



# SCV Teachers

The Santa Clarita Valley Teachers Association: Supporting Teachers and Education  
Hart Castaic Newhall Saugus Sulphur Springs



## Teachers Keep Communication Open with Legislators

Santa Clarita Valley Teachers Association chapters have been busy and consistent in their efforts to communicate with state and federal legislators. Local political contacts routinely communicate with state legislators about issues and proposed laws that affect the education community. E-mails are sent, phone calls are made and letters are written, especially in conjunction with CTA efforts to “make contact with lawmakers.”

Just last spring, a group of local teachers joined with our SCV Uniserv executive director to meet with Congressman Howard “Buck” McKeon at his office in Santa Clarita.

The one-hour meeting gave association leaders a chance to provide McKeon with information about the NCLB reauthorization process. Teachers emphasized the need to have multiple measures to assess school success rather than relying on just one test score. McKeon also heard about the importance of using growth models for assessing stu-

dents, so measurable improvement is properly recognized.

The congressman himself seemed to be aware of the need for different assessment for students with severe disabilities and for ELL students.

Teachers this fall have also communicated with Congressman McKeon by delivering petitions to his office signed by delegates who attended the summer NEA Representative Assembly in Philadelphia. These petitions thank McKeon for his continuing efforts to help repeal the punitive Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) laws. It is these laws, first enacted in the 1970s, that prevent public employees such as teachers from receiving their fully earned Social Security benefits.

Keeping the lines of communication open with elected officials is one way that SCVTA works to make local schools, students, and educators a priority in the legislative arena.