

SBUT ANNOUNCER

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JUNE 2008

More Honors for SBUT Members!

TED BASS

“TEACHER IN POLITICS” AWARD

★ **AMY SANTA CRUZ** ★

“Things are tough all over.” Soaring gas prices, falling home values, increases in our day-to-day expenses are impacting all of our lives. So when the Redondo Beach school district asked its residents to approve a bond measure for desperately needed facility improvements, it was a risky move.



However, **Amy Santa Cruz** headed up RBTA’s campaign to pass the bond measure and when Amy’s on the job, things happen!

Night after night after night of phone banking, educating and advocating in the community, coordinating and hosting meetings of the community campaign effort and heading up the phenomenal group of teacher volunteers (not just RBTA members, but fellow chapter members as well as some CTA leaders), Amy was a major force in the successful campaign.

The CTA Ted Bass Award recognizes the efforts of chapter members who make outstanding political contributions, and we couldn’t be prouder that Amy was awarded the regional CTA Bay Valley Ted Bass Award. Congratulations, Amy!

CTA STATE-LEVEL

WHO AWARD

★ **CAROL MATHEWS** ★

Last month we celebrated the local “WHO” Award winners from each of our chapters. This month we celebrate a member who has received the honor at the State level!

Carol Mathews, MBUTA member, has been honored by CTA for her work that extends beyond the local level to the state and national organizations as well. Carol continues to expend her energy for all members, currently serving both as a CTA State Council Representative and on your NEA Board of Directors.



Working at the state and national levels involves many meetings with legislators and committee members, policymaking, advocating, persuading and campaigning for public education and educators. It is the work of NEA and CTA that fight to protect things such as funding, class size reduction, teacher pensions as well as fight off things like vouchers and teacher pay linked to test scores. Member leaders like Carol are your front-line advocates.

The statewide CTA has recognized what we already knew—that Carol Mathews is a true friend of education. Congratulations, Carol!

2008-2009 SBUT Chapter Leadership Teams:

CVSTA:

President—Jack Foreman
Vice President—Erik Carlstone
Vice President— Kim Stack
Secretary/Treasurer— Claudia Deutschle-Acuesta

MBUTA:

President— Rachel Thomas
Vice President— Kathy Wiley
Vice President— Chris McRae
Secretary/Treasurer— Wayne Knutson

PVFA:

President— Kathy Santarosa
Vice President— Kisha Williams
Vice President— Geoff Guerrero
Vice President— Renae Roberts
Vice President— Jeri Delatorre
Secretary/Treasurer— CC Hlavac

RBTA:

President— Amy Santa Cruz
Vice President— Kathy Tillotson
Secretary/Treasurer— Lissa Watts
Director/Elementary—Michelle Kelly
Director/High School—Anita Stoddard

Choosing to Make a Difference

In 2005, the CTA State Council voted to approve a \$60 special assessment for three years to fund the effort against all the governor's harmful initiatives. Fortunately, those efforts were successful and that assessment expires with this membership year.

Working to promote policies to improve public education such as more funding for our public schools and smaller class sizes, as well as fighting back attacks on education and teachers, is always a top priority for CTA. This year alone, we are fighting the largest state budget cuts to public education ever proposed, and we are working to erase the punitive provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In an effort to continue successfully fighting such attacks, CTA is proposing a **voluntary contribution of \$20** a year to help fund CTA advocacy efforts and to create a CTA foundation to provide more scholarships to members and support teachers' ideas to improve public schools. State Council will vote on this proposal at their June meeting.

Highlights of the contribution:

- ◆ It is a reverse-checkoff, so you will be able to opt out. If you opt out, you need only do it

once (you do not need to do so each year).

- ◆ The contribution will be split between CTA advocacy efforts and the new CTA Foundation (unless you specify differently).

Advocacy: promoting policies to improve public education, increased funding, smaller class sizes, affordable college for all students, fighting attacks on public schools such as the proposed state budget cuts, school vouchers and attempts to decrease educator pensions.

CTA Foundation: more scholarships to CTA members and their families and support of the Institute for Teaching

- ◆ The money will be tracked separately from CTA dues and CTA will provide a detailed accounting each year of how the money is spent. Members will be able to see how much money was raised and where it was spent.

The reverse-checkoff contribution is voluntary and flexible. Members are not required to contribute. In fact, CTA members may opt out of the entire contribution or allocate their contribution to advocacy efforts only or the CTA Foundation only.

More information will be forthcoming in your *California Educator* and on the CTA website. You may also contact a state council rep, or call the office for a FAQ sheet from CTA.

Congratulations to your recently re-elected State Council Reps:

Erik Carlstone (mrcarlstone@gmail.com)

Jack Foreman (jack4eman@msn.com)

Carol Mathews (cjdrama@aol.com)

If you have questions, concerns or comments regarding CTA, these are your representatives.

We extend our gratitude for their work on behalf of all members!



The Institute for teaching is a CTA nonprofit organization that is designed to create better teaching and learning conditions in all California public schools and to create teacher-driven solutions to help struggling schools. In order to find innovative solutions for schools, the IFT seeks solutions from the experts: classroom teachers and education professionals.

Have you ever seen one of your students struggling and known exactly what he needed to improve? Have you ever had innovative ideas to improve student achievement in your school? Were you allowed to implement those solutions? It's the answers to these questions and the belief that teachers know best that led CTA to create the Institute for Teaching (IFT). Get more information at www.teacherdrivenchange.org.

And yep, one more chance at a SBUT-member drawing for those who read this! Call or e-mail by June 16th to be in a drawing for 2 AMC movie tickets (three winners will be drawn). Happy Summer!

