



I Choose to Teach!



A PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER 2005

MAKE YOUR STUDENT VOICE HEARD IN SACRAMENTO

JANE RODGERS, *STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, CSU STANISLAUS*



College students registering to vote!

two friends, two family members, and two strangers about the initiatives and explain how they should vote and why. Ask them each to “vote six times.” Give out voter registration cards and encourage your fellow students to register to vote on November 8th. The registration deadline for this special election is **October 24th**.

You may vote via absentee ballot even if you are living in the dorms. Registered voters may apply for an absentee ballot by mail between October 10th and November 1st. Applications must be submitted to the county elections officials no later than 5 p.m. on November 1, 2005.

It’s very simple: **VOTE NO ON 74, 75, 76, 77 and 78, VOTE YES ON 79 and 80.** You can read more about these propositions at the Alliance for a Better California website <http://www.betterca.com/>.

Help students get the word out, we deserve to be taken seriously. We care about our futures and the future of education. We will be heard in Sacramento!

Are you tired of rising tuition? What are you willing to do about it? We know that there are two routes to influence elected officials. The first route is to make large contributions to their coalitions and re-election campaigns. (Since most college students are not wealthy, this probably won’t work). The second way is to vote in large numbers, so that the politicians have to consider student viewpoints in order to be elected and pass initiatives.

I am asking everyone to vote at least six times in the upcoming special election. (Don’t worry, this is perfectly legal!) First, become an expert on the initiatives, then tell



*Remember to vote in this
SPECIAL ELECTION:*

NOVEMBER 8, 2005

Let Your Voice be Heard!

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Contact the Editor! Submit an Article!



The *SCTA / Choose to Teach!* is a publication by the Student California Teachers Association, an affiliate of the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association. To submit information or articles, please contact:

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER 2005

- 8 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
14-16 REGION 1 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, BURLINGAME
14-16 REGION 3 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, HOLLYWOOD
21-23 **STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES**
28-30 REGION 2 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, RENO, NV

NOVEMBER 2005

- 5 CSET EXAM
4-6 **SCTA FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, ANAHEIM**
11 VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY
11-13 **NEA STUDENT CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE, BOSTON, MA**
24-25 THANKSGIVING RECESS

DECEMBER 2005

- 3 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
17-18 **SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, BURLINGAME**
22-JAN. 3 CHRISTMAS RECESS

JANUARY 2006

- 13-15 RURAL ISSUES CONFERENCE, LAS VEGAS, NV
16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
20-22 GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE, OAKLAND
21 CSET

FEBRUARY 2006

- 4 **SCTA SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, SOUTH (TBD)**
11 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
18 **SCTA NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, NORTH (TBD)**
20 PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY
24-26 URBAN ISSUES CONFERENCE, SAN JOSE



POPPING THE RIGHT PROP PILL

KEVIN WOLFE, *STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE*, MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

For many, prescription drugs are a vital way to manage acute and chronic illnesses in order to improve and maintain their quality of life. They are also a convenient cost-effective alternative to more costly medical interventions. It then means that by increasing the affordability and accessibility of prescription drugs, overall healthcare quality will increase significantly while its cost will dramatically decrease. Two propositions aimed at reducing the cost of prescription drugs will appear on the ballot for the November 8th special election.

Current California laws require retail pharmacies to sell prescription drugs at a discount to elderly and disabled persons enrolled in Medicare as a condition of their participation in the Medi-Cal Program. However, propositions 78 and 79 will allow many California residents who would not otherwise qualify for prescription drug benefits to obtain prescription drugs at a discounted price. While similar in scope, the details of each proposition differ in many ways that, when combined, can lead to much confusion over which one might actually be more beneficial. The following table outlines the key differences between the two in hopes that it will help in making an educated decision.

Proposition 78	Proposition 79
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary drug discount plan. Drug companies may choose whether to participate. • California’s previous voluntary drug discount plan dissolved in 2001 because the pharmaceutical industry refused to participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug discount plan with an enforcement mechanism. • If a drug company refuses to provide discounts, the state can shift business away from that company and buy more from other companies that offer discounts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored by drug companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored by consumer, senior and health organizations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to eligible California residents in families with an income between \$29,000 - \$58,000 for a family of 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 8-10 million Californians will be eligible (twice as many as Prop 78). • Open to eligible California residents in families with an income between \$38,000 - \$77,000 for a family of 4.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15 application and renewal fee to participate. Participants receive a drug discount card. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 application and renewal fee to participate. Participants receive a drug discount card.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medi-Cal has saved taxpayers \$5 billion in the last 10 years. Prop 79 builds on this success using the same mechanism to negotiate drug discounts for eligible Californians.

