

# SBUT ANNOUNCER

South Bay United  
Teachers

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JUNE 2009

## The Year Draws to a Close

Greetings Members,

As this school year draws to a close, I'd like to thank you for all of the hard work you've done. I know that it has been an incredibly difficult year inside and outside the classroom. We are saddened that some of you will not be returning in the fall, but please know that we are doing what we can to support all of our members.

If you have been laid-off, the District can rescind your lay-off at any time (call you back to work). If you are a probationary teacher (in your first or second year teaching in this district), you have 24 months to be called back. If you are a permanent teacher, you have 39 months. The District must call you back in the reverse order of seniority, meaning that within the subject area, the most senior teachers, counselors, nurses are called back first. If come fall you are not called back, the District must offer you the opportunity to substitute teach. Keep track of these days as after twenty days of subbing within a

sixty-day period, you must be paid your professional rate—what you would have received had you been appointed to a permanent position.

If you have been laid-off and have not had your lay-off rescinded, apply for unemployment the day after your last workday. Visit our website at [www.sbut.org](http://www.sbut.org). Click on the Current News/Publications for a link to an Unemployment fact sheet. There's also information there on COBRA.

Your district will continue your health benefits through the summer (the exact ending date depends on your chapter, but you should have 12 full months of health insurance benefits). Please contact my office if there is trouble with this. After your current benefits are exhausted, the District will cover (thanks to the Obama stimulus package) sixty-five percent of your health insurance premiums under COBRA. You will be responsible for thirty-five percent. Be sure to get the forms from the District before you leave for the summer.

Lastly, please make sure that our office has current contact information for you. Please email your contact information to [sbut@aol.com](mailto:sbut@aol.com) in case we need to reach you over the summer.

Thank you for all of your hard work this year and all the best in the months to come. If our office can be of service to you, please give us a call or email.

*Sandra Goins, Executive Director*

### Contract Corner

Go to our website at [www.sbut.org](http://www.sbut.org) and take a look at your contract. Familiarize yourself with the transfer and reassignment language. With the lay-offs that schools are sustaining, there will be some shifting around of the faculty. It will help if you know what your rights are under the current contract.

## CTA Co-sponsored Measure

### Single-payer Healthcare Bill Clears Its First Legislative Hurdle

CTA and its allies in the education, labor, and business communities won a major victory on April 15 when the Senate Health Committee approved CTA-sponsored SB 810, by Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco).

The measure would implement a comprehensive healthcare reform plan aimed at ensuring affordable coverage to all Californians. With many provisions identical to an earlier universal healthcare measure – CTA-cosponsored SB 840 by then-Sen. Sheila Kuehl – SB 810 would create a California Healthcare Sys-

tem relying largely on the \$200 billion spent within the state annually on public and private healthcare programs.

SB 810 would provide a complete range of services – including medical, dental, and vision. Under terms of the bill, the state would act as the “single-payer” authority, negotiating for bulk purchases at reduced costs for medications and services. The measure would create a new commissioner, whose job would include securing all needed regulatory or legislative changes necessary to re-direct current federal, state, and local

health care payments to the California Healthcare System. The new system would become responsible for underwriting all benefits and services. The bill also creates a special commission responsible for developing a financing mechanism.

Despite a long list of supporters, the bill's author faced withering cross-examination from several Republican members of the committee, who charged that the costs for the healthcare system would outstrip the available revenue. But Sen. Leno and witnesses effectively rebutted the assertions, noting that the system

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# We “Honor Ours”

The “WHO Awards” (“We Honor Ours”) is our chance each year to thank individuals for the dedication and energy they contribute to the local chapter. This year included these exceptional individuals:



Leila Hirschert (RBTA) served as a sounding board, a pitch-woman, and a creative idea girl



*Leila Hirschert  
Redondo Beach  
Teachers Association*

for an RBTA Executive Board that was virtually brand new at the job beginning June, 2006. She brought to the

Executive Board insight, tenacity, joviality and a vision to protect all members of our association, doing so all the while with a positive, professional demeanor. Leila is quick to correctly cite our Collective Bargaining Agreement in her never-ending trek to support our members and she continued to do so even after completing her service on the RBTA Executive Board. She is quick to bring a conversation back to the target topic- all the while with a smile, and equally quick to call all involved in the conversation “to task”. Leila is never afraid to bring up the “hard questions” for discussion. At a time when our district was recovering from a string of sub-par district leadership, Leila helped RBTA rebuild a positive and respectful working relationship with the new district leadership, with the PTA and with the parents of our community. Above all, that is her legacy to the teachers who still

serve and to those who will serve in the future. RBTA thanks Leila!

Patrick Vaughan (RBTA) is a person who sits, listens, formulates and then brings to the table a unique and thoughtful perspective which has had a positive impact for all our members for years in the form of his service on the Health and Welfare Committee, the Bargaining Team and as a Rep Council member. It is not



*Patrick Vaughan  
Redondo Beach  
Teachers Association*

unusual for Patrick to sit quietly in the back of the room during meetings but when he has something to add to a conversation, everyone listens. Whether it be on a point of bargaining or benefits, the RBTA Rep Council and Executive Board rely on his perspective. Patrick served tenaciously on the RBTA Bargaining Team at a time when our district was in chaos and helped that team gain many wins in better contract language. He has assisted the Association in conversations with the district regarding 403b options for members. He is not afraid of the “hard or difficult” conversation and for that all of RBTA benefits. We thank you very much!

