

# MVEA Advocate

*The Official Publication of the Moreno Valley Educators Association*

## MVEA Kicks Off School Board Race at Fall Conference!

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

*Thanks to* all of the site Reps who spent the weekend of September 11<sup>th</sup> together building upon their knowledge of our Contract, MVEA policies and procedures, and current issues.

The most important project for MVEA this fall is to elect our three recommended School Board candidates:

**Jesus Holguin, incumbent**

**CJ Cleveland**

**Oscar Valdepena**

All three candidates are committed to quality curricula, school safety and parent involvement. All are involved with community groups that are working to help our schools and students. All are willing to communicate regularly with MVEA.

Your Reps have studied information from the Political Action committee and listened

to the candidates speak. They will be approaching each of you to share this information and to ask for your help with this important campaign.

Please listen to them carefully. Volunteer to help with this campaign. Talk to your family and friends. Put a sign in your yard. Help a crew to place signs strategically in the community. Come to the office and phone bank. Join others to walk precincts with door hangers. Call the office to find out where else we need assistance.



The School Board makes decisions in areas that affect what members do every day in their positions as teachers, counselors, psychologists and nurses. Help to elect education friendly School Board members.

September 2010

Volume 21 Number 2

### Inside this issue:

MVEA Kicks Off School Board Race!	1
Candidates for Educators	2
CTA Election Recommendations	3,4
Nearby Area School Board Candidates	4
Fall Leadership: The Time is Now!	5
Class Size Grievances	6
Educators of the Month	7
NBC Teacher Town Hall Event	7
Your MVEA Reps Want You!	8
Important Dates	8

We're on the web!  
[MVEAinfo.com](http://MVEAinfo.com)

# MVUSD School Board Candidates for Educators

By Anne Prows, MVEA Director of Political Action and Patricia Gomez, PAC Chair

## MVUSD School Board

### Jesús Holguín

- Honors MVEA positions
- Supports a quality curriculum
- Maintains a good working relationship with MVEA
- Responds to educators
- Understands the District budget well

### Cleveland “CJ” Johnson

- Working with MVEA to hear educators' views
- Supports a quality curriculum
- Involved in community for 28 years
- Long time support of Moreno Valley schools
- Positive, proactive plans for the future

### Oscar Valdepeña

- Working with MVEA to hear educators' views
- Supports a quality curriculum
- Works with businesses to support public education
- Involved students and educators at the school and district level
- Promotes school site safety

### **Why not the other incumbents?**

- Ashe and Baca continue to vote for new expenditures despite the budget crisis causing more sacrifices by employees and less consistency for kids.
- Ashe and Baca are both supported financially by private interests and have voted to support giving district money to those interests.
- Baca and Ashe ignore MVEA advice.

*Our MVEA* Political Action Committee has been hard at work over the past six months focusing on finding quality candidates that we could recommend for School Board. In the past, we have tried to do an early recommendation. However, this year, we were unable to do so due to the status of the negotiations with the district. We started by developing standards or criteria that we would look for in School Board Members. These standards were used to create questions that our panel used during interviews. All candidates were invited and accepted to participate in the interview process. After many hours of deliberation, the panel decided to recommend: Jesus M. Holguin, “CJ” Johnson, and Oscar Valdepeña. This recommendation was discussed and approved by Rep Council on August 18th.

Last week, all three recommended candidates graciously accepted our invitation to come to our annual Fall Leadership to meet with Representative council members. On Saturday, they all spent more than two hours talking personally with all of the Site Reps. Then on Sunday, they formally addressed the body, sharing their visions and goals for MVUSD.

So, NOW IS THE TIME!! The PAC team is asking for your assistance in our efforts to elect our education friendly candidates to the MVUSD School Board. There are many opportunities for you to become involved such as:

- phone banking
- precinct walks
- spreading the word
- stuffing envelopes
- posting signs



Please contact us to let us know how you can help. Ask your site reps which day your school will be phone banking.

