



A PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 2008

CHAPTER UPDATE—CSU FULLERTON

KRISTINA HOHMANN, CSU FULLERTON CHAPTER PRESIDENT

With the upcoming year approaching very quickly, the Cal State Fullerton Chapter of SCTA has already held elections. With a great new group of leaders, we have already started planning numerous things for the new school year. Our main goal is to increase membership and increase the number of active members that participate in meetings, events, and conferences. We want to spread the word now so we can promote our events and conference to other local chapters so they have the opportunity to attend.



From left: Natalie Crook, CSUF SCTA Vice President and Kristina Hohmann, CSUF President

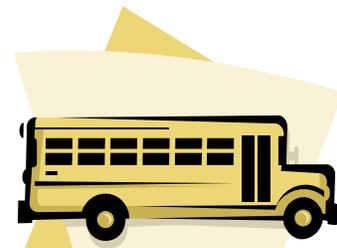
To get the word out, we are setting up a display case in the Education building on campus. The case will have a display board with contact information, how to sign up, upcoming events, and pictures. We are also updating our Facebook online at (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=29861265733>). It is a great way to stay connected with others if checked frequently and updated with the latest information that we want people to know about.

We have found that the best way to get new members is by talking to people in person, so they can see the passion that we have for SCTA. This year we are going to the classrooms of the Freshman Future Teacher Program to pro-

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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 by the **deadline: September 14, 2008:**

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AUGUST 2008

3-8 SUMMER INSTITUTE UCLA
9 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
29-30 **SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, BURLINGAME**

SEPTEMBER 2008

1 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
13 CSET EXAMS
27-28 **SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, BURLINGAME**
21 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE IN EDUCATION

OCTOBER 2008

3-5 **STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES**
4 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
10-12 REGION 2 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, RENO, NV
17-19 REGION 1 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, SANTA CLARA

NOVEMBER 2008

1 CSET EXAM
8-9 **SCTA FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, NORTH**
11 VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY
27-28 THANKSGIVING RECESS

DECEMBER 2008

6 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
13 **SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, BURLINGAME**
23-JAN. 2 WINTER RECESS

JANUARY 2009

10 CSET
16-18 RURAL ISSUES CONFERENCE, LAS VEGAS, NV
19 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
BURLINGAME
23-25 STATE COUNCIL/ SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES
30-FEB. 1 GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE, BURLINGAME

FIRST TIME AT STATE COUNCIL

ARELI DOHNER-CHAVEZ, ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE, CSU STANISLAUS

During this last semester I decided to join one of the greatest unions in our nation—ours! I feel honored to be elected as one of the Ethnic Minority Representatives for the Student California Teachers Association. I had the opportunity to attend State Council in Los Angeles for the first time in June. As a recent member and new Executive Board member, I was completely impressed with what I observed and what I learned at State Council.

I learned that State Council is a meeting of over 750 educators in the field of public education who represent and direct the California Teachers Association. Over a three day period, four times a year, teachers from across the state converge onto Los Angeles for the purpose of refining the positions and actions of the union. It was truly incredible to see a meeting consisting of a group of more than 750 members and I was inspired by its many union leaders, and was particu-

larly moved by a speech given by Lily Eskelson, the new National Education Association (NEA) Vice-President.

I also learned that the teachers break-up into committees, ranging from Teacher Evaluation and Academic Freedom to Curriculum and Instruction and they review current proposed legislation to compare to CTA's mission to protect students and teachers across the state. The proposals of the committees are then brought back to the group as a whole and the full delegation make decisions regarding funding and plans of action.



Ann Shadwick and Dián Hasson
present at the June 2008, State Council in Los Angeles.

In addition to the committees that meet in the evenings, there are caucuses that meet in the morning. A caucus is a group of people who have a common interest and work as advocates. Student CTA board members sit in the Higher Education Caucus which is a collection of Community College and California State University professors along with Student CTA. As a caucus, the group decides what stand to take on specific issues that come before the State Council floor.

My experience attending my first State Council was not only informative, but inspiring as well. I will be student teaching in the fall and will hopefully be working as a teacher next year. I believe in the importance of union activism and working together to improve our educational system.

mote SCTA. We are also speaking at the credential overviews for the new credential students to share the benefits of SCTA and highlight the one million dollars of liability insurance that is a necessity while doing student teaching. We are also setting up a booth at the resource fair that is being held on the same day specifically for those students. The booth will contain information on how to sign up and become a member, along with promoting our events .

To promote SCTA around campus, we have made fliers to give to the Center for Careers in Teaching office, the STEP (Streamlined Teacher Education Program) advisors, Freshman Programs office, the major departments, and the Admission to Teacher ED office.

