



**Orange
County
School
Boards
Association**

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2003-2004

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

May/June 2004 Edition

2003-2004 Marian Bergeson Award Winner

Our Marian Bergeson Award recipient demonstrates dedication and commitment by her tireless fourteen years of service as a trustee of the Huntington Beach City School District. Shirley Carey is an outstanding advocate for public education and has strategically used her leadership and credibility to support the delivery of a high quality education for all children. Shirley's influence reaches beyond her school district to impact decisions at the county, state, and national levels.

During her years of service as a Trustee, Shirley has demonstrated the ability to strategize and implement effective techniques for building consensus and keeping the lines of communication open. Never afraid of a challenge, she has the courage and fortitude to confront difficult issues and is persistent about resolving problems. In the community, Shirley is often sought out to provide leadership in important organizations and endeavors. Shirley Carey embodies the qualities of leadership, moral character, and unselfish service that the Marian Bergeson Award seeks to recognize.

Shirley Carey



Marian Bergeson congratulates Shirley Carey on receiving the Award.

2002-2003 Maureen DiMarco Award Winner

Tenacious, dynamic, and visionary are words that come to mind when describing Judge Pamela Iles, Orange County Superior Court, the 2003 Maureen DiMarco Award Winner. Judge Iles demonstrated her leadership in addressing the broad needs of young people as the OCSBA dinner speaker in April. All too often, the cycle of violence disrupts the lives of children. When children feel safe, they attend school regularly and learn more readily than when they feel threatened. Judge Iles provided an impassioned overview of the innovations she has initiated in the judicial and court system which are safeguarding children and their families. She was surprised following her speech by the presentation of the Maureen DiMarco Award!

Appointed to the bench in 1983, Judge Iles has been both a Public Defender and Deputy District Attorney. Shortly after being appointed to the bench, she established the CAST Program which is a triage unit for sexually assaulted children. She is a nationally respected expert on domestic violence and has spearheaded innovative symposiums on child abuse/domestic violence issues for teachers and clergy. Judge Iles is the recipient of numerous honors and awards for her work on behalf of children and domestic violence issues. As a Maureen DiMarco Honoree, Judge Iles demonstrates exemplary leadership and vision in addressing the needs of children to ensure their well-being and school success.

Judge Pamela Iles



Judge Iles was surprised by her brother, Randy, at the April OCSBA dinner meeting when she received her Award.

Farewell from the
2003-2004 OCSBA President
Bill Dunton, Fullerton Joint Union High School District



First, I want to thank the members of the 2003-2004 OCSBA Board of Directors for their service above and beyond the call of duty. I was blessed with a group of vibrant, colorful, determined, knowledgeable, verbal people, all intent on doing what was best for kids - and that was their only agenda! My admiration is unlimited for those very busy board members who shouldered additional burdens, striving to make the role of a District Trustee easier and much better appreciated. It was, indeed, a case of peers working for peers. To quote someone, "Every one of them added another jewel to their crowns."

And then, there is a quote from Pablo Picasso: "I do not read English. An English book is a blank book to me. That does not mean that English does not exist. Why should I blame anyone but myself if I cannot understand what I know nothing about?" Both the 2004 Marian Bergeson recipient, Shirley Carey, and the 2003 Maureen DiMarco recipient, Judge Pam Iles, are classic examples of two individuals who continue to pursue a vision of understanding what education is all about! I think both of them would agree with R.E. Clyde who said, "Getting things done is not always what is important. There is value in allowing others to learn, even if the task is not accomplished as quickly, efficiently or effectively."

Too often Sacramento and the news media seek a "silver bullet" guaranteed to cure the ills that menace our kid's education. Richard Riordan, for example, advocated a premise that school boards and district administrators are passé and that individual school principals should determine what, where, when, why and how school monies would be spent. Principals are hip-boot deep in raising test scores. Laying still more duties on their backs would amount to cruel and unusual punishment!

Is the former Los Angeles mayor suggesting we need more levels of administration at EACH school campus to do purchasing, hiring, providing utilities, remodeling, etc.? And remember, along with state money comes the responsibility of accountability! What additional campus level administrative staff would be necessary just to satisfy the state's insatiable appetite for paper work? And who is going to pay for their services?

What we do need is a reasonable time span to allow indicators to demonstrate progress. What we don't need is another dose of snake oil intended to solve all our ills with a quick fix. What we do need is the freedom to run our schools with the least possible governmental interference. We need to convince state level personnel that this IS the right time to see if present system changes are forcing the educational ship of state to change course before we toss out the baby with the bath water!

Is this a plea for status quo? Not hardly! Anatole France said, "To accomplish great things, we must dream as well as act." We DO need educational change. A mad dash toward every suggested modification without having the proper background to understand the suggested solutions or having credible safeguards in place for accountability is not productive. George Patton once remarked, "Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what is needed and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

Thanks again for the privilege of serving you as OCSBA President this year. I wish Meg Cutuli and the 2004 -2005 Board of Directors good luck and God-speed! You are in great hands.

A final word of perspicacity, and I think the Talmud said it best: "We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are." Good boardmanship to you all and may that be the legacy you leave to your District and its kids!

NEW ORANGE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

Dr. George Giokaris – Fullerton Joint Union High School District

Dr. Giokaris has been employed in Fullerton Joint Union High School District for 30 years and may be the first individual appointed Superintendent in that district who has worked his way up through the ranks. He has served as teacher, athletic director, coach, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, assistant to the superintendent, administrator of educational services, and most recently as a district deputy superintendent. He has been actively involved in all aspects of the District's educational programs and operation, including technology, human resources, contract negotiations, curriculum and instructional improvement, health insurance, budget development, and facility improvement.

