

SBTA

# NEWS AND VIEWS

Volume 5 Issue 5

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May 2002

## SBTA's Read Across America A Success

**S**BTA joined San Bernardino's A City of Readers in the nationwide celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Sheri Becar chaired the committee that organized all the activities which culminated in the Association's Read Across America Book Give Away on March 2, 2002 at the Inland Center Mall. Three San Bernardino City Unified School District students won computers for their first prize essays on "The Best Day of My

Life." In addition to the essay contest, students were awarded certificates that entitled them to a book of their choice at the day long festival.

Judging by the turn out at the mall, the event was a great



The winners of the essay contest.



Angie Alvino and Carol Falin with the Cat in the Hat.



Juanell Brown helps choose.

## Contract Ratified by Membership

**T**he agreement negotiated by SBTA's Bargaining Team and the District has finally reached settlement and was ratified by the membership in a vote of 89.8% to 10.2%. After many months of bargaining meetings with the district, an agreement was worked out that met with the approval of the membership. The outcome was a pay increase of 3% of which 2% will be retroactive to July 1, 2001 and another 1% will be retroactive to midyear of 2001-02. The increase will appear on the July 1st pay check and the retroactive portion will be paid on July 9, 2002.

It was a lengthy process that required the time and energy of the Bargaining Team members led by Executive Director Conrad Ohlson. The members of the team were Don Taylor, Susie McGee, Felipa Tello, Amy Copeland, and Art Reyes. The Association appreciates the hard work of this team. When you see of one them, please be sure to give them your thanks for all the effort and time that they gave up working for you.

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**President's  
Corner  
by  
Patty  
Taylor**

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## Teachers Need To Be Heard

Now is the time for change. Teachers feel that even though they have the expertise, vision, experience, education and commitment to help children learn, these qualities are not appreciated. Too often, teachers are told that the decisions for how to best educate children need to be made by administrators. Therefore, teachers have become disenchanted with their profession and have an overall feeling of *no control* over what they know is best for their students.

This spring, CTA introduced legislation (AB2160) to change the collective bargaining act. I believe that this legislation will give teachers the opportunity to be more involved in making decisions that directly effect what they do in the classroom. The bottom line is that teachers will be able to help decide what textbooks are used, what curriculum is taught, and what kinds of professional development they really need to have. However, this legislation has caused a firestorm across the state with administrators and school boards. They disagree with the concept that teachers should be involved with the decisions about what they teach and the texts they use in their classrooms. The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and the California School Boards Association (CSBA) are vigorously attacking AB2160 and lobbying heavily for legislative support of their position.

AB2160 has now passed through two committees in the State Assembly. A new amendment to the bill proposed an option for Academic Partnerships. These partnerships will be comprised of equal numbers of appointments by the local governing board and the bargaining representative plus one or more parents selected by each party. The partnerships will consider *only* items listed in AB2160 and all decisions must be made by consensus. If agreement cannot be reached within three months, the exclusive representative may demand to negotiate the item and the governing board must negotiate in good faith. So I ask, what are administrators and school board members so afraid of? They say they want teachers involved in making these important educational decisions. AB2160, as amended, gives them the chance to involve teachers and parents without having to negotiate as a first step.

All of you need to get involved so that you can have the right to decide on the issues that affect your teaching and your classroom. You can do that by writing to your local legislators in the Assembly and the Senate. They need to know that we are not taking away the decision making power from the administrators and school board, but that we are asking to be officially involved in what goes on in our classrooms. Visit the AB2160 website at [www.ab2160.org](http://www.ab2160.org) to learn how you can get involved. I also urge you to consider writing letters to the editors of our local newspapers. Now is the time. You need to be heard.

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### Local Senate and Assembly Member Addresses

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James Brulte  
State Capitol, Rm 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Senator.Brulte@sen.ca.gov

Nell Soto  
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## SBTA Welcomes New Executive Director

**P**eg Tracey is SBTA's second and newest Executive Director. She will be working in partnership with long-time Executive Director Conrad Ohlson with both SBTA and the San Bernardino Valley Community College.

