

I Choose to Teach!



A PUBLICATION OF THE STUDENT CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
December 2005



CALIFORNIANS SAY "NO" TO PROPOSITIONS: 74, 75 & 76

NADIA BRAVO, COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR, CSU NORTHRIDGE

The initiatives on the Special Election ballot of November 8 would have negatively impacted 2.5 million teachers, fire-fighters, and nurses for the next three decades, and seriously affected many Californians, especially students. Voters stood up, took a stand and said "NO" to Propositions 74, 75 and 76. SCTA began proclaiming victory when a majority of voters opposed these three initiatives.

However, victory did not come easy. In fact, it was a battle to the end. Much time and effort was necessary in order to be victorious in this special election. In conjunction with CTA, SCTA members participated in precinct walking and phone banking to get out the vote, spending hours, days, weeks and even months on this important effort to secure their future. Furthermore, SCTA showed their dedication during "Get

Out the Vote" weekend as they phone banked at our annual Fall Leadership conference held November 4-6. Members sacrificed Saturday's morning and/or afternoon workshop sessions to "Get Out The Vote."

On the night of November 8, many victory celebrations were well underway. In fact, I was fortunate enough to have taken part in the celebration at the Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles. Many distinguished dignitaries were present including, CTA Vice President David Sanchez, Warren Beatty, and Los Angeles Mayor, Antonio Villaraigosa, just to name a few.

It was amazing to witness the mobilization efforts of teachers and future teachers to improve California. This special election proved to bring together teachers' unions including California Teachers Association.

**PROPS 74, 75 & 76
GET THE
"NO" VOTE!**

Prop Results:

74 - "The Punish New Teachers Act"

NO: 55.1%
YES: 44.9%

75 - "Silencing Our Voices"

NO: 53.4%
YES: 46.6%

76 - "Spending/
Funding"

NO: 62.2%
YES: 37.8%

Source: www.ss.ca.gov

INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

Californians Say "NO" to Propositions: 74, 75 & 76	1
Mark Your Calendar	2
Preparation, Preparation, Preparation.	3
Reaching Low-Income and Minority Students	3
SCTA... in Boston?	4
Chabot Students Enjoy Club Conference	4
Students Attend the First Conference of the 2005-2006 Year	5
Read Across America is Coming Soon	6
Do You Know?	6
Statistics for California Schools	7
Cesar Chavez Award	7
Got Benefits?	7
SCTA Executive Board Minutes	8

**2006 is just around
the corner.
What New Year
resolutions will you
make?**



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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:

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Deadline : January 18th

Mark Your Calendars

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 and
21 CSET Exam

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, Newport Beach
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, North (TBD)**

May 2006

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

PREPARATION, PREPARATION, PREPARATION!

Angel a Rehn, *NEA Legislation Committee Liaison*, San Diego Miramar College



Before a student enters your classroom for the first time, you will have spent many hours preparing for that moment. You will have made decisions about the furniture arrangement and traffic areas, spent time creating bulletin boards and posting classroom procedures and routines. Your classroom is a reflection of you as a teacher. The students, as well as their parents, will make assumptions about you as a teacher based on what your classroom is telling them. A well-organized and attractive room creates an image that you are in control and your students will respect you. Preparation takes a lot of time up-front, but also saves time.

An effective teacher knows that it is important to have the classroom ready. Just like going to a restaurant: The table is set and waiting when you arrive at your reservation time. The ambiance is conducive to a pleasant dining experience. You can expect fine service because the staff has high expectations that you will enjoy your dinner (Harry Wong, 93). All of these things and more contribute to the makeup of the classroom culture. According to Harry Wong, the three most important words to a teacher are, “preparation, preparation, and preparation” when it matters most -- when the students are learning. As a teacher, being prepared helps you manage the classroom effectively.

If you are prepared, the students should not have to interrupt the class and valuable learning time. They will be eager for you to share your knowledge and present your lessons and exciting activities. Just as you are preparing for your teaching career now, as a teacher you must continue to learn through organizations, literature, and additional courses and training in preparation for the children you will teach.

REACHING LOW-INCOME AND MINORITY STUDENTS

CHARLENE MARTINEZ, *ETHNIC MINORITY REPRESENTATIVE*, WESTMONT COLLEGE



Students who come from low-income families face a difficult task when thinking about applying for college. As future educators it is imperative that we learn how to better serve the needs of low-income students, in the hope that they will apply for college and be able to attend. However, this is not simply an issue that must be faced by future educators; it is likewise an issue facing college and university faculty and staff. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) lists student diversity as criteria that colleges must meet in order to gain accreditation: “The institution provides for all of its students appropriate student services that support student learning and development consistent with student characteristics and its institutional purposes including demographic characteristics of students.” (WASCsenior.org)

Robert M. Shireman, Program Director for Higher Education with the James Irvine Foundation, offers four tips for those who seek to help low-income and minority students.

