

# SBUUT ANNOUNCER

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MAY 2010

## WHO Awards

With lay-offs and salary cuts and furlough days and increased class sizes and lost programs, this is one of those years that some would just as soon forget. But it's in these times that those who go to bat for you play a particularly important role. Unfortunately, it can be a thankless job when things are so all-around discouraging, but you have working for you some outstanding reps, officers and bargaining team members that keep stepping up to the plate even as pitches are being thrown at their head.

Take an opportunity to say thanks to these leaders who were honored at the annual "We Honor Ours" banquet sponsored by the CTA Bay Valley Service Center Council:

Wayne Knutson, MBUTA Bargaining Chair. Everyone has an opinion about the work we do, but not many step up to help carry on the Union's work. Wayne stepped up and has been an outstanding member of the Manhattan Beach Unified



Wayne Knutson  
Manhattan Beach Unified  
Teachers Association

Teachers Association leadership for the past 3 years, serving as an Executive Board member the entire time. He brings much needed perspective to the Executive Board, the Representative Council, and in his role as Chair of Bargaining Team. At a time when his school had little representation, Wayne's involvement helped to spark a renewed interest in the work of the association. His pragmatic approach to teaching and bargaining makes him invaluable as he holds the district accountable to its teachers and the teachers accountable to their colleagues. The wide recognition his students have received underscores his commitment to the profession. It also gives him huge credibility with MBUTA members and district administration.

His quick wit and sense of humor make every meeting full of laughter, and who doesn't want to laugh during bargaining?

Monica Joyce, RBTA Bargaining Chair.

Over the last decade, Monica has brought an invaluable degree of expertise to the Redondo Beach Teachers Association. Her professional perspective on Special Education issues and the insight she brings to a wide range of concerns at the elementary level has been a wonderful asset to RBTA's Rep Council and the bargaining team that she chairs. A site rep for the last ten years, Monica is always willing to step in and help out wherever necessary. In 2008, Monica participated in the campaign for Bond Measure C which brought a \$145 million bond to Redondo Beach schools. The magnitude of those efforts is now underscored as our campuses are being transformed before our eyes. While no doubt a daunting task,



Monica Joyce  
Redondo Beach  
Teachers Association

Monica stands firm as she leads the bargaining team through this climate of economic woe. She spends countless hours on behalf of our members. Her cool, calm, and collected demeanor at the table has enabled this year's negotiations to be professional and focused. Monica takes her commitment to represent all RBTA members seriously. She is a person of honor and conviction and RBTA is very lucky to have her on our side.

Jason MacDonald, CVSTA Executive Board Rep. Who you gonna call if you've got a battle going on? If you're in Centinela Valley, it's Jason MacDonald! For years



Jason MacDonald  
Centinela Valley Secondary  
Teachers Association

Jason has been active in campaigning for school board candidates. He's worked the phones and the mail and if you've spent any time around him, you know he can present a compelling argument for why you ought to believe in his cause. Jason is active in representing members at his site where he teaches Special Education to continua-

tion high school students. If that weren't challenge enough, he serves on various committees advocating for members with the principal and superintendent. Jason is always willing to step up when his union calls. Whether there are internal or external issues, he's ready to roll up his sleeves and find a solution to the matter. His energetic participation and positive attitude make him a terrific asset to CVSTA.

Lourdes Franco, CVSTA Bargaining Chair.



Lourdes Franco  
Centinela Valley Secondary  
Teachers Association

Lourdes Franco has spent each of her 21 years as a teacher being a staunch advocate for the members of Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association. She's a fearless representative and a dedicated, highly effective teacher. Lourdes is respected by her colleagues who look to her for guidance on how to protect their rights while doing their very best for students. She has been a site rep and has also served on the South Bay United Teachers board of directors for many years. Lourdes has been an invaluable member of the Bargaining Team and has now been its chair for five years. In addition, she is currently a member of the CVSTA Executive Board helping to shape CVSTA's path for the future. This

is Lourdes third WHO award and deservedly so. There is an art to union leadership and Lourdes is masterful at it. Her union is grateful for her relentless advocacy.

Betty Setterlund, CVSTA Vice President.

Betty is the constant advocate of teachers. She is the strength and knowledge they turn to when they are confused. She is the contract language guru. She is the blunt force that is sometimes needed.