**Become Involved. Together We Will Make A Difference!**

# CTA Election Recommendations

## Recommended candidates:

### Governor: Jerry Brown

- fully understands the problems that threaten the stability of our state
- knows what is needed to resolve them
- former governor Brown signed the first collective bargaining bill in California's history, allowing educators to be full partners in the governing process
- supports Proposition 98, the state's minimum school funding law
- Opponent, billionaire Meg Whitman, wants to solve our state budget problems by laying off more educators and state workers. She favors paying teachers based on test scores and wants to convert secure defined benefit programs to risky 401(k) plans.

### State Superintendent of Public Instruction: Tom Torlakson –Assembly member and former teacher

- true champion of public education
- carried legislation to increase funding for textbooks as state Senator
- worked with CTA to sponsor the Quality Education Investment Act which has directed nearly \$3 billion for proven classroom reforms, instead of sanctions, to assist lower-performing schools
- wants to re-introduce proven reforms for all schools, like reducing class sizes, hiring more counselors and providing high-quality professional development for staff
- believes we need to rebuild and fund our higher education system.

### U.S. Senator: Barbara Boxer

- has fought to improve our neighborhood public schools, including support for efforts to expand after-school programs, enhance technology in our classrooms and increase early education
- also secured millions in federal dollars for California's public schools

## Proposition recommendations:

### **CTA SUPPORTS:**

#### Proposition 24 – Tax Fairness Act (CTA-Sponsored Initiative)

- ends nearly \$2 billion in special corporate tax loopholes that don't require the creation or protection of one single California job
- will make big corporations pay their fair share
- keeps the Legislature from making even deeper cuts in public schools, health care and public safety  
\*Last year, the Legislature made \$30 billion in cuts that resulted in 16,000 teacher layoffs and put 6,500 prisoners back on the street. But they gave corporations \$1.7 billion in tax breaks. When large corporations pay less, California taxpayers pay more.
- will end tax loopholes that unfairly benefit less than 2% of California's wealthiest corporations, as 98% of California's businesses, especially small ones, would get virtually no benefit from these tax breaks

A YES vote on Proposition 24, The Tax Fairness Act, would keep taxes for large corporations at their current level, **protects schools, and keeps teachers in the classroom.**

#### Proposition 25 – Passing the Budget On Time Act of 2010

- allows a simple majority of legislators to approve the state budget — just like in 47 other states
- preserves the two-thirds vote required to raise taxes
- holds legislators accountable if they fail to pass the budget on time
- lawmakers are docked a day's pay for every day the budget is late
- no budget, no pay—and no payback later.

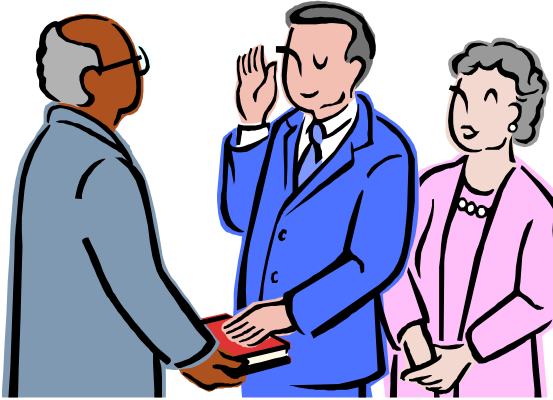
# CTA Recommended Candidates for Congress:

## Congressional District 44 – Bill Hedrick

Bill Hedrick has spent his entire adult life teaching our children, advocating for teachers, and managing our schools. For over twenty years, he's served our community on the Corona-Norco school board. He and Beth have raised five children in our community - including two who have served in Iraq.

Bill's always demanded accountability in our schools - and it's time to demand accountability from Washington, D.C. In Congress, Bill Hedrick will fight to save and create jobs, cut government waste, invest in our infrastructure, and ensure our children have opportunities to succeed.

