



Standing Room Only

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I hope all members took notice of the marquee at each of the colleges acknowledging Classified School Employee Week. Thanks to Chancellor Rodriguez for his support of my request.

Our Chapter has over 70 participants in the Area H Bowling activity coming up this Saturday. Now if we could just get 10% of that number to show up at Chapter meetings, it would let the E Board know that you support our efforts!

I am disappointed in the low turnout we have been experiencing recently. I know everyone is busy, but this is a business meeting of your union and it is your opportunity to voice

your concerns and especially share your ideas with us. When you get the meeting notice that we are visiting your site, please plan to attend. It is O.K. for you to bring your lunch.

I spoke with Terry, Ricardo's significant other, last night and he is making progress. She is looking forward to his being able to use a wheelchair and his return home. Let's continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Delegates have been selected to attend CSEA's annual conference. We have a very strong group of people representing you. Hopefully, you have all read the Resolutions published in the FOCUS magazine and

are willing to share your thoughts on how you would like the delegates to vote on each issue. A brief statement of each resolution has been published in our newsletter and at the June Chapter meeting we would like to hear your comments.

I look forward to seeing you on June 21st at Santa Ana College in R-115.

Marti Reiter

Chapter 579 Job Stewards Help us to Help You !

Marti Reiter

714-480-7512

Sean Small

714-564-5667

Ricardo Foreman

(out on sick leave)

Judy Arroyo

714-564-6211

Sylvia Gordon

714-564-6004

Tom Andrews

714-564-6310



2011 CSEA Conference Resolutions



This years CSEA Conference is just around the corner, so here are the remaining resolutions being brought forth at the convention. The first 9 resolutions were published in the March 2011 Standing Room Only newsletter. Here are the others:

10. Keeping the “C” in CSEA.

11. Dues Increase for 11 and 12 Month Employees.

12.Reaffirming Our CSEA as a Union of School Employees Only in the State of California.

13. Maintaining Credibility and Honoring the Labor Foundation of Our CSEA By Creating Checks and Balances to the Power and Authority of the Association President and By Granting Additional Power and Authority to the Board of Directors.

14.Encouraging Greater Accountability of Officers, Area Directors, and Alternate Area Directors to the Membership.

15.Protecting the Freedom of Expression of Presidentially Appointed Individuals.

16.Establishing a Committee to Propose and Implement a Balanced Approach to Community Based Organizing Within CSEA.

17. Protecting the Unity and Stability of Our CSEA.

If you have any questions about these resolutions, ask about them at a chapter meeting. I’ll be glad to try to answer any questions you may have. Please let your delegates know how you would like us to vote at the conference this July.

What Would Happen If They Paid

(Fullerton Observer, May 2011)

“Profits last year totaled \$4 Billion, but they paid ZERO dollars in federal income tax - and received a \$2.5 trillion bailout.

According to reports on file at the Securities and Exchange Commission, Chevron’s 2009 profits were \$10 billion. Its IRS refund last year totaled \$19 million. How did they do that?

According to Independent Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, they were able to defer \$147 million against a tax liability of \$128 million, giving them an income tax refund of \$19 million.

Over the last decade, the five largest oil companies made more than \$750 billion in profits! And what would it mean to

our state and our country if corporations including Chevron were to pay their fair share? The oil companies are not the only corporate tax-dodgers. Others include:

Bank of America: \$4.4 billion in profits after a \$1 trillion bailout, and it received a \$1.9 billion tax refund.

General Electric: \$26 billion in profits over 5 years and received a \$4.1 billion tax refund, and it’s sending their jobs overseas.

Boeing: received a \$30 billion pentagon contract and received

a \$124 million refund.

Goldman Sachs: paid 1.1% of its 2008 income in taxes, yet it made a profit of \$2.3 billion.

Citigroup: profits last year totaled more than \$4 billion, but it paid zero dollars in federal income tax, and received a \$2.5 trillion bailout.

The list goes on. Go to www.sanders.gov/newsroom for a list of tax evaders. We can turn the nation around by closing the loopholes and ending subsidies to profitable corporations that don’t need them.



A Funny Story

A unionized public worker, a tea bagger, and a CEO are seated at a table. In the middle of the table is a plate with a

dozen chocolate chip cookies on it. The CEO reaches across the table and takes 11 cookies, looks at the tea bagger

and says, “Watch out for that union guy. He wants a piece of your cookie”.



Positive Change

Positive Change to Medical Reimbursement and Dependant Daycare

The district currently offers a medical and dependant care reimbursement plan, which allows employees to place pre-tax income into an account to pay for medical and/or dependent day care expenses not covered by our insurance plans. The maximum amount an employee can contribute a year to each plan is \$5,000. The plan is

currently administered by CONEXIS.

Participating employees now pay a service fee of \$5.00 per month. The district was paying a minimum monthly billing fee of \$100.00 in addition to set up fee charges and \$1.00 per check issued.

At the Board of Trustees meeting on May 10th American Fidelity was approved to administer the plan for fiscal year 2011-2012 at NO COST to the employee and the district.

Thank you to Don Maus, Risk Manager for pursuing this!



GOOD NEWS !

Chapter News & Negotiations Update

The last two Chapter meetings have some important items to note. First, the MOU CSEA had with the district regarding overtime has expired. Previously, we had agreed to accept comp-time only for overtime work. Now that the MOU has expired, our original contract language takes over, Articles 14.6 & 14.7.