Betty Setterlund  
Centinela Valley Secondary  
Teachers Association

Betty continued that work this year and truly is remarkable at it. This is Betty's sixth year on the Bargaining Team and her knowledge is invaluable. She is proactive, passionate, and courageous. She gives teachers confidence and always works on their behalf.

Pedro Martinez, CVSTA Executive



Pedro Martinez  
Centinela Valley Secondary  
Teachers Association

Board Rep. Pedro got involved this year and has been a great ambassador for the union. He has reached out to and represented constituents. He has listened sympathetically and set up meetings in conjunction with

other representatives. He also traveled downtown to meet with representatives of the Mark Ridley Thomas office. Pedro attended a CTA State Council meeting where we successfully passed a CTA resolution against the Wiseburn unification. He has been at almost every board meeting and has been willing to speak on occasion, sometimes on short notice. Pedro cares about his fellow teachers and has been working from the start to advocate on their behalf.

Bonnie Mae Barnard, PVFA Executive Board Director.



Bonnie Mae Barnard  
Palos Verdes  
Faculty Association

Bonnie Mae has been an Intermediate school building Rep for seven years and is an active member advocating for teacher's rights and responsibilities in the Palos Verdes Faculty Association. After serving several years as a building Rep, she became a member of the PVFA Executive Board. Bonnie Mae publishes the Palos Verdes Faculty Association's newsletter. She also worked tirelessly with the Political Action Committee in our recent successful school board election. When a committee needs assistance, Bonnie Mae always answers the call. PVFA is proud to honor her with a WHO award.

### ***And Special Honors to:***

The "WHO" awards is a chance for local chapters to highlight the services and accomplishments of their members. It's also an opportunity for the region and state to feature those members who give above and beyond even their local chapter.

Winning the Bay Valley WHO Award this year was **Renae Roberts**, Palos Verdes Faculty Executive Board member. Renae has been an inspiration to all members of the Bay Valley Service Center Council. Her firm belief in the organization and her commitment to the teaching profession make her invaluable to PVFA and CTA. Renae brings knowledge, both historical and current, to the issues that face teachers today. During her time with PVFA she has served as site representative, executive board member, bargaining team member, bargaining chair and president. Renae is always willing to serve on committees to further the work of the district.



Renae Roberts  
Palos Verdes  
Faculty Association

Renae's work extends past PVFA to the South Bay United Teachers Board of Directors (as member, vice chair and chairperson), to the Bay Valley Service Center Council where she has served as rep, and as a steering committee member, to CTA where she is a State Council representative and to NEA where she has served many years as a delegate to the Representative Assembly. Her involvement has been solid for 13 years, and her 38 year teaching career represents her strong commitment to children. We are fortunate to have Renae working for us!

## FURLOUGH DAYS

There continues to be much discussion about chapters taking furlough days (we prefer to call them pay cut days) in order to save jobs. Each school district and their teachers unions have to look at their finances separately. Just because one of our neighboring districts has decided to take pay cuts days in order to “save jobs” does not mean that that is what is needed in your district.

Many school districts are taking advantage of the downturn in the economy to secure concessions from their employees because of an overall desire to go about business differently. Although their budgets are sound—even with the cuts from the State, some see the ability to shorten the school year as a once in a lifetime opportunity to get “free money” added to the district’s coffers. But it’s not free, it comes out of the pockets of our members. It comes out of your family’s budget.

It’s particularly distasteful for districts to appeal to the community, and fan the flames of divisiveness in order to put pressure on you and your leaders to take on more cuts. Districts should use their reserves for what they were designated for—a rainy day. This is indeed that rainy day and there should be no hesitation from school boards to spend down reserves to save jobs.

Unions don’t hire and we certainly don’t fire school employees, on the contrary, we are working very hard to maintain the insufficient levels of compensation and job security that we have worked so hard to secure over the past decades.

## Transfers and Reassignments

Check out what your contract says about transfers and reassignments. Your district is planning to make some changes. Let's make sure they adhere to the contract in the process. Access your contract on the web at [www.sbut.org](http://www.sbut.org) then go to your chapter then click on contract.

