



UNITY

MARCH-APRIL 2015

UNION CALENDAR:

- 4/9:** SVFT General Election Day
- 4/14:** SUHSD Board of Trustees
- 4/22:** SVFT Executive Board Meeting
- 4/28:** SUHSD Board of Trustees
- 5/6:** General Membership Social to Honor the 2015 Retirees @ Spreckels Veterans Memorial Hall

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS:

RUMOR CONTROL... Recently, the Federation reached out to three (3) medical insurance vendors. To date only one provider, California's Valued Trust (CVT) has responded. That proposal would have resulted in a one (1) to nine (9%) increase to all but 27 members, including retirees as of July 1st of this year. (The 27 members would have seen a reduction in rates, but would have less coverage.) The Federation had only two (2) weeks to decide on making the switch to CVT. Given the short-time line and the increased costs to over 700 members, the Federation's Executive Board decided to remain in the Trust for the time being and continue to monitor the Trust's finances.



SUBSTITUTES' CORNER:

Thanks to Tony Villegas and Mary Lou Strathmeyer in offering to represent the AUSD and SUHSD substitutes (respectively) for the next term of office (July 2015-June 2017). No one came forward to represent the SCESD substitutes at this time. Both Tony and Mary Lou are running unopposed in the upcoming SVFT General Election. Also, contract negotiations are opening up for the AUSD substitutes this spring. More to follow soon!

...AND "THE HAMMER" GOES TO...



...VIVIAN MOISES (February) and BRUCE POWERS (March)!

The Federation leadership recognizes both Vivian (AHS Site Representative) Bruce (ESMS Site Representative) as leaders who have worked at building capacity for their school sites. Congrats to both!



SAMANTHA BENISH: WASC COMMISSIONER:



The Federation brings great news regarding Sam Benish (WMS, Middle School VP and Contract Negotiator). Sam has been appointed as one of 32 WASC Commissioners representing the California Federation of Teachers. Among many duties, the Commission establishes criteria for accreditation and grants accreditation. We are the only CFT local to have a WASC Commissioner as one of its very own members. Not too shabby!





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FOCUSING on a FEDERATION LEADER:



JUAN TRUJILLO

Born & Raised: Guanajuato, Mexico
Colleges: Hartnell (A.A.) & UC Santa Cruz (B.A.)
Worksite: AHS
Position: Math Teacher
SVFT Member Since: 1993
Union Leadership: Site Representative

2015 CFT CONVENTION AWARDS:

The Annual CFT Convention was held in Manhattan Beach this year. SVFT members and publications earned the following awards:

Educational Issues: Paul Scavo (Info Services)



Emerging Leadership: Tina Forster (LPMS)

Union Activism: Barry Covington (AHS)

Dedicated Unionist: Kyle Samuels (SHS)

Political Activism: Allan Rosenberg (EAHS)

Award for Sustain Humor and Vigilance:

Eye on the Board by Juan Campos (MTHS)



(2nd Place) Best Single-Page Newsletter:

Unity by Steve McDougall

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CLUTTERED DESK:



- From the "YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING DEPT." ... I was more disappointed than shocked when the Federation Negotiations Committee sat down with the District Negotiators on St. Patrick's day and reviewed their proposal regarding Salary and Benefits. The District proposed that the Federation pay ALL future CalSTRS (retirement) contribution increases. Really? ALL of them? A District that finished last school year with a 29% percent general unrestricted fund balance reserve needs help? REALLY? A District that reported to both the Board of Trustees and Sacramento that it is able to handle all anticipated expenses (including increased retirement contributions) through 2016-17? REALLY?! In a State that requires only a 3-5% reserve? REALLY??!! The Legislature passed AB 1469 last summer...surely it must have realized that Districts would be able to handle this increase...and SURELY, it was NOT the Legislature's intent to pass this burden on to employees...Right? The SUHSD is NOT a Bank... and it should not act like one either. *Mack*



Bank of SUHSD N.A.