Peg comes to SBTA from her recent assignment as Executive Director of Fremont Unified District Teachers Association in the east San Francisco Bay area. Peg is a twenty-three year veteran of professional staff work on behalf of NEA in three states, including Texas and Georgia. She was Executive Director for Garden Grove Education Association in Orange County for seven years before moving to Fremont.

An experienced trainer, Peg serves as a member of two NEA training teams; Building Family, School, Community Partnerships and MegaSkills. She is a certified facilitator for the NEA initiative on *KEYS – Keys to Excellence in Your Schools*, and conducts informational workshops for site staffs and stakeholders on using the KEYS instrument. She also works with the CTA Minority Community Outreach Workgroup, and most recently resigned her position as union representative within the California Staff Organization, the union that represents all the CTA professional staff.

No stranger to organizational development, Peg said, "SBTA and the San Bernardino Community College both have reputations of being good, solid organizations with quality leaders. When I read SBTA and SBVCCA's description of what they were seeking in a second Executive Director, I was excited. It touched on every aspect of what I believe Associations need to be involved in with the onset of the age of accountability. I have wanted to be a part of helping teachers help students succeed in school ever since the national standards movement began in this country in the mid '90s. I hope I can contribute to the success of San Bernardino's teachers and students through my commitment to and work with SBTA and the Community College."

"I plan to visit schools and SBTA Building Reps and members," Peg continued. "I want to see the schools and the educational work our membership does every day and the audience with whom they work. I hope to contribute to SBTA's work with teachers, community members and organizations in building the solid, supportive partnerships which are so needed for the success of children and San Bernardino Schools."



*I am really glad to be here, and I am looking forward to working with SBTA.. Thank you for having me.*

## CTA Member Benefits Services

**L**ooking for a bargain for summer fun? Why not try the members services provided by CTA. They have discounts on amusement parks, hotels, cruises, car rentals etc. For example, CTA members can receive special discount tickets for the Disneyland Resort now through June 19th and then again from August 18th through December 18th. TSA is offering CTA members Disneyland Resort admission tickets for only \$30 (all ages).

You can also find discounts for car insurance, auto loans, and homeowners insurance.

[http://www.cta.org/member\\_benefits](http://www.cta.org/member_benefits)

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## Parents: A Love-Hate Relationship

### A New Teacher's Perspective

By  
Kim Isley

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You have probably heard from both your school administration and from your credentialing classes that parent contact can work miracles when it comes to a student's problem behavior in your class. You have probably also heard many a parent horror story from other teachers, which makes you want to avoid parents like the plague. What is a new teacher to do?

It has been my experience that the hassle and the risks are well worth it when it comes to contacting parents or guardians. There have been many times that I called home because a student was disruptive or not prepared and it worked like a charm. Maybe being grounded without Play station has something to do with it. Still, there have been a few times when the call wasn't helpful because I said something stupid or because the parents were more difficult to deal with than the student (unfortunately, the apple usually doesn't fall far from the tree).

Here are a few ideas to help make your contact with home more productive:

1. Start with something good.

Despite the temptation to launch into a huge lecture about how to parent a child at the start of the conversation, don't do it. It will immediately put the person off or make them defensive. Start by identifying yourself and saying something nice about the student. Yes, you will have to get creative sometimes. Even if you have to comment on how the student brought their pencil one day, starting with something good always makes the person more receptive.

2. Make good calls, too.

I know, I know, who has the time? Just think of what your life would be like if *all* your students needed a problem call. Trust me on this one, taking the time to tell a parent that their student is doing well and is delightful to have in class will not only brighten their day, but chances are that Carlos or Carol will be even more delightful for the rest of the year. The next time you have a bad day and feel like you need to be thanked for all your hard work, call the home of a good student- you will probably be pleased to hear what the parent has to say to you.

