
Oroville Secondary Teachers Association

TEACHER TALK

<http://www.ostahome.org>

All articles are submitted by OSTA unit members. Submit them to

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OSTA - CTA - NEA

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Executive Board for 2007-2008

(Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at The Depot Restaurant at 3:30 PM)

President	Larry Cobbler (LP)	Vice-President	Steve King (O)	Secretary	Leanna Felardo (O)
Treasurer	Steve Wolf (O)	Policy	Rodger Townsend (O)	Political Action	Lisa Avila (LP)
Research	Shane Walter (LP)	Publicity	Cobbler & Draper (LP)	LPHS Site Rep	Vaughn & Bacior (LP)
OHS Site Rep	Carol Anderson (O)	PHS Site Rep	Scott Martin (PHS)	Grievance	Erika Hughes (LP)
Membership	Nannette Walker (LP)	Adult School Rep	Susan Hoopes (OAS)	CCHS Site Rep	Mike Caratenuto (CCHS)
Board Rep.	Bret Lawson (LP)	Negotiator 07-09	Steve King (O)	Negotiator 06-08 (H) ..	Scott Martin (PHS)
Negotiator 07-09	Teisha Hase (O)	Negotiator 06-08	Erika Hughes (LP)	Negotiator 06-08	Nannette Walker (LP)

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE – LARRY COBBLER

OSTA has nothing new to report on negotiations. We are just waiting to see what the district is going to do with the January payroll. Once we see that the district is not paying according to our interpretation of the agreement, a grievance and unfair labor practice will be filed.

It is time to start putting together our openers for next year's bargaining. Article I, Agreement, Item 4 of our contract says: "That there will be an annual re-opener on salary and up to two additional articles elected by each party." Article IV, Negotiation Procedure, Item 1 of our contract says: "No later than the first Board meeting in February of each calendar year, both parties will have submitted their initial proposal for public input. No later than March 1 of each calendar year, both parties shall meet and negotiate in good faith..."

WINTER FLING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS – BY LARRY COBBLER

Our Winter Fling was held at The Graduate in Chico on Thursday, Dec. 20. Many OSTA unit members were able to attend. It was a very enjoyable evening with lots of socializing, winter spirits, and food. The HORS D'OEUVRES table was fantastic. OSTA would like to thank Erika Hughes for doing a fabulous job spearheading this event again this year. Teisha Hase and Rachel Gwinnup did a great job getting all the door prizes. They were even able to get an old relic by the name of Ken Slattery to draw the winners and do the announcing. If you were unable to attend, you seriously need to consider marking your calendars for December 2008.

Next year Erika would like to take a break and hand the job over to another energetic OSTA member. She has put the Winter Fling together two years in a row now. If you would be interested in chairing this event next year, please contact Erika. She would be happy to fill you in on all the details.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 2007 – BY TEISHA HASE

They say to teach is to touch a life forever, but to keep official stats at away OHS basketball games is just plain crazy! But that's what Scott Burket, my nominee for Teacher of the Month does! Charlotte Ross calls Scott "her partner" in keeping the book, and says, "Whatever he does, he does great!" Charlotte really sums it up.

Along with teaching sophomore English, senior English, and Speech and Debate, Scott is co-chair of the English department at OHS, co-advisor of GATE, always coaches the Rotary speech contestants, and helps screen the graduation speeches each year. He volunteers countless hours each year around graduation helping his seniors with whatever they need. Scott not only keeps the official book for basketball, but also attends many of his students' baseball games. They always appreciate his support. Scott also supports other teachers. He makes sure that new teachers have binders of OHS's ELA standards papers, and accompanying assignments, arranges for subs for the English department's school business days, and makes his teaching materials available to any and all. Scott is that rare teacher who has strict discipline, but whose class is beloved by students for its wit and humor and intelligence. Scott's students shine on their CSTs and CAHSEEs, a testament to his teaching brilliance. It is difficult to find a teacher more deserving of a TOM than Scott Burket.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2008 – BY NANNETTE WALKER

I would like to nominate Sammy Burnett for TOM. Sammy has been with LP for more than five years now. He teaches Government, AP Government, and US History. He is an outstanding example of what a professional should look like. His classes are highly organized. I have observed his classes many times (we shared a room), and his lessons are innovative and fun. He can motivate the least motivated students!