For more information, go to www.betterca.org (Alliance for a Better California) or check-out the analysis on the Secretary of State’s website, <http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/>.



OUR PRESIDENT GOES TO THE CAPITOL

MONICA MASINO, *PRESIDENT*, ARGOSY UNIVERSITY

On September 14, 2005, I participated in the Alliance for a Better California media briefing to inform the voting public how detrimental Proposition 74 will be to future teachers. Below are my remarks.

I’m here because I’m deeply concerned about the future for teachers in this state. Proposition 74 will only exacerbate California’s teacher shortage. Punishing beginning teachers by requiring a five-year probation period just to have some basic due process rights will discourage many potential teachers from entering the profession.

I’m excited about becoming a teacher and so are the hundreds of students who are SCTA members. We look forward to a career making a difference for California students. We’re doing it because we care about kids. That said, we’re also not financially or professionally suicidal. Proposition 74 places good teachers at risk and makes the choice to become a teacher all the more difficult.

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OUR PRESIDENT GOES TO THE CAPITOL

Continued from Page 3

If the Governor wants an initiative on the ballot that will improve education, he should sponsor one that would provide beginning and experienced teachers the professional development and support needed. He should sponsor one that would give every student an up-to-date textbook, and lowers class sizes to a level that gives all of our students a chance to learn. And he should sponsor one that protects school funding. Such measures would attract teachers, not discourage them like Proposition 74. Rather than blaming teachers for the problems facing our schools, the Governor should be working with us to get our schools and students the resources needed to do the job.

The Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning estimates that we'll need 100,000 teachers in this state over the next ten years just to fill retirement vacancies. That's 10,000 teachers a year. Proposition 74 is only going to make it harder to fill those positions. I hope the public rejects Proposition 74.

We need your help!

We are in the process of planning your Northern & Southern Regional Conferences. We would like to hear from you what kind of workshops are you interested in attending at your regional conference? We would also like to hear from you as to where you like to have us hold your next conference, your college or university? We encourage everyone to submit their preferences for maximum attendance.

Regional Conferences:

Southern- Saturday February 4, 2006

Northern- Saturday February 18, 2006

SOUTHERN: Chris Sumner cmsrad@aol.com
Ken Wisdom wisnk@msn.com
NORTHERN: Jessica Abercombie hsuedu@excite.com

FALL LEADERSHIP Taking a Stand... Changing the Times!

SAVE THE DATE!

November 4-6

Wyndham Anaheim Park Hotel
Anaheim, CA

Great workshops!
Great networking!
Great experience!

Meet fellow Student CTA members from
all across the state!

Don't miss out!



FUNDRAISING 411

KYRIAN SMITH, *ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE*, CSU LONG BEACH

So many events, so many workshops, so much desire... but in desperate need of funds. At a recent Ethnic Minority Action Committee (EMAC) annual meeting with the California Teachers Association in Las Vegas, fundraising was discussed amongst in-service teachers and teacher education students. Many ideas were too good to pass-up, which can help some of our chapters who are looking to fund their next event.

Many of us know that we can call on the Service Center Councils to ask for resources – they actually have money set aside for future educator clubs. Many also know that for every member a chapter has, the chapter receives a \$5 rebate from CTA to use as a resource. Chapter leaders can also check-in with the student life organizations on their individual campuses, as they usually have money for us too. But how do we find funds when all other resources have been tapped-out?

The in-service teachers have found ways to raise money for their schools that seem to be quite effective. Aside from the no-fail bake sale, book raffles were also suggested. Raffles, in general, bring in a lot of money if the reward is great enough. Instead of misusing resources in hopes that enough people will buy tickets to cover the initial cost, one CTA member suggested networking in the community. Many businesses will donate goods or services to charities and organizations that are non-profit for little advertisement. Check out local boutiques and restaurants and ask what the management is willing to give in exchange to have their name associated with a good cause.

