



Orange
County
School
Boards
Association

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2001-
2002

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May 2002 Edition



Introducing 2002-2003
OCSBA President
Shirley Carey and Family

Family, schools and community have been a priority for Shirley Carey for a long time. As a native of Cazenovia, New York, and daughter of a school nurse, funeral director and volunteer fire chief in a small upstate village, the values surrounding community service, education and extended family have always been a way of life. Today those values remain strong and serve as the basis for her commitment to children and families of Orange County and the State of California.

After graduation from Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, and spending some career building years at Los Angeles County School of Nursing, the Carey family settled in Huntington Beach some 30 years ago. Shirley and Jack enjoyed raising three great kids and are proud of each of them and their spouses. Their two-year-old granddaughter, Riley, provides unending joy and excitement. As a Nursing Consultant, community health educator and writer for nursing education films, Shirley has successfully integrated her professional career and family life. Her family is proud of the recognition she has received as a community leader and educator.

In the early 90's Shirley discovered that there is a life after PTA and Booster Clubs, moving into leadership roles in local community organizations. She has served 12 years on the Huntington Beach City School District Board of Trustees and, like many of you, will face an election in November. Locally she is chairperson of the Huntington Beach Children's Needs Task Force, The PRIDE Foundation (HB DARE), Substance Abuse and Violence Education (S.A.V.E.) Task Force and a scholarship committee. At the County level she chairs the County Committee on School District Reorganization and has served on the Executive Board of OCSBA as Vice President of Programs and President-Elect. She was re-elected to the CSBA Delegate Assembly for the ___ time and enjoys volunteering for CSBA committees and task forces.

Shirley believes that OCSBA has, and will continue to provide, a wonderful opportunity for school board members to network, to learn and to solve problems. Encouraging all Orange County board members to participate, helping them to feel welcome and providing opportunities for support and mentoring remains a high priority. Everyone benefits. By seeking the advice of colleagues at OCSBA, board members have the opportunity to consider various options and approaches to challenges in their own district. The speakers at dinner meetings and PAGE meetings are educational, as well as motivational. These combined efforts help board members maintain the focus on children while working pro-actively to influence budget, curriculum and facility decisions at the local and state level.

Shirley recognizes that when board members work as a T.E.A.M. together, everyone accomplishes more! OCSBA helps facilitate that effort and provides advocacy on behalf of public schools and the children of Orange County. Shirley looks forward to getting to know more of you throughout the coming school year. She invites you to introduce yourself at meetings or to call if you have questions or suggestions.

Being a school board member is not easy and there are times when life is hectic! Helen Keller stated that "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trail and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved". Let's make 2002-2003 a year where we pull together as a team, and achieve great success while strengthening everyone's character! Orange County children deserve no less!

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ELIZABETH DORN PARKER
2002 Marian Bergeson Award Recipient

The Marian Bergeson Award recognizes an Orange County School Board member who has provided outstanding governing Board service and community service to promote and enhance public education. The award serves as a tribute to Marian for her exemplary leadership. The 2002 Marian Bergeson Award Recipient lives up to the standard set by these dedicated recipients.

Elizabeth Parker was the youngest elected official in Orange County when she was elected to the Orange County School Board of Education at age 22. In more than 20 years of service, Liz has become distinguished and as an educational leader at the local and state level. As a senior member of the Orange County Board of Education, Elizabeth Parker has just successfully won her sixth term on the board! She has been active in programs for education, child care, teacher retention, outdoor science programs, drug abuse and efforts to reduce school dropouts. Liz has a long history with the California County Boards of Education. She was instrumental in developing the new board member training program and has served as a co-chair on the committee since 1999.

Elizabeth was born and raised in Orange County, attending and graduating from the Newport-Mesa schools. Her own children, Lucas and Tyler, now attend Newport-Mesa Unified School District schools. Lucas is a junior at Newport Harbor High School, and Tyler is in eighth grade at Ensign Intermediate School. Each of the boys is involved in various sports and activities and so is Liz as a classroom volunteer and past president of the youth pony baseball league. She is currently on the board of directors for the Newport Harbor High School Foundation, as well as on being on the board of the Football Boosters. Liz and Steve have been married for over 20 years.