For more information go to [www.hedrickforcongress.com](http://www.hedrickforcongress.com)



## Congressional District 45 – Steve Pougnet

As is evidenced by his public service, Steve Pougnet is passionate about issues affecting his constituency. He is highly engaged in creating viable plans in the Coachella Valley for sustainability and renewable energy generation. He works tirelessly to find creative solutions to revitalize a struggling local economy and has been responsible for the creation of numerous well-paying jobs in the region.

Steve has long been an advocate for seniors and youth. He is very involved in regional transportation issues and gives great attention to education initiatives in local K-12 school districts as well as the Community College system. Steve is a pragmatist, a bridge builder and a leader who gets things done.

For more information go to [www.electpougnet.com](http://www.electpougnet.com)

## Nearby Area CTA Endorsed School Board Candidates

### Assoc. Colton Teachers:

- Roger Kowalski
- Robert Armenta, Jr.
- Randall Cenicerros
- Pilar Tabera

### Beaumont TA:

- Tom Layte
- Janelle Wohlmugh-Poulter

### Fontana TA:

- Gus Hawthorne
- Julie Ramos
- Laura Mancha

### Lake Elsinore TA:

- Ralph Hernandez
- Heidi Dodd

- Stan Crippen

### Placentia-Yorba Linda:

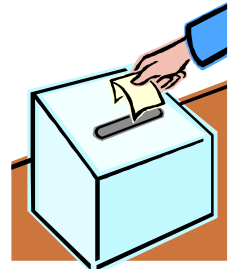
- Karin Freeman
- Kim Palmer
- Judy Carmona

### Upland TA:

- Wesfiled
- Joe Lenz
- Mike Varela

### Valley College FA:

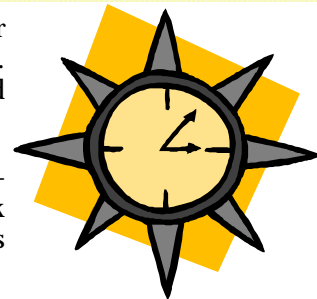
- Karla Sigmond
- Norma Sierra-Galindo
- Steven M. Taylor



# Fall Leadership 2010: The Time is Now

By Connie Pruett, MVEA Vice-President

*The 2010 Fall* Leadership Conference was held September 11<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Santa Ana. Most Reps loved the new venue, and enjoyed the wonderful free breakfast every morning.



Your Reps could attend 3 of the 4 trainings: CTA/NEA Leadership Opportunities, Elections, Knowing Your Contract, and Political Action. A preliminary look at the evaluations showed the majority of them were pleased with both the trainings and the location.

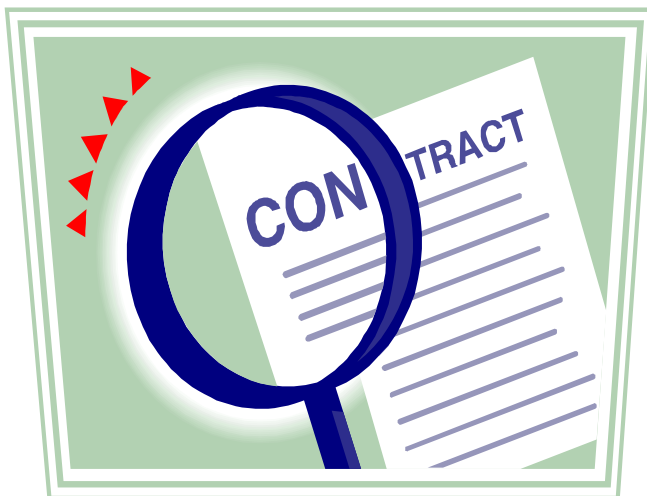
The Reps first task was to fill in the statement: "A Time for \_\_\_\_ is NOW!" Here are some of their responses:

