What is the Central Valley Education Foundation (CVEF)?
The CVEF will be a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation. It will be formed to promote quality education by supporting students, educators, and communities. The primary purpose of the Foundation is to provide grants and scholarships for students, make grants to teachers who are improving the learning environment for their students, and to generally support and influence the Central Valley’s educational community.

Why do we need to establish a nonprofit?
Over the past 5 years the Fresno Teachers Association has increased its power and influence throughout the greater Fresno area by thinking outside of the box of what is typically defined as union work. Specifically, we’ve built strong relationships with our members, parents, and community and addressed issues that are at the core of transforming public education. We have successfully supported political candidates, removed a toxic superintendent, decreased class sizes, increased student supports, given back more autonomy to educators, plus increased healthcare coverage and negotiated salary increases of over 20% for our educators, and the list goes on and on. All of this was possible due our 4,000 members staying active & engaged. Our Union is strong and will continue to impact education, however there are limits to how we approach that work. Currently, we have limits on how we can partner with businesses and community organizations and what work we can do.

The Central Valley Education Foundation is an extension of the work we’ve started to positively transform public education. This foundation will allow our organization to stretch once again and to increase our influence in the classroom, campus, and community level. This non-profit will allow us to partner with larger foundations, community organizations, and local businesses to multiply our resources to directly benefit students and educators, with the goal of being a leading voice in transforming public education in Fresno and the Central Valley. We believe the work of the foundation will allow educators to shape the future of this community for generations.

What are some specific examples of how the money will be used?
The Representative Council will vote on October 14th on funding this foundation with a $5/monthly contribution by our members. The following are specific examples for illustrative purposes, as spending of the money will be based on the identified needs through a grant process.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Educators</th>
<th>Community Organizations</th>
<th>Possible Partnerships</th>
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<tr>
<td>College Scholarships</td>
<td>Innovative Educator Grants</td>
<td>Reading Heart</td>
<td>Fresno State</td>
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<td>College Gap-Scholarships</td>
<td>Classroom Library Grants</td>
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<td>College Tour Field Trips</td>
<td>Professional Development Grants (i.e. NCTE, SXSW)</td>
<td>United Way</td>
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<td>Community Reading Hour</td>
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<td>Mentor/Tutor Internships</td>
<td>Education Town Halls with nationally-known keynote speakers.</td>
<td>Fresno Ideaworks</td>
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<td>Break the Barriers</td>
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<td>Toys for Tots</td>
<td>San Joaquin Valley Writing Project</td>
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How will the non-profit be accountable to members of FTA?
Similar to the Institute for Teaching (CTA’s non-profit), the officers of FTA’s Executive Board (Pres., VP, Treasurer, Secretary) would also serve as officers of the Central Valley Education Foundation board. Therefore, the FTA membership would have a direct democratic vote on those positions every two years. The remaining five board members would be members in good standing of the Fresno Teachers Association. Board Directors and members serving on committees approved by the Board of Directors would NOT be compensated by the Corporation for their services.

Why is the CVEF being formed as a public benefit corporation?
This new organization is being organized and operated for charitable and educational purposes. Individual contributions to the CVEF may be fully tax-deductible. Additionally, this status allows the CVEF to accept certain kinds of grants for educational-related purposes. The CVEF will have its own financial books and be a separate legal entity from the FTA. The FTA may provide services to the CVEF to assist it in its mission.

May the CVEF get involved in elections to political candidates?
No. The IRS strictly prohibits 501(c)(3) organizations from participating in elections.

How do I contribute to the CVEF?
FTA members give to the CVEF with a deductible contribution of $5 per month for a total of $50 per school year. Anyone else can make donations to the CVEF at any time. This enables the members of the community to help fund the work needed to transform public education in Fresno.

As an FTA member, may I opt out from contributing to the CVEF?
Yes. Any dues paying FTA member may elect on or before September 30 of each year not to make the annual contribution to the CVEF. FTA members will opt-out of contributing via the CVEF membership form. Opt out forms will be accepted this year until November 22, 2019.

Why opt-out instead of opt-in?
1. We are taking this next step together as an organization. Therefore, we are deciding to contribute as an organization. Plus, it institutionalizes the work for future new teachers who become FTA members. Of course, those who don’t want to participate have the option to opt-out.
2. An opt-out procedure is consistent with current policy with many organizations NEA, CTA, and FTA (i.e. PAC dues).
3. It provides greater efficiency for both contributors and staff.

These past 14 months I have been so proud to lead this organization of educators and to advocate for the work that you are doing inside and outside of the classroom. I thank you for your support of our union and the Central Valley Education Foundation. Together we are changing this community. Don’t talk about it, be about it.

Manuel Bonilla
President, Fresno Teachers Association