

# SBUT ANNOUNCER

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Teachers**

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## 2021 WHO Awards

“We Honor Ours”



Last year found us adapting like never before. The WHO awards got caught up in the initial chaos of the pandemic and were postponed, so this year most chapters recognized exceptional union leaders from last year and this year.

The ceremony was virtual, but the organizers did a fabulous job of highlighting and honoring each of these members who have gone above and beyond for the union. In a year when EVERYONE had to go above and beyond, that's worth celebrating!

### **Tali Sherman, CVSTA**

Tali has taught in Centinela Valley for 17 years. She started her advocacy as a member with a contract violation and taught herself how to file a grievance.



Her drive for enforcing the contract held the District accountable for adverse actions that negatively impacted

bargaining unit members. She became the go-to person for grievances. Her efforts placed her in a position to head negotiations. For the last 6 years Tali has served as lead spokesperson for the CVSTA bargaining team. Currently Ms. Sherman crafts contract language that improves the lives of members while also benefiting the students she serves.

A devoted English Teacher at Loyde Continuation High School, her passion and expertise give students an oppor-

tunity to excel in her subject and set goals for future success. Tali is a model of efficiency and anyone working alongside her must also work efficiently. She has no time to waste as there must always be quality time for adventures with her family and friends.

Tali realizes most members are not aware of all the work that goes into securing the benefits and protections that they enjoy, but she gets a great deal of satisfaction crafting the best agreement she can for her colleagues. CVSTA is grateful for you, Tali Sherman.

### **Yury Najarro, CVSTA**

Yury started his career as a classified employee in the Centinela Valley Union High School District more than thirty years ago. His love for the community and the students has kept him in the district through its ups and downs. Yuri has a great love for athletics (he has a bobblehead collection that is the envy of any sports enthusiast) and has coached many successful teams over his career—his favorite being soccer. Putting his organizational skills to use, he served many years as Athletic Director of Hawthorne High School. A world traveler, Yury is a natural as a World Language teacher specializing in Spanish.



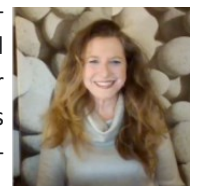
Yury's experience and positive rapport

with stakeholders makes him a powerful asset for the Union. Because he is so attentive to everything and everyone, Yury knows a little bit about everything and lucky for CVSTA, a whole lot about Ed Code! His role on the bargaining team is to question and prod and look for unintended consequences before agreements are made. He has the institutional memory from every perspective and no matter the audience, can share the truth without hard feelings—at least not for long.

In addition to serving on the bargaining team as a site representative, Yury serves on the faculty advisory committee of his school as well as the superintendent's advisory committee. He represents members in meetings and is always available to help when his Union needs him. Yury's commitment to the call to duty is impeccable and he is a force to be reckoned with. CVSTA thanks you, Yury and it is our privilege to honor you with this award.

### **Joyce Stout, RBTA**

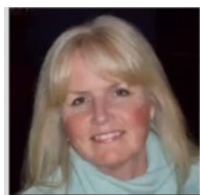
Redondo Beach Teachers Association is proud to honor Dr. Joyce Stout with the WHO award. Joyce has been an active member of RBTA for the past 26 years. Since 2005 Joyce has served as a site rep, secretary/treasurer and elementary director of RBTA. She has been a steadfast advocate for elemen-



tary counselors in our district. As a counselor she has guided and supported our students, their families and the staff at her school with kindness and grace. Joyce has always been willing to reach out to school board members to let them know the concerns of our members. Joyce is an integral part of RBTA and we are thankful for her service.