1. **Information:** Lower-income families need to hear, again and again and again, that they don’t need to be rich to go to a high-tuition college or university. And they need to see the elite institutions not only as desirable places to go, but as appropriate places for people like them.
2. **Recruitment:** Most colleges now understand that being totally race-blind is not an effective way of attracting minority students. Traditionally white institutions need to demonstrate that they want the face of their institutions to change -- that their goal is for the minority students to feel like they belong just as much as the white students do. Colleges that are successful in achieving ethnic diversity do so by recruiting at the high schools where the targeted students are. And they aggressively pursue those who are interested, befriending their parents and teachers. Colleges need to apply these same tactics to recruit low-income students of all races.
3. **Go to where the students are, and accept who they are.** If the elite colleges want to be engines of upward mobility rather than recyclers of privilege, they need to be eager to accept and support students from public high schools where, perhaps the students might not have high test scores, probably do not have as many advanced courses, and may have life experiences that are somewhat different from most of the other students at a college.
4. **Tend to the campus climate.** Elite colleges can feel like hostile places to students from lower-income backgrounds. Both to attract and retain lower-income students, colleges need to make explicit efforts to ensure that there is not a culture of money and privilege that is undermining their efforts.



SCTA...IN BOSTON?

CHRIS SUMNER, SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, CSU NORTHRIDGE

During the weekend of November 11-13, four of your executive officers attended the University of NEASP* in Boston, Massachusetts. The purpose of the conference was not only for us to attend workshops and graduate, but to also make connections with other students from programs across the nation. Almost every state in the nation was represented during the Connections Conference. The common factor that brought so many students together in Boston was the passion one has for teaching.

Catching an early flight on Friday morning, Chris Sumner, Ken Wisdom and Ngoc Le set forth to meet SCTA President, Monica Masino who had already arrived in Boston. After the long flight, we arrived to have dinner with the rest of the eager conference goers. The keynote speaker, Dr. Adolph Brown, Hampton University, VA, was very informative. The focus of his talk was accepting all of the students that we will have in our future classrooms.

The next day was the start of attendance at the University of NEASP. As a student, we had to attend six different workshops to earn credits toward our graduation on Sunday, November 13. The workshops covered various topics such as, *“Preparing for a Substitute,”* *“Relieving Stress,”* *“The Teacher Tool Kit,”* *“Making The Change From Student to Teacher,”* and others. All of the workshops and presenters provided informative and useful material.

Prior to the start of the conference, Kayla Davidson, Student President from Kentucky, Dr. Reza Azarmsa, advisor at Argosy University, Santa Ana, CA, and I presented a poster session on diversity that was well received by members of the national student program. The poster session was a follow up to the diversity partnership between California and Kentucky that began in September 2003.

On Sunday, the four representatives from California graduated from the University of NEASP. We all wore caps as the President of NEA, Reg Weaver, gave our commencement speech inspiring us to keep on the path to become great teachers.

*National Education Association Student Program



CHABOT STUDENTS ENJOY CLUB CONFERENCE

VIELKA ELVEBAK, NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, CHABOT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chabot College held their annual Diversity Teaching Conference on October 29. The conference was a complete success, with a full house of over 30 participants. The speakers and presenters, which included Jim Thrasher and Gail Watts of the CTA Human Rights Department, Larry Cain, Chabot English Professor and Francisco Zermeno, Chabot Spanish Professor, were very inspirational. The topics of conversation varied, as they mainly shared their experience as school professors.

Many of our attendees were impressed by the videos shown and the information they gathered throughout the workshops. Many expressed interest in participating in another conference soon!

Our chapter officers and members worked very hard to make this event possible. We would like to thank SCTA President, Monica Masino, CTA Consultant, Gail Watts, and CTA Staff, Quinnetta Gill of the Human Rights Department for all of their help and dedication. This conference would not have been as successful without their help.

In the end, this event was a true success. Chabot chapter officers have decided to put on yet another conference in the spring. We will also be offering a CBEST preparation program for those who are interested in preparing for the test. To obtain additional information about the conference, please contact:

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STUDENTS ATTEND THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE 2005-2006 YEAR

JAMES SHELDON, STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, UC SANTA CRUZ



The annual SCTA Fall Leadership Conference, held the weekend of November 4-6 in Fullerton was a well-attended and lively event for students throughout the state. Your SCTA Executive Board arrived early Friday morning to stuff packets and prepare for the arrival of eager conference-goers and leaders-in-training.

