



CTA Award-Winning Newsletter of the Garden Grove Education Association

# ADVOCATE

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## **WHO = We Honor Ours**

*Every year the teacher associations in Orange County recognize teachers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and activism within their associations. These members are honored at the annual W.H.O. (We Honor Ours) Awards Banquet. On May 4, at the Center Club Orange County in Costa Mesa, GGEA recognized three members who are integral to the success of our Association.*



### **Hue-An Wren**

Hue-An was a rep when her site experienced stressful issues. Her positive attitude helped her communicate with her principal to seek solutions. She also served on GGEA's IPD committee now using those skills as a TOSA member. GGEA thanks her for being a positive force.

### **Karen Sparks**

Karen's honesty and dedication helped her members understand the importance of communication during difficult times at her school site. Her leadership helped her school move forward and stick together. Karen currently teaches kindergarten and also serves on the GGEA New Teacher committee. Her advocacy for members is greatly appreciated.

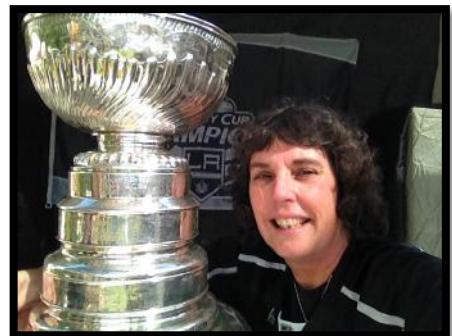
### **Claire Erikson**

Claire is always there when needed. She serves on GGEA's Special Education committee and is chair for the New Teacher committee. She participated in LCAP meetings to encourage equity for special education students. She also helped her site members during some trying times. Her support of unionism makes GGEA strong.

# President's Message

Whenever I am asked by people I meet, "What do you do?" I always answer that I am a teacher. Sometimes I am asked to explain further so I tell them I am out of the classroom at the moment. At some point I share about being president of my local union. I use the opportunity to explain how important it is for teachers to have support from a union.

I feel very proud of many accomplishments that have been made this year. I know that it has taken a team effort to achieve what we have. I appreciate those who have served on the board of directors, bargaining team, grievance team, committees, FAC members and site reps. Without their leadership, none of this could be successful. Also I am so thankful for having an office staff who make sure things run smoothly behind the scenes. Lastly, to our many members who have shared their experiences so that we can advocate on their behalf, thank you.



I am pleased that when I was 2nd VP and we gave a Fear Report to the district, we followed up. We developed protocols, implemented Rep/Principal trainings, strengthened FACs and empowered our reps to be the leaders at their sites. As we continue to address building positive school climates, we face challenges and find ways to meet them through this organizing model.

But I am not done. I want to address district climate next. Our members are feeling the stress of so many changes over the last few years. How can we address these with those who make decisions? How can we make sure each and every member feels supported and their voices are heard? In the next two years, I want to take the team around me and work together to implement changes that will address the issues that have arisen surrounding trust. Because of the collaborative relationship with district personnel, I know that by both teams putting their heads together, we can accomplish much through honest and open communication.

I look forward to those conversations and developing action plans to meet the needs of GGEA members.





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## Calendar of Events

<b>5/24</b>	Recognition Rep Council	<b>6/9</b>	Retirement Tribute
<b>5/30</b>	Memorial Day	<b>6/22</b>	Last Day of Classes
<b>5/31</b>	Executive Board	<b>6/28-7/1</b>	NCUEA
<b>6/3-5</b>	CTA State Council	<b>6/30-7/1</b>	NEA Joint Conference
<b>6/7</b>	Board of Directors	<b>7/2-7</b>	NEA-RA Washington, DC

# Happy Summer!

### Advocate Editorial Staff:

Willie Burghard, Sara McCarthy, Tina Gustin-Gurney, Susan Kaylor

### Contributors this Month:

Gerri Brown, Jim Keltner, Kristi Kemp, Bridget Lockhart, Maura Ortega  
(GGEA Scholarship Committee)

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# Day of the Teacher Poster Contest

## TEACHERS ARE OUR SHINING STARS

Every year GGEA sponsors the Day of the Teacher poster contest to promote the positive influence teachers have on their students. Posters must be original student work and are judged on creativity, originality, appropriateness, and relationship to the theme. This year our theme was "Teachers are our Shining Stars."

The following winners were recognized with certificates and prize money at the April Rep Council meeting. The Grand Prize poster, drawn by Dan DesRochers, from Hare, was reproduced and displayed at school sites and in the community. Congratulations to all of the talented artists who participated!

