

California State
PTA
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Honorary Service Awards

Unleash the power of

PTA

April 29 - May 2, 2010

111th Annual
CONVENTION
Sacramento, California

California State PTA

2010 HONORARY SERVICE AWARDS

Honorary Service Awards (HSA) recognize the service and dedication of both individuals and organizations. They are awarded only by unit, council and district PTAs and by the California State PTA. The HSA Program includes the Honorary Service Award, Continuing Service Award, Golden Oak Service Award, Very Special Person Award, and donations to the HSA Program. A person may receive more than one of any of these awards.

VERY SPECIAL PERSON AWARD

The Very Special Person (VSP) Award may be given by individuals or PTA constituent organizations to recognize an individual or group.

HONORARY SERVICE AWARD

An Honorary Service Award (HSA) may be given to an individual or organization in special recognition of outstanding service to children and youth.

CONTINUING SERVICE AWARD

A Continuing Service Award (CSA) may be given to an individual or organization in special recognition of continued service to children and youth. Recipients may or may not have received an Honorary Service Award.

GOLDEN OAK SERVICE AWARD

The Golden Oak Service Award is the most prestigious PTA award in California. This award may be given to an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the welfare of children and youth in the school or community.

DONATIONS

Donations may be given by PTAs/PTSAs or by individuals in tribute to a person, a group or in memoriam. The donation may be made in any amount. An acknowledgment card or certificate, as requested, will be sent when a donation of \$10 or more is made. Any individual or group may donate to the HSA program fund; the fund is not limited to contributions by PTAs.

Funds contributed to the HSA Program provide resources for the California Scholarship and Grant Program. Individuals or organizations can make donations:

- As a contribution;
- To say thank you or to honor an individual for service given;
- In tribute to a person who already has received an Honorary Lifetime Membership, Honorary Service Award, Continuing Service Award or Golden Oak Service Award;
- In tribute to an organization or group of people for service given; or
- In memoriam.



**The California State PTA will present
Honorary Service Awards
during the General Meetings.**

California State PTA

2010 HONORARY SERVICE AWARDS

Thursday, April 29 – General Meeting 1

Pat Dingsdale
California State PTA Golden Oak
Award

Friday, April 30 – General Meeting 2

Tammy Anderson-Wise
Dairy Council of California
Continuing Service Award

Friday, April 30 – Candidates Forum

League of Women Voters
Honorary Service Award

Saturday, May 1 – General Meeting 4

Jack O'Connell
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction
National PTA Life Achievement Award

Saturday, May 1 – General Meeting 5

Velma Moore
Foster parent
Honorary Service Award

Sunday, May 2 – General Meeting 6

Honorary Service Awards:

Kelly Kovacic
Teacher of the Year

John Mockler
Education consultant

Deb Hubsmith
Safe Routes to School

Pat Dingsdale, Golden Oak Service Award

Pat Dingsdale began her PTA career in Ninth District PTA, Sweetwater Council, more than 30 years ago. When her family moved to Simi Valley, she continued her involvement, eventually serving as the President of Twelfth District. She went on to serve on the State Board as Vice President for Leadership, Vice President for Education and First Vice President. In the latter role, Dingsdale was responsible for organizing PTA's annual convention and was honored as the Convention Planner of the Year by the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau. During this time, in the early '90s, she was also active in the Prop 174 campaign, standing up for public education and opposing school vouchers. Dingsdale served as President of the California State PTA from 1993 to 1995.

At the National PTA level, Dingsdale served as Education Chairman and as a member of the Legislation Committee. She remained on the state board for many years as a Past President, until she was coaxed out of semi-retirement in 2005 to join the Legislation Team as an education advocate. After serving one term in that position, Dingsdale was appointed Director of Legislation for the 2007-2009 term. In addition to the usual duties of the Director, during her term Dingsdale served as the PTA lead on the Hewlett Foundation grant project. She also served as chair of "Together for California's Future," a statewide budget coalition campaign, demonstrating her dedication and credibility within the education community and beyond. She also directed California State PTA's "Flunk the Budget" campaign, which was awarded the outstanding advocacy award by National PTA.