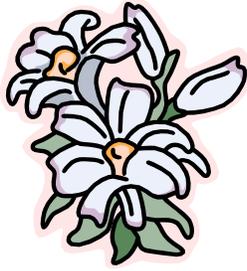
Dr. Giokaris earned his bachelor's at Stanford, a secondary teaching credential at UCLA, a master's degree at Cal State University Fullerton, and a doctorate in educational leadership at USC. He and his wife Nancy, an elementary school teacher, have two children. He enjoys outdoor activities, including bicycling, backpacking, and camping.

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Political Action Group Efforts
Suzie Swartz, Chairperson

Speaker: Michael Ruane, Executive Director
Children and Families Commission of Orange County

- ♦ School nurses provide the strongest connection between schools and the health community and should be utilized as part of the health access professional network
- ♦ The School Nurse Expansion Project provides funding to local school districts from 2 FTE at large districts, 0.5 FTE at small districts, and 1 FTE at other districts



In Memory of

Barbara Benson

Long time board member of the
Tustin Unified School District

Antonio Valle, Jr.

Long time board member of the
La Habra City School District

ROBERT C. FISLER SCHOOL

Robert "Bob" Fisler, a long time Fullerton City School District Board Member, has been honored with a new school in his name opening this coming fall. The modern facility is in the new development on the previous Hughes Aircraft property near Gilbert and Malvern. The K - 8 math & science emphasis school will start the first year with Kindergarten through 7th grade. Each student in grades 3-8 will be expected to have a lap top computer supplied by the parents.

Bob has had an interesting life. He graduated in engineering, went to Venezuela looking for a job and ended up working for the U.S. Government checking on where the German subs were refueling in the Caribbean area before WW II. He was in Spain during their Civil War and later went to Wisconsin to teach on an Indian reservation where he met a lovely nurse who became his wife. He was in Alaska to train the Eskimos in preparation should that area be invaded by either



Meg Cutuli

2004-2005 OCSBA President

The newly elected President of the Orange County School Boards Association is Meg Cutuli who also serves as the Clerk for the Los Alamitos Unified School District. Meg was elected in 2000 and is finishing up her first term and planning her re-election campaign. Meg has been active in the community since the time her oldest child started kindergarten in 1980 and felt that serving on the Los Alamitos school board was the best place to put her passion for education. From her first year on her board, she has been an active member of the Orange County School Boards Association and finds the group to be a great place to identify unifying concerns



Update on Orange County's School Districts

Compiled by Karin Freeman – Unified Representative, Sue Kuwabara – Unified Representative, and Donna McDougall – Elementary Representative

Brea Olinda

Brea Olinda Unified has as its goal a \$1.5 million budget reduction and, naturally, that is hard work.

Centralia

Centralia continues to seek outside sources of funding for programs and services. Superintendent Bobbi Mahler is retiring, and the process will begin soon to select a new superintendent.

Cypress

Cypress will be closing a school in June. In January a committee was chosen from all parts of the school community to develop criteria. They met often and then after the school was selected, public hearings were held. The process was thorough and went very smoothly.

Irvine

Class Size Reduction for K-3 will be retained for 2004-2005 if the Irvine Unified's Public School Foundation receives enough donations for the program. The Irvine Public School Foundation is raffling a new house in Quail Hill. Tickets are selling quickly. If you're interested in buying a ticket go to www.IPSF.net for details.

Magnolia

Magnolia has had four schools on multi-track year-round schedules this year. Three schools will change to custom year-round. They will remain year-round should there be a need to return to multi-track.

Newport-Mesa

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District will retain Class Size Reduction for 2004-2005. The District is working very hard with the oversight committee on the second phase of measure A, the bond measure that passed a couple of years ago. Many Newport-Mesa students met the Dali Lama at UCI in April which was made possible by Global Connect. Culinary students from Newport Harbor High are heading to a national competition.

Placentia-Yorba Linda

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified is faced with a \$4.3 million budget reduction. In prior years, cuts have been kept as far from the classroom as possible. However, this time the district has decided to eliminate the class size reduction program at the third-grade level for next year. The district has had to issue reduction in force notices to both certificated and classified. In terms of facilities, one new elementary will open fall 2004, and one in fall 2005.

Savanna

Savanna principal at Holder Elementary will be retiring, and soon the process will begin to select a new principal.

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Saddleback Valley

After having switched Kindergarten from Option 1 CSR to Option 2, and eliminating 20-1 in third grade, the Board has taken the position that any further reinstatement of CSR in third grade through donated funds would have to occur district wide (for the 04-05 year.) We currently have a dedicated parent committee working very hard to that end. To go forward, their target will have to be met by June to allow schools time to prepare. We are all ecstatic over the passing of Measure B, our \$180,000,000 facilities bond. The District Administrators are working diligently to put our Citizen's Oversight Committee in place and prepare for the bond sale and subsequent projects. SVUSD had the great pleasure of receiving eight nominations from the California Department of Education and has just been notified that all eight of those elementary schools have been recognized as 2004 California Distinguished Schools. We also take pride in the fact that starting in 2004-2005, rather than just the two schools currently offering International Baccalaureate, each of our four comprehensive high schools will offer the International Baccalaureate Program to their students.

Tustin

The board is excited about the two new schools opening in fall 2004: Hicks Elementary and Beckman High. A parent group called TEACH is trying to raise \$250,000 to help retain third grade CSR. Tustin is in the process of implementing their recently passed bond measure G, working with their community oversight committee to prioritize projects.

**Orange County
School Boards Association
2004-2005
(Effective July 1, 2004)**

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