

SBUT ANNOUNCER

South Bay United
Teachers

3551 Voyager Street #105
Torrance, CA 90503
(310)921-2500
Fax: (310)921-2502
sbut@aol.com
www.sbut.org

MAY 2011

RALLY FOR EDUCATION!



We're not out of the woods by any means, but the collective action of education advocates and supporters has not gone unnoticed. The Redondo Beach Teachers Association, together with district administration, school board members, the PTA, AFT, CSEA, all rallied to draw attention to the need for adequate school funding. Armed with posters, post cards to state legislators, and



energy, the coalition marched in front of the high school on May 10, 2011, encouraging community members to contact their legislators.



Then on Friday, May 13, SBUT members joined thousands of other supporters at Pershing Square in Los Angeles to culminate the "State of Emergency" week .

In a move that could pave the way to increased funding for schools, Gov. Jerry Brown has released his updated budget plan that he says will shrink the budget deficit and provide more than \$1.6 billion in new revenues for public education, with a total boost for education of \$3 billion. The governor told reporters during his May 16th morning Capitol news conference that his proposal would boost school funding to \$52.4 billion, about \$3 billion more than he proposed in January. The governor conceded that schools would still be receiving less than they did in 2007-2008, but he stated that it would take a couple of years to restore funding to that level.



Photographs by SBUT/RBTA Member Deborah Chew

WHO Awards

There is a wealth of talent and commitment represented by those who serve as your chapter leaders. This year at the annual “We Honor Ours” banquet sponsored by the CTA Bay Valley Service Center Council, these tireless volunteers were recognized:

Temisha Brame Carter (Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association) is an organized and articulate leader. She is currently serving as CVSTA’s secretary, a member of the bargaining team and on the grievance committee. She keeps detailed notes and is able to access information to keep the organization moving forward. Temisha’s judicial and democratic temperament help resolve many issues faced by CVSTA. She is a favored representative who members trust to resolve both site and district level issues. As a dedicated organizer, she is relied upon to keep her site informed and to mobilize a challenging high school site.



Temisha Brame Carter
Centinela Valley Secondary
Teachers Association

Juan Becerra (Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association) is skillful leader with a quick analytical mind. He believes in unionism and group action. CVSTA has benefitted from his ability to assess situations, recognize options and offer creative solutions. As a member of the Executive Board, Juan always makes decisions based on the good of the majority. His reliability is an example to us all. He never misses a meeting. He shows up for school board meetings and participates in all union activities and actions. Juan’s dedication and skills are greatly needed in the difficult times unions are now facing.



Juan Becerra
Centinela Valley Secondary
Teachers Association

Michelle Sayre (Manhattan Beach Unified Teachers Association) has been an active advocate for the needs of elementary teachers since joining the MBUTA leadership team. As a veteran teacher, curriculum devel-

oper, and active incorporator of new technology in the classroom, she exudes a deep sense of professionalism, and continuously serves both her local teachers and the teaching profession with her advocacy of fairness, district responsibility, and empowerment of teachers. Her participation on the Bargaining Team has been invaluable as she knows firsthand the time commitment and work needed to incorporate new technology with no balance or loss in other areas of responsibility. She advocates for all teachers, and steps in powerfully when teachers are expected to do more with less, spend more time with fewer resources and breaks, and add to their curriculum with little or no support.



Michelle Sayre
Manhattan Beach Unified
Teacher Association

Jason Calizar (Palos Verdes Faculty Association) is a rising star in PVFA. He is a dynamic representative from the award-winning Palos Verdes High School. Jason has been especially effective on the School Site Council for his school. He armed himself with information on SSCs ensuring that, among other things, the teacher-parent-administrator ratios were upheld. He went on to have a major impact on how the Council functions at PV High.



Jason Calizar
Palos Verdes
Faculty Association

In local and State campaigns, Jason’s commitment to the issues that matter to teachers always shines through. He makes phone calls, circulates petitions, and meets with the members at his site not only to make sure they understand CTA/NEA positions, but to help shape positions locally.

Don’t let his quiet demeanor fool you; Jason is a force to reckon with. He rallies his colleagues for “Calls to Action” and does not hesitate to attend and speak at School Board meetings. He’s regularly seen around the Union office working on projects for his members. Jason works for the betterment of the teaching profession and is himself an outstanding teacher.

Christina Cocca (Palos Verdes Faculty Association) is a passionate member of PVFA. She started her involvement as a site rep for Miraleste Intermediate School. As a Rep, her fellow PVFA members knew they could count on her support, her knowledge of the contract, and her willingness to attend meetings to help with conflict issues. With her successful experience on rep council it was only natural that she would become vice president on the PVFA executive board. She took all her past knowledge and passion for PVFA to become a wonderful organizer. Christina is an enthusiastic contributor; she volunteers to create flyers, plans get-togethers, attends trainings, and encourages others to get involved. We would like to thank Christina for her dedication and commitment to PVFA.



Christina Cocca
Palos Verdes
Faculty Association

Tim Baumgartner (Redondo Beach Teachers Association) is the calm in the storm. His site rep involvement goes back to 1992 when Redondo Beach was a high school district. When the district unified, along with serving as site rep, he served 3 years on the bargaining team. When our members were being continually discounted and



Tim Baumgartner
Redondo Beach
Teachers Association

unheard by an uncaring administration, he provided the bargaining team with insight and a skill set that helped us understand the budget.

He has continued to go above and beyond as an RBTA Rep and current member of the Health and Welfare Committee.

Tim's leadership in our current strug-

gle over teacher involvement in a costly new district proposed program, International Baccalaureate, has been crucial. He has helped the high school teachers mobilize and has stood as one of the main spokespersons against the roll out of IB. In fact, the district has delayed the submission of Application B citing budgetary costs and the need for "additional time for everyone to learn more about

IB". They did this only after the teachers, led by Tim and others, stood up to the administration.