Though she retired last year,

Thelma Whidden was such an integral part of PVFA that the Rep Council voted to honor her this year. Thelma’s fabulous sense of humor pervades every aspect of her life. It brought



*Thelma Whidden  
Palos Verdes  
Faculty Association*

her students to life in her classroom and disarmed even the most contentious of parents. Her wit kept everyone on their toes. Unafraid to challenge the status quo, she stood up for the rights of teachers and the best interests of all students. Her leadership as a site representative created a sense of empowerment for the teachers at her school. Thank you, Thelma, for the many years of your invaluable wit and wisdom.

Rachel Thomas (MBUTA) has been a teacher for 15 years. Her family has a history of support and activism on behalf of labor



*Rachel Thomas  
Manhattan Beach Unified  
Teachers Association*

organizations and she brings that spirit to our association. After the sudden resignation of our chapter president two years

ago, Rachel stepped up to take

## *“We ‘Honor Ours’”*

the reins. She has distinguished herself as a tireless and creative leader, working in these difficult times to uphold the rights of teachers and draw new members into the union. In order to effectively communicate teachers' concerns, she has built strong relationships with other leaders in the community. She has attended every school board meeting to ensure MBUTA is informed and involved in all decisions affecting teachers. One of her most notable strengths is the ability to communicate intelligently and articulately to our members, to district and community leaders, and to the public at large. We commend her most highly for the dedication, vigilance, and fortitude that characterize her leadership.

Even though Benjamin Bellingham (CVSTA) only became a site rep



*Ben Bellingham  
Centinela Valley Secondary  
Teachers Association*

less than a year ago, he has developed into one of our key leaders. Last fall, when members indicated that they wanted more frequent and detailed communication from our un-

ion, Ben volunteered to publish our mostly dormant "Board Watcher." He attended all board meetings and wrote detailed accounts which he promptly prepared for release to the members. The membership responded enthusiastically to his reports and some neighboring chapters expressed interest in doing the same thing. Ben also stepped up to be our chapter elections chair. He is an emerging leader who plans to remain involved for years to come. CVSTA is grateful for his service.

Anthony Otegbulu (CVSTA) has been a consistent link to CVSTA for his school site. He holds regular meetings and single-handedly keeps members up to date and involved. This year he achieved 100% membership at his site. Anthony serves on our bargaining team and superintendent's advisory committee. He is completely dedicated to his union responsibilities and is even willing to give up evenings and weekends to help our cause. As a bargaining team



*Anthony Otegbulu  
Centinela Valley Secondary  
Teachers Association*

member, he is a very tough negotiator and on many occasions has been successful in winning concessions from the District that at first seemed unlikely. Anthony is always willing to speak his mind and express views that are sometimes at odds with the majority, yet he is often able to provoke thoughtful discussions that lead to shifts in opinion. Anthony is an invaluable part of our association.

Betty Setterlund (CVSTA) maintains strong involvement with the union. She represents her school on the bargaining team, the Superintendent's advisory committee, rep. council, the organizing team, and the calendar committee. She recently served on our bylaws committee and helped revise our outdated bylaws. She attends almost all board meetings, even those held in the summer, and she maintains regular contact with school board members. Betty's dedication and service are invaluable to maintaining and building our association and she is greatly appreciated.



*Betty Setterlund  
Centinela Valley Secondary  
Teachers Association*

### *Single-payer Healthcare Bill - cont from page 1*

would, among other things garner savings by allowing all residents to secure needed care at rates much lower than those of emergency and trauma centers. These expensive emergency facilities are now treating the uninsured. SB 810 heads next to the Senate Appropriations Committee, which could hear the bill in several weeks.

**CTA Members:** SB 810 is expected to move quickly through the legislature. Get in touch with your state Senator and Assembly Member and urge them to support this CTA-cosponsored bill that would both control healthcare costs and provide coverage to more than six million uninsured Californians, including more than one million chil-

dren. Now's the time to work to build and strengthen local capacity to press your legislators and public boards -- including school boards -- to secure adoptions of resolutions in support of SB 810.

# First Financial's Scholarship Program



First Financial Credit Union's Scholarship Program has been established to recognize and assist graduating high school students. First Financial will award up to ten (10) \$500 non-renewable scholarships to First Financial members who are 2009 high school graduating seniors and plan to attend any accredited College, University, Community College, Trade School or Technical School in the fall of 2009.

In addition, applicants must have obtained (1) a 3.0 or better accumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) to be submitted on an official high school semester transcript, and (2) a composite score of 20 on the ACT or a 1500 Board Score on the SAT, submitted on official documentation.

**Apply Now! Application deadline is June 13, 2009.** For an application and more information, visit [www.fffcu.org/scholarship/scholarship\\_program.php](http://www.fffcu.org/scholarship/scholarship_program.php)

**Don't forget your summer discount website:**

[www.tsaspecialservices.com](http://www.tsaspecialservices.com)

(or use the link on the SBUT website:  
[www.sbut.org](http://www.sbut.org), "resources," "teacher discounts")

ALSO

**Employee Savings Tickets,**  
another option for discounted entertainment.

Visit the website  
([www.employeesavingstickets.com](http://www.employeesavingstickets.com))  
and enter our access code, ETF72G.

You can purchase tickets online, but the least expensive way is to visit their office in Torrance: 21311 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 101. You will need your CTA card & a driver's license.

**SBUT Drawing!!** Call or e-mail the office to enter your name in a drawing to win one of four \$25 Trader Joe's gift cards.

Deadline: June 26th.

**NEA MEMBERS:**

Check out the new  
NEA member benefits website at  
[www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) where  
you can register for  
Teacher Appreciation Giveaway  
drawing to win the  
**\$5,000 Grand Prize**



## 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!!

**DON'T FORGET THE SBUT WEBSITE!**

[www.sbut.org](http://www.sbut.org)