



Santa Ana  
Educators' Association



[www.sateach.org](http://www.sateach.org)

Vol: 4 Issue: 3, Holiday 2010

## Happy Holidays

Most of us are very busy during the winter break: spending time with family and friends and catching up with chores around the house. In addition many educators volunteer their time helping others less fortunate during the holiday season.



One of the many charity events around the county is the yearly CENA (Caring Educators Nourishing All) Holiday Event organized by Dr. Audrey Noji, SAUSD School Board President on December 24<sup>th</sup>. CENA provides two thousand Santa Ana children a toy, a book and a hot meal for them and their families. Over a hundred volunteers --- teachers and their families, District employees, High School students and administrators --- make this yearly event possible!

From 7 AM to 9 AM a troop of volunteers decorate Valley High School cafeteria, set up over three-thousand donated books and dictionaries and organized two thousand toys by age and gender. In the meantime, hundreds of Santa Ana residents, mainly SAUSD students, line up and wait patiently for the doors to open. From 9 AM to 1 PM, children from all ages choose a toy and a book, pencils, pens, coloring books, crayons and a dictionary. Lastly, they hug and shake hands with Santa and get another gift from him. Next, each family is seated and served a hot meal by volunteers while other volunteers play holiday music.

I know that the Holidays are always a very busy time of the year. But if you have time on December 24<sup>th</sup> and would like to volunteer at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual CENA event please contact Eileen Maddox, at (714) 558-5523 or extension 75523.

Hope you have a fun, restful and enjoyable three week break!

Happy Holidays!!!

Susan Mercer  
President, SAEA

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### • SAEA

Tel: 1714-542-6758  
Fax: 1714-558-7333

#### • SAUSD

Personnel: 1714-558-5792  
Benefits: 1714-558-5681

#### • SchoolsFirst Credit Union

Information: 1714-258-4000  
Teller Phone: 1714-258-4100

#### • OC Dept of Ed

Tel: 1714-966-4000  
Fax: 1714-662-3570

#### • Credentialing

Tel: 1888-921-2682

### SAEA Executive Officers

Susan Mercer	President
Ron Shepherd	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Peter Boyd	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
C. Scott Miller	Treasurer
Barbara Pearson	Secretary

#### SAEA Staff

Norma Ortiz	CTA Staff
Rue Chijimatsu	Office Staff
Paul Hatton	Office Staff

#### Office Hours

8AM – 5PM, Monday-Friday



### CHALK TALK

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## SAEA Newsletter 4.3

### Two Santa Ana Teachers Honored

The Orange County Hispanic Educational Endowment Fund *serves students who live in Orange County, California only*. HEEF's mission is to improve access to higher education for OC Hispanic/Latino students. HEEF offers competitive academic scholarships for OC high school and community college transfers, awards tuition grants for students at selected Santa Ana, CA Catholic Grammar Schools, and provides scholarships for OC college graduates to attend Law School.

HEEF's goal is to enhance educational opportunities and to improve students' educational expectations and opportunities. The Fund is a resource to academically talented Hispanic/Latino youth that need to overcome financial barriers to complete a college degree.

Each fall, recipients of the HEEF Apple of Gold Award have followed a path connecting them to professional and educational excellence in their respective classrooms, in their districts, and in their communities. These honorees are mentors and facilitators of K-12 and higher education. We celebrate their achievements and their commitment to fostering academic achievement for their students - future college graduates and community leaders.

### ***Excellence in Teaching 2010***

#### ***Ms. Patricia Rendon-Cardenas, King Elementary***

Patricia Rendon-Cardenas is a multi-talented teacher of K-5 students. She has been teaching for ten years, bringing her core strengths in curriculum design, GATE, and programs such as the Dual Immersion program to advance learning. Parents consistently affirm the life-changing impact Patricia has on students. Her eyes are on the future and college readiness for her students. She facilitated a program that aggressively promotes college readiness, writing the mission statement and working with peers on the goals. The result, University Starts Now (USN), received recognition by UCLA and is lauded by parents. The motivation behind USN guides her teaching and classroom philosophy to encourage students to proactively plan today for higher education and meaningful careers. The Parent Teacher Organization strongly supports Patricia for her leadership and vision. In addition to school site and classroom commitments, Patricia pursues on-going professional development and training. She has participated in the UCI Writing Program, Harcourt Brace Math Training, GATE training, and Beckman Science Training, among others. She was the teacher editor for the Harcourt Brace, Science 3rd Grade Text (Spanish) in 2007. In 2005-06, Patricia was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Elementary Teacher of the Year. This recognition fueled her desire to broaden her skills and expand her motivational influence on parents and families on behalf of student success. Principal Eleanor Rodriguez states, "Ms. Cardenas is an outstanding and passionate educator. I am always impressed by her high level of commitment and enthusiasm for teaching and learning." Patricia earned a B.A. Degree in Communications from California State University, Fullerton, a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Chapman University, and a Multi-Subject Credential & BCLAD in Teaching from Concordia University, Irvine, CA. Congratulations on the Apple of Gold for Excellence in Teaching.

