

Oroville Secondary Teachers Association

TEACHER TALK

<http://www.ostahome.org>

*All articles are submitted by OSTA unit members. Please submit them to
Linda Draper at LPHS e-mail ldraper@ostahome.org*

27 April 2010

OSTA/CTA/NEA

Volume 21/Issue 7

Executive Board for 2009-2010

President: Larry Cobbler (LP) **Vice President:** Steve King (O) **Treasurer:** Steve Wolf (O)
Secretary: Leanna Felardo (O) **Publicity:** Linda Draper (LP) **Research:** Shane Walter (LP)
Policy: Rodger Townsend (O) **Membership:** Mike Caratenuto (O) **Political Action:** Lisa Avila (LP)
Board Rep: Carol Anderson (O) **Grievance:** ----- **PHS Site Rep:** Scott Martin (PHS)
OHS Site Rep: Teisha Hase (O) **LP Site Rep:** Melody Mayfield (LP) **Ad Sch Rep:** Susan Hoopes (OAS)

Head Negotiator 09-10: Scott Martin (PHS)

Negotiator 08-10: Nannette Walker (LP) **Negotiator 09-11:** Teisha Hase (O)

Negotiator 08-10: David Gnesda (LP) **Negotiator 09-11:** Steve King (O)

*Note: Meetings are held the first TUESDAY of the month at the Western
Pacific Brewery Restaurant (formerly The Depot) at 3:30 p.m. You are always welcome.*

President's Message

By Larry Cobbler

With the ongoing economic situation in California and RIFs handed out two years in a row, we have an opportunity to get a little relief from the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds established by the American Recovery and Rehabilitation Act of 2009.

These funds are allowing the Oroville Union High School District to offer a one-time \$15,000 retirement incentive to its most senior OSTA members. The requirements for the incentive are:

- Employee must be a certificated employee of the OUHSD and a member of OSTA
- Employee must be at least 60 years of age by June 30, 2010
- Employee must have at least 19 ½ years of service with the district as of June 30, 2010
- Employee must retire no later than June 30, 2010
- Employee must submit Letter of Resignation no later than **May 4, 2010**
- Employee previously retired from the district and reemployed are not eligible

We have eleven senior OSTA unit members who meet the minimum requirements for the incentive. If enough senior OSTA unit members feel this is the right time to retire and are able to take advantage of this incentive offer, it may help to reduce the number of RIFs and/or eliminated programs.

- **If you're interested in the incentive, there's a one day Cal-STRS retirement counseling day at Butte County Office of Education on Monday, May 3. Call Rosemarie Newcomb (Shasta Office) at (530) 225-0203 for an appointment.**

OSTA Executive Board Election Results

By Linda Draper

It's nice to see a new face on the board this year! Welcome, Mike Morris.

You'll notice there are some unfilled positions; hopefully, members will volunteer to serve so the board will function effectively. They would then need to be approved by the Exec Board.

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Secretary: Leanna Felardo (OHS)

Policy: -----

Political Action: Lisa Avila (LP)

Publicity: -----

Research: Mike Morris (LP)

Membership: Michael Caratenuto (OHS)

Grievance: -----

School Board Rep: Carol Anderson (OHS)

LP Site Rep: -----

OHS/CIS Site Rep: -----

OAE Site Rep: Susan Hoopes

PHS/CDS Site Rep: Scott Martin (PHS)

Friend of Education (Jan.): Elizabeth Norton

By Nannette Walker (LP)

I would like to nominate Elizabeth Norton. Elizabeth was the lawyer/coach for Mock Trial. She put in more than 100 hours of work with our kids and went to the State Competition with us. She was responsible for raising over \$1,000 from the D.A.'s office alone to help us pay for the cost of going to State Competition. She has already indicated she will help us next year. This is all after school volunteer work from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 or 9:00 p.m.

She has always been there with a helping hand. Elizabeth is a trial attorney for the D.A.'s office and is extremely busy – but she was there for us every step of the way in preparing our Mock Trial team.

Friend of Education (Feb.): Al Hottinger

By Sandy Allen (OHS)

I would like to recommend Al Hottinger. He is a community member who volunteers his time working at all OHS basketball games, both for the boys and girls. He has done this for over ten years now.

