

Standing Room Only

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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Where did the time go? Sixteen years ago I accepted a challenge of becoming the Chapter President that was to only last a couple of years.

What happened? I couldn't accomplish everything I set out to do in the first two years so I had to continue! I then found out that when you work with the continued challenges always facing the district and its employees, there is always more to be done.

It's only with the support of the membership that I continued for so long. I have been extremely fortunate to have always had an Executive Board that was knowledgeable, supportive, and caring. They cared enough about their fellow employees to get involved and cared enough about CSEA to work toward making things better in the workplace. I can't thank them enough. I also wish to thank each one of our members for your contributions to my success – not just mine, but the success of our Chapter.

We are very fortunate to work in a district that acknowledges the contributions of classified employees. You all are an awesome group of people and I leave my position with the greatest regard for you and wish you continued success.

I look forward to the new position of Past President and turning over the responsibilities to Sean Small. Please support him as you have supported me and we will continue to have the best Chapter in CSEA.

May God Bless You All.

Marti

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C H A P T E R 5 7 9 E X E C U T I V E B O A R D

President	Marti Reiter
1st Vice President	Sean Small
2nd Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Esmeralda Abejar
CPRO	Tom Andrews



CELEBRATE VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

November 11-17, 2012

Veteran's Day Observed Nov. 12, 2012

Veterans Day is a time when Americans honor those who have served in the U.S. Military—a time to express gratitude to those who have made great sacrifices to preserve our freedom.

During the week of November 11-17, Association President Allan Clark and the Board of Directors ask all CSEA members to join them in recognizing, honoring and thanking military veterans everywhere.

"Please take time to thank those who have served our country this Veterans Day," Clark said. "We enjoy the freedoms we have because of their sacrifices."



Classified school employees are more than acquainted with the value and importance of service, and CSEA is proud to honor those who have served and continue to serve every American.



C S E A S E N D S T H E G R I N C H H O M E !

A year ago, members of Hollister Chapter 625 were under siege by a school board that demanded concessions from its classified employees and imposed ongoing cuts to their salaries and benefits. In protest, CSEA members packed a school board meeting last December and voiced their opposition to the "Grinch of Hollister." What a difference a year makes.

The energized chapter put a plan into action that resulted in a stunning turnaround this November. The chapter backed three school employees to run for election - two of them active CSEA members and all of them dedicated members of the Hollister community. Working together, the CSEA candidates won the election and ousted the former board members sending the Grinch home for the holidays this year.

Just three days ago, the new board members were sworn into office: Ben Flores, a groundskeeper from Milpitas Unified, Elizabeth Martinez, a migrant clerk and health aid at San Benito High School and Lupe Navarro a retired fiscal manager from Hollister.

"We're truly excited about what happened," said Cecilia Rodriguez, Chapter President of Hollister 625. "We're looking forward to our three candidates being on the board. We know they're going to make the right decisions."

CHAPTER NEWS

We had two great meetings in November and December. The November meeting was held at SAC the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, and we had a light turn-out. The total number of members that attended was 9. Other than the required meeting items, we discussed continuing issues in the SAC bookstore, a proposed faculty (not staff) lounge being set up in A-126, and the recent discovery that the SAC Foundation may be violating District hiring practices regarding short-term employees. The newly elected Chapter Eboard was announced.

The December meeting was held at OEC on December 11. We had a fantastic meeting with 27 members in attendance. The hot topic for the day was the closing of the OEC building to investigate possible construction elements that do not meet DSA (Division of State Architects) standards. It seems that nobody knows how we are supposed to make all the moves necessary to vacate this building and be ready for the Spring 2013 semester. We are unaware of any logistical planning, like computer moves, desks, offices and all of the elements needed to make a successful move. We'll probably find out at the last minute, so be prepared, as we always are, to once again do extraordinary and exceptional work. The next Chapter meeting will be at CEC in January. We will be voting on the Chapter's budget for 2013, so be there!

We will begin enforcing the no cell phone during meetings rule at the meeting in January. The \$5 fine will be put into the Chapter's relief fund.

Christmas Eve Reduction in Services

Mrs. Claus and I regret to inform you that effective immediately, I will no longer be able to service the Southern United States on Christmas Eve. Due to overwhelming current population of the earth, my contract was renegotiated by North American Fairies and Elves Local 209. I now serve only certain areas of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. As part of the new and better contract I also get longer breaks for milk and cookies so keep that in mind. However, I'm certain that your children will be in good hands with your local replacement who happens to be my third cousin, Bubba Claus. His side of the family is from the South pole. He shares my goal of delivering toys to all the good boys and girls. However, there are a few differences between us, including:

1. There is no danger of a Grinch stealing your presents from Bubba Claus. He has a gun rack on his sleigh and a bumper sticker that reads: "These toys insured by Smith & Wesson."
2. Instead of milk and cookies, Bubba Claus prefers that children leave a RC Cola and peanut patty (or a Moon Pie) on the fireplace. And Bubba doesn't smoke a pipe. He dips a little snuff though, so please have an empty spit can handy.
3. Bubba Claus' sleigh is pulled by floppy-eared, flyin' coon dogs instead of reindeer. I made the mistake of loaning him a couple of my reindeer one time, and Blitzen's head now overlooks Bubba's fireplace.
4. You won't hear "On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen..." when Bubba Claus arrives. Instead you'll hear, "On Earnhardt, on Wallace, on Martin and LaBonte. On Rudd, on Jarrett, on Elliot and Petty."
5. "Ho, ho, ho!" has been replaced by "Yee Haw!" And you also are likely to hear Bubba's elves reply, "I her'd dat!"
6. As required by Southern highway laws, Bubba Claus' sleigh does have a Yosemite Sam safety triangle on the back with the words, "Back Off!"
7. Bubba Claus doesn't wear a belt. If I were you, I'd make sure you, the wife, and the kids turn the other way when he bends over to put presents under the tree.
8. Bubba Claus refuses to wear the standard issue Santa cap because he says it makes him look like a girly-boy. He has been granted permission to wear a white Stetson with a red band instead, as well as black cowboy boots.

Sincerely Yours,
Santa Claus
(Member, North American Fairies and Elves Local 209)



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C P R O ' S C O R N E R

Has it really been two years since I took on the duties of the CPRO? I guess so, and as I look back I would like to think that somehow all the time spent on this newsletter has been a benefit to our Chapter, but more importantly, to all of you. Hold on though-I'm not going away, just moving to another job on our Chapter's Executive Board. I will be serving you as 2nd Vice President. I hope I will be successful in this endeavour, but I'll need at least as much support from you as I've had in the past two years.

If there is one thing I would like to ask of you before I exit as Chapter CPRO, it's this- GET INVOLVED! There are dozens of positions available at the Chapter. Area, Region and State levels that need people just like you to make the decision, step up to the plate, and get involved. Although it takes a lot of time, I can tell you that it's worth every minute. CSEA will make sure you are trained and your Chapter leadership will be sure to mentor you along as you get more involved. Come to the Chapter meetings and help our Chapter 579 become a rock of union solidarity.

Tom Andrews Chapter 579 CPRO