Sammy is also the wrestling coach, and he is an outstanding coach. His team respects him and they try their best, not only for themselves but also for Sammy and the school.

Sammy Burnett is a wonderful person and instructor. I highly recommend him for the OSTA TOM award.

FRIEND OF EDUCATION FOR DECEMBER 2007 – BY KRISTIN SMITH

I would like to nominate a family for the FOE. Jerry and Gina Adams have been vital to the success of Challenge Charter. For every event, no matter the time of day or night, they are present. Obviously they are not the only ones, but the staff knows that we can always rely on them to help us with meetings, family nights, or anything else that is going on. It is a nice breath of air to know that we have the help and support necessary from families in order to keep our small school functioning effectively. It will be very sad (and exciting) when their child, Sid, graduates in June. Thank you for all of your help over the years!

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CTA POSITIONS ON UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTIONS – BY LARRY COBBLER

With the Feb. 5 California Primary quickly approaching, CTA has announced its positions. On presidential candidates, CTA has not taken a position for any one individual at this time. For propositions, see below:

Proposition 91: CTA recommends a NO vote. This is a transportation initiative that was actually addressed in 2006 with the passage of Prop. 1A. It was a mistake that it ended up on the ballot, and even the sponsors of the initiative are NOT supporting it.

Proposition 92: CTA recommends a NO vote. CTA supports community colleges and the important role they play in educating Californians, but Proposition 92 (Community Colleges, Funding, Fee Limitation) will cause more problems than it claims to solve.

Proposition 93: CTA recommends a YES vote. Proposition 93, the *Term Limits and Legislative Reform Act*, reduces the number of years a legislator can serve from 14 to 12 and allows all of those years to be served in either the State Senate or State Assembly. Proposition 93 addresses the need for greater experience and effectiveness in the State Legislature. It strikes a reasonable balance between the need for new people and fresh ideas and the need for experienced legislators with the knowledge and expertise to deal with the complex problems facing California.

Propositions 94, 95, 96, and 97: CTA recommends a NO vote on all of the Indian Casino Gaming propositions.

UPDATING OSTA BYLAWS – BY LARRY COBBLER

CTA is requiring all locals to update their by-laws this year. This is a daunting task and too much for any one individual to handle. Rodger Townsend, our policy chair, is heading up a committee of executive board members to take on this task. With the help of Michael Carantenuo, our CCHS site representative, we have a side by side comparison of our by-laws and the recommended format from CTA. After the committee gets the by-laws updated and into the proper format, they will come to the general membership for a vote. After they have been approved, they go to CTA for approval or corrections. If corrections are needed, the committee will see they are completed and returned to the general membership for approval. Then again, back to CTA for their approval.

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE SITE MEETINGS? – BY LARRY COBBLER

I have been asked to send out a survey to see if you would like to have periodic site meetings. The purpose of the site meetings will be to talk about different issues and get clarification from an OSTA Executive Board officer or negotiator. These could be just questions you have about the contract or hot issues of the moment.

TELL IT TO TEACHER TALK

This is your chance to express yourself anonymously. Names will not be published unless requested. Comments can be positive or negative in nature. However, this will require your time to e-mail Larry Cobbler at lcobbler@ouhsd.org or Linda Draper at ldraper@ouhsd.org. Please take the time to send comments about any union topic you wish, or you can share thoughts on any topic of interest to other teachers.

- ✓ I just wanted to thank the entire board and everyone who had a hand in doing the Christmas Fling - hope everyone enjoyed it. *Anonymous*

OSTA WEBSITE ADDRESS - BY LARRY COBBLER

You can now find all kinds of OSTA information at the OSTA web site: www.ostahome.org. Larry Cobbler, our OSTA president, is the webmaster.

UNIT MEMBER COMMUNICATION - BY LARRY COBBLER

All unit members need to communicate with each other and follow the contract. Grievances need to be pursued whether you as an individual agree or disagree with the issue. There are also timelines that need to be followed in the grievance process. If we all try to do a better job of communicating, we might resolve issues sooner.

OSTA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION FOR 2007-2008 – BY LARRY COBBLER

This issue of the OSTA's TEACHER TALK newsletter was distributed by e-mail. If you did not receive it, send me an e-mail (lcobbler@ouhsd.org) with your name, school, and correct e-mail address you wish to use. Past issues of OSTA's TEACHER TALK newsletter may also be viewed at www.ostahome.org.