In describing Dingsdale, her PTA colleagues use words such as insightful, humble, encouraging and optimistic. She is courageous during the hard times, but is also able to find the humor in a given situation. She has a knack for identifying people with leadership potential and encouraging them to take on new challenges. Dingsdale was never interested in the spotlight; she just rolled up her sleeves and did the work. Everyone who worked with her, or served under her leadership, will always remember, appreciate and be grateful for having had the opportunity to do so. California State PTA presented Pat Dingsdale with its highest award, the Golden Oak Award, in honor of her 30 years of service.

Tammy Anderson-Wise, Dairy Council of California, Continuing Service Award

Dairy Council of California's story begins in 1919 when two well-known dairy industry leaders, Sam Greene and Chester Earl Gray were on San Francisco Bay ferryboat commuter trips reading about discoveries in the field of nutrition. They were inspired to create a link between nutrition science and dairy products, made up of volunteer producers and distributors. They saw an opportunity to provide services for the public as well as the dairy industry

Since 1919, the Dairy Council of California has been an innovator in nutrition education. Its mission is to help consumers make food choices for optimal health that match individual values. They do so using a total diet approach in which dairy is a cornerstone, through innovative learning programs, research and communication.

Working with education and nutrition experts to develop its programs, the Dairy Council of California provides free programs and resource materials to educators, parents and health professionals in California. Through constant monitoring, the Dairy Council identifies emerging trends in health, nutrition and education. As a result, the programs are based on the most current health recommendations.

Tammy Anderson-Wise has been an advisory board member to the California State PTA's Health Commission since 1999 when she became the Project Manager for the Dairy Council of California. Anderson-Wise has been an engaged and reliable participant in commission meetings. Each term there is a learning curve among the commissioners, and she patiently and generously brings all members up to speed, sharing her organization's stellar resources and mission. In addition, her promotion and explanation about the Dairy Council's standards-based curriculum materials, reference sheets for families, Mobile Dairy Classroom, and other programs and resources have enriched our ability to affect and improve the nutritional health of our children and members.

A Continuing Service Award was presented to Tammy Anderson-Wise of the Dairy Council of California for continued and invested interest and participation in, and support of, the activities of the health commission and the PTA.

League of Women Voters, Honorary Service Award

The League of Women Voters of California and its local Leagues throughout California have been dedicated to making democracy work through education and advocacy for nearly 100 years. Their mission calls for encouraging informed and active involvement in government at all levels. The league believes that a strong public education system accessible to all is fundamental to achieving its mission.

The League has a long history of working with PTA(s) on projects ranging from candidates forums to school bond /parcel tax measures and mock elections at the local level, to education-related ballot initiatives and other projects at the state level. Thirty years ago, the League, working in partnership with California State PTA and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded EdSource. All three organizations continue to have a representative on the EdSource board of directors. Since the early 2000s, public education pre-kindergarten-14, has been a priority issue for the League. From 2005 through 2008, the league partnered with the California State PTA, California School Boards Association and Children Now to work on the Hewlett Foundation-funded School Finance Exploration Project (SFEP).

PTA members also benefit from the league's educational projects such as SmartVoter, Easy Voter Guide, and candidate and issue forums, because a better informed public can cast a more informed vote. The League has also served as a lead organization on campaign finance reform and redistricting initiatives. The California State PTA presented an

Honorary Service Award to the League of Women Voters of California's President Janis R. Hirohama in recognition of the organization's work.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, National PTA Life Achievement Award

Jack O'Connell has demonstrated his commitment to California's children and families throughout his career as a teacher, school board member, Assembly member and state Senator. He has placed children first on his priority list during his two terms as California State Superintendent. O'Connell has been a strong supporter of PTA and has advocated for parent involvement on all committees, commissions and all outreach efforts of his department. He is also a proud PTA member.

In honor of O'Connell's passion, California State PTA honored him with the National PTA Life Achievement Award – the highest honor from the nation's largest child advocacy organization – as a person who daily lives out his commitment to children.

Velma Moore, foster parent, Honorary Service Award

Velma Moore became a foster parent in 1958, 52 years ago. Since that time she has opened her home to more than 300 children in need and currently is a foster parent to six developmentally disabled boys. She has also served as a PTA president.

Moore personally provides training to foster parents in her home county, runs a respite care program for foster parents and a food bank. In her spare time, she helps coordinate the Independent Living Program to prepare foster children to live on their own after they turn 18.

Moore has taken an active role in the California State Foster Parent Association since 1973 and has served the association as its president for the last two years. The association regularly provides training for foster parents. As president, she and her association represent all foster and kinship care providers – who care for more than 80,000 children – in dealings with county welfare departments and California's Department of Social Services.