In addition, Al has been great help with fundraising for the OHS golf team. He has been collecting recyclables and gives them to the golf team as a donation for the past two years. Al also helps me after every basketball game to clean the gym and recycle all the bottles and cans that we collect. Al, who is a golfer, donates golf balls to the high school players, as well.

Teacher of the Month (Dec.): Lisa Avila

By Rebecca Howard

I would like to nominate Lisa Avila for TOM. Lisa and I are the senior class advisors at LP; since I have this school year off, she has been doing most of the leg work and attending meetings, etc.

Lisa is also the advisor for the Environmental Club, BSU, and she's on the LP Site Council. She also chairs our union's Political Action Committee, and she shares the department head of Special Education with Karen Griffith.

Many of the things she's involved in at LP are non-paid positions. She spends a lot of time trying to tutor special education students outside the classroom during consultation time, even though much of the time is filled with IEPs. I really don't know how teachers like her do it all!

To top it all off, she is always cheerful and helpful to any colleague she meets. I am lucky to be a co-advisor with her – and our union is lucky to have someone like her serving on the board.

Why OSTA Must Have a PAC

By Leanna Felardo (OHS)

Lisa Avila has been working hard on forming a local Political Action Committee, but you might not realize why this is important to each of us.

The law states that we (OSTA members) cannot use our dues for political causes. Is this a big deal? You bet!

In the past, OSTA members have pulled together and campaigned on behalf of school board members that we believed had the experience and the educational priorities that we desired in our district's top leadership. We canvassed neighborhoods, made phone-bank calls, printed flyers, and appeared in public places to let the people of this community know whom the teachers supported. The voters want to hear from us; they trust our endorsement.

But unless we get it together and form a PAC, those activities are over. Our voice as a union will be silenced.

Take a moment to think about the impact of the decisions made by our school board over the last couple of years. How did they affect our lives? How did they affect our classrooms? How did they affect our students? There is another school board election coming up. We know what needs to be done for students, and we need to let the community know what we know.

We all need YOU to come forward and volunteer to be a part of our committee, so we can start saving money for this election. It's not a hard job, and you don't need experience – but you will be critically important in shaping our future working conditions, our students' educations, and our livelihoods.

I want a strong, informed, and thoughtful school board for our community – and I know you do, too. And we're all busy - but let's carve out an hour a month to make our PAC happen. It will be an investment in our professional future.

Butte County Library Struggling to Remain Open

By Linda Draper

This month my sophomores are doing research papers on environmental issues, and my juniors are doing research papers on historical topics related to the 1920s. Since our school

library's resources are so limited, it's been helpful for students to be able to go online to access information from Infotrac through Butte County Library.

Unfortunately, our county libraries are also struggling to survive in these economic times. The following cuts are being proposed: Butte County Library funding is to be cut in half (from \$3.1 million in funding last year to \$1.5 million this year); staffs cut from 39 people to 13; hours reduced to only 12 hours per week (6 in Durham and Biggs); elimination of the reference desk, Literacy coach, Bookmobile, books by mail; restrictions in children's programs, online databases, and computer access; no budget for books, magazines, or newspapers.

A good library is so important in a community, especially for those who are low-income and need access to computers, newspapers, and books. We need to make our concerns about these cuts known! You may call or write your Butte County supervisor and tell him of your concerns. Ask that library funding not be cut further than the current 23% and to restore funds as soon as possible. You could also ask them to support a ballot measure that could provide stable funding for the county libraries. (This would also be a great opportunity for students to write persuasive essays!)

Another thing you could do is attend the May 19th County Supervisors' meeting at the County Government Center; the Friends of the Library organization is asking all who attend to wear red to show their support. You could also help by making a donation to your local Friends of the Library group. These funds are used to purchase books, furniture, equipment, and to pay for special programs.

Tell it to Teacher Talk

Just a reminder: Save your receipts for prescription costs! This grievance is in arbitration and an arbitrator has been assigned; they're just waiting for a date for the meeting.

-Linda Draper (LP)

OSTA Newsletter Distribution for 2009-10

This issue of OSTA's *Teacher Talk* newsletter was distributed by e-mail. If you did not receive it, send me an e-mail (ldraper@ostahome.org) with your name, school, and correct personal e-mail address. We won't be using the district ouhsd.org e-mail accounts for OSTA business. Past issues of OSTA's *Teacher Talk* may also be viewed at www.ostahome.org