

TURNews

Teacher Union Reform Network
of AFT and NEA Locals

A PERIODICAL DEDICATED TO TEACHER UNION REFORM

Washington, D.C.

www.TURNexchange.net

October 22 -24, 2009

Founding Director

Adam Urbanski, President
Rochester Teachers Association

Co-Directors

Tom Alves, President
San Juan Teachers Association

Ellen Bernstein, President
Albuquerque Teachers Federation

TURN Principal Members

Albuquerque Teachers Federation
Boston Teachers Union
Castaic Teachers Association
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers
Cleveland Teachers Union
Columbus Education Association
Decatur Education Association
Denver Classroom Teachers Association
Douglas County Federation of Teachers
Elgin Teachers Association
Fairfax Education Association
Hart District Teachers Association
Memphis Education Association
Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association
Minneapolis Federation of Teachers
Montgomery County Education Association
Mt. Diablo Education Association
Newhall Teachers Association
Organization of DeKalb Educators
Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers
Portland Education Association
Poway Federation of Teachers
Prince Georges County Education Association
Rochester Teachers Association
Saint Paul Federation of Teachers
San Diego Education Association
San Juan Teachers Association
Saugus Teachers Association
Seattle Education Association
Springfield Education Association
Syracuse Teachers Association
Toledo Federation of Teachers
United Educators of San Francisco
United Federation of Teachers
United Teachers of Dade
United Teachers of Los Angeles
Westerly Teachers Association

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Visit: www.TURNexchange.net

Arne Duncan, US Secretary of Education speaks with TURN at the Washington DC meeting



Arne Duncan, US Secretary of Education and his Sr. Policy Advisor, Jo Anderson, joined TURN participants on October 23, 2009 to address a variety of topics including: teacher quality, teacher-led schools, labor-management collaboration, turning around low performing schools, and linking high standards to authentic multiple measures to dramatically improve teaching and learning. TURN members will continue this important dialogue with DOE's Jo Anderson and Brad Jupp at the TURN meeting in Sacramento.



Regional TURN Networks

Tom Alves, TURN Co-Director



More than 50 AFT and NEA union locals participate in national TURN meetings, which convene three times a year to share union efforts to improve teaching and learning. The challenge now is to expand the TURN network to make it more accessible to substantially more union locals, school districts and communities through the establishment of regional networks.

To accomplish this, TURN has stepped up efforts to create several regional TURN networks, with grant funding support from the Ford Foundation.

For more information regarding the Regional TURN Networks, contact:
(Tom Alves talves@sjta.org)

Sacramento, California to host TURN – February 4-6, 2010

TURN participants will continue to focus on implementing innovation efforts in public schools as well as within out unions at the February TURN meeting in Sacramento, California.



Southwest Regional TURN

Co-Directors:

Bruce Dickenson, Denver Classroom Teachers Association, CO
Ellen Bernstein, President, Albuquerque Federation of Teachers, NM

The Southwest Regional TURN has been working to establish connections with locals in the SW geographic area who might have an interest in organizing and creating this type of union reform effort.

Ellen Bernstein, TURN Co-Director and Albuquerque FT, Ruben Murillo, Clark Count EA, Las Vegas, NV, and Kim Ursetta, Denver CTA, are making initial contacts with union leaders in their geographic areas who have either attended TURN meetings in the past or have indicated interest in planning and implementing education reform efforts. SW Regional TURN could encompass the following states: Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, and Texas,

The geographic sparsity of the SW region provides unique challenges to forming this Regional TURN network. Organizers are seeking additional funding to assist in planning and implementing the first meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for February 27, 2010 in Denver, CO. Local union presidents are encouraged to attend and bring one or more additional union leaders to this first meeting to take part in organizing and planning forward. Adam Urbanski, TURN Director, will also attend to lend support and assistance in moving forward.

