

2011 WHO AWARD

Monday, May 2, 2011, was the night that CTA held its annual WHO (We Honor Ours) Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Century City. This year HDTA was proud to honor Randy Estes with the WHO Award.

In his many years of service, Randy has always been involved in activities that have strengthened the profession as well as the association. In addition to his own responsibilities, Randy has taken the time to mentor young professionals working in the classroom, working in the counsel-

ing office, and working in the association. Four years ago, when there was a change in chapter leadership, Randy agreed to join the bargaining team. His calm manner and knowledge have been invaluable as the association negotiated through these difficult times. When the building representative position opened at his site, Randy stepped in to fill the vacancy. As a counselor, as a bargaining team member, and as a site rep, Randy has always been a strong advocate for HDTA members as well as for students.

HDTA RECOGNITIONS

As this last issue of the VOICE goes to print, the Association would like to acknowledge those HDTA members who are retiring this year. The Executive Council, on behalf of the entire HDTA membership, thanks each retiree for her/his efforts though the years in helping to provide outstanding education for our Santa Clarita students.

Randy Estes, Counselor (SV)
Sarah Freifeld, English (CA)
Taffiney Goldberg, Spec Ed (RP)
Sandra Harrison, ELD English (LM)
Harbir Hayreh, Spec Ed (VA)
Pat Kingery, Spec Ed (CA)
Cathy Kraeger, Spanish (CA)

Charlene Nelson, Spec Ed (PL)
Jeanne Tong, Math (HA)

The Association thanks them for their many years of professional service and wishes them well in their retirements.

The Association also would like to thank five people who are leaving Executive Council at the end of this year. All five have been strong advocates for members at their sites. Randy Estes, Peter Fodor, Joan Schlesinger, Laura Solarez and Robert Walker have worked to make sure members at their site are kept informed of events and issues within the Association. We thank them for their service.

SUMMER ACTIVITY

This summer will be an active one for our Association. First, though, please be reminded that JULY is the traditional "down" time for our local office. The office secretary is on break during that month, and one cannot call the office and expect that someone will automatically be there to take messages. HOWEVER, if you have professional concerns or issues that need some attention, please do call the office (661-255-0311) and leave a message. We will be picking up messages periodically through July, and someone will get back to you. There will be some construction going on in the office over the summer, so e-mail might be best. Use the HDTA web site or the district e-mail and chapter leadership will get back to you as soon as possible.

On the "active" side, the HDTA will be sending local representatives to the NEA Representative Assembly (National Convention) in Chicago, Ill. this July. It will probably be hot and sticky, but HDTA will be there taking part in the democratic, deliberative process. Also, we will be sending participants to the summer CTA Presidents Conference and to the CTA Summer Bargaining/Finance Institute for continuing training in bargaining practice and education finance. HDTA has been bargaining since 1976 in accordance with the EERA (Educational Employee Relations Act), and it has been our practice to keep as up-to-date and knowledgeable in the process as we possibly can be.

MAY PAYCHECK

As you may recall, the bargaining unit agreement implementing the 5-day reduction in the school year was not approved in time to update the salary schedules to reflect the reduction of pay in July and August 2010. As a consequence, the overpayment was scheduled to be recovered in the months of November 2010 and May 2011.

you received on your July paycheck. (The August overpayment was reflected in your November check.)

This is a reminder for those employees who receive pay over 12 months. Your May paycheck will reflect a deduction for the overpayment

Please be advised that due to changes in the income tax tables and health insurance premiums effective January 1, 2011, your net pay for May will not be the same as your net pay for November.

PLANNING AHEAD - CALENDAR 2011-2012

August

15 Start Date for Returning Staff
16 Staff Development
17 Work Day - No Meetings
18 Classes Start for All Students
30 Back to School - Golden Valley

September

1 Back to School - Hart, La Mesa, Rancho Pico, Sierra Vista
5 Labor Day
8 Back to School - Arroyo Seco, Canyon, Placerita, Rio Norte, West Ranch
13 Back to School - Sequoia
15 Back to School - Valencia
20 Back to School - AOC, Bowman, Learning Post
23 1st Progress Report
27 Back to School - Saugus

October

3-4 Fall Break
21 End 1st Quarter - Min. Day
Teacher Work Afternoon

November

11 Veterans Day
18 2nd Progress Report
24-25 Thanksgiving Break

December

21 End Semester 1
22 Work Day
23 Winter Break through 1/13/12

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week was CTA's "State of Emergency" Week of action. Various activities up and down the state were planned.

Here in Santa Clarita, we held a grade-in at the mall on Wednesday. Teachers from all of the districts graded papers and lesson planned in the food court and other locations in the mall to show that while the school day ends at 3, a teacher's workday does not. We also called legislators and asked them to support a budget that does not cut funding for public education. For those that participated in either or both activities, I thank you.

In Sacramento, over 300 teachers spent the week lobbying legislators to reach a budget solution that does not include more cuts to public education. Brian Breslin and I flew to Sacramento and took part in those activities last Thursday. Legislators had been assigned "homework" on Wednesday on how they would solve the budget crisis and we went to various offices to collect it. We also sat in the Assembly floor gallery while they voted on the Day of the Teacher resolution.

On Friday, the week culminated in a series of rallies held around the state. A group of HDTA members went down to Pershing Square and joined teachers from all over Los Angeles County in drawing attention to the

January

16 Martin Luther King Day/Holiday
17 Start Semester 2

February

16 3rd Progress Report
17 Non-Student Day
20 President's Day/Holiday

March

1 Open House - La Mesa
6 Open House - Golden Valley
14 Open House - Hart
15 Open House - AOC, Learning Post
16 End 3rd Quarter - Min Day
Teacher Work Afternoon
20 Open House - Bowman, Sequoia
22 Open House - Canyon, Saugus
29 Open House - Rancho Pico, Sierra Vista, Valencia

April

2-6 Spring Break
12 Open House - Arroyo Seco, West Ranch
19 Open House - Rio Norte
26 Open House - Placerita
27 4th Progress Report

May

28 Memorial Day

June

1 End 2nd Semester
4 Teacher Work Day***

***If furlough days are restored, school will end later.

current budget crisis. Speeches from parents, nurses, administrators, and teachers were made and the rally made the cover of the Los Angeles Times Saturday morning.

On Sunday, I took part in MSNBC's Education Nation Teacher Town Hall. I was part of an audience of about 350 teachers from various schools around Los Angeles. Topics ranged from standardized testing, due process vs. tenure, seniority in layoffs, charter schools, and student achievement. It was a mix of panel speakers and audience comments and was broadcast live on the Internet. While I was glad to participate, the forum did not really allow for much audience comments or for any significant discussion on the issues. But, unlike the last time they held the Education Nation, this time they did allow for teacher voices to weigh in on the issues.

While the "State of Emergency" week is over, the work will still continue until we have a budget. Stay informed on the issues through our web site or CTA's web site. If you have local concerns over the summer, I will be checking school e-mail so you can send me a message that way or through the HDTA web site. Enjoy the summer break and see you in August.

-Leslie Littman