



A PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

October 2008

Special Edition
Election Issue
EXTRA! EXTRA!



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Issue

Are you Ready to Vote?

By Heidi Rico, Communications Editor

Do you know the important election dates coming up? Do you feel prepared to make major, life changing decisions on behalf of our free country? As an eligible voter, it is crucial to not only have a voice, but to use it with full power. By having the knowledge behind this election, we as students can feel empowered in this historical and imperative election of our time. With less than a month until decisions are finally made, it is that much more of a time crunch to make sure you're educated about the votes you're deciding upon. *An educator should make an educated decision.* So put your reading to use and be a part of something that will be highlighted in our history books for generations to come. The deadline to register to vote in California is **October 20, 2008**. The General Election is **November 4, 2008**. Please make sure to mark these dates on your calendar. Make sure you are out voting that special Tuesday! *One voice to make a difference: One union to change the world!*

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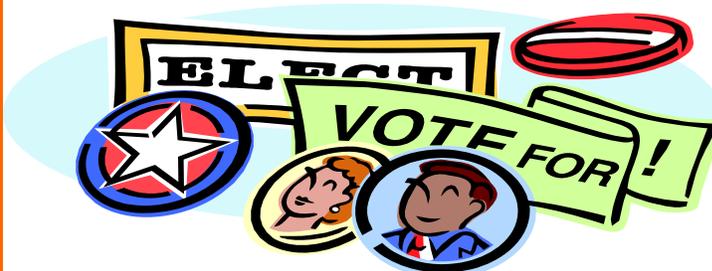
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Contact the Editor! Submit an Article!



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 by the **deadline: November 1, 2008:**

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Be a part of December 2008's issue!

Mark Your Calendars

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 |
| 23-25 | State Council/ SCTA Board Meeting, Los Angeles |
| 30- Feb.1 | Good Teaching Conference, Burlingame |

CCTC Report

By Chance Carrico, CCTC LIAISON

Dear Members,

Below you will find my submitted report of my first attended meeting as Student Liaison to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. As your liaison, I serve as a messenger for all students of California to the Commission.

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is composed of 14 commissioners total; from community advocates, current teachers, retired teachers, and citizens. Look forward to more information about the commission in upcoming articles.

Note part 1, letter F, "My emphasis was on creating a user friendly application process for future teachers and substitute teachers." Should you have any thoughts on this, any other part of my report, or questions about my position, please contact me at SCTArep@gmail.com.



Sincerely yours,
Chance Carrico

CCTC Report August 2008, San Diego

Part 1-Review of what happened:

Applicable highlights from the August 2008 CTC Meeting, held in San Diego include:

- A.** Randolph Ward, Superintendent of San Diego Schools welcomed the Commission.
- B.** Rich Graham for CTA spoke with other presenters about changes for the Career Technical Education Program Standards. A question about consistency came up for the requirement of previous experience, the correct and approved requirements are: 1 year of experiences in the past 5 years or 2 years of experience in the past 10 years. This aligns with CTA policy recommendation.
- C.** At a reception Thursday night, I had the pleasure of meeting Dale Jensen, Executive Director for the CTC. This initial introduction makes me believe our working relationship will be productive.
- D.** Larry Rosenstock talked about High Tech High, based in Los Angeles. In the process, he suggested Commission approval would be appropriate for giving his school the right of an approved induction program. The Commission took action the previous day which would not have allowed High Tech High to serve as an induction program.
- E.** A presentation was made by the California Teacher Recruitment Program by Jeanne Nava and Donna Glassman-Sommer. The details of the presentation included the methods of recruitment used by districts across California. Pending availability of the presentation materials, a newsletter article will be written in the Student CTA State Newsletter for student members.
- F.** During public presentation Mrs. Kathy Harris introduced me to the Commission. After the fine introduction, I had a few moments to speak about my goals and ambitions for my tenure as a liaison. My emphasis was on creating a user friendly application process for future teachers and substitute teachers.

Part 2-Recommendation for future meetings and action items:

- 1.** CTA should send two participants for the "Linking Teaching with Learning: Examining Value Added Assessment Methodology for California" held at 500 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento on October 6 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Registration for this event may be done via e-mail to ctcmeet-ingrsvp@ctc.ca.gov by Friday, September 19.
- 2.** California Standards for the Teaching Profession: CTA should send a representative to the next meeting.