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

The governor's revised budget proposal shows that he listened to educators, parents and the will of the voters by not suspending the state's minimum school funding law. But any cut to education hurts our students and schools, and this revised budget proposal still cuts \$4 billion to public education.

The revised proposal still cuts the state's Class Size Reduction program, which means adding even more students to California's overcrowded classrooms. It also cuts programs that target low-income students and those schools that need help the most.

More than 18,000 educators have received layoff notices, and some of those teachers will never return to California classrooms. With this budget plan, California continues to rank 46th in per-pupil funding and dead last in teachers, librarians and counselors per student.

The revised budget proposal offers no cost-of-living adjustment to any education programs. That means less money to help recruit and retain quality teachers. And as districts pay more for gas to fuel school buses, vehicles

and more for other operating costs, our schools will once again be expected to do more with less.

Studies show California seriously underfunds its public schools and would need to spend 40 percent more to ensure that all students meet the state's rigorous academic standards. CTA is committed to ensuring that schools have adequate, stable and ongoing funding so students and schools continue to improve.

CTA is also concerned about cuts to programs that serve our students and their families. Cutting health care for children makes it harder for students to come to school ready to learn.

Continuing to balance this budget with a cuts-only approach hurts vital services that all Californians need and deserve. Lawmakers must consider revenue increases to fund education and other vital programs that help children, the poor, and working families. We look forward to working with the Legislature and the governor in passing a state budget that invests in the future of our children, our schools and our state.

CTA State Budget "CUTS HURT" Hotline
Call your Assembly Member and State Senator *today!*
Tell them NO more cuts to our public schools!
1-888-268-4334

- ◆ If you are calling from your home landline phone, the toll-free number will connect you automatically to your Assembly member or State Senator.
- ◆ If the hotline cannot read your number, it will ask you to enter your zip code and then you will be connected.

Once you are connected...

- ◆ Ask to speak to the Assembly member or Senator. If he/she is not available leave a message with staff or record a message on the answering machine.
- ◆ Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent living in the district as well as a classroom teacher/education support professional/college instructor.
- ◆ Leave your contact information so they can get back to you.

Use these talking points as a guide for the conversation:

- ◆ The proposed cuts would have a devastating impact on our students and public schools (give local examples).
- ◆ The Governor's proposal would eviscerate the state's minimum school funding guarantee and move California schools closer to last place in terms of per student funding.
- ◆ Any approach to solving the state budget crisis must include increased revenues.
- ◆ Our students and schools have been making progress, but this progress cannot continue if we cut programs, increase class size and lay off educators.
- ◆ At our state colleges and universities these cuts will mean student fee increases, faculty layoffs, fewer course offerings and longer graduation times.

Dear Members,



It has been a tough year. There have been challenges at every turn. With the uncertainty of proposed lay-offs and looming budget cuts, not to mention the escalating price of fuel and the decreasing values of our homes, there are many reasons to look forward to the end of this school year.

I hope though that as your year draws to a close you will stop to reflect on what an impact you have made on your students. There is so much talk about our "carbon footprint"- - and for good reason. We all need to be mindful of the impact we are having on future generations on this planet. Likewise, consider what an impression you are making on the students you have taught this year and what a lasting effect—what a compound effect the knowledge you have shared will have on the world through them.

No doubt your "intellectual footprint" has been large this year—larger than any of the challenges that threaten the work that you do. Enjoy these last days of the school year and have a restful summer break.

Sandra Goins, Executive Director

The NEA Foundation Grants

The vision of the NEA Foundation is a great public education for every student

Learning and Leadership Grants

Purpose: Grants support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of the following two purposes:

- Grants to **individuals** fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research.
- Grants to **groups** fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment.

All professional development must improve practice, curriculum, and student achievement. “One-shot” professional growth experiences, such as attending a national conference or engaging a professional speaker, are discouraged. Decisions regarding the content of the professional growth activities must be based upon an assessment of student work undertaken with colleagues, and must be integrated into the institutional planning process. Grant funds may be used for fees, travel expenses, books, or other materials that enable applicants to learn subject matter, instructional approaches, and skills. Recipients are expected to exercise professional leadership by sharing their new learning with their colleagues.

Amount: The grant amount is **\$2,000** for individuals and **\$5,000** for groups engaged in collegial study.

Student Achievement Grants

Purpose: The NEA Foundation provides grants to improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions in any subject area(s). The proposed work should engage students in **critical thinking** and **problem solving** that deepen their knowledge of **standards-based subject matter**. The work should also improve students’ habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection.

Proposals for work resulting in low-income and minority student success with honors, advanced placement, or other challenging curricula are particularly encouraged.

The *Student Achievement Grants* replace the Foundation’s *Innovation Grants*, which have been discontinued.

Amount: The grant amount is **\$5,000**.

Grant funds may be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, software, or scholars -in-residence. Although some funds may be used to support the professional development necessary to implement the project, the majority of grant funds must be spent on materials or educational experiences for students.

Next application deadline is October 15, 2008. For more information visit
<http://www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm>



Register for the NEA GREAT ESCAPE giveaway at
www.neamb.com

an **\$1800 gift certificate** toward a trip
to your favorite destination. Sign up by June
30th!

*Teaching is the greatest
act of optimism.*

-Colleen Wilcox

SBUT SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

During July and August, SBUT office hours are “irregular.”
If you need to come by, be sure to call first. Phone calls and e-mails are returned!!
(310) 921-2500—sbut@aol.com

South Bay United Teachers is:
Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association ▪ Manhattan Beach Unified Teachers Association
Palos Verdes Faculty Association ▪ Redondo Beach Teachers Association
Executive Director—Sandra Goins