

CTA Board of Directors Report

Bonnie Shatun District I

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2010

November Election Brings Hope for Education

November 2 was a very good day for CTA endorsed candidates. The top eight statewide constitutional offices provided a clean sweep for us. And, of course, returning Sen. Boxer to Congress was critical as the debate on the reauthorization of NCLB begins again. Although the loss of Prop. 24 was disappointing, voters passed Prop. 25 to allow state budgets to be passed by simple majority.

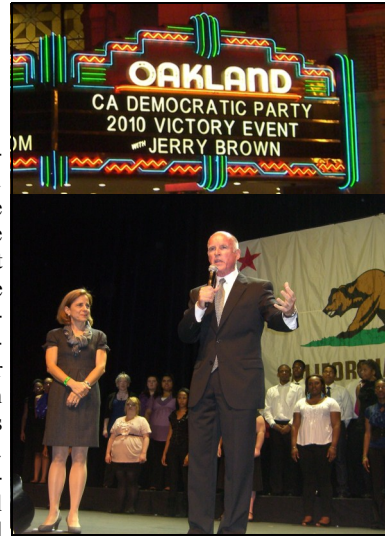
In addition, more than 70% of our recommended candidates for Assembly, Senate, and Congress were elected. CTA/ABC funded 308 local school board candidates and bonds with a success rate of 66%.

Although the ever increasing projections on the state deficit will make funding uncertain, with Brown and Torlakson we have leaders who will invite us to the table to be part of the work. They also support education reforms that have proven success such as those that are improving student achieve-

ment in CTA sponsored QEIA schools. Brown respects the work we do to make our schools the best they can be. And we believe that Torlakson will be a fantastic advocate for public schools with the public as well as with the legislature. He is a strong supporter of parental involvement and will use his office to protect education funding and fight for our students.

By working together we have had many successes this fall. We helped the Education Jobs bill pass which brought \$1.2 billion into school districts to restore cuts. We killed SB 1285 which would have weakened lay-off protections. We finally have a state budget and it represents a 5% increase in unrestricted revenue — an average \$258

increase in ADA over the Governor's May Revision. It also includes a Maintenance Factor. And, after decades of fighting we finally passed SB 1381 which phases back the K entry age over three years and requires Districts to provide a transitional program for those no longer meeting the age entry requirements. All of these successes are in part due to the work you have done as Association leaders and that you took these messages back to our members.



In September, thirty seven Future Leaders participated in an intensive training in CTA unionism and advocacy. The District I participants are from left Lisa, Nunes (Torrance) Jennifer Rogers (Hart), Sarah Suddleson (Burbank), Daymond, Johnson, (Animo ESP) Vicki Bradley-Gallop (Lawndale), Alexis Weiner (Burbank), Karl, Kurz (Manhattan Beach), and David Stepner (Saugus).

As 2010 draws to a close I wish to thank each of you for your hard work on behalf of students and the members we represent. It is a pleasure working with you and an honor to represent you on the CTA Board. Happy holidays and warm wishes for a wonderful new year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- National Council of Urban Educators Association, Dec. 1-4, Tulsa OK
- **Day of the Special Educator, Dec. 3**
- School Board Dinner, Dec. 6, 5 pm, Sheraton LAX
- CTA Board of Directors, Jan. 11-13, Burlingame
- Issues Conference: Unity and Advocacy in Public Education, January 14-16, Rio, Las Vegas
- Bay Valley Ethnic Minority Reception, Jan. 20, 4:00 pm, Culver City
- Bay Valley Steering, Jan. 20, 5:00 pm, Culver City
- Good Teaching Conference – North, Jan. 21-23, 2011, Marriott, San Jose
- Bay Valley Service Center Council, Jan. 27, 5:30, Sheraton Universal
- Region 3 Presidents' Meeting, Jan. 28, 10:30 am, Torrance
- Region 3 Leadership Conference, Jan. 28-30, Torrance
- CTA State Council, Feb. 4-6, Westin Bonaventure
- NEA Pacific Regional Leadership Conference, Feb. 25-27, Portland
- Equity and Human Rights Conference, March 4-6, San Jose
- Good Teaching Conference – South, March 18-20, Hyatt Regency Orange County, Garden Grove

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who worked on the November 2 campaign. Below are a few pictures taken at some of the District I phonebanks. I know many more phoned, walked, and talked to colleagues, friends and family to make these successes possible.