Liz has a busy life as a wife and mom, board member, and sales and marketing consultant. But her tireless leadership efforts on behalf of public education continue to benefit the children of Orange County

Marian Bergeson Award
Past Recipients

- 1974 - Marian Bergeson, Newport-Mesa USD
- 1978 - Sheila Meyers, Fountain Valley USD
- 1978 - Bert Skiles, Orange USD

- 1979 - Marian P. Aguierre, Westminster SD
- 1979 - Worth Keene, Coast Community CD
- 1980 - Lawrence W. Taylor*, South Orange County CC
- 1980 - J. Franklin Sullivan*, Fullerton Joint Union HSD
- 1981 - Dean McCormick, Tustin USD

- 1981 - Robert Lindsay, Centralia SD
- 1982 - Barbara Benson, Tustin USD
- 1982 - Joan Begovich*, Fullerton Joint Union HS
- 1983 - Lee Sicoli, Irvine USD

- 1985 - Ruth Evans, Orange USD

- 1986 - Joyce Canfield*, Lowell Joint USD
- 1987 - Felix LeMarinel, North Orange County CC
- 1987 - Roger Belgen, Fountain Valley SD
- 1988 - Richard Shimeall, Magnolia SD

- 1988 - Joan Wilkinson*, Santa Ana USD
- 1988 - Jan Overton*, Capistrano USD

- 1989 - Albert Peraza, Anaheim City SD

- 1990 - Joanne Stanton, Anaheim Union High SD
- 1991 - M. D. M. C. S.



Early Literacy Skills Pay Off In School

Children who demonstrate early literacy skills and who come from a home where literacy is actively encouraged do better in reading and mathematics after first grade than children who do not have these resources, states a report from the U.S. Education Department study.

By the spring of first grade, girls are more likely to be reading, and boys are more likely to be proficient at multiplication and division, states *Children's Reading and Mathematics Achievement in Kindergarten and First Grade*.

The study shows that children begin kindergarten with different levels of knowledge and skills, depending on child, family, and school characteristics. Preschool-age children who know letters, numbers, and shapes; are read to frequently; and demonstrate a positive approach to learning perform better in school.

The report is available from the National Center for Education Statistics, <http://nces.ed.gov>

From the National Affiliated, NSBA, March 19, 2002, Volume 22, Number 6 Edition, www.nsba.org/sbn

Thank you Bob Fisler!

The Officers and Directors of the Orange County School Boards Association would like to express sincere appreciation to Bob Fisler, Fullerton School District, who has served as our Newsletter Editor. Over the years, Bob has provided informative and pertinent articles for our reading. Thanks Bob for your years of dedicated service to OCSBA!



Teacher Skills Tied to Student Performance

Students are more likely to achieve at higher levels in English classes when they have highly skilled teachers, concludes a study by the American Educational Research Association.

A research team led by Judith Langer of the University of Albany, State University of New York evaluated 88 English classes in Florida, New York, California, and Texas over two years.

They found that the most effective teachers:

- use multiple, well-orchestrated approaches for targeted skills and knowledge;
- focus on students' overall literacy learning in preparing for tests;
- teach strategies for planning, organizing completing, and reflecting on the content or activity;
- view an initial understanding of a concept as the beginning of the learning process; and
- connect texts, tests, and life, resulting in more integrated experiences for students.

From the National Affiliated, NSBA, February 5, 2002, Volume 22, Number 3 Edition, www.nsba.org/sbn



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, September 18, 2002
for the first

Orange County School Boards Association
Dinner Meeting for the 2002-2003 school year

**Don Sedgwick
OCSBA President
2001-2002**



Dear Fellow Board Members:

I want to thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me to serve with you this past year on the Orange County School Boards Association. I can truly say that the school board members in this county care deeply about the children we represent.

From teachers to administrators to janitors, it seems that everyone has associations of unions—except the kids. They are at the mercy of the grown-ups to take care of them and provide for their well-being. I feel that we are their most important advocate. Thankfully, we still have some power and authority as board members to do something about it! With every decision or issue, regardless of the political stakes, we must do what is best for the children in our areas. By so doing, we can lead with a clear conscience. When we finish our term, we will always be proud of our efforts. In a year like this year (and the next), this resolve will be put to the test. Some of us will even lose our positions as board members as we tried to protect the interests of the children at great political expense. As budgets tighten, many of our educational offerings will be at risk. We will face extremely difficult decisions as we try to balance financial prudence with our desires for the educational product of our school districts.

May we continue to follow our hearts, and do what is right for kids. I am confident that this group of school board members in Orange County will do just that. Good luck, and thank you for the examples you have set for me.



**2002-2003
OCSBA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

OFFICERS

President.....Shirley Carey, Huntington Beach City Unified School District
President-Elect.....Bill Dunton, Fullerton Joint Union High School District
Vice President Programs.....Sheila Benecke, Capistrano Unified School District
Secretary.....Judy Franco, Newport-Mesa Unified School District
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Elementary.....Donna McDougall, Cypress School District
Unified.....Karin Freeman, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District
Unified.....Sue Kuwabara, Irvine Unified School District (1-year term)
High School.....Benny Hernandez, Anaheim Union High School District
Community College.....Marcia Milchiker, South Orange County Community College District
PAGE Chairperson.....Meg Cutuli, Los Alamitos Unified School District
CSBA Region 15.....Virginia Wilson, Los Alamitos Unified School District
Newsletter Editor.....Mary Fuhrman, Buena Park School District