# MEA President’s 2025-26 Welcome

Welcome back returning members, and a special welcome all our new certificated staff! I hope that you had a restful and rejuvenating summer break. The cyclical trend continues: we have had a significant number of retires this year. At Wednesday’s New Teacher Orientation, MEA greeted 40 new certificated employees. We hope to sign them all up!

Moorpark Educators Association (MEA) is the exclusive representative for the certificated bargaining unit members in MUSD. Our members include TK-12 teachers, counselors, speech/language therapists, and school nurses. Membership in our association affords certificated employees an additional layer of job protection particularly in these challenging and contentious times.

We have a few new leaders this year. Patrick Wallace, from CMS, is MEA’s Middle School Executive Board Officer. Thank you to Gina Casagrande for taking over Site Rep duties at Campus Canyon. Michelle Lindroth joins James Pollock as Site Rep from Mesa Verde MS. A sincere thank you to all MEA leaders’ that volunteer their time to represent and support our members.

At the beginning of each year, MEA leadership disseminates a **Reference Guide** (enclosed) that lists all of our officers and their contact information, including your Site’s Representative and your site’s Executive Board Member. Please either print it out or make the electronic version accessible. Your Reps are you first line of defense and first contact if a question or an issue arises. About once a month, I publish a **MEA Update**. I really want our members to know what’s happening. If you miss an Update, want to take a look at our contract or prior agreements with MUSD, or have question about member benefits, please visit MEA’s website at **Moorparkeducators.com**. MEA also has a **Remind** account, where I try to transmit important information in real time. You can always reach out to me if you have a question or concern.

The more information that you have, the more power you possess. Our strength comes from our individual and combined voices. Maybe this is the year you get more involved with MEA. In these fraught and contentious socio-political times, it is more important than ever that we work together to promote what we do in our own classrooms and protect public education.

Last, this year is an open contract. This means that MEA and MUSD can bargain the entire contact. As always, we will bargain calendar, benefits, and salary.

Have a great 2025-26 school year. I am available by phone at 805 422-4680 or email at [mrpkea@gmail.com](mailto:mrpkea@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brian Friefeld, President of Moorpark Educators Association