3. Don't forget the students.

Don't forget to communicate with the students first. Discuss problems with difficult students before you call home. Also, let your good students know that they make your job easier and more fun. Since we expect students to be responsible for their own behavior, we should send the message that students themselves will be held accountable for their behavior, good or bad. Last year I wrote "good notes" to students, and they really seemed to appreciate it. Once a week I would write 5 or 10 notes to students who did something great, were consistently cooperative, or to a difficult student that had shaped up.

Yes, calling and writing notes takes a lot of time. Yes, you will talk to people that convince you that some people just shouldn't be allowed to have kids. Most parents, though, do care about their kids and how they are doing in school. In most cases, making a call will make a difference in how a difficult student behaves in class. In all cases a good call will be appreciated. Either way, making just a few calls a day is time well spent, and you will see the results right away.



## SBTA Celebrates New Members



Rosa Abadilla – Shandin Hills  
 Jessica Aliser – Golden Valley  
 Francisca Arcaya – Arroyo Valley  
 Mary Grace Apura – M. L. King  
 Clementina Baxter – Lankershim  
 Haydee Blesie – Inghram  
 Sheila Buot – Curtis  
 Katherine Carreon – Newmark  
 Jennifer Carson – California  
 Alice Chow – Newmark  
 Winefreda Chua – Rio Vista  
 Susan Cooper – Del Vallejo  
 Maria Cristina Dayonot – Burbank  
 Danila Donaldo – Vermont  
 Barbie Earnest – Lankershim  
 Frenette Ellis – SBHS  
 Susan Fankhauser – Highland/Pacific  
 Ray Gallardo – Del Vallejo

Alfeo Georsua – Arrowhead  
 Bridget Gonzales – Mt. Vernon  
 Thomas Gonzalez – SBHS  
 Monique Handall – Cajon  
 Arturo Herrera – Roosevelt  
 Tammy Iverson – California  
 Virginia Madrid – SBHS  
 Pamela Montana – Roosevelt  
 J. Reagan Pebley – Serrano  
 Ana Perez – Oehl  
 Alice Pesons – Mt. Vernon  
 Sandra Piilo – Monterey  
 Dana Quinones – Serrano  
 Karen Roybal – Mt. Vernon  
 Cynthia Sheehe – Fairfax  
 Carlos Solorio – Middle College High  
 Jenny Trent – Highland-Pacific  
 Anthony Webbs – Monterey

## Bargaining Support Team

**S**BTA’s Bargaining Support Team spent many hours strategizing effective methods to spur on the latest bargaining process with the district. Co-chaired by Don Lannon and Kevin Clark, the committee organized the demonstration and show of support for the Bargaining Team at the March School Board meeting. One of their many efforts was to create signs for the demonstration that effectively presented the Association’s feelings about the lengthy and time consuming bargaining process that epitomized the negotiations this year. They developed the slogans and t-shirt color that symbolized SBTA’s “We’re mad and seeing red” campaign.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you who participated in the sign making and the demonstration at the District Office. Once again you proved that the Association is only as strong as its membership.



Dennis Dahlsimer, Mark Lehman, and Kevin Clark prepare signs.



SBTA members show off their hard work at the SBTA Negotiations Crisis Committee meeting.





## 100% Membership Sites

Alternative learning Center	Del Vallejo	Palm
Anderson	El Instruction	PAR
APE	Emmerton	Parkside
Barton	Harmon	Program Specialists
Belvedere	Hillside	Richardson Prep
Burbank	Kimbark	Roosevelt
Cajon	Marshall	San Andreas
Carmack	Muscoy	SAP Office
Curtis	Newmark	Shandin Hills
Cypress	North Park	Thompson
Davidson	North Verdemont	Urbita
Del Rosa	Bonnie Oehl	Wilson
		Youth Services

## CTA Response to the May Revise

**W**ayne Johnson, president California Teachers Association, today issued the following statement regarding the Governor's revised 2002-03 state budget.

"With the state facing a \$23 billion budget deficit, teachers recognize that tough decisions must be made. CTA is pleased that the Governor is recommending full cost-of-living and growth increases for all education programs. The children of California deserve no less.

