



Nothing - and everything - has changed as we enter Memorial Day weekend. It remains a time to remember and thank military members and families for their courageous and unselfish service to our country. There are those first hot days reminding us summer is just around the corner. It still signals entering into the home stretch of the school year.

Yet, it feels so differently because nothing about our spring was normal. Nothing about the end of the school year is normal. Nothing about the anticipation of summer time "off" or starting a new school year is normal.

Despite the incongruity, the constant is our steadfast focus on doing what is best for our students. Some of our members have thrived with distance learning as others have struggled. Some have never worked so many hours in a day as others have found more time away from work. Some are stressed out because they are taking care of family non-stop, while others are checking off personal to-do list items.

None of it is wrong and all of it is right because we always do our best for our students.

One thing has been brought into clear focus during this pandemic. Political decisions affect our students, classrooms and profession. From grading policy and funding to safety protocols and so on, politics deeply impact education. I'm not talking partisan politics. Education doesn't belong to a political party. We need every lawmaker to prioritize funding for public education.

California faces difficult financial times as the economy struggles to regain traction. Reopening

schools is a key component to allowing this to happen. It is our job to ensure the reopening happens in ways so it is safe and educationally sound for students and our members.

This is only going to happen if California public schools are properly funded. This will happen only with the passage of the HEROES Act or similar federal money. With federal assistance, we will be able to avoid drastic cuts that hurt our members, our students and public education. This is only going to happen when FSUTA members lead the way.

Whether you are conservative, liberal or any other label, we need everyone to join together to protect a free, quality public education for our children. **Be proactive by calling your Senator today at 855-977-1770 and urging them to pass the HEROES Act.**

Become involved so we can elect four teacher-friendly members to the FSUSD Governing Board in November. Bolster support for Schools and Community First on the November ballot so millions of dollars will go to public education.

If teachers, counselors, nurses, librarians, and specialists will not advocate politically for ourselves, our students and the public education they deserve, who will?

This is a call to arms this Memorial Day weekend. Your weapon is your vote and your voice. Our union is your militia. Our students of today and tomorrow cannot afford for us to lose.

*Nancy Dunn, FSUTA President*

# ALL ON BOARD

Four newcomers join Executive team

“The Brady Bunch” does not come close. Even “Eight Is Enough” is not enough. Steve Patton surpassed those two popular television shows 17 years ago when he married Carolyn. Steve bought six children and Carolyn added five from previous marriage to form a new family of 13.

Steve is one of three new Members at Large who will join the FSUTA Executive Board after prevailing in our recent election. He has worked at four schools during his 21 years in our district and currently teaches third grade at Fairview.

Also joining our Executive Board as a Member at Large is Sarah Morton, who refused for years to heed her mother’s advice and become a teacher. Sarah finally did so in 2015, three years after her mother passed away, and is currently a middle school teacher at B. Gale Wilson.

The third newcomer as a Member Large is Tamia Farley, who followed her mother’s lead by becoming a teacher at Green Valley. “My passion for education and the teachers association has come from my mom,” Tamia wrote in her email. “I am excited to share my passionate energy as I represent and work for what is best for FSUTA teachers.”

Pam Williamson was elected to the board as Recording Secretary. She teaches in the Early College High School program at Solano Community College. In her spare time, she is finishing work on her third master’s degree, this one in American History, and playing with her “daughter” Maddie - a 1-year-old English Springer Spaniel.

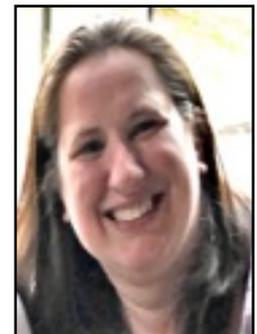
Returning to the Executive Board board as incumbents will be Janet Renfrow as Treasurer and Audrey Jacques as Corresponding Secretary. Also returning will be Dan Pozzesi as a Member at Large after being one of seven candidates running for four positions.



Steve and Carolyn Patton



Pam Williamson



Tamia Farley

Sarah Morton and son Seth

## Gift of our gratitude

FSUTA would like to thank Laurie Thompson for years of service as our Recording Secretary as well as Jamie VanWart and Christina Kling for serving as Members at Large.



Jamie VanWart



Laurie Thompson



Christina Kling



Colette Renville



Ann Story



Patricia Kino

## School's out from now on

Patricia Richards not only is retiring after 39 years in our district. The third-grade teacher at K.I. Jones is also vacating the top spot on the certificated seniority list. Also retiring is Deanna Alloway, who is fourth at 36 years.

Our retiring teachers were invited to share a few parting words, and here is what three had to say.

Ann Story had a rather unique start to her career. Her final evaluation as a student teacher was on Sept. 11, 2001. That was three months after her student teaching was interrupted by our members going out on strike. Her career is ending on a much more harmonious note after leading the Ukulele Club at Nelda Mundy the past three years. All of that will be left behind when Ann and her husband of 39 years hit the road in their new Travel Trailer.

Colette Renville never imagined her 30-year career would end with distance learning, but the second-grade teacher at K.I. Jones has embraced the challenge. "I am still driven in this new reality, always reflecting and never underestimating the powers of a growth mindset," Colette wrote in her email. "As teachers, we persevere."

Patricia Kino found her calling as a teacher by working with visually impaired students. The benefit of being an itinerant teacher was having the opportunity to work with "wonderful and interesting colleagues." Patricia taught in San Jose for seven years before coming to our district 30 years ago.

Congratulations to all our retiring teachers, and we wish you the best in the next chapter of your life.

## Farewell to Class of 2020



**Darryl Adams**, *Rodriguez*

**Greg Aldridge**, *Nelda Mundy*

**Deanna Alloway**, *Anna Kyle*

**David Brown**, *Cleo Gordon*

**Georgia Cerda**, *Armijo*

**Carla Colbert**, *Grange*

**May Cranford**, *Fairfield High*

**Oneta Edmonds**, *Armijo*

**Linda Forsell**, *Fairfield High*

**Linda Huff**, *David Weir*

**Patricia Kino**, *HGR*

**Lynne Lee**, *Armijo*

**Patricia Leiferman**, *K.I. Jones*

**Michael Levy**, *Sheldon*

**Nancy Martinez**, *David Weir*

**Elizabeth Osburn**, *Cleo Gordon*

**Kathy Orr**, *Anna Kyle*

**Colette Renville**, *K.I. Jones*

**Kim Ron**, *Nelda Mundy*

**Ann Story**, *Nelda Mundy*

**Eileen Witt-Albedi**, *David Weir*

## 2019-2020: WE SURVIVED



# LEARNING TO BRIDGE THE DISTANCE



Kate and Scott Palmer (top) teach at their dining room table and have a baby monitor to keep an eye on their daughter Violet. Kate teaches fifth grade at Dan O. Root II. Scott is a sixth-grade teacher at Sheldon. Erin Giambattisti (left) turns into Elsa from the movie “Frozen” for her kindergarteners at Fairview. “Frozen” was to be shown at the school’s movie night before the event was canceled. Marjie Steplight introduces her cat Hazel to her fifth-graders at Crescent.