- |  |                                   |                                  |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Action   | Political Responsibility          | Bringing Back Electives          |
| Reality  | Student Accountability            | Settling the Contract            |
| Collaboration  | Phone Banking                     | a New School Board               |
| Positivity   | a Contract                        | Appreciating Teaching            |
| Accountability   | Retirement                        | Members                          |
| Empowerment  | Listening                         | Strategic Thinking               |
| No Furloughs   | Progress                          | Students First                   |
| a Raise  | a State Budget                    | Equal Treatment                  |
| Reform   | Proactiveness                     | New Ideas                        |
| Commitment   | Focus                             | Bringing Back Voc Ed             |
| Support  | More Public Support               | Harmony                          |
| Reaching Out   | Restructuring Education           | Strategic Planning               |
| A Revolution   | Concern                           | Speaking Up                      |
| Speaking Out   | Communication                     | Settlement                       |
| A Stronger SARB  | Children                          | Release of Funding               |
| Strength   | Consistency                       | Parent Accountability            |
| Change   | A Reality Check                   | An Agent of Change               |
| Education  | Success                           | Taking Care of Ourselves         |
| Justice  | Professional Image of Educators   | Escape                           |
| Loud, Non-Complacent Activism  | Getting Rid of Standardized Tests | Teaching the Child, Not the Test |
| Demanding Intelligent Financial Allocations of Funds                 |                                   |                                  |
| State and National Government Reps to Use Common Sense for the Truth |                                   |                                  |

# Class Size Grievances

By Harold Acord, MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

## Please File Class Size Grievances Immediately Upon Going Over Class Size!



*Agreement on Class Size* pp. 106-107. If this process is not followed, then these payments cannot be authorized by the District or MVEA. MVEA has expressed your frustrations to the District in Problem Solving regarding the forms for these payments getting bogged down at the District Office. Please let your Site Reps know immediately if you have signed this paperwork so that they can inform the MVEA Problem Solving Team about them. In this way, we can be vigilant about the process and help ensure that the paperwork makes it through the system in a timely manner and you are paid for the extra work you are doing. *Remember that if you choose not to be over in class size, the District must remove students from your class so that you will be at class size limits!*



*MVEA Site Reps* o n c e again are to be commended for doing an excellent job reporting class size issues at their sites to the MVEA Problem Solving Team and representing our members as they file their class size grievances with their site administrators. MVEA has shared the information members have sent with the District. Further, your Association has informed the District that MVEA expects the class size overages to be remedied as soon as possible. When class sizes exceed the maximums stated in the Contract, a Bargaining Unit member is encouraged to file a grievance while working with the principal to rectify the situation or it is determined that it is an untenable situation.

The Class Size Grievance Process is described in the Contract. Please remember that **once a member and the administration have mutually agreed that the situation is untenable, any payments for 1/6 pay or for class size overages must go through the process** delineated in the Contract *Article XIII Class Size* pp. 24-26 and also the *Side Letter*

Here is a checklist for watching the timeline on these payments:

1. Talk with your administrator to see if the situation is untenable.
2. Fill out the paperwork.
3. Notify MVEA that you are in this process. (We can make sure that the District follows through.)
4. Check back with your administrator/secretary within 5 workdays (and continue to do so) until you are paid.
5. Notify MVEA again if you are not paid within 30 days.

In Solidarity,

Harold Acord

MVEA Director of Contract Maintenance

# Educators of the Month: Christine Rightnar & Beverly Lopez

By Janet MacMillan, MVEA President

*The* Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce recognizes an educator each month for outstanding contributions to students in the Moreno Valley Unified School District.

**Christine Rightnar** was recognized in May. Christine is an institution at Midland Elementary School. She attended the school. As the parent of four Midland students, she served as a volunteer for the PTA and School Site Council. When she heeded the advice of Midland staff to get her teaching credential, Christine did so and was assigned to Midland as a teacher. She quickly earned the respect of her colleagues for going far beyond her classroom duties. Christine continued her work with PTA and SSC, only this time as a teacher. Her door was always open before and after school to support students who needed a little extra help. Christine recognized that the limited time allocated for science during the school day was not enough to challenge students so she started an after school science club to ensure that all the standards were covered and that students learned to love science. Christine will be missed by the Midland staff this year as she begins a new assignment at Edgemont.