### *Congratulations to our winners!*

<i>PreK</i>	<i>Melissa Tolentino</i>	<i>Clinton Corner</i>
<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>Erick Salgado</i>	<i>Violette</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</i>	<i>Christine Le</i>	<i>Paine</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</i>	<i>Fatima Salagado</i>	<i>Violette</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</i>	<i>Christine Tran</i>	<i>Paine</i>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	<i>Samantha Estrada</i>	<i>Morningside</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	<i>Gabi Le</i>	<i>Morningside</i>
<i>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	<i>Angelina Nguyen</i>	<i>Enders</i>
<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>Carolina Alcazar</i>	<i>Fitz</i>
<i>High School</i>	<i>Sughey Orozco</i>	<i>Hare</i>
<i>Grand Prize</i>	<i>Dan DesRochers</i>	<i>Hare</i>



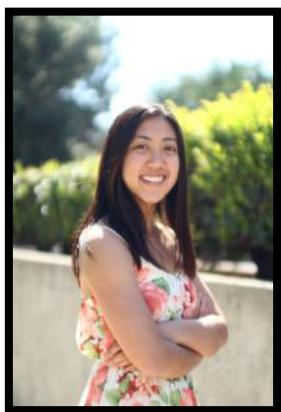
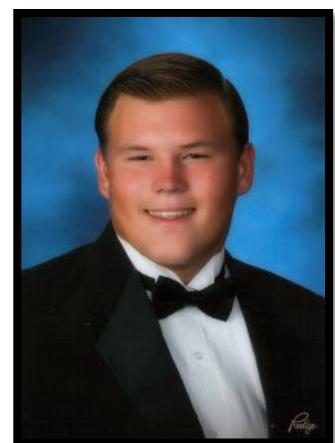
# Congratulations to the GGEA Jim Wicker Recipients



**Pierce Kimberling**, son of GGEA Secretary Rebecca Koopowitz, teacher at Jordan Intermediate, is graduating from El Toro High School. He will be attending San Jose State University in the Fall as an environmental studies major and music minor. Pierce has already begun his mission to “explore environmentally safe fuel sources” and “the life of sustainability” by experimenting with entomophagy, the practice of eating insects!

Throughout his high school career, Pierce has committed himself to numerous extracurricular activities. He contributed a great deal to his school’s music program by being an active member of the Advanced Orchestra, Marching Band, Jazz Band, and the Wind Ensemble and was recognized with the Director’s Award for Orchestra! Aside from the remarkable 200 hours a year he spends practicing his instruments, competing in music competitions, and playing music for charitable events, he is also an active member of his school’s Key and TCG Clubs and is an AVID tutor. Pierce’s counselor writes of him, “I have met many great students, but very few possess the standout character that Pierce exudes on a daily basis.”

**Matthew May** is graduating from Pacifica High School with a weighted academic grade point average of 4.0. Matt maintained this GPA while taking five AP classes, playing four years of football and by staying very involved in many extracurricular activities. Matt has chosen to attend prestigious Claremont McKenna College majoring in political science and economics. He has gotten a head start in politics by being elected as president of his sophomore and junior class and culminating his high school career as ASB president. Matt attended the Iowa caucus earlier this year as the Mikva Challenge Iowa Caucus Winner. Basing his decision to attend Claremont McKenna in part on the great internships they offer, he also was honored to be an early recruit for their football team. This was no surprise as he was not only captain of the varsity football team at Pacifica, but he received All-League honors and Lineman of the Year honors in addition to being chosen as Mariner of the Year, the top award given by the football program. Even though Matt has a passion for football, he loves giving back to the community and helping others. He has spent over a hundred hours a year all throughout high school volunteering at the Orange County Food Bank, West Garden Grove Little League, Ronald McDonald House and with other organizations. Matt would like to get a law degree and ultimately enter the political arena. Holly Jefferson, assistant principal of Pacifica writes of him, "(Matt) has a passion to be serviceable to others and has a genuine desire to make a difference in this world. Part of Matt's success stems not only from his academic and athletic talents, but much of it derives from his attitude towards learning, his unbelievable work ethic, and the caring and humble way he carries himself."



**Catherine Nguyen** is graduating from Garden Grove High School in June. She will be attending Princeton and is excited to explore the area of neuroscience, especially the psychology of emotional intelligence. Catherine has been an active Argonaut while attending GGHS. She is currently the President of both MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement) and the Academic Decathlon Team. She has given hours of her time to help prepare herself and her team to compete in the challenging Division 1. Catherine is also involved with her church youth group where she took on the role of youth leader and teacher. To be able to take on this kind of responsibility and still maintain a 4.48 GPA, takes a very dedicated and organized person. Catherine is both. Mr. Paul Doan, Catherine’s Academic Decathlon Coach, says, “Whatever field [Catherine] ends up pursuing, I am sure she will continue in a way that helps others just as she has been doing during her time as a student. ... Catherine is indeed a young woman who has a will to continue to build better communities, especially for her home community in Garden Grove High School.”



