

sdta HOTLINE

September 21, 2015

CTA • NEA

15/16 – 3

Message from the President

I have enjoyed seeing you as I come around for site luncheons and am looking forward to my meetings at Menlo-Atherton and East Palo Alto Academy this week. Some of you have sought me out before or after these meetings to ask specific questions or share your concerns about things at your site or in the district in general and I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to answer questions or to learn what is going on. If you didn't have a chance to speak to me directly, I encourage you to make contact with your site reps or to email me at sdta@sbcglobal.net.

-Edith Salvatore

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The upcoming Board of Trustees election is gearing up this week with a couple of opportunities to see the candidates and get to know more about their priorities and vision for the district.

On **Wednesday, September 23rd**, the Southern San Mateo County League of Women Voters will be hosting a **Candidates Forum** from **7:00pm – 8:30pm** in the **Birch Conference Room** at the Sequoia Union High School District office at **480 James Street**. This will be a chance to see all the candidates respond to questions and explain their platforms.

The next evening, SDTA member Laura Larkin (Sequoia) is opening her San Carlos home for a meet and greet with SDTA's endorsed candidates, **Georgia Jack** and **Carrie Du Bois**. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting Georgia or Carrie, please consider stopping by – and if you live in the district, invite a friend or neighbor to come with you! The event will be **Thursday, September 24th** from **7:00pm – 8:30pm** at **469 Clifton Avenue in San Carlos**. Please **RSVP to 650-592-4727** by September 23rd.

HELP ELECT GEORGIA JACK AND CARRIE DU BOIS

SDTA is looking for our members' support to get the word out about our endorsed candidates, **Georgia Jack** and **Carrie Du Bois**. In conjunction with the San Mateo County Central Labor Council,

we have organized some easy opportunities to pitch in and show your support.

For those of you who are talkers (and, really, what teacher isn't a talker?), each site has adopted an evening for phone banking. The banks are located at the IBEW Hall at 1701 Leslie Street in San Mateo and will take place from 5:30-8:30. You'll be targeting likely voters and our research shows that the teacher's voice is respected and appreciated when people are making their decisions. Bring a friend and stay for an hour or two – or the whole evening!

PHONE BANKS

- **September 28th – Sequoia & Redwood**
- **September 30th – Carlmont**
- **October 5th – Woodside**
- **October 7th – M-A & EPAA**

Please RSVP to your site reps. If one of the other dates works better for you than your site's adopted date, feel free to let your site rep know and go then!

For those of you who are less sedentary and looking for a way to help the campaign while also getting in some extra steps for your FitBit challenge, why not join some of your colleagues for a precinct walk around your school site one evening? The plan is for a group of members to meet around 5pm or 5:30 for a quick dinner and then split up in pairs to walk the neighborhood near your school and knock on doors to talk to voters about our candidates. We will provide lists of friendly likely voters and literature for you to share with them. RSVP to your site reps if you want to join!

PRECINCT WALKS

- **October 13th – Woodside**
- **October 14th – Menlo-Atherton**
- **October 15th – Redwood**
- **October 20th – Carlmont**
- **October 21st – Sequoia**

Bring a friend to walk with and make it fun! You'll be amazed by how friendly and receptive members of the community are when you identify yourself.

DROWNING IN STUDENT DEBT?

If you graduated from college in the past fifteen to twenty years, chances are you are still paying off your student loans. While massive, nation-wide student debt reform is needed, there may be hope for you right now. Teachers who teach in hard-to-staff schools, hard-to-staff subjects, or other high-need areas may be eligible for some forms of debt relief. Below are some specific categories. If they don't apply to you, be sure to visit our CTA Member Benefits website for a student loan flyer and for additional information and other helpful links. The site can be found at:

www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/studentloan

Stafford Loans:

If you have a Stafford Loan, teach five consecutive years in a "high impact school", and have not consolidated your loans, you may be eligible for \$5,000 or \$17,500 forgiven.

Perkins Loans:

If you have a Perkins Loan, teach a "shortage area content" in a "high impact school", and have not consolidated your loans, you may be eligible for a percentage of your student loan forgiven (15% for 1st and 2nd years, 20% for 3rd and 4th years, and 30% for 5th year).

PSLF Forgiveness:

You must make 120 on-time, full, scheduled monthly payments on your student loans under a qualifying repayment plan. When you make each of the 120 payments, you must be working full-time at a qualifying public service organization.

More Resources: Even if the information above doesn't apply to you, check out the linked article on the NEA's member benefits website at:

<http://www.neamb.com/finance/are-you-eligible-for-student-loan-forgiveness.htm> for more information about ways to lower the burden of your student debt.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

For the first time ever, CTA is hosting a reception specifically aimed at new members. If you are new to teaching or new to CTA, please come join other educators from San Mateo and South San Francisco at the CTA Headquarters building at 1705 Murchison Avenue in Burlingame on Thursday, October 1st from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Among other information, look for:

- "New Teacher Survival Guides"
- CTA member benefit information
- Other "goodies"!

Even if you joined us LAST year, if you think you could benefit from any of this information, please don't hesitate to come by!

RSVP for the event to Kathy Butler at 650-558-9690.

YOU'RE INVITED

Candidate **Carrie Du Bois** will be hosting a brunch and panel discussion with **Mary Dunn**, **Melinda Fore**, and **Heather Starnes** on the topic of "**What we have learned from kids and how to create a community where all kids succeed**".

This event is a fundraiser for Carrie's campaign – there is no charge to 2015 campaign donors and other guests may choose to donate at the door, with a minimum donation of \$25.

The event will take place **Saturday, October 3rd, 10am to noon at Kingfish Restaurant, 201 South B Street in San Mateo**. RSVP to 650-766-9069 or cdubois@cbtnorcal.com.

Join our Facebook Group for Updates
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/MySDTA>

Your SDTA Site Reps:

Carlmont

Katya Burton
Connie Dominguez
Cary Milia*
Hai Nguyen
Genevieve Tep
Carolyn Wade*
Kelly Redmon
(communications)

Menlo-Atherton

Tim Bowler*
Manuel Delgado
Karina Escobar-Weaver
Tania Kranzler*
Patrick Maier
Mike Molieri
Liane Strub

Sequoia

Belén Álvarez-Iglesias
Debolina Dutta
Guadalupe Navarrete
Octavio Rodriguez
Edith Salvatore*
Jasmine Schimek
Dylan Shelley*
Kate Sheehan

Woodside

Adele Alvarez
Rick DeFrancesco
Greg Gruszynski*
Diana House
Alexandrina Pretto
Marian Welch
Felicia Yang
*bargaining team rep

Redwood

Javier Galaviz*
Mike Martin
Maureen Svenson

District Office
(available opening)
EPAA
Tamesha Wise

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