



Southwest Teachers Association

CONNECT & COLLABORATE

BY MONICA LOCKWOOD

After taking a six year hiatus from active SWTA service, I recently returned to the executive board as the Communications Chair. My first line of business was attending CTA's Fall Leadership Conference in Palm Springs. During the conference, I went to 5 sessions. The topics ranged from the changing landscape of special education to using simple technology to making effective, regular, member contact.

One of the sessions examined the California Education Code (CA EC) and its influence on special and general education. For example **CA EC 56347** states that **General and Special Education teachers MUST be notified in advance of the placement of a student with an IEP in their class. Also, the teacher must be informed of his/her responsibilities in the IEP.** Moreover, **CA EC 56345 (a) (4)** states that **general education teachers have the right to request training to help fully implement a student's IEP.**

While the special education sessions focus on collaboration between special and general education, the communication sessions reiterated the importance of connecting with members on a personal level, and telling their stories. Thus the addition of the "The Masked Member" and "the SWTA Superstars" articles in this and upcoming SWTA newsletters. On the horizon are plans to host a mixer for new SWTA members and pair them with veteran SWTA members to act as a mentor.

The conference was not all work as I had the opportunity to network and converse with fellow southern California educators. My son's high school English teacher was in attendance, and being a typical proud mama I had the "poor" guy endured watching a video of James playing the piano. My son was utterly horrified when he found out. Also, I meet a fellow resident of La Mesa who teaches in El Centro. She stated the pay is worth the weekly drive (WOW). However, one of the highlights for me was hanging out with fellow SWTA members Michelle Gates, Kayne Kuenzi and Sherry Steagall. If you have not attended a CTA conference, I encourage you to do so. They are informative and fun.

More importantly, SWTA is your union so please do not hesitate to share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions to build a more collaborative and connected union. If you know a fellow SWTA member who deserves recognition and/or if you are willing to become a mentor to a new SWTA member please do not hesitate to communicate with your site rep and/or me. You can send me an email at pmllock@cox.net.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Fall Leadership Conference1
- Know Your Contract 1
- Masked Member.....1
- SWTA Super Star..... 2



From left to right: Monica Lockwood, Michelle Gates, Kayne Kuenzi, and Sherry Steagall

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

Article 10: Safety Conditions Of Employment

10.1.1 Annually site principals, in concert with the staff, shall review, and update as necessary, the school wide positive student support plan, and protocols for responsiveness, which at a minimum shall include expectations and possible corrective actions to ensure respectful, responsible, and safe student behaviors, and staff responsibilities for implementation. A plan for communication with parents/guardians regarding their partnership with the site/district in the support of their students may be discussed. In the event the site plan includes a specific behavior strategy (PBIS, restorative practices, MTSS, etc.) appropriate training shall be provided.

10.1.2 When students are referred to the office, after the unit member has followed the guidelines of the school wide positive student support plan, either the principal or the unit member may request to meet to discuss appropriate consequences and develop a plan to address student behavior concerns. If consequences issues solely by the principal there will be communication with the unit member either verbally or in writing in a timely manner.

10.1.3 In addition, when a unit member is concerned that a student may require additional behavior interventions, the unit member shall request an SST meeting. Every effort shall be made to schedule requested SST meetings in a timely manner.

MASKED SWTA MEMBER

One of the new features in our SWTA newsletter will be the "Masked Member." A mystery SWTA member will be highlighted. The objective is to use the baby picture and the clues in the write up to figure out the identity of the SWTA member. If your guess is correct, your name will be added to a drawing to win a \$10.00 gift card to either Starbucks or Target. The Masked Member's identity will be revealed, along with the gift card winner in the next newsletter.

This lovely, lively Latina lass is a true **treasure**. She has been a dedicated and driven educator in SBUSD for over a decade. Always in the know of all things SWTA and South Bay, she is the individual to **consult** when questions arise. Likewise, she is the go to person if you need help in planning the perfect celebration. With extensive knowledge of party etiquette, she can turn your gathering into a grand slam. Speaking of baseball, this SWTA member is a diehard Padres fan. One of her favorite weekend past times is going to Petco Park, and rooting for the home team. On week nights, you can find this devoted Padres supporter at her remodeled home with a glass of wine snuggled up with her four-legged friends glued to ESPN. A true and loyal sports follower she continues to support the Chargers as well. Can you unmask this SWTA member?



Use your personal/home email to send your educated guess to pmllock@cox.net by December 1, 2019. Please put "SWTA Masked Member" in the subject line of your email.