Part 3-Next Meeting is:

Tuesday, October 7th at Commission Offices, 1900 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please note this meeting was originally scheduled for Thursday, October 9th, and I have already made night plans starting at 6pm in Turlock on Tuesday, October 7th.

Top 5 Reasons to Vote



1. **Your voice counts.** *It takes one voice to make a difference, but one union to change the world. So speak up!*
2. **It is a privilege to vote.** *Don't take it for granted!*
3. **Every vote matters.** *A single grain of rice can tip the entire scale. Be that grain!*
4. **Political decisions affect educational issues.** *As a future educator, these decisions will affect you as a teacher!*
5. **Students are a critical category of the American population.** *Let's defy the stereotype and change the statistics of college voters!*

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Things to Remember When Registering in California:

- You must be a resident of CA
- You must be a U.S. Citizen
- You must be at least 18 years old by the day of the election
- You cannot be in prison or on a parole for a felony conviction

For more information on voting, visit:

WWW.SOS.CA.GOV/ELECTIONS_VR.HTM

Latinos Struggle in Education

By: Areli Dohner Chavez, Ethnic Minority Representative

Did you know that Latino students are the least academically successful compared to all other ethnic groups across the nation? In 2003, only 62% percent of all Latino students graduated from high school, and only 10% of the Latino population received a bachelor's degree. These statistics indicate there has not been a significant change or improvement during the last ten years (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2003).

By the year 2030, it is predicted that 50% of the school population in the United States will be Latino students (Cummins, 1996). About 32.4% of California's population is Latino already (Johnson, 2002). The fact that Latinos, the largest growing ethnic group in California, are struggling academically, impacts our society as a whole. The reasons for the academic failure of Latino students are numerous and cannot be pinpointed to one single theory or explanation. Only one point is clear; we do have a problem and we need to engage as a community to help Latino students succeed academically.



We need to work together with the school, parents, and community to improve the likelihood of academic achievement among not only the Latino students, but all students in the classroom.

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The impact of poverty on school achievement is often ignored by legislators, and lesson plans are constantly developed to teach to standardized tests. I believe that a well educated society, based more on a transformative teaching model, is better able



to solve the social, environmental, economical, and political problems that impact everyone. By embracing diversity to enrich classroom learning, we should strive to inspire our students to become compassionate citizens who will use their knowledge gained in the classroom to improve themselves and our world.

Do you know where CTA Stands?: The Guide for Students

- **Barack Obama** — CTA fully supports Obama for president. He stands behind revising NCLB and is against using private school vouchers with public money. He also is against the idea of merit pay.



- **Prop 3** — Yes

Children's Hospital Bond

- **Prop 4** — No

Protect Teen Safety

- **Prop 6** — No

Runner Initiative

- **Prop 8** — No

Support Equality for All

- **Prop 9** — No

Nicholas Initiative

*From cta.org. More information can be found on the website.

Announcements:

- CTA Scholarships and Cesar Chavez Awards Applications Available 10.23.08



Are you Ready for Fall Leadership?

A message from your Ethnic Minority Reps Carmen Reyes and Areli Dohner-Chavez:

Members, Friends, Compañeros! It's that time of year again-make sure to sign up for this year's Fall Leadership Conference. Expect a comfy room, great food, interesting work-shops, and the opportunity to meet your SCTA friends from all over the state. Seize this moment and take advantage of this incredible opportunity to enrich your learning and professional development. You made the right decision to join SCTA, so now is the time to take the next step and enjoy the benefits of being a member by representing your chapter. *It takes one voice to make a difference, but one union to change the world!*



ence. Expect a comfy room, shops, and the opportunity all over the state. Seize this incredible opportunity to professional development. You join SCTA, so now is the time to take the next step and enjoy the benefits of being a member

REASONS TO ATTEND:



- **OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW EXPERIENCE AND/OR MEMORIES:**
 - TAKE A BREAK FROM SCHOOL AND/OR WORK
- **LEARN MORE ABOUT SCTA AND WHAT IT CAN DO FOR YOU!**
 - BENEFITS OF OUR ORGANIZATION
- **NETWORKING:**
 - MEET OTHER STUDENTS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA WHO HAVE A PASSION FOR TEACHING.
- **PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT:**
 - LEARN TO BECOME A LEADER OR IMPROVE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

The SCTA Executive Board wants

nothing more than to visit your campus!

