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Oroville Secondary Teachers Association

**TEACHER TALK**

<http://www.ostahome.org>

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

Larry Cobbler at LPHS E-mail [lcobbler@ouhsd.org](mailto:lcobbler@ouhsd.org) or Linda Draper at LPHS E-mail [ldraper@ouhsd.org](mailto:ldraper@ouhsd.org)

September 7, 2007

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)

**CTA SPONSORED “MEET THE LEADERSHIP RECEPTION” – BY LARRY COBBLER**

The Second Annual “Meet The Leadership” Reception will be held Thursday, Sept. 20, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gold Country Casino banquet hall in Oroville. New teachers as well as existing unit members are invited to meet and hear from state, regional and local leaders about CTA issues. This activity is intended to help those interested in understanding better how CTA works as an association of teachers. There will be great food, door prizes (including two \$100 gift certificates to Barnes & Noble bookstores), and a large assortment of information tables for everyone, including Member Benefits, Disability Insurance, Chico SCC Scholarships for 2007-08 Conferences, A+ Auto Insurance, NEA Fund, and more.

Those interested in attending need to contact Larry Cobbler [lcobbler@ouhsd.org](mailto:lcobbler@ouhsd.org) as we need to notify CTA of the number of reservations we will need for our association. OSTA needs to verify the numbers for CTA no later than Wednesday, September 12.

**SEPTEMBER 2007 TEACHER OF THE MONTH - BY JULIE STEINMANN**

Steve Brown is co-advisor for the Environmental Club, coaches tennis (both girls and boys), he is an outstanding teacher, he is the main guy for SAC Committee, and he worked on the Distinguished HS Committee...and whatever else comes by way of OHS, Steve seems to be a big part of it. He covers classes, Proms and other events as fellow staff need, ALWAYS smiles, ALWAYS an encouraging word, ALWAYS positive, just an all-around GREAT guy, teacher, fella’!! I am sure that I am missing a ton of things that he is involved in, but this is what I know off the top of my head.

### **SEPTEMBER 2007 FRIEND OF EDUCATION - BY NICOLE MOUSTRIS**

Our September Friend of Education (FOE) is Serena Brown, owner of Party Shoppe. She is GREAT! She donated time and decorations to the Winter Formal and is doing the same for Prom this year.

### **STATE BUDGET UPDATE FROM CTA - BY LARRY COBBLER**

As of Tuesday, Aug. 21, the 2007-08 state budget provides a COLA (cost of living allowance) of approximately 4.53%. This is a per ADA (average daily attendance) increase of \$290 per student for high school districts.

The passage of the 2007-2008 state budget will now allow the legislature to focus on healthcare reform. CTA is active in eight different coalitions trying to bring these costs under control. However, we can still expect premium increases in the range of eight to twelve percent throughout the state. (Thankfully, our premiums did not increase for the second year in a row.) Chapters need to avoid district attempts to shift health care premium increases to our members in the form of higher employee premium contributions and increases in co-pays and deductibles. Health Savings Accounts, cash in-lieu schemes, and benefit dollars on schedule will further reduce the size of our purchasing pools and drive up the cost of benefits for ALL unit members.

### **HOW "NOT" TO BE INSUBORDINATE - BY LARRY COBBLER**

If an administrator asks you to do something you don't feel is right, it is okay to express your disagreement to the administrator. If the administrator insists that you meet his/her demands, simply ask them to put it in writing, make sure you comply with the request, then present a copy of the written request to your site representative. The site representative will be able to determine if this was a grievable offense. If so, the contractual grievance procedures process can then be started.

### **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](mailto:lcobbler@ouhsd.org) or Linda Draper at [ldraper@ouhsd.org](mailto: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.

✓ No comments were submitted this month

### **OSTA WEBSITE ADDRESS - BY LARRY COBBLER**

You can now find all kinds of OSTA information at the OSTA web site: [www.ostahome.org](http://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](http://www.ostahome.org).