## SBUT LOSES A GREAT FRIEND

Former CVSTA president and CTA leader, Nancy Nuessler died on April 9, 2010. She’ll be terribly missed.



NANCY NUESSLER

The first time I met Nancy was in the middle of a fire drill at Leuzinger High School. Bells were ringing and I was glad it was my prep period. It was about the third day of my first year teaching. The bell was a reminder though that I didn’t know where to take kids if I had them when there was a fire so I left my room and started to walk to the main building. Nancy was at the top of the steps and immediately started to talk to me like I had been there for years and years. Nancy was just like that. She spoke with outrage about the disorganized drill and told me where I should take my class if I had one. She seemed to know everything.

Nancy served in just about every way a unionist could. She was a rep, secretary/treasurer, and chapter president. She also spent many years on CTA’s State Council and was an NEA director. Nancy was the perfect example of what a member ought to do when they see things aren’t working; you step up and make a difference by speaking out then help others find their voice.

-Sandra Goins

## Elections

Be sure to vote in next month's primary. There are some very important races on the ballot. We care a great deal about them all, but of course the State Superintendent of Schools impacts our professional lives profoundly. Go to [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) for important information.

**“Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education.  
The human mind is our fundamental resource.”**

*John F. Kennedy*

*Congratulations to Manhattan Beach USD Site*

*Teachers of the Year:*

*Karen Farris-Grand View*

*MBUTA Rep, Lynn Johnson-Meadows*

*Paula Noda-Pacific*

*Karen Harns-Pennekamp*

*Darri Stephens-Robinson*

*Bev Read-Manhattan Beach Middle School*

*MBUTA Rep, Bill Fauver-Mira Costa High*

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**Win a \$5,000 Cash Grand Prize!**

***Deadline to enter: June 3, 2010!***

Don't miss your chance at this NEA grand prize giveaway. No purchase necessary.



Visit the **www.neamb.com** website to enter.

## Automobile Insurance Rates Reduced for CTA Members

CTA and California Casualty were able to achieve a reduction in rates for the CTA endorsed automobile insurance program averaging 11.7%! CTA Members who use this program will continue to receive the outstanding service that they have come to expect from California Casualty for over fifty years.

### **California Casualty Offers Other Benefits Exclusively for Educators**

- Zero-deductible coverage for collision or vandalism to vehicles parked on or within 500 feet of school property. This covers vehicles parked at school, school offices, education association offices, and off-campus during school authorized activities.
- \$500 personal property coverage if any belongings are stolen from your car, including school supplies.
- Convenient payment plans including holiday and summer skip, and other payment options in the event of a layoff or CTA-sanctioned strike.

Please contact California Casualty for a quote, as well as encouraging other members to do so. Quotes can be obtained by phone at 1-866-680-5142 or online at [www.calcas.com/cta](http://www.calcas.com/cta). For more information, contact the CTA Member Benefits Department at 1-650-552-5200.

## **NEW ON SBUT WEBSITE: Frequently Asked Questions**

Below is a sampling. Visit [www.sbut.org](http://www.sbut.org), "Who we are" link, then "SBUT Frequently Asked Questions" to learn more.

### ***What is SBUT?***

South Bay United Teachers (SBUT) is a joint venture of the Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association (CVSTA), the Manhattan Beach Unified Teachers Association (MBUTA), Palos Verdes Faculty Association (PVFA), and the Redondo Beach Teachers Association (RBTA).

You may hear the term "UniServ." That is the function SBUT serves in relation to the local, state and national organizations. SBUT provides "unified services" to these four local chapters. It has one Executive Director and two office staff who provide support. "The office" refers to the SBUT office where the staff work, and is also the office to CVSTA, MBUTA, PVFA & RBTA. Each of those local chapters have representatives on the SBUT Board of Directors.

### ***What is the difference in the terms "local," "chapter," "union," and "association"?***

Nothing! Used interchangeably, they refer to the 'local union chapter' in your district. Your local or your union or your chapter or your association is either CVSTA, MBUTA, PVFA or RBTA.

### ***I'd like to know what's going on in other SBUT chapters. How can I keep up with them?***

SBUT maintains a website at [www.sbut.org](http://www.sbut.org). There you can find out what's going on in each chapter through the news link. You can access chapter contracts there as well.