SWTA SUPERSTARS!

SWTA Superstar that is what you are

Coming from afar, reaching for the stars

Helping kids succeed and achieve their dreams

As you rely on each other, uh-huh

While striving together, uh-huh



Natalie Dow, the VAPA/STEM educator at Oneonta is the epitome of a SWTA Superstar. While completing her credential program in 2007 at SDSU, Natalie substitute taught in SBUSD. Her credentialed, and performing arts background in theater and dance lead to a Dance Impact teacher position at Nicoloff. Natalie held this position for three more years until accepting a 5th grade teaching position at Nicoloff. Natalie, a SBUSD alumna states, **"I knew I wanted to work in this district specifically because I grew up in Imperial Beach, and I have wonderful memories of attending school here."** She is the daughter of Ruth Robinson, a retired Nicoloff librarian. Natalie says of her mother, **"In every position she held during her 30 years in the district, she gave her all to her teachers, administrators and students. I knew I wanted to apply that same passion and energy to my job, because it was more than a job for my mom, it was**

who she was. She was and continues to be such a wonderful role model for me. I am so grateful to have her for a mom, and to have had that experience at the beginning of my career." SBUSD careers abound in Natalie's family. Rebecca Robinson, her sister and now a Sweetwater Union educator taught 5th grade at Nicoloff. Ramona Ramirez, her aunt recently retired from Sunnyslope as a special education instructional assistant, and her aunt, Karen Densmore, SBUSD Child Nutrition Supervisor will retire this year. Natalie comes from a close, tight-knitted family. Extended family barbecues are the norm as well as hiking and camping with her husband, James and their three kids, Lauren, 19, Brooke, 9 and Nathan, 6. Natalie states, **"I am so blessed to have the family I have, and to be a part of this community!"** This outlook makes her a true **SWTA Superstar!**

One of our SWTA Superstars is a native of Imperial Beach. Connie Ruiz attended West View Elementary school from kindergarten through sixth grade. Her current Imperial Beach Charter SWTA colleague, Gabby Lively, was her sixth grade teacher back in the day. Connie states, **"The teachers at West View cared so much for their students that it made me want to be a West View teacher!"** Connie's dream came true when she had the opportunity to student teach with retired SWTA members Patrice Young and Patty Day at Imperial Beach Charter- West (formerly West View). For the next couple of years, she worked at various positions in SBUSD while she attended classes at UCSD. Last year, Connie had the opportunity again to work at her childhood school. Currently, Connie is a first grade teacher at Imperial Beach Charter. Connie states, **"Being an educator has brought me great joy. There are many tough moments, but they are worth it when I see my students growing emotionally as well as academically."** Connie, a relatively new SWTA member, has had much support from veteran SWTA members. She feels that her tenure in South Bay would not have been possible without Frank Cherry, Elena Medina, Michelle Gates, Marisa Rascon, Lourdes Medina, Ruth Bajo, Viridiana Moreno, and Alicia Mendez, among others. An avid traveler, Connie has been to Brazil, Italy, Spain, and Japan just to name a few. An excellent dancer, she is a participant of SBUSD's Let's Dance Kids program. Connie brings all her rich experiences and enthusiasm to teaching which is why she is considered a true **SWTA Superstar.**



Our next SWTA Superstar, Kimberly Delgado, an educator at Oneonta since 2004, began her career in South Bay Union in 1990. After two years of teaching in South Bay, she accepted a teaching position overseas in Genoa, Italy. She learned the Italian language and culture, and whenever there was a free moment from teaching, she would set off on a train and explore other parts of Italy and Europe. When Kim returned to San Diego in 1994, she substitute taught at various schools in SBUSD. In 1995, she became a SWTA member again when she accepted a teaching contract and taught at Central Elementary. On the home front, Kim has been married to Scott Delgado, a chef, for 22 years. They are the proud parents of Nolan, 21, a student at Cal Poly SLO, and Lauren, 19, a student at Southwestern College. Kim has a great interest in genealogy, and has written and published three different books on her and her husband's families ancestry. This passion has broadened Kim's perspective on the human experience, and has enriched her teaching. She has taught kindergarten for the majority of her years in South Bay, but made the move to second grade this year. Kim states, **"My relationships with colleagues, my students and their families are what bring me happiness and satisfaction in this career that I have been in for so many years."** Kim's dedication to her family, friends, students and SWTA colleagues makes her a true **SWTA Superstar.**