



STANDING ROOM ONLY

Presidents Message

Inside this issue:

Area H Bowling	1
Chapter News	2
Classified Employees	2
Short Staffing	3
Bare Minimums	3
Job Stewards	5
CPRO's Comer	6

President's Message

Congratulations to the Classified Awards recipients! All classified employees deserve special recognition for their contributions to student success. From the time students register in the Admissions office until they receive their diplomas, they have been served by classified professionals.

I was pleased to have been invited to speak at the Awards Program at Santa Ana College. It was great to have a ceremony which included faculty and classified staff. I did find it somewhat disappointing when the service pins were presented and so many employees chose to remain at their work stations rather than receive this special acknowledgement of the time they have spent with the district.

We currently have a vacancy on the E Board – the position of 2nd Vice President which was held by Ricardo Foreman - which we are very interested in filling. This person serves as the Chief Job Steward (better known as the rabble-rouser). If you are interested, contact one of the E Board members to discuss your interest. Our E Board works together as one unit and all of us are ready and more than willing to assist a new comer.

As more and more of us choose to retire, it is going to be very important to maintain continuity of representation within the group. Think about getting that training and be ready to assist your fellow employees!

See you at the Chapter Meeting on the 15th.

Marti Reiter

Chapter 579 Executive Board

President

Marti Reiter

1st Vice President

Sean Small

Secretary

Judy Arroyo

Treasurer

Esmeralda Abejar

CPRO

Tom Andrews

Annual Area H Bowling is Here !!

It's time again for the annual Area H bowling event for 2012, being held once again at the Linbrook Bowl in Anaheim. All CSEA members and their immediate families are invited for an afternoon of pizza, soda, and bowling—and it's FREE. This is a great opportunity for you and your family to get out for a fun activity, and all you have to pay for is the shoe rental, unless you have your own bowling shoes. This event will be from 12-4 pm., Saturday May 26. The address is 201 S. Brookhurst. This is at the corner of Lincoln and Brookhurst. RSVP to our President, Marti Reiter. We will have the whole bowling alley to ourselves !!

Chapter News

The Chapter 579 meeting for April was held at SCC, and we had a great turnout, with over 25 people attending. We asked to once again remember Ricardo Foreman in your thoughts and prayers. He is still hospitalized at Kindred Hospital in Westminster. Announcements were made regarding CSEW week, May 20-26, and the Area H Bowling event on May 26 at Linbrook Bowl in Anaheim (see page 1).

Guillermo Santucci, our Labor Relations Rep., was introduced to speak to the Chapter about Governor Brown's Initiative to restore funding to schools. We passed petitions around for signature. He said to look for Field Office Reps. at the campuses gathering signatures. We had two new members attend their first Chapter meeting. After the various committee reports, we held elections for the Area H Director. This person represents our area on the CSEA State Board of Directors. Our Chapter voted to re-elect Carolyn Everett to this office.

At this point, we opened up the meeting for nominations for alternates to the CSEA State Conference. The nominees are: Victoria Williams; Zina Edwards; Lithia Williams; Leslie Woods-Rogers; Sylvia Gordon; Lee Atwood; and Brenda Hohnstein. Your Eboard will vote on who will attend, and we will keep you posted.

During the Good of the Order, Zina Edwards expressed concerns for certain budget items regarding how they were dramatically increased, i.e. Center for International Trade Development \$12,000 to \$74,000; Women in Business \$32,000 to \$124,000 and SBDC \$72,000 to \$277,000. It was also asked that a series of articles be done in our newsletter on how the state budget works. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Classified Employees: A Legacy of Service

Since 1986, California has taken the third week in May to honor the invaluable contributions of classified school employees. In 2012, we will be celebrating the week with the theme, "Classified Employees: A Legacy of Service."

From the bus drivers who pick up kids to take them to school, to the food service workers making lunches, to the financial aid staff who find the money to cover college tuition, CSEA members are the classified employees that make our schools run smoothly.

Classified employee appreciation week is May 20-26. Classified School Employee Week began as a resolution at CSEA's Annual Conference in 1984. Two years later, it was adopted as California Senate Bill 1552 and decreed to be an official recognition of classified school employees. Today, CSEA members celebrate the week with picnics, barbecues and other social events. At work, many members wear CSEA shirts and other symbols of union pride. Show your pride this year and wear your blue during this week which honors all of us and what we do!



