

SANTA CLARITA STAR

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SPRING 2007

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Newhall's Butler Among SCV Best

EDUCATOR NOMINATED FOR WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

For more than 40 years, Santa Clarita has honored individuals who give their time to philanthropic and service organizations that make this community great. This year, Nancy Butler was among those nominated for the prestigious Woman of the Year honor. Although Nancy didn't get the top prize, she was an amazing example of how teachers in this community go above and beyond the normal teaching day.

Here is Nancy's story: Because of her commitment to education and the teaching profession, Nancy takes the time to negotiate the best possible environ-

ment for her peers, as well as encourage new teachers to become involved with union matters. Nancy represents not only the Newhall School District, but is involved with all teachers in the five school districts of the Santa Clarita Valley through her role as secretary for Uniserv. She is an outstanding representative of the teaching profession in both the classroom and as a spokesperson for union matters. Nancy is never hesitant to take on more responsibility and has an enthusiasm for students and their teachers that is truly an inspiration for all.



Joan Oxman, Laura Terman, Nancy Butler and Orval Garrison at the Woman of the Year event held May 4. Nancy was nominated by Uniserv in honor of the volunteer work she has done throughout the years and her dedication as an elementary school teacher.

With 24 years of teaching under her belt, Nancy has taken her enthusiasm for education and the teaching profession one step further by serving as president of the Newhall School District's Teacher's Union for the last eight years. She has served as State Council Representa-

tive for the California Teachers Association and has been a State Delegate for the National Education Association for five years. Nancy has won numerous educational awards at both the local and state levels.

Nancy is involved with Special Olympics, and
See BUTLER, page 3

Garrison Stepping Down after 30-Plus Years

SCVTA CHAIRMAN WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT AS EMERITUS

Orval Garrison is stepping down as chairman of the Santa Clarita Valley Teachers Association and as president of the Hart District Teachers Association after more than 30 years of service to education in the SCV.

Orval has been a dedicated and inspiring teacher to his students

and a mentor to his colleagues. He has been a great resource for local association leaders and has forged ahead as a leader who knows how to build relationships. With a kind and patient heart, Orval dedicated more than 15 years of his life serving as president of the Hart District Teach-

ers Association and as Chairman of the SCVTA. He has always been there to give assistance in any way that it is needed. Even though Orval is stepping down, we are grateful having the knowledge that he will continue to assist local chapters as needed as Emeritus.



Orval Garrison

DISTRICT ROUNDUPS

Hart

HDTA winds down the 2006-07 school year with a variety of highlights. First, we congratulate Michelle McCormick of Golden Valley High School for earning National Board Certification. Her achievement adds her to a growing number of Hart District teachers who have met the rigorous National Board standards. We also congratulate Mike Ballard of Canyon High School for having received a CTA WHO (We Honor Ours) Award for his many years of service to our local association and its members. Mike's reputation for personal integrity and professionalism has been earned through his mentoring activities, grievance representation, and building representative experience.

Our association also ends this year having contributed \$8,000 for scholarships to worthy graduates of our high school campuses. This scholarship contribution has been a yearly HDTA practice for decades. The amount given grows with the opening of each new school, and the chapter's commitment to continue the program in collaboration with the SCV Scholarship Foundation remains strong.

HDTA is also completing its second year of membership with the National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA). The networking and sharing of ideas that come with this membership has helped to strengthen our advocacy for local members and has aided us in dealing with our continued growth into a larger CTA/NEA unit.

Finally, HDTA's leadership team will turn a corner next year with a new chapter president, Leslie Littman, and vice president, Wade Williams. Both of these members have been involved with the association for a number of years, and both will bring skills and talents to our association in their new leadership roles.

Castaic

Congratulations to our new Teachers of the Year: Dana Mazzocco, Live Oak Elementary; Laura Kubler, Castaic Elementary; RuthAnne Murthy, Northlake Hills Elementary; and Ken Hooker, Castaic Middle School. This is an outstanding group of professionals.

We have worked very hard this year. Our ExCel program has been successful, and we are seeing major improvements in our students. We've even had two neighboring districts come out to observe the program. The BTSA Induction review was

a success. We have been renewed for five more years. The Review Team even ended a day early because they were happy with what they observed.

The district is expanding our preschool program. Northlake Hills has 95 parents who have expressed an interest in the new program, so it will begin there with Castaic Elementary starting up the following school year. Everyone is busy preparing for Open House and end-of-the-year activities. We are all looking forward to a relaxing summer.

On another note, we would like to thank Orval Garrison as he moves on. He has been a mainstay in the SCVTA, and Castaic appreciates all the work he has done throughout the years. This is my last year as president of the Castaic teachers and I have enjoyed meeting so many people in the years I held the reins.

Have a great summer and be safe!