It really works if you ask the right person, in the right way, at the right time. I remember when I worked in the AmericaReads program not too long ago. We were hosting an end-of-year celebration for the students we had tutored and who had worked so hard throughout the year. We had a storyteller and activities planned, but we were looking into our own pockets to get snacks for the kids. A teacher encouraged me to ask Costco to donate food. Costco generously gave \$50 worth of food. The tutors only had to donate \$1 a piece to make the celebration a total success. Just ask; the worse anyone can say is no.

IN THE MONEY

CHRIS SUMNER, *SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, CSU NORTHRIDGE*



Picture your chapter getting involved in your community or increasing your membership. There are a number of projects that a chapter can do that will help get the name of your chapter, as well as SCTA, out into your community. The only problem you find is not coming up with brilliant ideas, but finding funding to put the project on. What do you do when fundraising activities have not given you enough funds to work with and your college student government won't give you any more funding? You apply for a National Education Association (NEA) Community Learning through America's Schools (CLASS) or Student Organizing Assistance and Resources (SOAR) grants. Every year the NEA gives out thousands of dollars in grants to go toward community outreach projects, as well as, projects to increase membership.

Applying for the grants is easy. However, applying for the right grant is important to consider. NEA gives out the CLASS grant to chapters doing community projects benefiting their communities. This could be anything from a book drive, to putting on an activity for a local school. The SOAR grant is for chapters that want to increase their numbers. Once you know which of the grants is right for your project, all you need to do is apply for it.

Applying for the grants is not as complicated as many may think. The first step is to lay out the detail of your project before applying, as the application will ask for the who, what, where, when, and why of your project. Then go to www.nea.org, and in the search bar type CLASS grant or SOAR grant. Once submitted, it will take about a month to hear back from NEA. If approved they will send a check made out to your chapter. Upon completion of your project, you will submit a write up on the project.

Chapters, remember SCTA's Communications Editor, Nadia Bravo would love to include your project in the newsletter. I encourage all chapters to apply for the NEA grants. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at cmsrad@aol.com.

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCES



Confused about your pathway towards a career in education?
What to know more pre-professional information?
Ever feel alone in your pursuit of a career in education? YOU'RE NOT!
Come to a Regional Conference near your area!



Southern Regional Conference

When? Saturday, February 4, 2006
Where? South (TBD)
Who? Southern Regional SCTA members
Details? Southern Regional Vice Presidents:

Chris Sumner
cmsrad@aol.com
Ken Wisdom
wisnk@msn.com

Northern Regional Conference

When? Saturday, February 18, 2006
Where? North (TBD)
Who? Northern Regional SCTA members
Details? Northern Regional Vice President:

Jessica Abercrombie
hsuedu@excite.com

FAILURES CAN HELP YOU SUCCEED

CHANCE CARRICO, *STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, CSU STANISLAUS*

Some of the best lessons can come by examining and learning from the biggest mistakes. It is easy to examine the successes; however, it takes greater attention to examine the failures. For the failures do not usually receive the recognition that accompany the blinding, flying colors of success. Yet, failures can teach just as much as any great success can, and if kept in memory, can prevent the waste of great future resources - ranging from time to money. The following is an example of a great failure because of the lack of the simplest of organizational needs: Communication.

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FAILURES CAN HELP YOU SUCCEED

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Recently, the SCTA chapter at CSU Stanislaus decided to participate in the Freshman Orientation on their campus. This is a school that has a very strong credentialing program for future teachers, and coinciding with this program, has a strong on-campus SCTA chapter.

The assignment for the SCTA chapter at the Freshman Orientation this year was looking promising. Indeed, a new table cloth arrived for this event and future events. Forms were submitted to the bureaucracy on campus, with triplicates going here, there, and everywhere. Everything was looking to be on the up and up, but with just a few words of miscommunication everything came down with a crashing resonance that made the Chinese gong sound like a tinker-bell.

The SCTA chapter officers had assigned responsibilities for the event. With three steady officers, the task seemed easily dividable. One to put together a box of SCTA goodies, and the other two would divide their time during the two-day Freshman Orientation - each would spend a day in the sun, separately. However, of these two chapter officers, the first was almost completely outside of the loop and was of the mindset to go to a local community college instead and, in fact, did. The second chapter officer never even showed up at Freshman Orientation; no warning or excuse for a complete lack of presence.