**"CSEA members are
the classified
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run smoothly."**

Short Staffing costs more in the long run

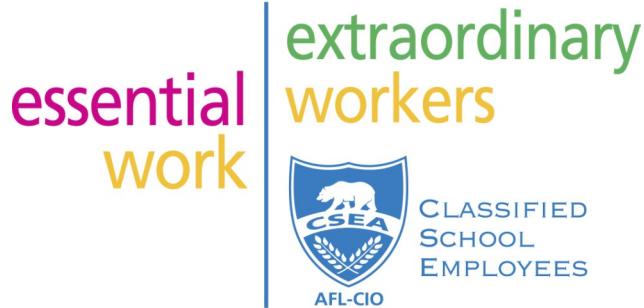
Because of a continued decline in funds over the last several years, many school districts have reduced their maintenance and operations staff to a bare minimum. Still, these workers—many of whom are skilled in various trades, ranging from plumbing and electrical to carpentry and ventilation—handle daily emergencies and perform routine maintenance and major overhauls on aging school facilities. “We have always had a skeleton maintenance crew as it was,” said Robert Rainey, a maintenance worker for Savanna Chapter 322, “So there is a lot of cross-utilization”. Rainey said that the number of staff is so limited that on any given day, he might have to take on custodial duties or drive a bus, or have to deal with a clogged toilet, or a fallen tree and still be ready for any other emergency. “One guy can’t do it all,” he said. “It seems like everyone at the school district who is classified wears 20 hats. Even if we aren’t the ones being cut, we’re the ones who will be cleaning up the mess that remains. When the number of hours in a workday doesn’t allow for the completion of everything that needs attention, some tasks have to be put off.” “You’ll see things like having classrooms vacuumed maybe once a week instead of twice a week,” Rainey said. “You get to a point where you’re just running around putting out fires, because there are safety issues that you have to take care of and that’s all you have time for.”

Staff reduced to bare minimum

When handling emergencies and fixing what’s broken is all maintenance and operations workers can do, Kasey Oliver, a maintenance worker at State Center Community College, said it ends up costing school districts money in the long run. “If you don’t do preventative maintenance, you’ll have to replace equipment after five years instead of after 15 years,” said Oliver, a member of State Center College Chapter 379. “Preventative maintenance is a huge part of our job”. Ricardo Garcia, a member of Corona Norco Chapter 369, is a filter technician. His job is to maintain all of the air conditioners in the school district. He checks the equipment for damage daily and changes the filters as needed. Without this preventative maintenance, his district would probably face hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment replacement costs each year, not to mention the poor air quality that could result from not replacing filters regularly. “The air quality would be so bad that allergies and asthma would flair up in the children and teachers,” he said. “In the past, there have been lawsuits against school districts because of mold build-up due to a lack of maintenance”. Whether they change ventilation system filters, fix leaking faucets or remodel entire school buildings, maintenance workers all agree that their main role is to keep students and teachers focused on instruction instead of the condition of aging school facilities.



**“You get around to
the point where
you’re just putting
out fires”**



Your Chapter 579 Job Stewards

Marti Reiter 480-7512

Sean Small 564-5667

Judy Arroyo 564-6211

Sylvia Gordon 564-6004

Tom Andrews 564-6310

CPRO'S Corner (editorial opinion)

Here we are again. The end of another year. The Class of 2012 graduates from our colleges, and hopefully moves on to success in their lives, or transfers to a four year college. All of our efforts have not gone to waste, despite the financial state of affairs in California. We have invested a portion of our lives in helping to shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Personally, I know that we have done our jobs, and more. But I am terribly concerned about what the future holds. Education is under attack, not just in California, but across the nation. This "war" is one that must be won. Make no mistake-without a solid education available to all-we will slowly slide down that slippery slope to mediocrity. It was not that long ago that the United States, and in particular California, could boast about our educational system, producing some of the brightest minds in the world. Sadly, now we are caught up in what everything costs, with no apparent regard for what tomorrow may bring.

I feel this year is a pivotal one regarding the "war". Corporations must realize that saving money today to promote a better dividend today may not be what is best for them in the future. Unions must come together in solidarity, all unions, and present a united front. There are elections this year-for President, Senator, Representative and many ballot measures, some of which will drastically affect your future if you work in education. United as one, I know that the people power of unions is unstoppable. In the 60's, labor and the civil rights movement were linked together to fight against racial inequality and the plight of the working man. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated 43 years ago after he was planning to march with 1300 striking sanitation workers. Those 1300 workers are only about twice our Chapter's membership!! As union brothers and sisters we must cross the lines that separate us from other unions and join forces with those who are tired of the ideological and financial attack on working people.

Imagine for a moment where you might be next year if the initiative to fund education in California does not pass. Obama or Romney? Which President will support education? Where will you be if unions cannot raise funds through payroll deductions to fight big business? I'm sure big business will have no problem raising money to further support the destruction of the working man. Where might we be? As my mom would say when I got into trouble, "Looks like you're up the creek without a paddle".

Let's not accept it. Time to trade in the paddle for a nice speed boat.