Reclassification requests were reviewed and approved by our Chapter, but must now go back to Cabinet for approval. Stay tuned on this.

The Chapter unanimously adopted 3 resolutions to establish a humanitarian fund for

Chapter members. It will be called the “CSEA Chapter 579 Humanitarian Fund”. We created a new line item in the budget, and transferred \$500 from the CSEW budget into this new fund. We’re hoping to ease a tiny portion of the pain members may be feeling due to extreme financial or personal hardships. This fund is still in it’s early planning stages, and we’ll keep you informed either through email, SRO newsletter, or Chapter meetings.

CSEA and the district were unable to come to any agreement on a condensed summer work schedule. It would have been nice to save the district some money, but they want to stay

open on Friday’s. You can keep working your existing schedule, or meet with your manager on a one-on-one basis regarding changing your schedule.

Negotiations:

We still have no proposal from the district. The 579 Eboard suspects that the district is waiting for the May budget revise from Governor Brown. We on the Eboard have gotten our members message about what is top priority to negotiate this year, and we’re ready to go.

Chapter 579’s Unsung Hero for 2011 - Denise Phillips

Congratulations to Denise Phillips, CSEA Chapter 579’s Unsung Hero for 2011. Denise was honored at an awards ceremony and dinner held on May 13th.

Denise’s has a willingness and genuine desire to help whenever we ask and for whatever cause. I personally was taken back by her degree of help for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Food drives. Not only did she contact the SAC divisions, she placed decorated boxes (Xmas wrap) in each division,

collected food and stored it, and kept after the membership to keep on donating. This was totally without prompting or direction. Denise is also an excellent researcher – she knows where to get information – and quickly.

Denise has taken 1st and 2nd Job Steward training, but not the advanced, and is looking forward to being appointed as a steward. She has always been alert to union situations as they occur near her, and she is very active out there trying to keep us informed.

She has 25 years of service with Rancho,



and is a very valued member of our chapter. She continues to work behind the scenes to improve conditions for all classified workers.

CPRO'S Corner

ARE WE A BUSINESS OR A COLLEGE ?

Recently, a top district administrator said , “You people (CSEA) need to talk to your people - I’m trying to run a business here!”. Her statement, taken by itself, might be chalked up to the emotion of the moment. But I really started to question things when I read an article in the Orange County Register, by Register writer Scott Martindale, dated April 16, 2011. This article discussed a study that tracked 6,131 Orange county students who indicated upon enrollment in 2003-04 that they intended to earn a degree or certificate, finding that six years later, 68% hadn’t completed a degree and/or had dropped out. Our own chancellor stated in the article that, “This data is very discouraging, but we’ve known this for a long time.” The same article shows that at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo the drop out rate is only 38%. Latino students fared even worse in the study with an 86% dropout rate. Would you buy stock in a business that had a track record like that?

Let me also state that the article also gives several very good reasons why these statistics are so bad. One fact is that we must allow almost anyone who walks in to enroll. Second, as our chancellor was quoted, “It’s very hard when a community college student comes to us three or four grades below college level and we have to bring them up. They are playing catch-up all the time, and get discouraged. A lot of them give up”. Our “business” also offers a number of remediation programs, labs, and tutorial services. We also serve students who are just here to sharpen their skills or maybe to learn English. Given all the above, would you invest in this “business”, which has a 68% to 86% failure rate?

It’s too late. If you’re reading this you have already invested, some of us up to 30 years in this “business”. While you may feel that this is a waste, we need to look at some things that can’t be measured by a statistic or any of the usual criteria used to measure a business’s success.

A recent article in CSEA’s Focus magazine talking about the cost of budget cuts, brought up an idea that explains to me why my investment is good, if not vital, to our community. It talked about a young high school sophomore, Aradhana Sinha, who won the grand prize at the Monterey County Science and Engineering Fair. Her project was on lettuce, a cash crop in this “Salad Bowl of the World”, where 80% of the country’s lettuce is grown. Sinha isolated a gene that determines the plants susceptibility to a commonly used fungicide. While she will continue on to the state science fair, what she accomplished for her community and the country has far reaching implications beyond that school’s “bottom line”. Her work will enable growers to produce healthier lettuce faster by being able to use the fungicide more efficiently and without killing the plants. Sinha is only a sophomore, not in the workforce, and *her education has already benefitted her community*. Now that is the kind of investment I like to think we support.

How many Aradhana Sinha’s are out there in our district? How many students that we touch go on to successful lives, perhaps not as measurable as Sinha’s, but none the less, just as vital as a good “bottom line”? Imagine the fire tech or nursing student who goes on to save the life of someone who discovers the cure for cancer? How do you measure that? What about the auto mechanic or welder who finds a way to improve those industries? Whether they go on to earn a degree is not always the best measure of what we accomplish here.

We are not a “human resource” to be treated as just another “tool” to improve a bottom line. These “old tools” need to be respected for what they have accomplished for their investment - not cleared out as callously as a dull shovel, to make room for the newer, cheaper model. We all work together to inspire all of the “Sinhas” we can, not to improve the bottom line. Education is an investment in the future, not a business with a bottom line. We are educators, each of us doing their part to create the immeasurable success that cannot be captured in a business statistic.