We want to know what's going on and how we can help your chapter! Feel free to email any one of us to see how we can have a state representative come to your school.

Contact officers at: WWW.CTA.ORG/SCTA



SCTA's Exec. Board Members visiting CSU East Bay

Want to be a feature chapter or student for the newsletter? Submit an article about

yourself or your chapter and tell everyone what you're doing for SCTA.

We want to hear from you!

Be a star! Let your fellow members know how you're doing!



SCTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER August 30, 2008 at 2 pm

ROLL CALL Not Present: Saira Flores, Stephanie Devoy, Unica Llanes, Maaria Thompson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA- approved

Changes to agenda

- Add Item J- Fall Leadership
- Eliminate Item H (Southern regional conference) move to officer reports
- add website domain to new business

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 2008 Meeting: approved
- 07-08 Board June Meeting: approved
- 08-09 Board June Meeting: approved

OLD BUSINESS

Post-card activity: Summary: Not everyone has sent their postcards; board members should still send postcards; Re-
sponse: everyone enjoyed receiving the cards

Secretary-Treasurer Process: Summary: Cori and Jeremy established a timeline and the board voted. Applications were collected and phone interviews were held with the top three candidates. Both Richard's and Ashley's interviews worked well. Byron was difficult to contact and required rescheduling. Byron also did not answer the phone for the last attempt at an interview. Interviews provided candidates the opportunity to answer and ask questions. Interview questions and answers are available for the board members.

December and September Meeting Dates

Summary: September and December meeting changes

- September Board Meeting Sat-Sun Sept 27-28

Karim: Move to approve the September meeting changes (Sept. 27-28) Chance: Second the motion Vote:

Motion passes to move September meeting.

- December Board meeting 13-14

-Karim: Move to approve the Dec 13-14 meeting dates Ashley: 2nd motion

Discussion: Weekend falls during finals and would be difficult for many board members, one day meeting would be easier for studying (Note: CTA policy: Meetings before 10am require overnight accommodation)

Karim: Motion to Amend motion to have the meeting December 13th; 2nd Ashley

Favor 8 Opposed 1 *Motion carries; December meeting will be on Dec. 13th*

Discussion: Meeting will be from 10-5pm.

SCTA Budget

Scholarship amounts: Summary: Previous discussion was concerned with the division of funds between community colleges, undergraduates, and graduate students. Board needs to address how the funds (\$11,500) will be divided

Discussion points:

Undergrads have a difficult time finding funds; so our scholarship could possibly be a little higher for their group; investing in undergrads could also help promote leaders in SCTA

Each group should receive equal amounts

Students will qualify through an application created by the committee

A tiered awards system would allow for some large attractive amount, but still allow for more awards to be given

Rachel: Motion for stepped scholarship Second: Ashley

Proposed tiered award system:

Grad Student 1 @ 1,000, 1 @ 750, 1 @ 500

Undergrad 1 @ 750, 2 @ 500, 2 @ 500, 2 @ 250

Karim: I move the previous question (Close debate) 2nd Ashley – all in favor to close debate

Vote: Motion for proposed tiered system *passes*

CCA funds Summary: \$3,000 dollars needs to be allocated. Last year the funds were used towards membership; could be used for chapter incentives for new and established chapters

Motion: Ashley moves that allocation of funds be referred to committee 2nd Rachel

Motion vote to refer to committee: All in favor, motion passes

Motion: Chris: to suspend bylaws to ensure all members can vote--- motion passed--- Problem: those not voting are appointed

Graduation Chords Summary: Chords are sold at RA and are normally popular at RA; money budget to purchase chords has been used to pay for t-shirts, more funds need to be allocated to purchase the chords

Carmen: Motion to move decision to next meeting. 2nd Ashley All approved *Motion passes*

NEW BUSINESS

Oath of Office- Ashley and Jeremy

New Staff – Sophia Georgiadis- Summary: she will be helping while Annette is on maternity leave

Past Officer Vacancy Process: Summary: Vielka resigned, a decision is needed on the application process

Board nominations: James Sheldon (nominated by Chance)

Jane Rodgers (nominated by Chance)

Joshua Hardwick (emailed Cori)

Tami and Teresa

Mathew: I move for the same process used for the secretary and treasure be used for the past officer position; An application deadline should be set for before the September meeting with the due date of Sept. 21st, board members should receive applications before September 23rd to review before the meeting 2nd Rachel