Additional Board Actions and Information

- Approved that CTA file an Amicus Curiae brief in the Proposition 8 appeal for the specific purpose of explaining Education Code section 51933, which sets forth sex education requirements and makes reference to “respect for marriage and committed relationships.” Proponents of Prop. 8 campaigned that if passed teachers would be required to teach gay marriage and that is not the case.
- Chief Counsel Emma Leheny briefed us on the UTLA reaction to the ACLU Settlement and the letter we sent demanding the information that was released to LA Times.
- Received an update from GR Manager Joe Nunez on current budget negotiations.
- Discussed a presentation by Scott Day and Rebecca Zoglman reviewing the Campaign 2010 activities, tracking poll data, and upcoming strategies and we viewed media ads.
- Acted on CTA/ABC recommendations for the November 2 Direct Political Contributions.
- Discussed details of Chico settlement. They had been on a strike build up.
- Manager Becky Zoglman discussed the importance of social media such as Facebook and Twitter in reacting to the Oprah/Superman/LA Times issues. We are engaging in the conversations. It’s important to get our voices in there and attend screenings of the Race to Nowhere. Do visit www.notwaitingforsuperman.org.
- Discussed plans for the Nov. 30 statewide QEIA Symposium in Sacramento to show what good school reform looks like, not the kind of reforms being pushed by Secretary of Education Duncan. QEIA schools achieved a 21 point gain in their 2009-10 API score compared to a 14 point gain for schools that were eligible for QEIA funding but were not chosen. Our program can make a difference.
- Discussed the Crisis Assistance Panel (CAP) reimbursement for arbitrations. The requirement is that if a Local’s dues are at least \$150, CTA will reimburse half of the cost for the arbitration up to \$2,000. The \$150 threshold has not increased for three years.
- Were updated by VP Dean Vogel on the status of the CCA/CCC merger talks.
- Discussed redistricting recommendations from the Representation Committee necessitated by our need to reduce an NEA Board seat due to our decline in membership.

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Additional Board Actions and Information *Continued from Page 2*

- Approved the recommendations from the Public Education Funding Workgroup which included developing training modules on tax structures and one-on-one organizing.
- Reviewed the report from the CTA Investment Committee which has the responsibility for oversight of the Association's general fund investments. No changes were made in the policy.
- Learned that State Council members will be asked to phonebank the Saturday afternoon of Council from 4:30-6:30 and that each Council committee will be asked to have a discussion to provide feedback about teacher evaluation systems.
- Appointed Mitch Olson to the regional UniServ Staff – RRC position in the Bakersfield RRC.

Special Board Meeting October 21

- Approved recommending to the Political Involvement Committee that up to \$1 million from the CTA Initiative fund be allocated in support of CTA's initiative positions.
- Approved the hiring of Malaika Costello-Dougherty as Communications Consultant/Educator Magazine Editor.
- Accepted the retirement of Region 1 Manager Diane Ruszczyk effective November 24 and approved flying her position internally and externally.
- Approved the Checksheet for Service Center Councils' Rules of Operations.
- Approved delaying the implementation of the ESP dues increase by one year.