**Alexis Patlan** will be entering Chapman College in the Fall of 2016. He plans to get a business degree with an emphasis in accounting and eventually go on to obtain his MBA degree. Alexis dreams of a time when he can obtain the financial freedom that will enable him to help alleviate the financial burdens of his parents.

Alexis is a senior at Santiago High School and will be graduating in June. During his four years at Santiago Alexis was active in ASB (Junior and Senior Class President) Varsity Volleyball (Captain) Latinos Unidos (County Representative) and AVID. He volunteers regularly with the Boys and Girls club at Santiago. He is currently employed at Friar Tux. Even with all this busy schedule Alexis was able to maintain a 4.24 GPA and is ranked 7 out of 525 seniors at Santiago.

His Friday Night Live Advisor says that "He is fearless when it comes to gaining experience and knowledge" and "He sets goals and maintains high standards for himself." We are proud to present Alexis with this scholarship. He is the type of student that we strive to inspire everyday.

**Cindy Tran** is graduating from Los Amigos High School and will continue her education at her dream school, Georgetown. There she will major in political science with a minor in International Relations. Cindy says her ultimate goal is "to establish her own non-profit organization that would provide an education for girls in countries where they are denied schooling." After working as Team Captain of the Lobo Varsity Volleyball, President of National Honor Society, and Secretary of Girls League, Cindy also found the time to establish a campaign to support Syrian Refugees in Europe. Last summer she took on an internship at the University of California, Irvine in the Social Sciences Department. Mr. Orlando Vega, Cindy's AP Chemistry teacher, says, "[Cindy] has skills and abilities necessary for success in any subject, and any obstacle that she faces. This is evident through her achievement as the Valedictorian of Los Amigos High School. Her academic performance [4.5 GPA] has been exceptional, and I have no doubt that Cindy will meet and surpass all academic challenges in her future."



**Robyn Zulauf** is graduating from Trabuco Hills High School in June and will be walking the hills of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall where she will be pursuing a degree in early childhood development. Robyn comes from a family of educators who have influenced her to become an elementary school teacher. Her father, GGEA member Mark Zulauf, teaches at Pacifica High School. Her work with Best Buddies, a program that pairs general education and special education students, and Unified Sports, a Special Olympics program, have been integral in shaping her focus on students with special needs. Robyn has also been involved in the Environmental Club, Girl Scouts, and she is the Vice-President of Mustangs in Motion, her high school's film club. Robyn is quite proud of her work with Disney and OC Gift of History educational program that teaches third graders about the diverse history of Orange County. She was chosen as one of the editors of the film that was showcased to thousands of attendees at a presentation at Angels Stadium. Her honors chemistry teacher expressed that Robyn "is a student with great integrity, character, persistence, and willingness to work hard." All of these traits will ensure her success in her future endeavors.

**Congratulations!**



## CALL FOR ARTICLES!

Are you or your colleagues doing something fabulous at your school site? We would love to hear about it! The Advocate Team is looking for articles about YOU, our GGEA teachers and your students. We want to spread the word about the fantastic teaching, events, and successes happening at all the schools across our district. Please email your stories, articles, ideas, and photographs to **ADVOCATE@ggea.org** by **June 10, 2016**. We can't wait to hear from you!



The advertisement features the logo for Carver Early Childhood Education Center, which includes the letters 'ec' in blue and orange, with 'early childhood' and 'education center' written below. A large purple banner at the top reads 'Low-Cost Preschool for Children of GGUSD Employees!' Below this is a photo of several young children sitting together with a teacher. To the left, a white button says 'ENROLL TODAY!' Below the banner, the center's name and address are listed: 'Carver Early Childhood Education Center' and '11150 Santa Rosalia Street Stanton, CA 90680 (714) 663-6177'. At the bottom is a '50th ANNIVERSARY' logo.

**About the Program**

- Low-cost preschool for children of GGUSD employees
- Preschool classes begin September 1, 2016
- Limited space available for children ages 3-5
- Before and after school childcare is available onsite through Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Costs vary, depending on hours needed
- Children to participate in blended program as typical peers alongside children with special needs

For more information or to enroll, contact Deborah at (714) 663-6177



The advertisement features a woman in a green shirt smiling in a classroom setting with children. The text 'We focus on you, so you can focus on them.' is overlaid in red script. At the bottom, the California Casualty logo and the CTA logo are shown.

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# School Employee Appreciation Night at Angel Stadium

On May 6, 2016, SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and the Angels of Anaheim sponsored a special appreciation evening for School Employees. This year, CSEA and GGEA invited an employee to represent the district during an on-field recognition. Kelly Nolan represented GGEA and Debbie Graham represented CSEA. Next year, we will have a Supervisory and GGPPSA employee represent the district at the on-field recognition.



*Kelly Nolan and Debbie Graham representing GGEA and CSEA on Angels Field*

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