The one-time reductions of education funding will not be painless, but the guaranteed payback of all money protects the long-term integrity of Proposition 98 and will mean more money for public schools in future years. This revised budget plan protects the core of education funding in a tough year, but will allow us to invest more money in education when the economy improves.

CTA is also pleased that the revised budget includes more than \$200 million in new federal money to offset costs to the state's Class Size Reduction program. This infusion of money should stop any talk of cuts to this vital education reform."

## Good Teaching Day

**O**ver one hundred teachers gathered at Arroyo Valley High School on March 16, 2002 to learn new techniques to improve and enhance their teaching skills. The day was organized by SBTA's Professional Development Committee. Teachers spent the day attending presentations and workshops given by local teachers and education professionals that offered a variety ideas and approaches to curriculum and classroom management. If you missed this year's event, watch for it next year in March, as the general consensus was that it was a Saturday well spent.



Presenters Peggy Becker, Lou Ann Hazel and Mary Christelman take a moment between presentations to enjoy the lunch.

# What is the Social Security Offset?

The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) reduces the earned Social Security benefits of an individual who also receives public pension from a job not covered by Social Security. This affects people who worked both as public employees in jobs not covered by Social Security and in jobs where they earned Social Security benefits. WEP affects educators who do not earn Social Security from their jobs in public schools, but who work during the summer in jobs covered by Social Security. It also affects people who change careers, moving from jobs where they earned Social Security benefits to one where they do not. The WEP causes public employees outside the Social Security system to lose up to sixty per cent of their Social Security benefits.

The Government Pension Offset (GPO) reduces public employees Social Security spousal or survivor benefits by an amount equal to two-thirds of their public pension. Spousal and survivor benefits are available to any person whose retired or deceased spouse worked at a job in which he or she earned Social Security benefits. The GPO reduces or eliminates these benefits. Estimates indicate that 9 out of 10 public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefits, even though their deceased spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years.

**Congress can pass legislation to repeal the GPO and WEP.**

To contact your lawmakers visit the CTA website: [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org), click on "Politics and Legislation", then "Legislative Action Center", then "Write Your California Reps" link. Write to your representative or senator today!

## Students Visit KTLA

A group of lucky students had the chance to visit KTLA television studios and appear on the morning news. The trip was organized by Carol Falin, SBTA Board of Directors-Elementary, whose son works for the station. The kids and The Cat in the Hat had an opportunity to see the behind the scenes workings of a television news studio and be part of the newscast. Everyone had a great day!



### SBTA News and Views Editorial Board

- Karen Kessinger.....Editor
- Mark Lehman .....Assistant Editor
- Tony dos Remedios....Technology Editor
- Sherrie Juras .....Copy Editor

Advertising within **News and Views** is screened, but the publishing of any advertisement does not imply SBTA endorsement of the product or views expressed.

### SBTA Calendar

**Rep Council**  
June 12

**Board of Directors**  
May 29

**SBTA  
San Bernardino  
Teachers  
Association**

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San Bernardino  
92407  
909-881-6755

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Karen Kessinger  
Don Taylor

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Aurora Monge  
Alexis Simpson

**Elementary**  
Carol Falin  
Phyllis Limbourne  
Marguerite Nicholson  
Ruth Padres  
Felipa Tello  
Pat Williams

**Special Services**  
Jenny de la Rosa

**District Safety Committee Update**

The Safety Committee held its third meeting this year. SBTA members need to be aware that there is a form to report safety issues. On "Safety Bill's" website is a download for the Safety Improvement Report form which can be submitted anonymously to the Environmental Safety Office. There must be a response to the report within 5 working days of its filing. If you have concerns or questions, you can email Carla Delvin, an SBTA Safety Committee representative, at [Carla.delvinasbcusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Carla.delvinasbcusd.k12.ca.us) or [cjdelvin@aol.ocm](mailto:cjdelvin@aol.ocm).

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