Newhall

Where has the year gone? It is now May and there is still so much to do. In April, Peachland Elementary School dedicated and named its new library after former principal Brian Skinner, whose devotion to helping every child read successfully was an inspiration to all of us.

Congratulations go out to all of our honored Teacher Tribute winners — what outstanding representatives of good character and professionalism. Congratulations also go out to our WHO Award recipient, Chisato (Chi) Kanagi, for her tireless dedication and hard work in supporting our association. Day of the Teacher will be celebrated on May 8 in honor of all of you who continue to be an inspiration to hundreds of students each and every day.

Thank you for a professional, successful and rewarding year. Enjoy your summer break and be safe!

Saugus

The Saugus Teachers Association is in the process of exploring alternative salary schedules. A committee composed of teachers and administrators has met twice to discuss what alternative salaries might look like for Saugus. Developing a new system of pay requires a great deal of thought and care. Details will need to be worked out at the bargaining table and will require a majority vote of approval from Saugus teachers, in addition to a majority

vote of approval by the Saugus Union School District Board of Trustees.

The Saugus Teachers Association is pleased to announce Sandy Belanger as the WHO Award recipient for 2007. Sandy is currently teaching at Bridgeport School and represents teachers in her executive board role as parliamentarian. Congratulations to Sandy!

Saugus recently named Adina Neale the 2007 Teacher of the Year. Adina is well-known throughout the district as the person who developed and implemented the award winning U.S. Tools for Schools program. Adina is a fifth-grade teacher at North Park School.

Saugus is growing again! The well-attended groundbreaking ceremony for the 16th Saugus School took place on April 30. West Creek School, which is the first school to be built by a developer, is scheduled to open in 2009.

Sulphur Springs

Two teachers from the Sulphur Springs District were recently honored. Paulette Carlson (now Paulette Volmer) has been appointed to serve as a member of the Instructional Materials Panel, which will evaluate materials for the 2007 Mathematics Primary Adoption. Paulette was a trainer for LACOE throughout Southern California last summer.

On January 23, Kim Tredick was selected as one of the best educators in the nation when she was chosen for the Milken National Educator Award. Kim was one of 100 educators selected nationally and received a \$25,000 check! Congratulations to both Paulette and Kim.

Contract negotiations are complete. The district and the SSDTA agreed upon contract language — a 4 percent salary increase with 2 percent retro to July, and a continuation of no out-of-pocket expenses for Family HMO health benefits.

The teachers of the Sulphur Springs School District have been busy implementing the new standards-based report card and planning celebrations for the Association-sponsored Creative Writing Contest Winners, as well as Read across America in honor of Dr. Suess's birthday.

Ten teachers attended the Good Teaching Conference in Irvine. We will be anxiously awaiting their return to learn about the new ideas and strategies presented to them at the conference.

Students, Parents Team Up at SVJHS MegaSkills Workshops

Twenty students and their parents attended workshops held at Sierra Vista Junior High. Five of the workshops were MegaSkills, led by Newhall Elementary teacher Carol Magnuson, eighth-grade Sierra Vista science teacher Julie Huffman and Newhall Board member Suzan Solomon. Over a period of 14 meetings, the families worked on communication skills and educa-

tion tools to help improve the students' progress in their classroom and everyday lives. "This is a chance for students to bond with their parents, talk about big issues kids deal with all the time, as well as responsibility, preservation and teamwork," Huffman said. "These workshops really help communication. Any time you can have a positive experience, it's a good thing."



Seventh-grader Eduardo Aguirre and his mother Maria Calderon participate in a workshop. NonEnglish-speaking parents were assisted by translator Vivian Lawrence.

Butler

FROM PAGE 1

participates in the annual "Walk for Life" and the American Heart Association fundraiser. She volunteers for the Children's Hospital, the Susan B. Komen Cancer organization, the Children's Cancer Society, local Sheriff's Relief Fund, Veterans of America, Make-A-Wish foundation, Survivors of Fallen Firefighters and the Castaic Chamber of Commerce.

Nancy is an active participant in the Parent

Teacher Association, school Site Council and NSD Fun Run, and organizes First Aid and CPR classes for teachers. She also has her students adopt a soldier, and she organizes projects for the Women and Children's Abused and Battered shelters. Nancy is chair and event manager for the West Ranch High School Boys Soccer Team Golf Tournament.

Nancy is one of those unsung heroes — always willing to say yes and always going above and beyond what is expected of her. People like Nancy are an asset to any organization.



(From left) Patty Fitzpatrick, Orval Garrison, Joan Oxman, Nancy Butler and Krysti Wilson

Santa Clarita Valley Teachers Association

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Krysti Wilson |Castaic |
| Orval Garrison |Hart |
| Nancy Butler |Newhall |
| Linda Metzger |Newhall ESP |
| Richard Seal |Newhall ESP |
| Joan Oxman |Saugus |
| Patty Fitzpatrick |Sulphur Springs |

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