Actions from the November 2010 Meeting

- Approved the recommendations from the Elections Committee regarding election challenges.
- Approved the recommendation of Ken Cooley for the January 4 Special Election in SD 1.
- Approved proposal to sponsor legislation as referred by the Negotiations Committee.
- Learned that, although it's early in the school year, our CTA Legal Department is currently working on 100 new cases. The following is the number of cases in each category: Arbitrations 1, Classification Matters 1, Court Litigation 2, Credential Defense 13, Criminal Defense 4, Discrimination Allegations 7, District Investigations 5, Payment Disputes 5, RIF Recall and Rehire 2, STRS Disputes 2, Teacher Dismissal 29, Unfair Labor Practice and DFR Charges 8, Misc. 21. More information is in the attached Legal Department Report.
- Reviewed and amended the recommendation from the Representation Committee for the redistricting of State Council Seats for the 2010-2011 school year which will go to the February Council. The only change in District I is the alignment of Animo Classified.
- Held a thorough discussion of the November 2 election results and a debrief on the campaign plan including the use of social media, canvass cards, phonebanking, mail, and media.
- Approved the 2009-10 Communications Awards. Congratulations to the **Saugus Teachers Association**, winner of the Ralph J. Flynn Memorial Award for Websites for their www.saugusteacher.com.
- Reviewed a study prepared by our ISSD Department about the feasibility of CTA offering an In-house Electronic Voting capability to our locals. It was decided that it is not, but if Locals are interested in doing it on their own there are guidelines in the CTA Elections Manual.
- Acted on appeals from the Advisory Panel on Legal Services.
- GR Manager Joe Nunez discussed the logistics of transitioning to a new Governor including many appointments. The framework will probably be the Education Plan available on the Jerry Brown for Governor website, JerryBrown.com.
- Chief Counsel Emma Leheny shared and discussed the CTA Amicus brief regarding the Ninth's Circuit ruling on Prop. 8, what our Legal Department is doing to prepare for RIF season, and the new Legal Department Advisory on District Attempts to Recover Wage Overpayments.
- Heard a report on CTA's implementation of the NEA Public Engagement Project from Manager Jim Thrasher.
- Approved \$5,000 expenditure for participation in the CTA/NEA Republican Leadership Conference to be held December 4 at the Sheraton Gateway LAX.
- Approved recommendations from the CTA CalSTRS Unfunded Liability Workgroup.



Aaron Xavier was born on August 25 and 3 weeks later he was at the Inglewood Rep Council with mom Alicia Blanchard-Young and brother Robert.

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Want to Go Green?

Many of you receive my Board Report electronically and, because you are a president or State Council member, are also mailed a hard copy with attachments. I have started to attach the usual reports to my email version and, to reduce costs, no longer include the attachments with the mailed version. If you would like to save paper and no longer receive the U.S. mail version or if you are not already on my email list and would like to be added please email me.



Virginia Torres, Carol Mathews and I had the opportunity to ride the Suffrage Train to Sacramento celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment which gave women the vote. The event, organized by the California Nurses Association, culminated in a rally at the Capitol celebrating the historic event.

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October 9 Unity Picnic — Fun for All



Board Actions and Information

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- Referred to the Training and Development Committee the recommendation from the GLBT Issues Advisory Committee that the GLBT Conference be held next fall in Palm Springs.
- Approved promoting December 3, 2010 as Day of the Special Educator on the CTA website.
- Approved that Daymond Johnson, Animo Classified President, be funded to attend the Democratic Party Executive Board Meeting November 19-21 in Sacramento.
- Referred to the Negotiations Committee the “School Pool” health insurance white paper report in order to establish next steps.
- Appointed Norma Ortiz to the UniServ Staff position with the Santa Ana EA.
- Approved grants for the 2011 statewide winter conferences.
- Approved offering a pre-conference session on Common Core State Standards at both Good Teaching Conferences and sessions on National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and 403b and 457 plans at Good Teaching-South.
- Approved the Governance Documents Review Committee Report. Out of the 16 chapter documents submitted only eight were in compliance. Two of those were from District I. Congratulations to the **Newhall Education Support Professionals Association** and the **Sulphur Springs District TA**.
- Approved LACEA’s request to join Rancho Cerritos United Teachers UniServ and Teachers United UniServ’s intent to dissolve.