### ***Excellence in Teaching 2010***

#### ***Ms. Linn Lee, Valley High School, Santa Ana***

Linn Lee is a dedicated and accomplished teacher at Valley High School, where she has taught U.S. History for twelve years. She has taught every subject within her area of expertise at every level, from English Language Learners to Advanced Placement. Linn is the chairperson of the Social Studies Department, Coordinator of WASC Self-study, member of the Instructional Leadership Team, Coordinator of the Honors/AP Small Learning Community, and other endeavors. Her peers attest that Linn is a student's greatest advocate. She was nominated by the Santa Ana League of United Latin American Citizens. The organization's president, Zeke Hernandez, states "Linn's energy and tireless efforts make a huge impact in the classroom as a teacher and off-campus as a motivator to students and community." One of Linn's students, Class of 2010, is currently enrolled as a freshman at Smith College. She states, "Ms. Lee's guidance and motivation have led me to know and understand that I can do anything. I can and will succeed at Smith College during the next four years." Linn not only attends to students' academic attainment, but also assists in numerous ways to provide resources, including food and clothing to needy students. Principal Felicity Swerdlow affirms that Linn is "uncompromising in her quest for quality educational opportunities for all students." She has given countless hours tutoring and revamping curriculum to ensure that all students are academically competitive. Outside the classroom Linn participates in the Fullerton International Resource for Schools and Teachers. Linn graduated from Berkeley High School, attended San Francisco State University, and completed a B.A. degree in U.S. History at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She earned a Master's degree in Education from Harvard University. Congratulations to Linn Lee on receiving the Apple of Gold for Excellence in Teaching.

## Fall Leadership: What I Learned!

Isabel Núñez, Santa Ana High School

There are times when we may feel that one person cannot make much of a difference. I have felt this way many times working for our district. Sometimes I feel that I don't have any control in what is going on and that is very unsettling. However, there is always a bright side. What I learned at the Fall Leadership Union Conference this past October is that each one of us has the power to make a difference. I learned that the union's strength is in our numbers and that there are many individuals out there who support us.

I learned that the district can investigate any one of us without our knowledge and place us on administrative leave based on a complaint made by a student or parent no matter how unfounded or frivolous the claim may be. I learned that we need to be active in our union. The more knowledge we obtain and the more committed we are, the more we can make a difference. I urge each member to attend one union meeting this school year and get involved.

## Getting Ready for 2010 Tax Preparation

When itemizing your 2010 taxes, don't forget to list your CTA/NEA/SAEA Union dues. If you worked full time, your total paid dues are \$970.80. If you are a part-time employee, please call Paul Hatton to find out your specific paid amount. 714-542-6758

## Get Involved at the National Level!

Are you ready for a challenge? Would you like to influence National Policy? Would you like to meet other educators with similar interests and passions? If YES, then don't miss out on this opportunity during June 30 – July 5, 2011. The NEA's Representative Assembly will be held in Chicago, Illinois, this summer. SAEA has approximately 16 seats among the 10,000 elected delegates from all 50 States. There are two ways to be selected. You may choose to run as a California State Delegate or as a local SAEA Delegate. If you choose to run as a State Delegate, please complete the application located in your December issue of the CTA's **California Educator**. If you choose to run as a local Delegate, SAEA will hold elections in the early spring. Both State and local Delegates are reimbursed for actual expenses such as airfare, hotel and meals during this week long event. For more information, please contact Susan or Scott.

