



A PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
FEBRUARY 2006



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MONICA MASINO, *PRESIDENT*, ARGOSY UNIVERSITY

Happy 2006! Now that the fall semester is behind us, it is time to shake things up for the New Year. If you were actively involved with SCTA, then you probably had an amazing fall semester. There were numerous stimulating events that happened locally and statewide. Each event brought with it critical discussions, friendships, collaboration, fun, and not to mention tons of networking. I hope everyone had an opportunity to participate in local chapter events and the Fall Leadership Conference.

Furthermore, if you are a new member and this is your very first newsletter or a member that may not have had much time last semester, I encourage you to seek out your local campus chapter and get involved! As for those of you who are seasoned SCTA members, I challenge you to find those new members, as well as potential members and partner with them to share your SCTA experiences.

There are many resources for future educators within SCTA to assist you on your road to success. Since we are beginning a new semester, I think it is best to take this opportunity to remind active members and introduce to new members the many benefits of Student California Teachers Association. For starters, when you become a member of SCTA you are joining the only statewide organization in

California for future educators. You are a member of pre-professional association for college students with almost 1,400 members on 80 campuses across the state of California. You are also joining a group of future educators locally, statewide and nationally as a member of the National Education Association Student Program (NEA-SP). As an SCTA member you are involved with an association with unlimited potential!

For only \$30 a year, you have many benefits, including but not limited to \$1 million in liability insurance, low rates on auto, homeowners/renters and life insurance, credit union privileges, publications from SCTA, CTA and NEA (*I Choose to Teach!*, which you are currently reading, *California Educator*, and *NEA TODAY*), scholarships, workshops, conferences, and much more.

I can only assume that as a member of this great Association, you have participated in one event or another and have utilized the many benefits that are available to you. I hope that you have enjoyed your time thus far with SCTA and remember that our Association is what we make it! We must all take an active role in molding the future of this Association taking one step at a time. In closing, I hope that you are ready to tackle the new challenges of 2006. Hold on to your seats and get ready for one exhilarating year.

## MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!



[www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)



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## SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

MONICA MASINO (ARGOSY UNIVERSITY)  
MMASINO@JUNO.COM

### EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

LEONARDO SOLIS (RIO HONDO COLLEGE)  
LEO\_SOLIS@SBCGLOBAL.NET

### NORTHERN VICE PRESIDENTS

JESSICA ABERCROMBIE (CSU SACRAMENTO)  
HSUEDU@EXCITE.COM

VIELKA ELVEBAK, (CHABOT COLLEGE)  
VIELKAEN@YAHOO.COM

### SOUTHERN VICE PRESIDENTS

CHRIS SUMNER (COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS)  
CMSRAD@AOL.COM

### SECRETARY-TREASURER

NGOC LE (UCLA)  
JULIETANGYL217@HOTMAIL.COM

### COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR

NADIA BRAVO (CSU NORTHRIDGE)  
NADIABRAVO8@AOL.COM

### ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES

KYRIAN SMITH (CSU LONG BEACH)  
KSMITH5@CSULB.EDU

CHARLENE MARTINEZ, (WESTMONT COLLEGE)  
CMARTINE@WESTMONT.EDU

### CA COMM. ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING LIAISON

CHANTAINE FAUNTLEROY (CSU EAST BAY)  
CFAUNTLEROY@HORIZON.CSUEASTBAY.EDU

### NEA LEGISLATION COMMITTEE— STUDENT LIAISON

ANGELA REHN (SAN DIEGO MIRA MESA COLLEGE)  
ANGELA@HFRIEND.COM

### PAST OFFICER

NAM NGUYEN (CSU SACRAMENTO)  
NAM.SCTA@GMAIL.COM

### STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

JANE RODGERS (CSU STANISLAUS)  
JANEANDED99@SBCGLOBAL.NET

KEVIN WOLFE (MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE)  
WOLFE.SCR05-06@VERIZON.NET

CHANCE CARRICO (CSU STANISLAUS)  
SCTAREP@GMAIL.COM

JAMES SHELDON (NEW COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA)  
JSHELDON@UCSC.EDU

### CTA BOARD LIAISON

DIAN HASSAN  
HASSONDI@AOL.COM

### CONSULTANT

GAIL WATTS  
(650) 552-5346  
GWATTS@CTA.ORG

### NEA BOARD LIAISON

ANN SHADWICK  
ANSHADWICK@AOL.COM

### STUDENT CTA OFFICE

QUINNETTA GILL  
CTA HUMAN RIGHTS DEPT.  
P.O. Box 921  
BURLINGAME, CA 94011-0921  
(650) 552-5345  
(650) 552-5018/FAX  
QGILL@CTA.ORG

