



ASTA Action

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Dean Elder, President



President's Report

We are half way through 4th quarter and summer is coming soon! ASTA recently held an election for several seats on our Executive Board. The results are a mixture of new members and current members who are continuing their service.

Judy Yeaton (Katella) will be continuing as ASTA Secretary. Judy has done a great job as ASTA Secretary for the past two years. She started her work with ASTA as a site rep at Sycamore JHS. She has participated in a number of CTA trainings, including the CTA Summer Institute at UCLA. Judy has been active on her campus in recruiting new site reps and advocating for members, as well as representing ASTA at AUHSD Board meetings and other events.

Dale Miller (Loara) will be joining the Board as a Director at Large. Dale has been a site rep at Loara for the past few years. He has attended several CTA trainings, including

the CTA Summer Institute at UCLA and the Fall Leadership Conference in Newport Beach. Dale is currently one of three ASTA representatives on the District Insurance Committee.

Ryan Ruelas (Anaheim) has been elected to his second three-year term on CTA State Council. Ryan serves as the Vice Chair of the Credentials and Professional Development Committee on State Council and through that position has been appointed as one of two teacher representatives on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) at the US Department of Education in Washington DC.

Grant Schuster (Dale) will be joining the Board in his first term on CTA State Council. Grant has been a site rep at Dale for several years and is well-known for his advocacy work. Grant is an ASTA representative on the District Budget Committee and has been a member of the ASTA Bargaining Team for the past

7 years. As a member of the Bargaining Team, Grant has attended many Coordinated Bargaining Council (CBC) meetings to compare notes with other bargaining teams from Orange County, and has been involved in the consultation process for the LCAP.

I am looking forward to serving another two-year term as your ASTA President. I started my involvement with ASTA as a site rep nearly twenty-five years ago and have worked with several past ASTA Presidents as member of the Executive Board and the Bargaining Team.

I make numerous site visits during the year and I hope you will stop by sometime and say hello. I look forward to working with you!

Have a great last half of 4th quarter!

by James Goran,
Vice-President (Dale)

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Bargaining Update

The bargaining team would like to thank everyone for ratifying this year's settlement. A record 90% of ASTA members participated in the election with a 97% approval record (also a record!). The team feels very supported by you all and that is the power that we take to the table each year.

We would also like to thank everyone that took the bar-

gaining survey. That 5-minute exercise gives the team a direction to take for the next round of negotiations. The bargaining team will meet with Dean Elder and CTA staff person Lisa Eck to pore over the survey results. The team will create our initial proposal on April 26 based on your input. After that is vetted through the proper channels in ASTA (Executive Board

and Rep Assembly) we will be ready to begin negotiating with the District in the Fall.



CTA Goes 2-For-2 in Court

by Dean Elder,
President

This spring has seen decisions in two major court decisions that will have a major impact on public education and unions.

Vergara v CA is a direct attack on teacher's rights contained in five CA statutes covering due process rights for teachers, probationary periods, and the use of seniority in determining surplus or lay-offs. The case, brought by a multi-millionaire education reformer-backed group called Students Matter, alleged that students were harmed by the statutes. Although the plaintiffs failed to establish that the statutes violate equal protection by making any certain group of students more likely to be taught by an ineffective teacher, lower court political activist Judge Rolf Treu decided in their favor. The Court of Appeal unanimously reversed Treu's decision.

Many teachers, principals, and school board members testified to the benefit of these laws and how they work to ensure quality instructors in well-run school districts. Administrators testifying for the plaintiffs attempted to blame the laws for retaining ineffective teachers instead of facing their own failures to fulfill basic responsibilities such as spending time in classrooms observing teachers or providing assistance to teachers who need support.

CTA President Eric Heins stated, "Today's ruling underscores that the laws under attack have been good for public education and kids. Stripping teachers of their ability to stand up for their students and robbing school districts of the tools they need to make sound employment decisions is wrong."

The second victory for teachers was in the case *Friedrichs v CTA* in the US Supreme Court. A ruling favorable to Friedrichs would have made agency fees charged by unions for representation of non-members illegal and, ultimately, made it more difficult for teachers to come together to bargain for smaller class sizes, safer schools, and better learning environments. With the untimely death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, the Court reached a split 4-4 decision, temporarily preserving CTA's victory in the lower court. A split decision in the US Supreme Court is not precedent-setting, however, and there are several similar cases currently making their way upward through the court system.

A Proliferation of Credentials?

by Julie Nielsen,
CTA State Rep. (Savanna)

As a member of CTA State Council for 8 years, I have sat through many debates on issuing Theater and Dance teachers their own respective credentials. Current CA credential policy is to teach these subjects you need an English credential to teach Theater OR get a Physical Education credential to teach Dance. There have been numerous attempts to pass state bills to give these teachers their own credentials. It had always baffled me that CTA never supported the idea of giving support to these teachers.