Senior staff at the County Welfare Director's Association of California succinctly describe Moore as "a wonderful person, great advocate, passionate about the kids she serves." Velma Moore received the Honorary Service Award for her 52 years of service and dedication to foster children and their families.

Kelly Kovacic, 2010 California Teacher of the Year, Honorary Service Award

Kelly Kovacic, one of five 2010 California Teachers of Year, was selected by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell to represent California in the prestigious National Teacher of Year competition.

"I am delighted that Kovacic is representing California at the national level," said Superintendent O'Connell. "Ms. Kovacic is an exceptionally knowledgeable and effective teacher. She demonstrates an unparalleled passion and commitment to her students and school community that extends beyond the school day and school yard."

Kovacic teaches 12th grade Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics and 11th grade Advanced Placement U.S. History at The Preuss School, a charter school on the University of California, San Diego. The school provides a rigorous college preparatory education for motivated low-income students.

Two years ago, the parents of one of Kovacic's students lost their home and were forced to move into a homeless shelter. Despite this, the student stuck with Kovacic's after-school tutorial program. At the end of last year, the student wrote of the extraordinary role Kovacic played: "You helped me survive classes, hundreds of assignments, and many stressful days. You are always encouraging me to succeed. You are my guardian angel."

Two summers ago, Kovacic traveled to Malawi, Africa, to train teachers and teach literacy skills. There she heard the proverb: “Knowledge is like a garden. If it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.” “Our role as teachers is to cultivate and harvest the garden so that each child can achieve personal greatness,” she said. Kovacic was presented with an California State PTA Honorary Service Award in recognition to her commitment to students.

John Mockler, education policy and finance consultant, Honorary Service Award

John Mockler is an institution in Sacramento. Almost anything dealing with school finance in the last 30 years bears some imprint from Mockler. Currently an education policy and finance consultant, Mockler served as executive director of the California State Board of Education during the Davis Administration and served in an interim capacity as California’s secretary of education. He is the chief author of Proposition 98 and is a vocal supporter of getting down to business and closing the achievement gap. Mockler has been a great friend to the California State PTA, providing guidance and information on ballot issues and initiatives. Mockler once told California State PTA President Jo Loss that PTA was his hero. PTA took the opportunity to let him know that he is one of ours. California State PTA presented Mockler with an Honorary Service Award.

Deb Hubsmith, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) National Partnership

Deb Hubsmith is the founding director of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) National Partnership and the driving force behind its success. The Partnership is a network of more than 400 nonprofit organizations, including government agencies, schools and professional groups working together to advance the Safe Routes to School movement in the United States. The partnership focuses on building partnerships, changing policies, advancing legislation and improving the environment.

Hubsmith truly believes that SRTS can play a critical role in improving the health of all our children, communities and the environment, nationwide. For more than 10 years, she has worked to enable children to walk or ride a bike to school safely. She helped lead the successful Marin County SRTS pilot program, and then took the results to the national level by working on the campaign to dedicate \$612 million to SRTS projects and programs. This was approved by Congress as part of the 2005 federal Transportation Bill. In 2007, she led efforts in California to ensure approval of AB 57, establishing a framework for appropriations to SRTS projects, and ensuring \$52 million in state funds for the program. Soon, Hubsmith began working extensively with the California State PTA both at the national and the state level. California State PTA is represented on the SRTS Partnership.

California State PTA supports the goals of SR2S. A 2007 resolution was adopted entitled “Safe Routes to School for All Children.” PTA believes that it is healthy for children and communities when kids are able to walk or bike to school safely. It is right in step with the healthy lifestyle first lady Michelle Obama is promoting. Above all, PTA wants children to be safe. PTA took a support position on AB 321, legislation that extends the school zone to 1,000 feet and lowers the speed limit to 15 mph in qualifying schools. Now that the law has been passed, SRTS Partnership has worked to promote the law throughout the State of California by posting information about it on its website. California State PTA recognized Deb Hubsmann with an Honorary Service Award.

California State PTA’s Honorary Service Awards (HSA) are available to recognize the service and dedication of both individuals and organizations. Funds contributed to the HSA Program provide resources for the California Scholarship and Grant Program. To learn more, visit www.capta.org/sections/programs/a-honorary-serv.cfm.