## Calendar Committee

Scott Miller, Calendar Committee Member

Thank you for returning your electronic survey regarding the upcoming 2011-12 SAUSD calendar. The survey requested that you select your preferred calendar from three options. Certificated Staff overwhelmingly chose OPTION 3 by 66.1%. Option 3 listed the first duty day as Tuesday, August 23, allowed for a one week break at Thanksgiving, three weeks at Winter Break, one week for Spring Break, and ended with the last duty day on Friday, June 15. In addition, SAUSD parents chose Option 3 by 55% and SAUSD administration chose it by 88%. We are still waiting for survey results from our Classified employees.

The Calendar Committee is chaired by Chad Hammitt, Human Resources Executive Director, and consists of members from SAEA, CSEA, and administrators. The District is responsible for presenting potential calendars. The committee's charge is to place 180 Instructional Days and three Duty Days on a calendar that best meets everyone's needs. This task is compounded by State and Federal holidays that have specific legal requirements. In addition, District-wide events such as Back-to-School Night, Open House, Parent Conferences, grading periods, etc. have to be placed on the calendar.

Our next meeting will happen on January 10, 2011. At this point no decision has been made on the 2011-12 calendar. Once the Classified survey results are disclosed, a recommendation will be made to the SAUSD Board of Education. The School Board will review the Calendar Committee's recommendations, make suggestions and ultimately vote on the calendar.

## Retiring? Thinking About it?

If you are 55 years or older, you should have received a letter outlining the early notification incentive offered by SAUSD. Please be aware that this year's incentive is TIERED. The sooner you notify the District, the larger the incentive. This year's maximum is \$20K. If you have any questions, please call Human Resources at (714) 558-5740.

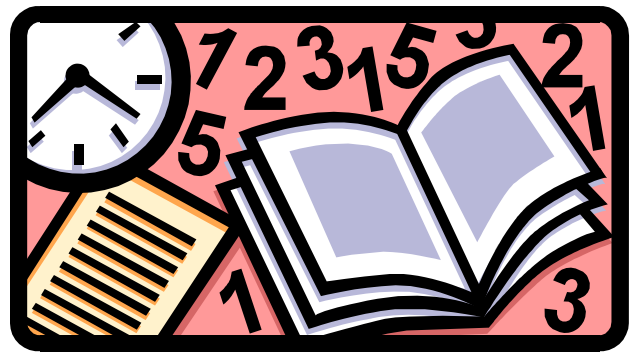


**Upcoming Workshops**

**2011**

Strengthening the Bond Between General  
& Special Education Teachers  
February 23, 2011

**For more information or to register,  
please call SAEA at 714-542-6758.**



**Enterprise Rent-A-Car**

If you are planning on traveling over the holidays, keep in mind that CTA Member Benefits offers discounts on car rentals for members.

This program provides for rentals at a defined flat rate as low as \$33.00 a day, regardless of location. While it does not include other potential rental related charges, like optional insurances, the flat rate is very competitive particularly in areas where vehicle rentals are usually the highest, including major airports.

It's fast and easy to make arrangements for your car rental needs nationwide with Enterprise Rent-A-Car!

Online:

- Visit [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com)
- Enter your Account Number: NACA068
- Enter CTA as the Company Name

By phone:

- Call (800) RENT-A-CAR for the nearest branch
- Provide your Account Number: NACA068
- Make your reservations with the rental branch

Visit [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org) to obtain more information about the CTA Rental Car Program through Enterprise Rent-A-Car

School Dates	2010-11
Winter Break	Dec. 18-Jan. 9
School Resumes	January 10
MLK Holiday	January 17
Lincoln B'day Holiday	February 11
President's Holiday	February 21
Spring Break	April 2-10
Memorial Day	May 30

SAEA Rep Council Dates	(4PM)
January 18	2011
February 15	2011
March 15	2011
April 19	2011
May 17	2011
June 14	2011

Newsletter Dates	2011
<u>Publish</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
February 1	January 28
April 4	March 31
June 1	May 27

Does SAEA have your UPDATED:	
Email Address?	Don't Miss Out!
Home Address?	Contact SAEA with
Phone Number?	your current INFO!
School Site?	

**Notary Services**

Rue Chijimatsu  
Notary Services

Call for appointment:  
714-542-6758

SAEA Members = **Free**  
Non Members = Fee



Stay Informed – Check out...

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Sign up for regular email notifications. We're sorry but SAEA cannot use district email accounts!