I hope that others are willing to write and talk about mistakes, no matter how small or big. Continuing reminders of the results of any mistake, and the lesson behind it, can be healthy and will be a source of betterment for others in SCTA. A wise man not only learns from his own mistakes, but also learns from the mistakes of others.

The second chapter officer does not have a great story for you to read about, but the first one just might. After arriving at the community college and learning that it was the first day of classes, the chapter officer also found the parking to be atrocious and therefore, had to walk with the SCTA orientation box nearly a half of a mile. After arriving to find scads of students on campus, the day at least looked promising. However, after talking to five different on-campus agencies, the chapter officer learned that tabling was not permitted during the first two weeks of school. And so, I'm sure the half-mile trip back to the car felt much longer, and with no idea of where else to go, the chapter officer went home. A completely wasted day from the perspective of SCTA and plenty of wasted potential for future new members and leaders who did not even know about the Freshman Orientation at CSU Stanislaus. It just proves that communication is essential.

CHRONICLES OF A SECONDARY STUDENT TEACHER, PART II

NAM NGUYEN, *PAST OFFICER*, UC SACRAMENTO



Welcome back everyone. I have finished my first two weeks of teaching at Sheldon High School in Elk Grove, CA, and I must say, teaching is extremely challenging.

The first week at school is when students are getting to know you, you are getting to know them, and they are learning the dynamics of your class. In my 9th grade General Science class, the students were very receptive and open to my classroom management style. In contrast, my 10th grade biology class, which is filled to the maximum of 36 students, is a challenge every day.

The 9th grade students sit quietly, listen to every word I say, and raise their hands to receive permission to ask a question or comment. On the other hand, the 10th graders often chit-chat and blurt out comments. I've spent a good portion of my time trying to manage the biology class, and it will be an uphill battle. I've sought assistance from my mentoring teachers, colleagues, and university supervisors in order to find out what works.

I have had a personal discussion with the class to see what could be done to improve our situation. One of the girls stated that I did not follow through on my warnings, continually asking for students to be quiet or stating that the next student would receive on campus suspension (OCS), but not actually giving it out. The other issue was that I was not fair with my discipline. I would suspend one student for the same misbehavior that I would only warn other students for. I told my students that I am conscious of my issues, I would start the class anew, and would begin to follow through on my warnings. This seemed to work, if only for one day. I am hopeful that I will continue to focus on following through, so that students are aware of the consequences and will choose to change their behavior.

As a student teacher, I am learning to teach. I have often ended my day considering why I am teaching, if it's worth it, and if I should quit. I am two semesters into my program, and have more to go. Good teaching days give me the motivation to continue teaching. Remember to keep your head up, ask for help, and try your best. It gets difficult, but if you ask experienced teachers, they will tell you that we all go through the same ordeal and we will make it through.

HOW TO BE A SUPER HERO

NGOC LE, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*, UC LOS ANGELES



You can now be a super hero without the tights and cape. Just go out into your neighborhood and do some community service. Beyond the political aspects of SCTA, there is also an extremely important community service component. Many times this can be overlooked, but the responsibility to help our communities should never be forgotten. As future teachers of California, we will be helping students to an immeasurable degree, but what can we do for them now as a student?

Many of us are familiar with service projects, such as collecting food and clothing for the poor, cleaning up the parks and beaches, or even visiting hospitals and retirement homes. Knowing about these activities is not enough. As potential educators of tomorrow, we need to immediately get out into our communities to help. There are always people in need, so there is no reason we should wait until we get in the classroom to help children when we are capable of doing it now.

Community service projects will not only benefit the neighborhood, it will help the volunteers to experience and understand each community on a personal level. Being future teachers, it would be helpful to understand the children's needs through their social backgrounds. It is much better to go into a classroom with some insight into what kind of environment each child comes from, as opposed to walking in blind. A community is strongest when those in it take care of one another.

So finally, here are some ideas for being the heroes in our neighborhoods. Since we are going to be working in classrooms for many years to come, why not make it like a second home. No one wants their home to be broken down or dirty, so why not start by cleaning it up. You and your chapter can volunteer to pick up trash, clean classrooms, or even help to paint or rebuild parts of the school. Just contact your local school or go into the office. You can also get a sneak peak into teaching by volunteering to read in classrooms or helping teachers to plan or give out their lessons. This would be easiest if you go to a teacher with whom you are already well acquainted. Volunteering for after-school tutoring or mentoring is another great way to help out. If you're feeling really motivated, try helping the school put on a book faire, carnival, or special program. It's more work, but the benefits are even greater. These are just a couple of ideas that you can use to directly help the schools in your community.

There are always millions of other ways in which you can help your community as a whole. You can use this website to find a community service project near you: www.servenet.org. Do not hesitate to look up more online. Make sure to call each organization to verify that it is legitimate. Anytime you spend a couple of hours away from your own life to help others, it is time well spent. Although you may be busy with homework, studying for tests and working, you will not regret taking the time out to help someone else. So what are you waiting for? Get out there and make a difference **NOW**.



MEMBER BENEFITS

For services such as free checking, online banking, bill payment, auto loans, first-time home buyer loans, money market accounts, new teacher loans and other financial services, contact **First Financial Credit Union** at 800/537-8491, www.fffcu.org or **Provident Credit Union** at 800/632-4600, www.providentcu.org.



HAVE MOVED OR MOVING?

In order to continue to receive SCTA information and future mailings, we must have your current contact information (address, phone, email address) on record.

SCTA members can update and change all contact information online at www.cta.org/scta (click the "Contact Us" icon and then the "Moving?" picture) or by contacting Quinnetta Gill at (650) 552-5345, qgill@cta.org.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Having a hard time funding your education?

Apply for these scholarships!!

Application forms for the SCTA Herb Foreman and Ed Romeo Scholarships are included in this mailing.

In addition, the CTA L. Gordon Bittle Memorial Scholarship for SCTA is also available. Three (3) \$2,000 scholarships are awarded. Applications may be printed from the CTA website at www.cta.org (click the "Resources" icon and then the "Scholarships & Workshops" icon). Or call (650) 552-5446 for an application.



CHAPTERS GETTING INVOLVED IN POLITICS



SCTA members and SCTA Advisors at **Hartnell Community College** participated in a discussion regarding the propositions in the special election and how they will impact future educators.



SCTA members at **CSU Fullerton** hosted a discussion regarding the propositions in the special election and are working to organize a conference on April 15, 2006.

SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NGOC LE, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*, UC LOS ANGELES

- September 10-11, 2005 - Burlingame, CA
- Present: Monica Masino (President), Leo Solis (Executive VP), Ngoc Le (Secretary-Treasurer), Nadia Bravo (Communications Editor), Jessica Abercrombie (Northern Regional VP), Chris Sumner (Southern Regional VP), Ken Wisdom (Southern Regional VP), Kyrian Smith (Ethnic Minority Rep), Nam Nguyen (Past Officer), Jane Rodgers (State Council Rep), Kevin Wolfe (State Council Rep), James Sheldon (State Council Rep), Chance Carrico (State Council Rep)
- Call to Order: 10:31 a.m.

Committee Reports:

- *Student Ethnic Minority Affairs:* Workshops for cultural diversity and understanding, raise money for ethnic minority scholarships workshop and create a survey to collect data on minority concerns.
- *Conference:* Fall Leadership theme is to be "Taking a Stand...Changing the Times!". The conference is scheduled on November 4-6, 2005 at the Wyndham Anaheim Park hotel (formerly Anaheim Park Hotel) in Fullerton.
- *Membership:* Opening Classrooms, Podcasting, conducting campus visitations
- *Student Political Action:* Talked about all initiatives, designed Palm Cards to be passed out to SCTA members, endorsed all of the Alliances for a Better CA recommendations on the special election initiatives.
- *Community Outreach:* Began collecting toiletries for community outreach.
- *Special Services:* Decided on the questions for the Herb Forman and Ed Romeo SCTA scholarships.
- *Special Services:* E-board trained and informed in "Talking Points" for Prop 74.

NEA Connections Conference - Boston, Massachusetts

Attendees: Monica Masino (President), Chris Sumner (Southern Regional VP), Ken Wisdom, (Southern Regional VP), and Ngoc Le (Secretary-Treasurer)

Oath of Office: Nadia Bravo, Tiffany Lace

- Adjournment: 2:25 p.m., September 11, 2005

