

South Bay United Teachers

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**JUNE 2019** 

# SBUT Members featured in the California Educator:

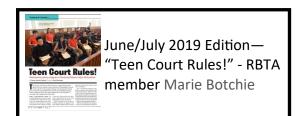
Be sure to read your CTA magazine— *California Educator*— when it arrives at your door! You might just run across someone you know.

And if you have ideas, stories or programs of interest to submit, visit californiaeducator.org and choose the "Connect" button.

In 2018-19, these SBUT members were featured. (Click on the icon to read the story. For the entire magazine, visit californiaeducator.org):

June/July 2019 Edition— "A Moment to Shine" - PVFA members Patrick Daley, Betsy Fujinaga & Melissa DeCasas







Oct/Nov 2018 Edition— "See the World with Students" -PVFA member Kristy Jimenez April/May 2019 Edition—
"Balance the Performance"
- MBUTA member Gregor
Trpin shares his thoughts



Apr/May 2018 Edition—
"Champions for Change" - CVSTA
member Estella OwoimahaChurch



# **WHO Awards**

"We Honor Ours"



rep lately? Or a bargaining team member? These folks plan, serve, meet, evaluate, and advocate to keep the union strong and effective. Chapters are given an opportunity each year to choose at least one stand-out leader to recognize for their efforts. A dinner in their honor, with a keynote speaker from CTA provides a chance to highlight their contributions and achievements. This year the SBUT chapters honored:

#### Estella Owoimaha-Church, CVSTA

Advocacy flows in Estella Owoimaha-Church's veins. She is a winner of CTA's Equity and Human



Estella Owoimaha-Church Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association

Rights award for Peace and **Justice** and currently serves as CVSTA site representative and Human Rights Chair. As such, she has represented CVSTA at

home and abroad. Estella participated in the 2018 Youth Vatican Symposium for Sustainable Development in Rome at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences to advocate on behalf of educators. This spring, she helped to launch free schools across more than six countries, including regions in Argentina, Brazil, Nigeria, Morocco, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, and more in connection with Jane Goodall and the Innovation Lab Schools. She is a founding member of the National Coalition for Safe Schools to help foster a nation-wide dialogue on safe and healthy schools. Estella also serves as a Leading Educator Ambassador for Equity with the Education Civil Rights Alliance in partnership with NEA and convened by the National Center for Youth Law. She currently teaches at Hawthorne High School and has advocated for students there since her arrival in 2014. An outstanding teacher of high school theatre and English, Estella was also recognized as a 2017 finalist for the Global Teacher Prize.

Estella remains committed to the fight for equity and racially-just learning spaces for all students. Moreover, she seeks to continue her work in international spaces as a global education ambassador to uplift colleagues and the profession. This will involve building partnerships towards sustainable development as well as exploring existing connections between NEA and Education International. CVSTA is anxious to see even more great things Estella will do in the future.

#### Eric Sanders, CVSTA

Frederick Sanders' passion for union activism started with his involvement in the Tennessee Education Association during his tenure at Dekalb County High School in



Eric Sanders
Centinela Valley Secondary
Teachers Association

Tennessee.
During this time, he provided leadership in developing strong relationships with representatives and senators at

Smithville,

the state capitol. He also led his site association as the Vice President for three years and then as the President for three additional years.

Eric, as we know him, has been a site representative for the Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association since he became a permanent teacher. In addition, he serves as a member of the South Bay United Teachers UniServ Board

and is in his first year as the Vice President of Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association. His experience gained under a Right-to -Work (for less) state has been invaluable in our post-Janus union.

Teaching special education classes at Lawndale High School in the Centinela Valley Union High School District for 7 years and 14 total years as a high school special education teacher prepares you for advocacy. Eric has knowledge about special education that has been very helpful in CVSTA's regular meetings with the Superintendent and he imparts it in a manner that encourages all parties to work toward a solution to problems impacting our members.

Eric continues to work diligently to protect and advocate for students, the profession and union members, to create a successful public education experience.

#### Megan Johnson, MBUTA

Megan Johnson has worked at several schools in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District and has built some solid relationships in the process. In addition to being an engaging and dedicated teacher, Megan has put her experience to work as a MBUTA rep at Pacific School.



Megan Johnson Manhattan Beach Unified Teachers Association

Notably, Megan has worked in some challenging situations, helping members understand the autonomy they have the right

to exercise.

Megan's efforts to educate members in her leadership role has helped her earn the trust of teachers across the district. We have had a crisis of workplace safety issues this year, and at her campus, Megan has been a leader in getting administration to share testing and reporting of mold, possible asbestos and other workplace hazards. Teachers at her site have been empowered to demand accountability in issues large and small on their campus.

Additionally, Megan was instrumental in implementing a job action in which every elementary teacher participated—signaling that our time is valuable and we will be the ones to establish boundaries for our own mental health. Megan is an inspiration to all MBUTA members.