## Contact the Editor! Submit an Article!



The SCTA *I 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:

**Nadia Bravo**

**NadiaBravo8@aol.com**

**Deadline: March 4th**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### FEBRUARY 2006

- 4 SCTA SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, CSU LONG BEACH
- 11 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 18 SCTA NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, CHABOT COMMUNITY COLLEGE, HAYWARD
- 20 PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY
- 24-26 URBAN ISSUES CONFERENCE, SAN JOSE

### MARCH 2006

- 2 READ ACROSS AMERICA
- 3-5 EQUITY & HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE,
- 10-12 GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE, HOLLYWOOD
- 16-19 REGION 4 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, PALM SPRINGS
- 18 CSET EXAM
- 31-APRIL 2 STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES

### APRIL 2006

- 14 GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY
- 22 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 29-30 SCTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY,

### MAY 2006

- 9 NATIONAL DAY OF THE TEACHER
- 10 CALIFORNIA DAY OF THE TEACHER
- 20 CSET EXAM
- 29 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

### JUNE 2006

- 2-4 STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES
- 17 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 30-JULY 5 NEA-RA, ORLANDO, FL

### JULY 2006

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY
- 7-9 SCTA BOARD ORIENTATION
- 16-20 PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE, ASILOMAR
- 22 CSET EXAM
- 30-31 SUMMER INSTITUTE, LOS ANGELES



## GOT MONEY?

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

If you're like me, you are in your final semester at a community college and are now ready to transfer to a four-year institution in the fall. With this comes some very important steps that must be followed quickly and accurately, before it's too late. By now, you should have chosen or narrowed down your choices to one or two universities and applied to them. A lot of universities offer the online application, allowing for a quicker and more streamlined process. If this option is available to you, it is highly recommended. Many of the CSU's opened their applications in October, however, much of the UC system has now closed their online applications and are only accepting paper applications for select programs. For those of you applying to a private university, application dates may vary.

When you do fill out the application, make sure you do it accurately and have everything you need with you. Recommended items to have handy are unofficial transcripts, tax information, your parents' tax information (for those still considered a dependent), current class schedule, and a credit/debit card to pay any fees required to process your application. Double-check your information carefully before submitting it. Otherwise, you may be faced with serious delays that can affect whether or not you are accepted into a program.

On the subject of financial aid, everyone knows that college costs money and that some of us do not have quite enough to support ourselves. It is for that reason that some students are forced to take an extended period of time to attend college, or not go at all. However, it is also for this reason that there are seemingly boundless resources for

finding money to get through college. This includes scholarships, grants, work-study programs and student loans. Even for those with no financial need, it doesn't hurt to find a little extra money to get us through. Aside from hitting-up your rich uncle or grandparent for money, here are some places to go where you might find some support:

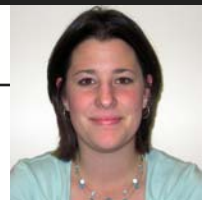
- [www.ed.gov/finaid](http://www.ed.gov/finaid): This should be your first stop, no matter what. This site offers information on grants, work-study and student loans including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This site will also help get you in the running for many of the federal and state grant programs available, as well as those available at some universities.
- [www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/scholarship](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/scholarship): Before checking for those scholarships, you should check out this site by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which will clue you in on detecting and avoiding scholarship fraud.
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com): Free, searchable database of scholarships, loans, grants, and fellowships that are offered publicly, privately and by schools.
- Your local bookstore or library: For those of you who don't have easy access to the internet, head over to your local library or bookstore, where it is not difficult to find several books on the wealth of scholarships available.
- Your bank: In addition to scholarships, many financial institutions offer loans that are similar to government loans offered.

### HAVE MOVED OR MOVING?

To continue to receive SCTA information and mailings, we must have current contact information on file. SCTA members can update and change all contact information online at [www.cta.org/scta](http://www.cta.org/scta) (click the "Contact Us" icon) or contact Quinnetta Gill at (650) 552-5345 / [qgill@cta.org](mailto:qgill@cta.org).

