



### *Robin Ponce-Edgington Named WHO Award Recipient*

The Executive Committee named Robin Ponce-Edgington (BAE) the We Honor Ours (WHO) Award recipient for the California Teachers Association Southeastern Service Center. Robin will be honored at dinner Wednesday, May 25 at the Cerritos Sheraton.

Robin has been a Building Rep for nearly 20 years. She has served as the Social Committee Chairperson for the past 11 years. Robin's creativity is notable at the Retirement dinners, Council refreshments, and Fall Leadership Conference socials.



## **New Law Extends the Timeline for Teachers of ELL Students to Receive 45 Clock Hours of Staff Development**

AB 2913 extended the timeline for teachers of English Language Learners (ELL) students to receive 45 clock hours of staff development from January 1, 2005 to **January 1, 2008**.

The previous law permitted a teacher with a basic teaching credential to be assigned to provide specially designed content instruction delivered in English, if that teacher completed, before January 1, 2005, 45 clock hours of staff development in *methods of specially designed content instruction delivered in English*. This new law, signed by the Governor, extended the January 1, 2005, deadline for the completion of the required staff development to January 1, 2008. See 44253.10 of the Education Code for the precise language of the law.

## **Improvements Granted in STRS Law**

CTA sponsored legislation SB 102 (Burton) and AB 1852 (Mullin) will take effect as State law January 1, 2005. The new law will allow unused sick days to help qualify for STRS bonuses. Also, teachers who decide to return to teaching following retirement will not have fewer limitations for accepting positions in their former districts and new districts. For more information go to [leginfo.ca.gov](http://leginfo.ca.gov).

## **CTA and NEA Goal in Recommendation Process For Federal Candidates**

The ultimate goal of the CTA and NEA recommendation process is to support federal candidates who share the Association's commitment to children and public education. NEA measures candidates, regardless of political affiliation, based on issues that affect children and the men and women who work in our public schools and colleges. These issues include:

- Increasing funding for critical education programs;
- Fixing and adequately funding the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, otherwise known as the No Child Left Behind Act;
- Providing \$50 billion in unrestricted fiscal relief for states;
- Opposing the use of public money for private and religious school vouchers and tax subsidies;
- Repealing unfair Social Security offsets, and;
- Providing guaranteed full funding for special education.

The **Teacher Tax Credit** was suspended for two years by the California State Legislature. Teachers throughout California are petitioning the Legislature to restore the credit. A copy of the petition is on the back of this *Contact*. Petitions may be photo copied. **Please return the petitions to the MTA office no later than Friday, October 29.**