Tim is a committed professional who strives to do the right thing for his students and for each RBTA member. We are all fortunate to know him and lucky to have him on our team.

Around South Bay United Teachers...

Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association—

- ◆ The Unfair Labor Practice Charge that was filed against the District in the fall is still pending.
- ◆ The District, although sporting a healthy 18% reserve continued with its layoff of 48 of our members. Many of them veteran teachers—all of them are educators that are sorely needed especially now.
- ◆ The Union and the District are set to go to Arbitration over the District's violation of transfer provisions in their mass involuntary transfer of members this past fall.
- ◆ The District is suing several members for alleged overpayments.
- ◆ Bargaining for a successor agreement commenced earlier this month. The District has proposed a variety of concessions and the extension of the Nutrition Program that helped the District to remain solvent—and funded raises for administrators and school board members.
- ◆ An agreement was reached to extend the deadline for responses to the PARS Retirement Incentive and a provision was added to allow members to retire from CV without retiring from CalSTRS—As always, President Betty Setterlund worked hard to make that happen in the best interest of the members.

Manhattan Beach Teachers Association—

- ◆ A contract agreement was reached providing for additions to the Stipend Schedule.
- ◆ Members are in the process of completing School Climate Surveys.
- ◆ Variant schedule votes are being conducted at various sites—ask your rep for more information.

- ◆ The SBUT Executive Director, Sandra Goins visited 6 of the 7 school sites—more visits are planned in the next couple of weeks (MBMS too!) more info to come.
- ◆ Thank outgoing President, Rachel Thomas-Wilson for her YEARS of hard work and welcome President-Elect Karl Kurz.

Palos Verdes Faculty Association—

- ◆ The District has now given final lay-off notices to 55 members. This in spite of having a reserve of over 12% (the County requires 3%).
- ◆ The Union, led by President Kathy Santarosa, has demanded that the District restore days to the teacher work-year. (Our members agreed to take pay cut days (furlough days) in order to "save jobs" last year. When the Ed jobs dollars came, the Union was told that the \$2.25 million from the Federal Government was used to save jobs yet the "pay cut days" were not restored.
- ◆ The District is demanding more concessions which include an additional pay cut day (for a total of 7) and a step freeze.
- ◆ Special Ed costs and compliance issues are still a major issue.

Redondo Beach Teachers Association—

- ◆ The District continues to investigate teachers. Members are advised to take every precaution when talking to students, parents and other staff. If called into a meeting be sure to take a union rep. It's your right to have representation and an administrator should honor your request to delay the meeting until one can be arranged with the rep of your choice (administrators should not be calling your Union rep for you.).
- ◆ A great coalition led by RBTA rallied

on PCH and later in the week at Pershing Square on behalf of education. PTA, District administrators and the school board members as well as our brothers and sisters in CSEA and AFT joined forces to say, "Cuts hurt Redondo Beach kids". Chapter President, Amy Santa Cruz was interviewed by NBC's Colleen Williams on Tuesday, May 10 and urged folks to contact their legislators—have you made the call yet? **Call (888) 268-4334** or visit

www.castateofemergency.com and urge your legislator to pass a measure that will extend the taxes set to expire at the end of June.

- ◆ Bargaining has started and the District has proposed concessions that will affect students profoundly. Among their demands are 7 pay cut days (furlough days) and a step freeze. Look for an RBTA meeting at your site in the near future.

Obviously there is lots of work to be done. We need everyone to stand together to ensure your hard-earned rights are kept and your wages and working conditions are protected. Let us stand together stronger than ever to ensure that we survive the challenges that seem to multiply with every day that passes and that we come out of the other side of these times with more strength and unity than ever.

In Solidarity,
Sandra Goins, Executive Director, SBUT

If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the principles we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake."

Thomas Jefferson 1798

UNEMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

If you have been laid off or non-relected and have not been offered a paid position for the upcoming school year, you may be eligible for Unemployment Benefits. For more information, contact the Employment Development Department at

http://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de2326.pdf.

Caution: if/when you are offered a position, be sure to notify the EDD. You may be asked to pay back any benefits you've received after assurance that you have employment. Lastly, your employer should give you information on COBRA. This program allows you to continue to purchase health insurance from the employer for a period of time after you leave your job. Ask your HR office for more information.

Win \$2,000 Cash!



Every month through August, NEA is giving away a \$2,000 scholarship from Sallie Mae.

Enter today at www.neamb.com!



Find this icon on the SBUT website and click on it to see the items available for a drawing.

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

Your summer discount website:

www.tsaspecialservices.com

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

ALSO

Employee Savings Tickets,

another option for discounted entertainment.

Visit the website

(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.

SCAVENGER HUNT!

The office receives various promotional items throughout the year, so we have a collection of some funky, possibly useful items that may appeal to some members!

The 2011-2012 Chapter Leadership Teams:

CVSTA:

President— Jack Foreman
Vice President— Pedro Martinez
Secretary— Temisha Brame Carter
Treasurer— Chris Morales
At Large Reps— Stephanye Bolton
Kathy Dragone
Lourdes Franco

MBUTA:

President— Karl Kurz
Vice President— Garrett Romines
Secretary/Treasurer— Sandra Rumble

PVFA:

President— Kathy Santarosa
1st Vice President— Renae Roberts
2nd Vice President— Abby Maeder
Director— Kathleen Rarewala
Director— Bonnie Mae Barnard
Secretary/Treasurer— Tracy Bufano

RBTA:

President— Amy Santa Cruz
Vice President— Monica Joyce
Secretary/Treasurer— Sarah Robinson
Director/High School— Anita Stoddard