## VOUCHERS IN FLORIDA?

JESSICA ABERCROMBIE, *NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT*, HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY



Recently the highest court in Florida ruled in opposition to one of the state's voucher programs. Voucher programs provide public funds to send students to private schools. The Florida Supreme Court found this program to go against what public schools stand for and violated the state's constitution. Reg Weaver, President of the National Education Association agreed. There were many involved in this fight against the voucher program, including NEA and the Florida Education Association.

There was talk that the voucher program was considered unethical, because it would breach the first amendment creating a separation between church and state by sending students to religious schools. However, the main attack on this program was that it provided private education with public education funds. This is definitely a triumphant feat, not only for public education, but most importantly, the parents and students involved.

This particular ruling will also affect other voucher initiatives to come in Florida and other states in the country. California has fought several voucher initiatives over the years, but none has passed. These voucher programs will not solve anything, and will only cause more of the taxpayer's money to be spent on sending students to private schools. The goal should be strengthening the public schools, instead of just shuffling students off elsewhere.



## STARTING A NEW YEAR WITH A NEW PLAN

CHARLENE MARTINEZ, *ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE*, WESTMONT COLLEGE

*“It’s never too late to be what you might have been”—George Eliot*

The New Year has come and gone and already I have broken my new year’s resolutions. While sitting and thinking about my failures, it dawned on me that I have found the perfect profession – teaching. I have come to the realization that in teaching, every single day has the opportunity to be a new year, a new start, a new chance to be whatever it is I might have been. With these thoughts in mind, I offer you some of the ideas presented by fellow educators. For those who have begun or will soon begin their student teaching, I hope that these words will offer some encouragement. And for those who are still taking theory and methodology courses, let this remind you that all of the theory you are learning will very soon become a real practice.

### **Do you have a plan?**

When approaching any type of situation, it is always important to have a plan. As teachers, we must have a plan for every possible situation. What are we going to do when the bell rings to start class? What will we do if a student needs to use the restroom? What is our plan for dealing with late work? All of these plans soon become procedures. According to Harry Wong in his book *The First Days of School*, these procedures can make or break your classroom.

### **Do you know your way around?**

In the book *Secrets for Secondary School Teachers: How to Succeed in Your First Year* by Jeffrey A Kottler, Ellen Kottler and Cary J Kottler, the authors note that many beginning teachers do not know their way around the schools at which they teach. Take a tour of the campus and take note of where students eat their lunch, where the faculty or staff eat, or where the lockers are located. All of this information will help you become acclimated to your school and bring you one step closer to feeling at home.

### **Have you taken some time for yourself lately?**

As a beginning student teacher I know how exhausting your days and nights can be. But take a few moments to watch the sunset, take a walk, or even a few minutes to zone out in front of the television. While I know we all desire to be the best teachers we can be, we must also strive to maintain some sort of personal life that is as wonderful as our professional one.

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## ...WOMAN’S HISTORY— DID YOU KNOW?

The first Women's Rights Convention, held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, is generally regarded as the beginning of the Women's Rights Movement in the United States. Every year, Women's History Month activities and celebrations continue to educate and inspire men and women, young and old, to appreciate one another, to cooperate, and to achieve together.

*—the National Women’s History Project*

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## PROJECT SPRING BREAK

NADIA BRAVO, *COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR*, CSU NORTHRIDGE



Are you ready for Spring Break 2006? Many college students may choose to relax and go home or party the week away in Cancun or Las Vegas for that highly anticipated week. Perhaps you are one of those students who is tired of doing the same thing year after year. If so, here is a great opportunity for you and your buddies. Become a volunteer for one week. It sounds like a short amount of time, but remember, it doesn’t take long to make a difference. So, here is “Project Spring Break.”

Challenge yourself to become a volunteer in your local public library, church, YMCA, food pantry or a school that may be opened. Another great way to become very active on your own is to become a tutor. Do you have a hidden talent? Do you play an instrument or excel in sports? Then, this may also be a great opportunity to lend a helping hand. Of course you should anticipate enough time to get in contact with the right people and to fill out the necessary forms, but what better month to begin your best Spring Break ever than this month with “Project Spring Break!”

An additional incentive, besides self-gratification, is that volunteering experiences look great on resumes. So, this year, break out of your routine, and take the challenge of “Project Spring Break!”



## EDUCATION FOR ALL

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

Surrounded by strangers, immersed in a foreign language and culture, miles away from family and friends—this is not an image of an American tourist in Beirut, Lebanon, this is the reality of thousands of children in California. Many homeless children escaping abuse and/or poverty must spend months, or even years, in a transitional school that is often under-funded. Schools like the Transition Learning Center in Stockton, California thrive on the generous donations of individuals to educate, feed, and clothe their students. Even with the charitable help of these citizens, the schools often need much more support to provide their students with educational resources that will help them keep up with students their own age who are grade levels ahead.