Friday evening, students, advisors and presenters started to trickle in, attracted by the smell of delicious hors d'oeuvres. The conference opened with an exciting icebreaker that involved colored dots on members foreheads and not only provided a great opportunity to meet people, but also taught us important lessons about interacting with each other and in the classroom.

After the opening icebreaker, there was an inspirational speech about teacher tenure and an inspiring presentation re-introducing the idea of unions and union activism. Both of these presentations were engaging and informative.

The next morning, we had an early breakfast and then headed off to workshops. The workshop schedule was such that you had the opportunity to attend two out of the three offered for both the morning and afternoon sessions. Conference attendees had to make the critical decisions as to which one to leave out (i.e., *"Making Decisions,"* which I facilitated). My personal favorite was *"Women in Power,"* where I had the chance to play a young woman of color running for union leadership in a role-play activity. Other workshops included *"Politics... But I Want to be a Teacher"* and *"Preparing Your Student Teaching Portfolio."* Attendees were also invited to participate in a last-minute phone banking session against proposition 74, the "Punish New Teachers Act." This phone bank was part of a larger CTA effort against Propositions 74, 75, and 76. According to the CTA website, over a million phone calls were made by teachers and future teachers across the state.

That evening, the keynote speaker was none other than our very own Monica Masino, SCTA President. She gave a brief and inspiring talk and we adjourned to the socializing aspect of the night -- the dance. Although not all attendees took advantage of this opportunity to show their moves, those that did were pleased to find a wide variety of songs and had a lot of fun. In particular, SCTA Communications Editor, Nadia Bravo, was said to be the life of the party, although everyone certainly contributed to the convivial environment.

We got up early the next morning and had a quick round of coffee before rushing off to the morning leadership workshops where we were reminded or made aware of the SCTA Mission Statement and brainstormed about our focus and direction. This information will be used to increase membership, better address and promote diversity, as well as build and increase strong local chapters. We then went back for a long-anticipated brunch, some exciting raffle prizes, and to say goodbye to our new friends and fellow leaders.

As we picked up our embellished certificates, we left somewhat sadly, but were eager to get back to our campuses to share our experience and information with fellow members.



San Diego University students pose for a picture with SCTA President, Monica Masino.



Inter-American college students and Advisors enjoy dinner after a long day of workshops.



Glendale Community College enjoyed this inspirational and education conference.

READ ACROSS AMERICA IS COMING SOON

JANE RODGERS, STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, CSU STANISLAUS



How will you celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday this year? For thousands of volunteers across America, it becomes an opportunity to promote literacy, one classroom at a time. Read Across America is a promotion by NEA that provides resources and encouragement to these volunteers. Typically NEA/NEA-SP members pledge to participate in the event at <http://www.nea.org/readacross/pledge.html>. Then, on Dr. Seuss' birthday, they go into classrooms across America and read to students and donate the books to the classroom library. At the NEA Read Across America website <http://www.nea.org/readacross/index.html>, you will find a downloadable resource kit, information on recommended books, and Curious George materials and Posters.

This year's event features Curious George, the inquisitive little monkey who has been loved by children for years. There are also featured lesson plans based on the various Curious George books to turn this day into a true learning opportunity. Houghton Mifflin and Universal studios are the sponsors for these free resources (<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/features/cgsite/>).

On February 10, 2006, Curious George will embark on his biggest adventure yet, as the star of a new animated movie (<http://www.nea.org/readacross/images/curiousgeo1.pdf>). Add to that, activities celebrating the first hundred days of school featuring Curious George, and the students will be anxious to seek out the books to read for themselves. So, head for the NEA Read Across America website and add your pledge to participate. Don't forget that this is also a wonderful way to reach out to the community by approaching community groups and asking them to volunteer to read to classrooms.

My husband has participated in RAA activities for several years longer than I, because his workplace grants release time for employees to go out into the classroom.

How do I know where a reader is needed? I contact an elementary school in my neighborhood and ask to sponsor a class. This is such a rewarding activity. You will never forget the expressions on the faces of these students, because you cared enough to visit and share a book.



DO YOU KNOW?

LEO SOLIS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, RIO HONDO COLLEGE

There are times when our members have gone above and beyond the call of duty, but yet have never received recognition at the state level. The Student California Teachers Association has recognized and awarded members throughout the state at our Representative Assembly, April 29-30. We have a variety of awards that are given out each year, from "Outstanding Local Chapter Leader" to "Outstanding Chapter Newsletter."

Do you know of a leader that has continuously worked hard to recruit members, organize events, reach out to the community, and mentor new leaders?

Do you know of an advisor that has excelled in his/her role, provided assistance and encouragement, and has committed their time to the chapter?

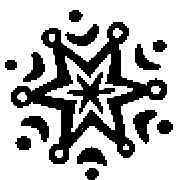
Do you know of members, even your chapter that has been involved politically, with the community, or other organizations?