EVENTS COMING SOON to CSUF

- Brian Shultz will be coming to talk about his book called “Spectacular Things That Happen Along the Way.” His book is an inspiring story of how he resisted the pressures of "teaching to the test" and created a curriculum based on his students' needs, wants, and desires.
- STAND UP (Socially Together and Naturally Diverse United Performers) will be coming to CSUF to perform. STAND UP is a multicultural performing troupe of students who have created a play based on their experiences with prejudice and intolerance in high school. You can see their performances online at joinstand.com
- CSUF SCTA will be going to a local elementary school to plan, organize, and host, “Are you Smarter Than a 5th Grader?” We will work with PTA and administration to put on this event as a “Family Fun-draiser Night.”
- Spring Semester, We will hold our annual “Teaching Tomorrows Teachers Conference” with multiple workshops and guest speakers on campus at CSUF.

Please feel free to contact the CSUF Chapter at CSUF.SCTA@yahoo.com if you would like to attend any of our events or if your chapter is putting on events and you would like for us to come or help out. Good luck to everyone this year!

SCHOLARSHIP MONEY TO SCTA MEMBERS

THERESA PEKARCIK, FORMER SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

The 07-08 Committee on Teacher Credentialing decided to award some reimbursement for all those testing fees. Applications were taken and scholarships were awarded for the CBEST, CSET, RICA, Live Scan, and Credentialing Fees. The committee was able to award a total of **\$680** in scholarships to some deserving members. This is just one of the many things SCTA is doing to support its members. To keep up to date on all SCTA information including Scholarships, visit the website at <http://www.cta.org/membership/SCTA/>.



FIRST YEAR HURRAHS, FIRST YEAR BLUES

KYRIAN SMITH, FORMER SCTA MEMBER

My first year of teaching has been a crazy ride. I got a job others said was impossible to get – my district, school, and grade level of choice in a district with a hiring freeze for multiple subject teachers. My principal had been impressed by my resume and all the experience I had gained while volunteering with SCTA and NEA, and was confident in my ability as a teacher based on my track record from day-to-day subbing at her school. She hired me the day after I submitted my resume, which was the day after I received my credential in the mail!

The dream of community involvement continued for me at my site. I was elected to my School Site Council, and nominated and elected as the treasurer for my school's PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). I was also able to continue my community service as a member of the Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force. All of my volunteer duties brought me joy despite my long days preparing the necessities for my daily teaching and gathering and organizing materials.

But, my first year has been a bumpy ride because my district is not giving contracts to multiple subject teachers due to declining enrollment. For me and many others, this meant earning \$12,000 less than other teachers off the bat and no benefits, nor job security. I was placed on a waitlist for a contract and based on sentiments of teachers that had been in my position, I felt my day of job security and fair pay was soon approaching. Instead, I got my lay-off notice in March, along with all other un-contracted teachers in my district.

It was hard to stomach at first. Despite the joy and honor I felt daily through working just where I wanted to be, the substandard pay and having to work two jobs on top of my long days (which averaged 12 hours regularly) started to wear me down. But, it is the only way to pay off my \$80,000 of college loan debt and other bills while keeping a roof over my head. My kids, my 20 vivacious first graders, and the support of the staff at my school got me through the hardest time of my life. When I wanted to go home and curl up into a fetal ball to sleep off the exhaustion, they were the ones who kept the fight in me.



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FIRST YEAR HURRAHS, FIRST YEAR BLUES

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Next year is already looking hopeful for me. I called my university's career placement specialist, and asked about the next step the day I got my notice. I went to job fairs and applied to charter schools. I am grateful to say that I have accepted a position for next year teaching first grade at an inner city public charter school in South Los Angeles. Finally, I will have the full pay and benefits I deserve, and in light of the thousands of Southern Californian teachers who are getting let go at the end of this year, I feel blessed to be able to continue my dream job at a new school with a fresh look at education.

If I was asked if I would do it all over again, I would have to say yes. The experience I have gained and the support at my site has been phenomenal. It just saddens me that time with them is coming to an end. When I look back, I think my tenacity has been my strength. I found much of that strength while working with SCTA. I learned ways to make little miracles happen for the people I serve while working with the union and formed bonds that will last a lifetime. That hope and drive instilled in my formative years in education has provided enough fuel for a lifetime of teaching.

THE FACEBOOK CONNECTION

HEIDI RICO, COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR, CSU FULLERTON

As the administrator of the new SCTA Facebook site, I would like to inform SCTA members of the site—<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10082695964>. The 2008-2009 Executive Board is hoping to expand communication among members with greater efficiency and convenience for everyone. Ways that this additional source of communication can work to your advantage:

- Share photos of SCTA events
- Post fliers for chapter events
- Share experiences and ideas (i.e. events, meetings, etc.)
- Connect with other chapters and members
- Create discussions
- Stay up-to-date with current information!



Ultimately it is up to you, the members, to use this site to your advantage. Talk to each other, and inform others about what you are doing as a chapter. You are not alone, and we are all here to help each other. Together, we can communicate easily across our large sunshine state at the click of a mouse. We can be involved with each other's experiences; location no longer separates us. At the April 2008 Representative Assembly in Burlingame, there was a lot of brainstorming about making easier connections from chapter-to-chapter. This is the bud to the possible bloom from the ideas of you, the members! Feel free to visit the site and contact any of the executive officers for questions, comments, and/or suggestions.

SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: June 9th, 2008 at 12:45pm — Los Angeles, CA

Roll Call: Unica, Chris, Jeremy (absent)

Approval of Agenda:

Saira – I motion to approve the agenda.
Chance – Second.

Approval of Minutes: nothing to approve.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

Executive Board Vacancies:

Past Officer:

Areli – I, Areli, move to suspend the rules of election to allow all members to vote.
Stephanie – Second
Cori – We are now in closed session, matters are private. Treat information in a professional matter.
Cori – We are now out of closed session. 1:20pm
11 votes for Vielka.

Secretary Treasurer:

Corine – This person should join us for our meeting in August.
This person would work with Corine and Jeremy and would be responsible for the minutes. The application will be available tomorrow upon approval. Application deadline is June 30th. Conduct phone interviews. Application is available online.
Rachel – How about a mass email?
Matt – Can we recommend someone now?
Corine – Reads application questions. Does anyone have any suggestions on what to add?
Maaria – It sounds like a lot of work. What is your motivation in applying for this position and what is your level of commitment?
Corine – Any other questions?
Maaria – Do you work well with others?
Matt – Provide an example or two.
Saira – Please explain your experience working in a professional team environment.
Gail – So is this the application your approving?
Corine – I will email this application to all of you.
Matt – I move to approve the application for Secretary Treasurer.
Areli- Second.
Saira – Do they need a laptop computer? Will a laptop be provided?
Gail – SCTA has a laptop computer for use.
Maaria – Do you have a laptop computer? A laptop computer is not required for the position.
Corine – Top picks will have phone interviews.
Gail – Annette will scan applications and email them to you. Then a vote will be conducted, followed by phone interviews.
Areli – I move to change the standing rules to allow non-voting members allowed to make motions.
Rachel – Second.
Corine – Motion passes.
Chance – I move that non-voting members will be allowed to vote for Secretary Treasurer.
Saira – Second.
Corine – Motion passes.

SCTA Facebook:

Stephanie – I created the Facebook website for ease of communication among chapters and members.
Rachel – I want to make sure it is not the only form of communication we use. Who will be in charge of it?
Corine – One suggestion is Heidi.
Heidi – That is fine. I am willing to do that.
Saira – I, Saira, move to make the SCTA Facebook group official and administrated by the communication editor.
Areli – Second.
Corine – Motion passes.

Meeting Dates: (Tabled)

Testing Dates

T-Shirt Contest:

Two designs - Apple and Pencil design.
Chance – I, move, all present members vote on design of t-shirt.
Saira – Second.
Corine – motion passes.
Pencil design wins vote.

Budget:

\$3,000 CCA Funds
Corine – These funds have been used for membership.
Gail – I suggest you table this item.

Officer Reports:

CCTC: none.
State Council Representative: none.
Caucus Reports: none.
Communications Editor: none.
Northern Regional VPs: none.
Southern Regional VPs: none.
Ethnic Minority Representatives: none.
Past Officer: none.
Secretary Treasurer: none.
Vice President: none.
President: none.

Reports: none.

Board Reports: none.

Open Forum: none.

Adjournment:

Chance – I move to adjourn the meeting.
Matt – Second.
Corine – the meeting is adjourned at 2:10pm.



IF YOU DON'T KNOW, NOW YOU KNOW: SOME IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR EVERYONE TO SUCCEED

CORINE CALOCA, SCTA PRESIDENT, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

IF YOU ARE...

A POLITICAL JUNKIE

Do you know what CTA is supporting in the November 2008 election? You can register to vote and print your CTA Voter Guide: www.cta.org/mycta/action/politics/campaigns/.

Have you contacted your lawmakers? You can contact your regions' elected representatives and even George and Arnold: www.cta.org/action/.

A STUDENT TEACHER

NEA's *Works 4 Me* is the best and most informative newsletter! Get tips on classroom management, seating arrangements, lesson plans, etc...

<http://www.nea.org/works4me/blog/index.html>

At Teaching for Tolerance, you can get ideas on thematic units and interdisciplinary lessons. You select the grade level, the subject, and then you select what social or diversity issue you would like to incorporate in that same lesson. You can also discover more about your unconscious biases. Wow!

www.tolerance.org

A CHAPTER LEADER

Does your chapter need money? Your chapter can apply for NEA Grants that are specifically for NEA Student Members. That's you!

www.nea.org/student-program/programs/index.html

IN NEED OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a student member you have access to all CTA conferences and workshops. Trainings and conferences can be free or at a low student-price. Take advantage!

<http://www.cta.org/membership/conferences/>

NEED TO KNOW MORE ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

Read CTA's free magazine the *California Educator*. It is very informative and yet light reading. This is mailed to all members and is also available online.

ADDICTED TO FACEBOOK

Join the SCTA Facebook group! You can post a blog, join a discussion, communicate with members and executive officers, and advertise your chapter's events.



I'll have more resources for you next time!