The Community Outreach Committee of the Student California Teachers' Association has created the SCTA Kids Count Fund to address the major problems that underprivileged schools are faced with. Inspired by the conditions of the Transition Learning Center, this fund will focus on providing students with educational resources that cater to their specific needs.

This center, for example, lacks literary materials for all the students. Many of the books are aged and may not capture their attention. They need new books that will inspire them to begin a committed relationship with education and learning. Often times, they cannot fluently understand English, so bilingual literature can help comfort them in their dramatic passage. The children do not have the same opportunity to go back-to-school shopping for new clothes, so they rely on second-hand shirts and shoes. They may not even have a backpack to carry their papers and old books.

In an age of fast-paced communication, these students are left outside the circle. Without the appropriate technological resources, they may not even know the wonders of email, something we have taken for granted. It is not difficult to see how these students can fall so far behind in their expected educational progress. In order to keep up, they not only need emotional support to deal with their tragic predicament, but also material support to keep their bright minds glowing vibrantly.

The SCTA Kids Count Fund cannot survive without the generosity of members. With your donations, the Fund can support the education of hundreds of homeless and underprivileged children.

### How Can I Help?

1. Write a check payable to SCTA, with a memo that says "SCTA Kids Count Fund."\*
2. Donate books to your local chapter and mention that it is for this fund.
3. If you are a chapter leader, set out a box where books can be donated. Pick-up can be arranged when you contact an executive board member.
4. Create a backpack with school supplies that can be given to a deserving student.

\* These can be given to an executive board member at the Representative Assembly or you can arrange a pick-up.

The Community Outreach Committee appreciates your continued support of the welfare and education of our future students. You are one step closer to being a teacher.

### Make checks payable to SCTA and mail to:

SCTA/Human Rights Dept.  
P.O. BOX 921  
Burlingame, CA 94011-0921



*\*Donations are not tax-deductible*

## UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...

KEN WISDOM, *SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT*, COLLEGE OF THE DESERT



**"WORKING WITH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND NETWORKING WITH THE MEMBERS IS WHAT I MOST ENJOYED"**

It is with deep regret that I will be tendering my resignation, taking effect February 5, 2006. However, I will be available via email and telephone for any questions. My leaving is for personal and family reasons.

I have enjoyed serving you as Southern Regional Vice President. I wish the best for everyone and look forward to serving you again in the future.

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## THINKING OF CHANGING CAREERS? BETTER JOIN SCTA!

JANE RODGERS, *STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, CSU STANISLAUS*

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Almost twenty years ago, I began looking into the process required to become a teacher in California. I was working in biomedical research in the Central Valley, presenting my research at national conventions. When the lab where I worked closed, I did not have the option of moving to the Bay Area, as I had small children.

The obstacles I faced to enter the teaching field seemed insurmountable. No financial aid was available for a career changer with a BA, because a credential was a four-year program and California prohibited a second BA that is subsidized by the state. I earned my first degree with no financial aid assistance and with a B average. However, a 3.0 average was required for entrance into a private college credential program, so I began taking community college courses to improve my GPA and fulfill the pre-requisites for a program. At the time, community college students with a BA were charged a higher fee and had the lowest priority to register, preventing me from getting the courses I needed. A time came when I could no longer afford to take courses.

I worked a variety of jobs, often tutoring children or presenting science enrichment activities in after school programs. My heart was in teaching, but I had to settle for ancillary programs. Then disaster struck when I was injured and facing devastating personal circumstances, all within a few months. While awaiting surgery, I again started to take courses at the local community college. As a disabled student, I had the priority necessary to register

for the courses I needed to get into a credential program. As a displaced homemaker, I was able to get financial assistance. Finally, I was able to meet the physical requirements of teaching.

I did not receive any pre-service teacher support until I met Dr. Brenda Betts, the advisor of SCTA at my college. I joined SCTA on the spot, and vowed to become active at all levels of the organization. Finally the whole puzzle of how to achieve a credential in California became clear. The ability to network with practicing teachers, and to receive current information on new credentialing requirements saved me many missteps in completing the program. The cutting edge workshops and opportunities to learn at CTA / SCTA conferences and Summer Institute taught me at least as much as my credential courses.