Discussion:

* use the dates but offer the application to those who have already shown interest

Carmen: Motion to amend motion for application process to only give application to those who have already showed interest Heidi- 2nd Vote: 4 favor 6 opposed *Motion fails*

Vote on the motion to establish the deadlines and application process for the vacant past officer position *Motion passes*

Phone Tree Summary: Jeremy created a phone tree to reach the board quickly. Members will be receiving a call from Cori,



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Jeremy, or Ashley

Approval of Northern and Southern Regional Committees Summary: Approval of the year long committee with the established charges

Ashley: Motion to approve the committees and charges Areli: 2nd

Discussion: Southern Chair: Matt Northern Chair: Rachel

Motion *passes*- to approve the north and south committee and charges for the year

Approval of Student Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee

Chair- Carmen, Co- Chair Areli

Members:

Hispanic Areli and Saira

Pacific Asian: Jeremy and Chris

GLBT: Matt and Jeremy

African American: Rachel

American Indian/ Alaska Native: Carmen

Women's: Maaria

Peace and Justice: Ashley and Heidi

Motion to approve: Rachel Areli 2nd *Motion Passes*

Bringing Back Lobby Day – Chance Summary: Lobby Day is a day for students across the state to meet with representatives in Sacramento and participate in the lobbying process

Motion: Rachel to refer the topic to committee;

2nd Areli
Karim 2nd –*motion passes*

Discussion: Very interested, details will need to be worked out in committee

SCTA Life Alumnus Status – Chance Summary: Create a life status for SCTA 2nd Areli – *Motion passes* 1 abstention

Approval of rough itinerary for Fall Leadership Areli and Carmen Summary: created a possible outline for the conference to be used for planning and finding speakers

Areli motion to approve outline 2nd Carmen

Discussion: Changes can still be made

Jeremy: Motion to move the previous question 2nd Rachel *Motion passes*

Rachel: Motion approve the rough itinerary to find speakers 2nd Chris All approved *Motion passes*

k. **Creation of new internet domain** Chance: Summary: Wants to look into the possibility of purchasing the "scat" domain, so as the students section can be found easily

Rachel: move to table to the next board meeting 2nd Karim All Approved motion *passes*

OFFICER REPORTS

CCTC- Chance: report will be submitted electronically

State Council Representatives *No report*

Communications Editor- plans to focus next issue on election; thinking of creating a top 10 on why voting is important; hopefully each board member can contribute; committed people to write articles are needed; deadlines need to be respected

Northern Regional VPs- a letter has been created to send out to chapters, more details will come later, Chris attended a tabling event on Sept 8th and they will be having a meeting/welcome party

Southern Regional VPs-see notes from committee meeting –Carmen wrote a letter to communicate with chapter leaders and advisors

Ethnic Minority Representatives- attended training at San Jose; Carmen participated in Human Rights caucus and Areli in the Women's caucus –goals are to increase minority participation, distribute Civil rights brochure.–Carmen provided the board with a handout from Human Rights Committee detailing the NEA's goals and vision

Past Officer- not present

Secretary Treasure- no report

Vice President –UCB chapter is a mess

President- attended president conference, union reps looking for future replacements... possibly students; also visited Fullerton; their will be a public report

Informational Items

a. **2008 NEA-RA** Dennis Van Roekel is the new NEA president and Jermaine Coleman is the new NEA-SP chairman.

b. **2009 NEA-RA - Volunteers Needed!!!!** Further research is needed, will be addressed in September

c. **SCTA Membership Renew** – Board members need to renew now or they will not be able to book September flights

d. **Elections Committee** Summary: be looking for members during visits who can work with the past officer

e. **Scholarship Committee** Summary: will meet Sept, Jan, Dec. and March: Contact Cori if you are interested; the committee will be working on developing and reviewing applications

CCA Funds- referred to committee

OPEN FORUM

Gail: up dates to master calendar

Gail: master calendar

Friday Sept 5 SJSU- first meeting to elect officers,

Sept 8th: _____ first meeting 1-2

Sept 11th- tabled at Fresno, inviting those who signed up

Sept 12th- meet at CSU East Bay to start chapter

Sept 14th deadline for newsletter

Oct 24 SDSU Explore Experience Education

Dec. 13th Meeting is one day

ADJOURNMENT

Rachel motion to adjourn meeting, 2nd Chance
Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm

