

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
May 13, 2020

What's Your Story?

CSEA wants to feature you!

Let your colleagues know how CSEA has helped you be successful in your position. Please submit a short narrative. For example, consider telling things like how the contract helps you in the classroom, how we support you when you are in need, how we gave voice to your needs at the capitol, or how your professional autonomy leads to creative and better approaches to your craft. These rights and voices are critical and unusual in our region. We hope to feature these stories over the next several days. Please send submissions to [CSEA](#).

Benefits of Belonging

NEA Member Benefits Stands In Solidarity With Members

NEA Member Benefits stands in **solidarity** with you and supports you during this difficult time. Many of the benefit partners are offering special assistance to members in need who may have been impacted by the economic hardship. They offer resources to navigate student loan forgiveness, a temporary relief program for NEA Life Insurance premiums, and personal loans, among other things. You can see a more comprehensive itemization of the resources they offer [here](#). Please contact them if you have questions. You may reach their Member Advocacy Center by telephone at 1-800-637-4636 or by [email](#).

CSEA And D11 Negotiated For Your Right To Read This Email

You are able to receive this email because CSEA and the District have negotiated this right in the Master Agreement. ([Article III. G. 4, Association Rights, Use Of Facilities and Services](#)).

Wouldn't you think all local Associations have that right? Well, that's wrong!

Did you know that few of our surrounding school districts have collectively bargained Master Agreements? Most of them are not able to use District resources such as District email to communicate with their members! As a result, those associations have a less than robust capacity to communicate with their members. They rely heavily on home emails, which often change and are sometimes not checked frequently. Because our members have stood in **solidarity** over the years, we have been able to negotiate a strong Master Agreement protecting **professional** work rights and providing us with a rapid and efficient way to communicate with you, our members. We'll be reviewing some of our previously published "Contract Facts" from our newsletters over the coming days.

Union Shop In The Classroom

"Under the supervision of two foremen, workers clad in white coveralls use a sandblaster and other power tools to remove corrosion from airplane parts. A sign posted nearby in all capital letters reads, "This is a union shop." Workers, the sign says, have the right to file a grievance if they have suffered a hardship or feel like they haven't been treated fairly. But this isn't a workplace. It's a classroom—and the workers are high school sophomores." [Read](#) what happened when two teachers at Aviation High School in New York, Jose Vaz and Antonio Pepenella, incorporated the concept of a union in their classroom. Vaz is his school's chapter leader for the New York City teachers' union, the United Federation of Teachers. By incorporating the union in the classroom, the students are afforded the opportunity to learn how

to achieve **justice** in the workplace by demonstrating their **solidarity** as classmates and union members.

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