#### **Monica Joyce, RBTA**

Monica has served as President of the Redondo Beach Teachers Association since 2012 and before that served as



Vice President for 2 years. During that time, she has shepherded the association through some of the most difficult times in recent history; the

Great Recession and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Regardless of the circumstances the association was facing, Monica advocated tirelessly for its members. Whether that meant securing salary increases at the bargaining table, delivering the viewpoints and concerns of members at each and every School Board meeting, or ensuring that a member had access to catastrophic leave during their darkest days. She has a knowledge of members' names, school sites, and years of service that would rival that of anyone working in the district's HR department. In the classroom, Monica is a dedicated special education teacher who believes that all children can learn and are worthy of a high-quality education. The Redondo Beach Teachers Association is grateful to Monica for her tireless efforts and unwavering solidarity.

#### **Caitlin Waddell-Chow, PVFA**

It is a pleasure to recognize Caitlin for her constant work on behalf of our association, her efforts to secure safe and fair working conditions for our members, and her fierce advocacy to ensure all voices are heard and represented. Caitlin is a Cal Berkeley graduate with a masters degree in screen cultures and is



finishing her 8th year as a fifth grade teacher at Vista Grande Elementary.

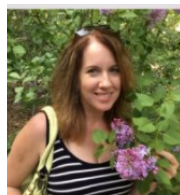
Caitlin began her union work as an alternate representative for her school and now serves as a director of PVFA's Executive Board.

Caitlin's willingness to research and dig into the details of contract language, while also keeping abreast of the ever-changing County health guidelines, has made her an asset in promoting safe conditions for both our teachers and students. Caitlin also partnered in the creation of PVFA's Equity Team, sharing her passion for promoting diversity and inclusion while building a community to share thoughts and resources on creating equitable experiences within the classroom. PVFA thanks Caitlin for her service to our association, our students, and our profession.

#### **Anita Oudega, PVFA**

Anita has taught in the Palos Verdes School District for 30 years, including 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. She is currently teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She finds her 5<sup>th</sup> graders to be enthusiastic and so much fun (especially since they get her jokes)! From 1997-2006, she

worked in the BTSA program as a Teacher Support Provider, District and Consortium Trainer, and Independent Consultant for Los Angeles County Office of Ed BTSA programs. Working as a TOSA at the district office from 2006 – 2009, she was in charge of Categorical Programs: ELL, Career and Technical Education, Safe Schools, PE, 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Testing, and Math and Science adoptions, to name a few. Anita has served on numerous committees over the years, but her favorite, by far, are Science committees. She holds a BA in Liberal Studies and a MA in Educational Administration from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, as well as a supplemental authorization in Science.



Anita has served as a site representative at her school for four years. For the last two years, Anita has served as an active

member on the PVFA Bargaining team. She has been instrumental in developing the MOU, which was developed due to the onset of COVID and is currently involved in negotiations for our association. Throughout the summer and school year, she has served as a PVFA member on numerous re-opening committees. Anita works tirelessly to advocate for all PVFA members in the same way she is passionate about all of her students in the classroom. Anita Oudega is most deserving of the WHO Award for Palos Verdes Faculty Association. Thank you for your commitment to PVFA.

#### **Bay Valley Regional WHO Winner, RBTA's Sarah Robinson**

When we imagine the ideal education leader, we think of Sarah Robinson. Sarah is a Spanish and lead Instructional Technology teacher and

Chair of the World Languages Department at Redondo Union High School. For the last eleven years, Sarah has also served the Redondo Beach Teachers Association in several positions including Rep Council member, bargaining team member and chair, and Vice President. Her dedication and support for our members is unparalleled. In the past school year, the demands placed on union leaders have been unrelenting. Despite this, Sarah has worked tirelessly for our members during this time. At the service center and state level, Sarah has served as a member of the South Bay Unified Teachers UniServ Board, member of the CTA State Council of Education, Vice Chair of the CTA Civil Rights in Education Committee, Chair of the Bay Valley Equity Team, and Vice Chair of the Bay Valley Service Center. Her advocacy and passion for racial and social justice helped Bay Valley create its first ever Racial Equity Affairs Committee. CTA, Bay Valley Service Center, and RBTA are immensely grateful and indebted to Sarah for her service and leadership.