**Beverly Lopez Armejo** was the August

Educator of the Month. Beverly's career covers several phases. She began as a high school Spanish and English Language Development teacher where she served as department chair. She moved from there into an English Language Development Specialist assigned to secondary schools. Currently she is the EL Parent Involvement Specialist working from the District office with all sites. Beverly's accomplishments range from sharing expert instructional strategies to co-writing grants that brought over a million dollars to Moreno Valley High School to add dual immersion and career/tech components to the EL program. Beverly's focus now is on teaching parents how to become involved in the school system by helping their students and becoming active in school committees such as ELAC and SSC. A group of Beverly's parents presented a plan to the School Board to increase parent involvement at all sites. This DELAC group was responsible for the signs at each school promoting positive attendance.

Congratulations to Christine Rightnar and Beverly Lopez-Armejo, two teachers recognized by their colleagues for their tireless commitment to the students and parents of Moreno Valley!



## NBC News Teacher Town Hall Event

From Dennis Van Roekel, National Education Association President

*NBC News* will host a Teacher Town Hall special event with Brian Williams on MSNBC on Sunday, September 26 at 9 a.m. PST. Tune in to be a part of the discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing American schools today.

To participate in the virtual Town Hall open forum and live voting, register today at [educationnation.com](http://educationnation.com).

Please pass this message along to all the National Education Association (NEA) members that you know. While the Town Hall is focused on teachers, we see this more broadly as inclusive of higher education, ESP, and administrators. The goal is no less than 100,000 NEA members (that's us!) participating come September 26. Let's show NBC we appreciate that they will listen to our voice!



**The Official Publication  
of the Moreno Valley  
Educators Association**

23025 Atlantic Circle, Suite A  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553  
Phone: 951-485-0545  
Fax: 951-485-0353  
Email: info@mveainfo.com

*Moreno Valley Educators Association is an organization of professionals which serves as a powerful **voice** communicating the needs of Educators and students to the district, parents, and community in order to establish a **positive** school environment and build **quality educational programs**. The Association will continue to **protect the rights** of Educators, and thereby students, **by promoting equity and human rights**.*

**Important Dates:**

- **Sept. 20—Nov. 2**  
School board Phone Banking at MVEA Office 5-7:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 28** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **Oct. 6** Executive Board meeting @ 4 p.m.
- **Oct. 12** School Board meeting @ 7 p.m.
- **Oct. 13** Rep Council mtg. @ 4 p.m.
- **Oct. 26** School Board meeting @ 7:00
- **Nov. 2** VOTE!

**YOUR MVEA  
REPS WANT  
YOU!**



**WHO:** YOU and your SCHOOL SITE!

**WHAT:** Phone Banking for our Endorsed School Board Candidates!

**WHERE:** MVUSD office

**WHEN:** Starting 9/20-11/2 from 5:00-7:30pm! (dinner from 5-5:30p)

**WHY:** To help our 3 MVEA-friendly candidates win the election this November!

**PRIZES AND DOOR RAFFLES  
WILL BE DONE THROUGHOUT  
THE NIGHT!!**

**MVEA Executive Board:**

<b>President</b>	Janet MacMillan	<b>Director of Member Services</b>	José Alcalá
<b>Vice-President</b>	Connie Pruett	<b>Director of Political Action</b>	Anne Prows
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Murphy	<b>Co-Director of Elementary</b>	Vacant
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Weir	<b>Co-Director of Elementary</b>	Omar Tinoco
<b>Executive Director</b>	Ann Adler	<b>Director of Middle School</b>	Mike Sorter
<b>Director of Contract Maintenance</b>	Harold Acord	<b>Director of High School</b>	Juanita Quiroz
<b>Director of Communication</b>	Cathy Fulgenzi	<b>CTA State Council Members</b>	Harold Acord,
<b>Director of Human Rights</b>	Danny Alvarez		José Alcalá, Janet MacMillan, Connie Pruett
<b>Director of Instruction &amp; Prof. Dev.</b>	Sharon Orme	<b>CTA Board Rep. District O</b>	Mikki Cichocki
		<b>NEA Director District 11</b>	Katherine Underwood