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HDTA OFFICERS (2019-2020)

President:

John Minkus

1st Vice President:

Wade Williams

Treasurer:

Gary Schulman

Secretary:

Jennifer Davidson

Member At Large:

Kellie Kontis, Christine Livermont, Dianna Rose

Chief Negotiator:

Michael Copenhaver

Membership:

Christina Tolisano

Grievance: Sean O'Brian

Elections:

Cassandra Perez

Webmaster: Tom Gavin

State Council Rep:

Jayme Allsman & Andrea Molina

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all, My name is John Minkus and I am the President-elect of Hart District Teachers Association. I'm very excited to serve in this new capacity. I would like to introduce myself to those of you I have yet to meet. This is my 28th year teaching Special Day Class, 21 in the Hart District at Valencia High.

I have served in many union positions over the years including site rep, grievance chair, bargaining team member and chair, vice-president, state council member and various committee assignments. I've coached both boys and girls golf here at VHS, been department chair, served on PAC, the PD team, and the district special education

compliance committee. I'm an avid, yet average, golfer who enjoys travel to new courses whenever possible.

I enjoy all sports and love to cook when I have time. I am a resident of the valley and both my children are graduates of Valencia High. Now I'm charged with leading HDTA into an ever changing educational atmosphere. I look forward to the challenges and successes in the coming year.

Although given the same responsibilities, my style will be different to those of my predecessors. One goal of mine is to be visible on our campuses. I want to get a feel for the culture at individual schools. I want to become familiar with the

similarities and differences in the procedures and administration of our schools. I want to visit classrooms and witness the dynamic teaching that goes on in this district. Most of all, I want to make the union accessible to all of our members and increase participation.

I would like to take a moment to thank Jayme Allsman for 6 years of dedicated service as President of HDTA. Jayme has worked tirelessly in support of all members to ensure the fair and equitable application of your contract as well as deal with a myriad of issues popping up as our district and education in general go through many changes. HDTA is grateful for all

Get Off Your Feet, Take a Seat and Drink Water

What did the water bottle tell the spy?
The name's Bond, Hydrogen Bond.

Ok, ok...not the best joke. But it's hard to find something that connects to our HDTA hydro flask gifts! An overwhelming amount of you enjoyed the gift, so we asked you for suggestions for next year. Besides the obvious of money, a new car, and more vacation... here's what most of you said:

TOP 5

1. Gift Card...Amazon seemed to be the most popular!
2. Travel Mug
3. Photo Frame
4. Teacher Supplies
5. Tech Gadgets

Rio Norte

Rachel Sanchez
Dawn Ferrier



West Ranch

Adam Holland



Saugus

Crystal Hilstein,
Marty Fricke,
Leonard Friedman

Sierra Vista

Michael Copenhaver
& Gang

SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Academy of the Canyons & Learning Post:

Don Musella

Arroyo Seco:

Thomas Van Dyke

Bowman: Mike Coombe

Canyon: Cesar Arevalo & John Albert

Golden Valley: Darren LaRue & Michael Bunch

Hart: Sam Modugno & Lynn Yale

La Mesa: Kathy Gettman

PAR: Christy Lennarz

Placerita: Edward Carr

Psychologists: Eboni Shields

Rancho Pico: Doug Smith

Rio Norte: Julie Schneider

Saugus: Megan Botton & Marty Fricke

Sierra Vista: Skye Ostrom

Speech: Kaitlyn Wilson

TLC: Anna Bettencourt

Valencia: Gene Truex-Hill & Maya Loch

West Ranch: Laura Erickson & Mike Kane



The Voice
Christina Tolisano
Editor-in-Chief

HDTA Headquarters

26111 Bouquet Canyon Rd.

Suite H-2

Santa Clarita, CA 91350

661.255.0311

info@hartdistrictteachers.org

Office Hours

9-4pm

*Feel free to leave a message by phone or email. We will be in touch as soon as possible.

her years of dedication to the union, teachers, and students of the Hart District. She will be sorely missed.

My father, who taught law school for many years, once told me the three best things about teaching are June, July, and August. He was kidding of course - sort

of. We all know the life of a teacher is not known to those outside of the profession, and sometimes not recognized by those who have moved out of the classroom. But, we all know the time, effort, blood, sweat, and tears we shed in doing our jobs to the best of our ability. As we near the end of another

school year and sense that period of restorative rejuvenation called summer vacation, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication. It is you that make a profound difference in the lives of so many students.

Enjoy!
John

West Ranch



Hart



Rio Norte



Bowman



**Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6 - May 10**

In celebration, we asked unit members this question: *Who inspired you to become a teacher?* These responses offer little gems of teaching wisdom - and a lot of love.

Christol Tracy (AS)

"Mr. Bernie Bell taught history and psychology at my high school. He was engaging, funny, and passionate about his work. I recall him dressing up as different historical figures and having us interview him as a class. He ran creative experiments in our psychology class, getting everyone involved. He taught us to play the stock market and encouraged us to watch the evening news. His excitement for current events was contagious. He stressed the importance of knowing what was going on in the world so we could make informed decisions. As I reflect back, it was Mr. Bell who instilled in me a love of learning and an eagerness to share it with others."

Aaron Davis (PAR)

"I wasn't in the teaching profession, and she [my wife] had just started teaching. It was such a rewarding career for her. When I was in graduate school, I enjoyed working with kids as a tutor, so I decided to get my credential at night. Fortunately, I worked full-time at CSUN so they paid for my night school as an employee. It was the best decision I ever made; I'm one lucky teacher :)"

John Howard (HA)

"Michael Jackson (His Real Name!) 10th and 11th grade English teacher (back in 1984-86) If you saw *Dead Poet Society*, you know what he was like. Who knew English Literature could be so cool, funny, and inspiring all at the same time."

Beth Blok (VA)

"My mom, Ilene Blok. I was at a crossroads in my journalism career, talking to my mom about the next step. I thought about going to law school. Too much work, I thought. My mom says, "You could be a teacher." Me: "Hm." Mom: "You majored in English." Me: "Yeah." Mom: "You get your summers off." My mom still has such wonderful relationships with so many of her former students, some even 50 years later. I'm 18 years into my career, and it's the same way for me. I love being a teacher."

Jill Colet (SV)

"I've wanted to teach since I was a very young child. My father bought me a REAL life-size chalkboard, and I would pretend to be teaching my friends. I loved school, and after 34 years with the District, I STILL love teaching."