Jiaping Huang
Donna Johnston	Margaret Johnson
Debra Jones	Frances Khan
Xining Li	Jerry Moore
Natalie Morton	Clarissa Smith
Katelyn Tullius	

May 15, 2019

We have not received, from NAEOP, the names of those who qualified for PSP certificates on May 15, 2019. We will post the names on the TOTEM web site and include them in the first newsletter of the 2019/20 school year.



TOTEM Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment

Our Sick Leave Bank allows eligible TOTEM employees to receive leave hours from the Bank when they have exhausted their own leave due to a personal illness. Eligible employees are those who have joined the Bank and are contributing leave to the bank. A payroll deduction of three (3) hours occurs in September or October of each year from those who are members of the Bank. A second three (3) hour deduction may be taken during the year if the Bank balance drops below 2000 hours.

Between September 1st and 10th you have the opportunity to enroll in or withdraw from the TOTEM Sick Leave Bank. To do so you will need to notify ASD Human Resources in writing of your intent during that time period.

AFT Member Benefits Update

AFT ended its endorsement of the Wells Fargo Union Plus mortgage program some time ago, however, because mortgages can take a long time to wrap up and close, there was a long tail associated with the ending of the program. I was under the impression that AFT members who found their way to a Wells Fargo branch could still take advantage of the benefits associated with the Union Plus mortgage program through Wells, however that is not the case So to be clear, at present there is not an AFT mortgage program that works with Alaska. We are working to provide a 50 state solution and may have one in the near future, but there will be no more Wells approvals through local affiliate's relationship with the AFT.

Mary Traeger Pascale
Assistant Director | AFT Member Benefits

Attention Scholarship Winners....

If you won a 2018/2019 TOTEM Scholarship, the deadline is fast approaching for reimbursement. Please visit the TOTEM website to fill out a "Request for Scholarship Reimbursement Form" and turn it in to the TOTEM Office **no later than June 28, 2019**. Requests received after this date cannot be reimbursed.





AFT Student Loan Concern

Many AFT members and their families are struggling under a mountain of student debt, making it difficult for them to make ends meet. This is an opportunity issue, a funding issue, a living wage issue and a quality of life issue. College has become the new high school, yet we fail to fund it as a public good; as a result, student debt has exceeded \$1.5 trillion. That's why the AFT has taken on the **student debt crisis** as a union issue. In fact, a few months ago, 11 of our members filed a proposed class-action lawsuit, on behalf of all employees who work in public service, against Navient, a student loan servicer, for purposely and systematically giving these workers inaccurate information about their eligibility for income-driven repayment plans and the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

However, Navient is not the only one to blame. As of the end of December 2018, 53,749 unique borrowers had submitted 65,500 applications for **public service loan forgiveness**, and **only 610 applications had been approved by the Department of Education**. Those who work in public service are being denied the forgiveness they are entitled to at alarmingly high rates, and it's time to put a stop to it. The law that created this program, by the way, was a bipartisan one—signed by President George W. Bush and spearheaded by Sens. Hillary Clinton and Ted Kennedy more than a decade ago.

That's why the AFT is **exploring further legal action on behalf of our members** who have been denied public service loan forgiveness. Specifically, we are **looking for AFT members whose applications for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program have been denied**.

Such members must meet the following criteria:

- Made 120 payments on their federal student loans;
- Worked in a public or private school, for the government, or for a nonprofit organization for at least 10 years; and
- Applied for and were denied public service loan forgiveness.

If you fit this description and would be interested in being considered, take this survey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SD_PSLF) and answer a few questions. Please also share this link with other public employees and AFT members.

The AFT or our lawyers may then reach out to you to learn more about your experience. Any information you share will be kept strictly confidential unless you give your express permission.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Free Health Education Classes

Congratulations, You're Pregnant!

Designed for first time moms, this class leads you through the exciting journey to come.

Led by Janet Starkey, Certified Nurse Midwife.

April 24

May 29

June 19

5:30-6:30 pm



Prenatal Nutrition 101

April 4
May 2
June 6
12:00-1:00pm

marketing@awcp.net
www.anchoragewomensclinic.com

AWC
Anchorage Women's Clinic
ANCHORAGE AND EAGLE RIVER

Preparing for BIRTH-Day!

April 9

May 7

June 12

5:30-6:30pm



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Finding Fertility

May 2, 2019
5:30-6:30

Dr. Dona Espindola and Bella Barrows, ANP will present the facts about fertility and the path to building your family.

AWC
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ANCHORAGE AND EAGLE RIVER

See our website under 'Patient Resources' for more information!

Finding the Me in Menopause

May 16 and June 27, 2019

5:30-6:30 pm

Menopause can be a confusing time.
Erica Mulder, ANP, Certified Menopausal Practitioner and
Sherrill Smith Collins, Registered Dietitian
will discuss this new chapter in your
life and share tips for retaining your sense of self and joy.



RSVP your space by emailing: marketing@awcp.net
or call (907) 561-7111

www.anchoragewomensclinic.com

Meet Our Midwife Team



AWCs Certified Nurse-Midwife team works collaboratively with physicians to provide a team approach to prenatal care - offering women expanded choices during pregnancy and beyond.



Looking for summer work?

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

Get paid to play!

Hope Community Resources is looking for Individual Support Staff to work with children experiencing disabilities. Work seasonally or all year outside of school hours. Paid training and flexible schedules - join us!

**To apply, please visit
<http://www.hopealaska.org>
and select ISS-Youth**



For more information, contact
familysupports@hopealaska.org
(907) 433-4855