Make sure you check out our website at www.cta.org/SCTA.htm and click on "Chapter Leaders" and look for SCTA Awards. There you'll find the full list of our awards with applications and descriptions.

LOOK OUT for the award application deadline in your next issue of "I Choose to Teach!"

Remember, let's recognize our own members! You never know -- it just might be you!

For more information please contact Leo Solis, Executive Vice President at: leo_solis@sbcglobal.net.



STATISTICS FOR CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

Average Class Size State of California, 2004-05		
	Number of Classes*	Average Class Size
Schoolwide	693,255	27.3
Kindergarten	23,088	19.7
Grade 1	23,208	19.3
Grade 2	23,058	19.2
Grade 3	22,917	19.8
Grade 4	15,238	29.0
Grade 5	14,881	29.5
Grade 6	8,184	29.5
Grade 7	488	26.7
Grade 8	478	26.5
K-3 Combinations	5,160	18.7
3-4 Combinations	787	21.6
4-8 Combinations	3,738	26.5
Continuation	1,736	17.5
CommunityDay	719	13.7
Other Self-Contained	1,792	19.4
English	130,186	26.1
Math	95,218	28.0
Social Science	81,046	29.7
Science	75,338	30.0

*Counts exclude special education classes, classes with zero enrollment or enrollment over 50, and other minor items.

Schools by Type State of California, 2004-05				
	Number of Schools	Enrollment	Full-Time Equivalent Teachers*	Pupil-Teacher Ratio **
Elementary	5,558	3,124,555	154,383.2	20.2
Middle	1,227	1,156,176	49,220.1	23.5
Junior High	27	18,484	850.5	21.7
High School	1,128	1,763,387	73,834.6	23.9
K-12	96	53,191	2,280.4	23.3
Alternative	243	61,376	2,420.0	25.4
Special Education	129	28,951	3,734.1	7.8
Continuation	519	70,176	3,636.2	19.3
Community Day	313	10,395	837.7	12.4
Opportunity	12	1,655	86.7	19.1
Juvenile Court	60	12,990	901.8	14.4
County Community	50	17,161	892.5	19.2
Calif. Youth Authority	10	2,654	199.8	13.3
State Special Schools	3	932	201.8	4.6
Total	9,375	6,322,083	293,479.4	21.5

*FTE teacher counts include those assigned to a particular type of school; district and county office of education teachers not associated with a school are excluded.

**The Pupil-teacher Ratio is enrollment divided by the number of full-time equivalent teachers. Because some teachers are not assigned to a classroom, the Pupil-Teacher Ratio is usually smaller than the average class size.

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Office (CBEDS, sifgl04 8/30/05, sifade04 7/26/05, assign04 8/3/05, pubschls 4/29/05)

IMPORTANT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION!

L. Gordon Bittle Memorial Scholarship for SCTA

DEADLINE: January 27, 2006

César E. Chávez Memorial Education Awards

DEADLINE: March 24, 2006

For complete rules

**Go to the SCTA website and click on
"Benefits/Services"**

WWW.CTA.ORG/SCTA

Got Benefits?

ATTENTION STUDENT TEACHERS!

Here is a great way to be insured for free!

As an SCTA member, the NEA Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program will provide you with insurance protection.

A \$1,000,000 liability insurance and legal protection is available when you work with students as part of your preparation to be a teacher.

Fall Leadership Conference 2005



Members enjoy the "Women and Power" workshop.



Students start the dance with an all time favorite, "YMCA."

SCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NGOC LE, SECRETARY-TREASURER, UC LOS ANGELES

October 21-23, 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), 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 - Oct. 22, 2005, 10:48 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Ken Wisdom/Chris Sumner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Nadia Bravo/ Ken Wisdom; amendment Nadia Bravo/Kyrian Smith

REPORTS -

President - San Diego State event, looking for a space on campus to promote political positions

Secretary/Treasurer - be respectful to others by not unnecessarily using CTA funds, such as excessive meals

Executive Board

Preparation for Precinct Walking for November 8th special election

OLD BUSINESS -

Fall Leadership

Committees: Welcome/Ice Breaker, Registration, Raffle, and Merchandise

Jane motions that we use Leo's idea and use email to recruit for the opening positions of Northern Regional

Vice President and Ethnic Minority Representative/ Ken seconds Motion passes

Board Appointments: Angela Rehn, San Diego Miramar College

ADJOURNMENT - Oct. 23, 10:56 a.m.

November 6, 2005 - Anaheim, CA

CALL TO ORDER - 1:15 p.m.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - Charlene Martinez (Ethnic Minority Representative) and Vielka Elvebak (Northern Vice President)

ADJOURNMENT - 2:18 p.m.