For more information, contact:
Bruce Dickenson (bruced1155@aim.com) or
Ellen Bernstein (ellen@atfunion.org)

TURN Mission Statement

Teacher unions must provide leadership for the collective voice of their members. Teacher unions have a responsibility to students, their families, and to the broader society. Teacher unions are committed to public education as a vital element of our democracy. What unites these responsibilities is our commitment to help all children learn.

We affirm the union's responsibility to collaborate with other stakeholders in public education and to seek consistently higher levels of student achievement by:

- *Improving continuously the quality of teaching.*
- *Promoting in public education and in the union democratic dynamics, fairness, and due process for all.*
- *Seeking to expand the scope of collective bargaining to include instructional and professional issues.*
- *Improving on an ongoing basis the terms and conditions under which both adults and children work and learn.*



Great Lakes Regional TURN

Co-Directors:

Mary McDonald, Core Service Director, Consortium for Educational Change, IL
Louise Sundin, President Emeritus, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, MN

Great Lakes TURN, which encompasses Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin was founded over ten years ago by Dal Lawrence, Past-President of the Toledo Federation of Teachers. Union locals from this region continue to meet twice a year to learn more about each other's union-led education innovative programs in schools, explore effective ways to collaborate with district and community partners and share and critique action plans developed by union locals that focus on improving teaching and learning.

Funding by The Joyce Foundation has provided support to GL TURN to expand its membership to include union and district leaders to examine policies and programs that impact teacher and leader effectiveness. Approximately 200 participants attended the GL TURN Forum on Teacher Effectiveness and Appraisal Systems in Naperville, Illinois on November 8-10, 2009. Union leaders brought teams of teachers, administrators and community stakeholders together to explore ways to improve teacher effectiveness. Presenters included: Jo Anderson, Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Education, Patrick Dolan, Education Consultant with the GE Foundation, Charlotte Danielson, The Framework for Teaching, Tim Daly, President of The New Teacher Project and Dal Lawrence, TFT, Louise Sundin, MFT, and Rhonda Johnson, CEA – Peer Assistance and Review Programs. In addition, five union locals have participated in CEC's Union System Assessment to assist them in developing action plans to build and sustain high performing organizations.

The next GL TURN meeting will be scheduled in the spring of 2010. Additional meeting information will be posted on the TURN website (www.turnexchange.net). For more information, contact:

- **Mary McDonald** (mary.mcdonald@cecillinois.org)
- **Louise Sundin** (lsundin@mft59.org)



Upcoming TURN Events

TURN meeting

- February 4-6, 2010, Sheraton Sacramento Hotel, Sacramento CA

Mid Atlantic/ Southwest TURN Meeting:

- February 13-14, 2010 Doubletree Guest Sutes, Durham, NC

Southeast TURN Meeting:

- February 27, 2010 Denver, CO

For more information about TURN log on to:

- www.turnexchange.net

Mid Atlantic and Southeast Regional TURN

Co-Directors:

Dave Schutten, President, Organization of DeKalb Educators, GA
Rick Baumgartner, Past-President, Fairfax Education Association, VA

At the close of the October 24, 2009 National TURN meeting, over two dozen TURN participants from the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern sections of the United States met to discuss the establishment of a regional TURN network. Represented at this meeting were locals from the states of New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida.

This planning meeting, facilitated by regional coordinators, Dave Schutten and Rick Baumgartner, resulted in scheduling the first meeting of the Mid-Atlantic/Southeast Regional TURN meeting on February 13-14, 2010 in Durham, NC.

Jo Anderson, Sr. Policy Advisory to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will provide an overview of the federal policies and funding that impact state and local programs and action planning efforts. In addition, Mary McDonald, GL TURN Co-Director, will also attend to provide support and assist participants in using the Three Frames of Comprehensive Unionism in developing action plans for participating unions.

For more information about attending the Mid-Atlantic/Southeast Regional TURN meeting on February 13-14, 2010 in Durham, NC, contact:

- **Rick Baumgartner** (randgbaum@verizon.net)
- **Dave Schutten** (presode@aol.com)



TURN participants in Washington DC