As it turns out, CTA has a policy that doesn't support a "proliferation of credentials". Immediately, people turned to Google for defini-

tions of proliferation. As a physical educator, my focus is on the fitness and health benefits of movement. Conversely, dance is an art – a form of expression through movement. I remembered my first drama class. The truth is that these teachers help students be comfortable in their own skins. They are the players that translate the world to the rest of us, a concept that is not academic. Looking at what each of these teachers do, there is no way this can be considered a proliferation.

I am happy to report that this year SB 619 addresses this very issue. Through strategic and impassioned speeches, CTA voted to support the bill, along with the sister union

CFT, as well as CAPEHRD, and all of the VAPA professional organizations. Our colleagues deserve their professional respect and the only thing left is for you to call your local legislator and demand they support this bill – SB 619 TADA.



Good Teaching Conference: Still Good!

by Samuel Jaramillo,
Contributor (Western)

In February I attended the Good Teaching Conference, and it was one of the best conferences I have ever attended. The conference really gave me a refresher on the simple things I could be doing in class to improve my teaching. As teachers, we are always looking for ways to improve our teaching. Sometimes we get caught up on wanting to integrate all this technology, wanting to make our lessons more innovative, but we fail to realize that sometimes it's the simple things that work best. I attended various workshops that helped me realize that doing the simple things in class can lead to a much more productive classroom and students that are much more engaged in wanting to learn.

At the session, "Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lecture", we were given simple strategies to

engage students. At a time when direct instruction is looked down, this session validated direct instruction by giving us brain-based strategies to keep students of varying abilities and learning styles involved and motivated.

The session, "Positive Student Engagement Strategies and Teaching Techniques", was all about getting the students to talk. When the students talk about the material in class, they are able to retain more of the information. The teacher leading the session showed us clips of her own classroom where the students were consistently asked to talk and interact with the material. It was amazing to see an entire class be active and talking about math, even the learners that were more reluctant were participating.

One of the last sessions I went to (I went to five), was all about questions. It was about developing open-ended and text-dependent questions. The presenter was good about stressing that every question is a good question, but it's what the teacher does with the question that is important. Being able to have questions that lead to more questions and open the students curiosity is the key.

If you have not been to a Good Teaching Conference I highly recommend it for you. It really helped breathe fresh air into my teaching and I've only been teaching for 6 years. It becomes easy to get lost in the midst of teaching and forget the simple things we all learned at the famous teacher school.

Know Your Contract: Right of Return — Updated

by Dean Elder,
President

Due to some interesting situations that have arisen over the past couple of years, ASTA and the District agreed to some new and clarifying contract language concerning Article 9.10 –Right of First Return. The sequence of events that brought this issue to light was this: Teacher A was surplus-ed out of a department at a particular site (year 1). Teacher A has the right to return to that site should a position open up in the same department within the next 1½ school years. At the end of the next school year (year 2), the same department at the same site surplus-ed another, Teacher B, who also had the right to re-



turn should a position open up in the same department within 1½ school years. After school began in year 3 and during the first quarter, a position in that same department came open. Normally, if two teachers are surplus-ed and conditions change so that one can return to the site, the point system described in Article 9.5.2 Surplus Criteria Point

System would be applied to determine which teacher has the first right of return. However, in this example Teacher A was surplus-ed a full year earlier and, therefore, had no points in the point system. It was decided during negotiations that if this situation were to occur again, the teacher with the right to first return would be the teacher with seniority and, if the teachers are tied on seniority, the tie-breaker language in Article 9.5.3 would then apply.

OC Board of Education: Pro-Charter, Anti-Kids?

by Ryan Ruelas,
CTA State Rep. (Anaheim)

The upcoming election has been a topic of discussion for many individuals. But the big election coming up will not be taking place in November but this June in the primary. This primary election is going to be very significant for all of us educators, especially here in Orange County. We have the opportunity to elect three individuals, Jack Bedell (Area 4), Michael Parham (Area 3), and Beckie Gomez (Area 1), to the Orange County Board of Education all of whom are true advocates of public education and support our schools.