Nineteen years of struggle is too much time to lose when our students need teachers who are able to teach math and science at all levels. Programs designed to recruit career changers from technology and science fields fall short if educational policy does not support them at all levels. SCTA / CTA is the answer to this paradox. Teachers are the experts on the field of education, and through the Association they have a voice in the future of education. As a member of SCTA I have a voice and an avenue to change the system that kept me from reaching my goals for so long. I will be a teacher who will make a difference in the lives of students, because ...I choose to teach.



### WORKSHOPS, ANYONE?

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

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So you have an upcoming event on campus and want to present a good workshop for your members? Then look no further than SCTA! There are a number of workshops available to student members through CTA. Each of the workshops can be tailored to meet your needs and getting one on your campus is easier than you may think.

The first thing to do is to request a copy of "A Guide to CTA's Human Rights Programs and Services" or go to [www.cta.org/InsideCTA/TrainingHR/Workshops](http://www.cta.org/InsideCTA/TrainingHR/Workshops). After choosing a workshop, just contact Pat Fuentes, 714/978-8865 or [pfuentes@cta.org](mailto:pfuentes@cta.org), to obtain a workshop request form. This form is easy to complete; key information is the date, time and location of the workshops. Some workshops have a minimum or maximum number of attendees. Once the form has been submitted, CTA staff will contact with you regarding the final details.

Once you have advertised the workshop, the next step is preparing for the day. The presenter will let you know in advance of their audio visual requirements such as screens, projectors or audio equipment. It is also nice to have an array of light refreshments and snacks for the duration of the workshop.

Having a workshop is a great way to get members involved. You can base an entire meeting around a workshop or have a series of workshops in a day long event. For tips on planning a workshop or conference, go to [www.cta.org/SCTA/chapterleaders/howtoplan](http://www.cta.org/SCTA/chapterleaders/howtoplan). Please feel free to contact me or any board members regarding a future workshop at [Cmsrad@aol.com](mailto:Cmsrad@aol.com).



The end of the credential process brings a sense of relief and sadness that I have never felt before. On one hand is the completion of the hardest thing I have ever done in my life and on the other, I will miss those who have guided me throughout the process.

What is the next step after finishing your credential program? One of the most difficult aspects of student teaching is that you do not receive any money for your services, so my first thought is that I need to find a job that pays. Some options that should be taken into consideration are: subbing at the school where you were student teaching, subbing in the district, finding a long term substitute position, or if you're lucky, landing a permanent teaching position. I finished my credential program in the middle of January, so finding a teaching position is difficult. Most districts are in great need of subs and schools look favorably on dependable subs in the district. This way, you'll discover other schools and thereby, increase your choices of working locations. Also, you are able to put your name out there as someone who is looking for a position.

You may have negative thoughts or memories of subbing, but I've done it as a form of income and it is not as bad as it seems. Here are some tips if you wish to sub. First, you're in high demand, so be picky as to which jobs you choose to work. The sub program in my district calls me, typically, the night before and tells me which school has a need and in what subject. You have the option to decline jobs in order to choose a school where you would like to sub. Second, with each experience, you'll begin to know what works and what doesn't. You'll learn how to better manage the classroom and it'll get easier the more you do it. Everyday subbing is a new day and you get to an assortment of classroom management strategies you have learned about in a class, such as the Canter's assertive discipline methods, Fred Jones' positive classroom environment, MacKenzie's classroom management strategies, and so on.

This is the end of my student teaching and I can't wait to have my own classroom and students! Hopefully you have found this article helpful. If you have any questions about my credential process and/or student teaching experiences, feel free to email me at [nam.scta@gmail.com](mailto:nam.scta@gmail.com)

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

### **\*ED ROMEO UNDERGRADUATE RECIPIENT**

1. Sara Steiner CSU Fullerton
2. Neil Oda CSU Fullerton

### **\*HERB FORMAN GRADUATE RECIPIENT**

1. Elizabeth Flesh San Diego State
2. Amy Kissee CSU Stanislaus

You too, can be a scholarship recipient! Check your SCTA mail every Spring and Fall. Also, go to the SCTA website and click on "Benefits/Services" for other scholarship information. [WWW.CTA.ORG/SCTA](http://WWW.CTA.ORG/SCTA)

## Got Benefits?

### **ATTENTION SCTA MEMBERS!**

One of the many benefits available as a member of SCTA is the fabulous conferences and workshops you can attend. Where else can you fly down south to attend the Fall Leadership conference and then fly up north to attend the Representative Assembly? And in between both major events, you can also conveniently drive to your Southern or Northern Regional conferences offered in the spring?