#### Chau Ly, MBUTA

Chau Ly has stepped up to perform near miracles at her school site. As an elementary Special Ed teacher, she has plenty on her plate just within the requirements of her job.

But over the past two years, she has stepped in as a MBUTA site rep and not only organized the teachers at her site, but she has taken matters in to her own hands and organized meetings with teachers across the district—

confronting inequities in the handling of caseloads, the delivery of IEPs and other Special Education implementation issues.



Chau Ly Manhattan Beach Unified Teachers Association

Chau's diligent attendance at district SPED meetings combined with her participation at Rep Council, has facilitated the creation of previously absent lines of communication—she has made it possible for teachers to access information they need to self-advocate and ensure that union leaders are aware of the needs of teachers not just at her site—but across the district. She has been a

bridge builder between Gen Ed and Special Ed teachers while also helping all teachers empower themselves through her role modelling. MBUTA is grateful for her advocacy.

#### Shaun Lloyd, RBTA

Shaun has been walking the talk in Redondo Beach for the past 25 years. Whether serving as the Association president or a site rep,

Shaun has been union through and through since Day 1.

Shaun brought her union rep experience with her from Centinela Valley and boldly



Shaun Lloyd Redondo Beach Teachers Association

served as an RBTA rep while still on probation. Shaun led the fight against a bad actor superintendent and we have used her image from that battle on our website for years. This librarian will not sit quietly behind her desk!

Shaun not only worked hard for Redondo Beach TA when it came time to fight against Schwarzeneggar's anti-union propositions, she also stood with CTA members throughout the state to beat back those bad proposals. Whenever there has been a righteous cause, Shaun has stepped up to advocate for our profession.

Shaun is a three-time RBTA president, Ted Bass Teacher in Politics Award recipient, two-time WHO Award recipient, South Bay United Teachers UniServ Board Director, membership recruiter and organizer, and friend to educators everywhere. Any time RBTA has needed her support and guidance, Shaun has been there. RBTA is a strong union today because of the leadership of Shaun Lloyd.

## CC Hlavac, PVFA

Moving to California from Michigan, CC Hlavac has been an active mem-

ber of the Palos Verdes Faculty Association for the last 19 years. She is presently a 3rd grade teacher at Soleado Elementary School, where she has also taught 4th and 5th grades.

Beginning in 2004, CC served as a site representative for her school. The next year she stepped up to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of PVFA. She is currently serving as a PVFA Executive Board Director and is an active member of the Budget Advisory Committee, representing PVFA.

CC's leadership, enthusiasm, and steadfast dedication to her colleagues is apparent to everyone she meets. Since she attended the CTA Summer Institute as a participant in the Communication strand (social media to promote union involvement), she has not sat still! CC cre-



Palos Verdes Faculty Association

ated the #wearepvfa "brand", facilitated a Facebook page - WeArePVFA, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. Her wearepvfa.org site houses im-

portant information, including: our contract, salary schedules, representative meetings, board meetings, and other valuable resources. She has been instrumental in creating a successful online community (over 200 members) which encourages dialogue and activities to make our members feel more empowered about what's going on.

One of her recent endeavors included starting Happy Hour/Social gettogethers to create a more cohesive and organized union. CC works tirelessly to advocate for all PVFA members in the same way she is passionate about all of her students in the classroom. PVFA is stronger because of her dedication and commitment.

#### **SUMMER IS HERE!**

Be sure to review all these discount opportunities!

CTA: <a href="https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Travel-And-Discounts/Access-Discounts">https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Travel-And-Discounts/Access-Discounts</a>

NEA: https://www.neamb.com/

Special Services: <a href="http://www.tsaspecialservices.com/">http://www.tsaspecialservices.com/</a>

Employee Savings: <a href="http://www.est.us.com/welcome.php">http://www.est.us.com/welcome.php</a>

(code: FEB17G)

# **SBUT Drawing:**

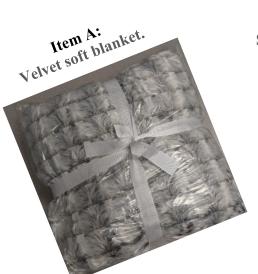
## \$25 Amazon Gift card

Members, send an email from your personal email to lnewton@sbut.org by June 28, 2019

for a chance at a gift card to add some summer fun!

## "GARAGE SALE" RAFFLE

The following are promotional items that we've received in the office. If you're interested in one or more, send an email to lnewton@sbut.org, with the order of your preference for each. (For instance, "C-1" means item C is your first choice). Deadline for the drawing is July 19, 2019.



Item B: SBUT notepad, pen and flashlight



Item C:
Scented wax warmer.

Item D:
Promotional lunchbox kit.



Item E: Packing cubes