The current board of trustees, with the exception of Jack Bedell, seems to be against our public schools; this is the only rationale I can think of since time and time again this County Board continuously overturns decisions made by local school boards, specifically around authorizing charter schools. As a

current board member for the Anaheim Elementary School District, I cannot stress to you the level of disappointment and frustration one feels when you go in front of this current Board of Trustees, present a solid argument about why your local board denied the charter school application, only to have it be overturned because this is what is “best for students.” I experienced this situation firsthand a couple of months ago; what they decided was best for students was an online school based out of Oklahoma, whose last school rating was a D accordingly to Oklahoma’s Department of Education. Does this seem like a school board who truly has the education of the students that we serve in mind when they make decisions? Or is this a board that has decided to just rubber stamp all decisions made in favor of charter schools

that are out-of-state, independently run, and really do not require the same amount of accountability all of us in public education are held to? I personally believe it is the latter and it is time we change this governing body to one that is teacher friendly (we are professionals after all), one that respects our locally elected school boards, and one that doesn’t continue to take local issues/concerns regarding education and feel that the only way to solve it is by authorizing more independent/corporate charter schools.

If you feel the same way, I encourage you to get involved in this campaign. Together, we will make sure this County Board of Trustees is comprised of individuals who will do what is best for students!

Teachers' Choices for OCBE Election June 7th

by Dean Elder,
President

The three candidates for the Orange County Board of Education listed below respect public school teachers and believe in local control and the governing rights of local school boards.

Rebecca “Becky” Gomez (Area 1) is an educator, parent, and current Tustin City Council member who supports 21st Century jobs. She is an advocate for art, music and other enrichment programs and she believes in getting input from all education stakeholders in Orange County.

Michael Parham (Area 3) is currently an Irvine USD Board member, parent, and businessman who supports high-quality and well-trained teachers. He advocates for high standards and accountability, with access for

every child to fulfill his or her potential, and believes that Orange County deserves a world-class education system.

John “Jack” Bedell (Area 4) is a current member of the Orange County Board of Education, serving in his second term, as well as a retired educator and parent. He supports strong school site safety plans for all Orange County schools and advocates for enhancing college readiness, career and job training programs. He believes in constantly striving for improvements in our education system.

Please remember to vote on June 7 and also remember, the OC Board of Education race is not a primary – it is the real deal and the winner starts a 4-year term.



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Vice President: James Goran, Dale

Secretary: Judy Yeaton, Katella

Treasurer: Geoff Morganstern,
Brookhurst

Director-at-Large: Juan Álvarez,
Gilbert

Director-at-Large: Nate Taylor,
Oxford

CTA State Council Representatives:

Julie Nielsen, Savanna

Ryan Ruelas, Anaheim

CTA Staff Person:

Lisa Eck

Administrative Services Manager:

Debbie Knapp

Newsletter Layout Editor:

Ann Rice, Brookhurst

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Mark Your Calendar!



- WHO (We Honor Ours) Awards, May 4, in Costa Mesa
- ASTA Support Your Profession Scholarship Ceremony, May 12
- Getty Museum Field Trip from Orange Service Center, May 21
- Last Day of School for Teachers, May 27
- CTA State Council, June 3-5, Los Angeles
- CA Primary Election, June 7
- NEA Representative Assembly, July 2 - 7, in Washington, DC
- CTA Summer Institute, July 31 - August 4, at UCLA in Los Angeles
- First Day of School for Teachers, August 8

Meet Dean Delgado, Teacher of the Year!

by Dean Elder,
President

Congratulations to Dean Delgado of Cypress HS – one of our three 2015-2016 AUSHD Teachers of the Year.

Teaching is a second career for Dean. After graduating from Canyon HS in Anaheim, Dean earned his bachelor's degree in economics from CSU Fullerton and became a transportation analyst, doing street and highway planning, for the OCTA. Seeking a more fulfilling career, Dean returned to CSU Fullerton to get his teaching credential and completed his student teaching at Cypress High School, where he has been teaching technology classes since 2004.

Dean teaches graphic design, digital animation, broadcast media, and video production. He appreciates that CTE teachers have a lot of flexibility and can be very creative with lessons. He likes having his students do cross-over projects like the recent music videos that were produced by his animation and video production classes. For another project, in his graphic design classes

students wrote articles and did lay-outs incorporating the scientific processes connecting sports, physics, and anatomy.

Dean has initiated several innovations at Cypress including video announce-



ments and a credit recovery program. He has also taught AVID, coached the academic decathlon team, and is currently the tech coach for Cypress.

Dean is proud of his former students and enjoys their visits. Some recent visitors include an engineer at SpaceX, a couple of rocket scientists who work for Boeing, and a film producer.

Dean has been married for 22 years and has 2 children who are currently in the 7th and 10th grades. He enjoys photography and has won awards for "Best Black and White Photograph" at the Orange Co Fair. He also likes to run and has completed 19 marathons to date. He has spent considerable time hiking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, which led to him setting up a website for hiking the John Muir Trail.

Thank you, Dean, for being an inspiration to your students and to your fellow teachers.