Don't hesitate to take advantage of all the great benefits you have available!

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## LET'S HAVE A BALL!

LEO SOLIS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, RIO HONDO COLLEGE

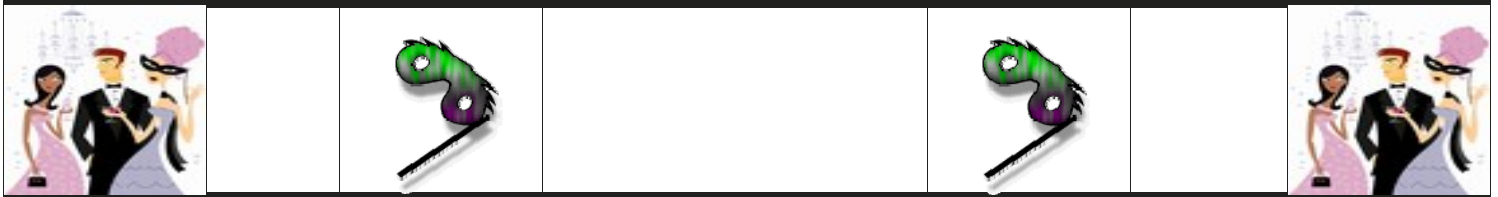


You are invited to a "Masquerade Ball!" The SCTA Representative Assembly (RA) is the annual business meeting of the Association, but that doesn't mean we can't have fun too. RA is going to be exciting and filled with entertainment and a fun theme. We're encouraging all of you to dress accordingly for the awards banquet. So, bring your dancing shoes and *let's have a ball!*

If your chapter has been active on campus or in the community, then we want to hear about it. All you have to do is fill out the awards application form, [www.cta.org/scta/chapterleaders](http://www.cta.org/scta/chapterleaders) and email, fax or mail it to the SCTA office by April 5th. We will be taking time to reflect on this past year's accomplishments during our banquet dinner Saturday evening. At this time, we present prestigious awards to outstanding leaders, chapters and an advisor.

This will be a jam-packed weekend with delegates from across the state electing next year's Executive Board. That's right! Statewide elections are soon approaching! If you're an individual who is passionate, committed, open minded and ready to learn and be a leader, then do not hesitate to sign-up. Feel free to contact your [Executive Board members](#) and ask about their experiences and expectations for positions on the statewide board.

Now you can register online! Go to [www.cta.org/SCTA/Events/Events](http://www.cta.org/SCTA/Events/Events) and register for the RA by April 7, 2006. For more information, contact Leo Solis, SCTA Executive Vice President at [Leo\\_Solis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Leo_Solis@sbcglobal.net)



## SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NGOC LE, SECRETARY-TREASURER, UC LOS ANGELES

December 17-18, 2005 - Burlingame, CA

Present: Monica Masino (President), Leo Solis (Executive VP), Ngoc Le (Secretary-Treasurer), Nadia Bravo (Communication Editor), Chris Sumner (Southern Regional VP), Ken Wisdom (Southern Regional VP), Jessica Abercrombie (Northern Regional VP), Vielka Elvebak (Northern Regional VP), Kyrian Smith (Ethnic Minority Rep), Charlene Martinez (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), Tiffany Lace (CCTC Liaison), Angela Rehn (NEA Committee Liaison)

**CALL TO ORDER** - 10:34 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Ken Wisdom/ Kyrian Smith

### OLD BUSINESS

- A. Fall Leadership evaluations
- B. End of year reflection
- C. Committees meet
  1. **Conference** - Southern Regional Conference will be at CSULB. Conference will be named "Break the Chain, Stop the Hate." Northern Regional conference, "Building a Strong Foundation," will be held at Chabot College.
  2. **Membership** - training in CPR, CBEST training done by Nam in April, Future Teacher Brochure being made.
  3. **Student Political Action** - March 21 as possible date for Lobby Day. Gathering information on the issues before election.
  4. **Community Outreach** - A class grant will be requested for the SCTA Kids Count Fund. Read Across America will be promoted at the Regional Conferences.
  5. **Special Services** - Ed Romero and Herb Romero scholarships recipients named.
  6. **Policy Committee** - Continuing to change the rules, almost complete. Recommendation to the Representative Assembly to strike out "bylaws" in Article 10 under Parliamentary Authority and include "governing documents." Motion passes. One abstention.

**ADJOURNMENT - Oct. 18, 3:25pm.**