

# CLASSIFIED VOICE

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

JANUARY - MARCH 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CSEA, CHAPTER 369



Happy Belated New Years CSEA Members and welcome to 2011! I cannot believe that 2011 is here. It seems like just

yesterday that we were talking about the millennium! I hope that you all had a wonderful Winter Break with family and friends. I sure did. We sometimes don't realize it but we really need the breaks that we have throughout our calendar to rejuvenate and rest before we go on to the long stretch of time that we have to finish this school year!

Insurance has been a huge concern for our members over the past several years. Insurance premiums keep rising, co-pays and RX deductibles have increased to keep our premiums lower. CSEA, CNTA, CNMA and management are continuing to investigate different options for our medical coverage. We have interviewed several representatives from Trusts, JPA's, brokers, self-insured or remaining status quo. This is a very tedious process but one that is well worth the time. We have had numerous meetings since August of 2010. We want to make sure that every option and all bases are covered before we make any changes that could possibly disrupt or change our coverage. We are hopeful that we will have a decision about this change by February. I will keep you updated as soon as I know.

For those of you who currently have Riverside Medical Clinic HMO, Aetna and Riverside Medical Clinic came to an agreement and signed a contract over Winter Break. In December you should have received a letter from Aetna, RMC and the school district informing you that you had been changed to a different physician's network. Now that the contract is signed, **you** must contact Aetna to change back to your original doctor at RMC. If you do not do this important step you will continue to be assigned to the new physician's network through June 30.

One of the things that we have discovered in talking with other CSEA chapters in the Inland Empire is that our negotiated dollar amount (cap) provided by the District for insurance coverage is very low. In future years, when we once again receive a COLA, some of those monies will need to go toward the benefit package instead of only pay increases. We currently have members who can no longer afford to cover their spouses/child(ren) because of the huge out of pocket cost. This is just not acceptable. The Negotiations team will continue to negotiate for our benefits.

On a brighter note, if you are interested in taking the typing test, beginning shortly, it will be offered twice a month through Human Resources. It is no longer necessary to apply for a position and then test! This will eliminate some of the anxiety when it is not attached to a position that you are inter-

ested in. We are also working on new criteria for the shorthand/transcribing test that must be passed in order to apply for higher level clerical positions. The new test will be relevant to today's secretarial world. Those members who have already passed the dictation/transcription test will be "grandfathered" when they apply and not required to take the new test. Those who have not passed it will be required to take the new test. Hallelujah! It is about time!!!

As you will see later in the newsletter, CSEA's Board of Directors has endorsed Michael Bilbrey for an at-large seat on the CalPERS Board of Administration. He is the only CSEA member nominated. You will receive a ballot on or around April 22. Please remember to vote for Michael Bilbrey so that our voice will be heard on the CalPERS Board!

Congratulations to Ben Arvizu, Classified of the Year! If you don't know Ben, he is a wonderful, dedicated classified employee who countless hours at Stallings working with the students on their soccer team! He not only coaches the students but works with their teachers to ensure that they are keeping up academically and socially. Again, congratulations Ben! You make us proud!

In closing, I would like to take the time to thank all of our Chapter 369 members who have been so supportive during the past year. I truly appreciate your support and loyalty to our Chapter. Thank you.

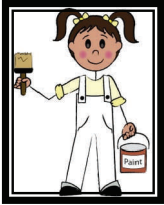
Nancy Walters, President Chapter 369



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## SPOTLIGHT ON A CSEA 369 BOARD MEMBER



Hi, My name is Lori Esparza. I have been employed with Corona-Norco Unified School District for 20 years. I am your CPRO for Chapter 369. I work in the Maintenance Department as a Painter. I am married to Ray Esparza who also is employed with CNUSD. I have two children, Travis who is 23 and Chad who is 17. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. A lot of my free time is spent taking care of my mother who is a CSEA retiree. She was employed with CNUSD for 29 years. When I'm not working, I enjoy dirt bike riding and going to the casino. I look forward to serving your E-Board for the 2011 year.

Sincerely,

Lori Esparza



Interested in the Paraeducators Conference, here are just some of what the conference offers:

- Attend longer in depth workshops to sharpen skills and enhance job performance .
- Meet and network with other classified employees from other school districts.
- Learn techniques from the experts for improving students behavior and performance.
- Select from diverse workshops covering ELL, Special and General Education, school safety , health, music and library services.

Applications have been sent to your site. If you are interested and have not been emailed it, please see your schools secretary or contact: Nancy Walters at 847-6336 or email her at

## A MESSAGE FROM ALLAN CLARK, ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



I am pleased to announce that we have permanently filled two vital positions on CSEA's staff leadership team. This past weekend, our Board of Director's named Dave Low as the permanent Executive Director. Dave becomes the 6th Executive Director in our union's 84-year history. We've also determined that it is in the best interest of CSEA to have Dave continue as the Director of Governmental Relations. On Friday, in light of Steve Fraga's extended absence, Dave has named Keith Pace as the new Director of Field Operations. These changes move us in the direction of stability and will allow us to focus on the representation and protection of CSEA members.

At a time when public employees and our unions are the target of public scrutiny, and even blame for our economic struggles, the Board and I believe that we need strong, progressive, dedicated and strategic thinking staff leaders to help guide our union. Dave Low and Keith Pace exemplify those characteristics, and I am confident that, together with our department heads, they will unify our staff and lead them in a way that will continue to build our union.

Keith Pace has more than 20 years of progressive experience in member representation and organizing, as well as project planning and employee management. He has served CSEA as a Labor Relations Representative (LRR), a Member Education/Staff Development Representative (trainer), Senior LRR and has been a Field Director for more than 11 years. Keith holds a B.A. in Liberal Studies from San Francisco State University.

Dave Low began his 30-year career with CSEA as a Field Representative, bargaining contracts, handling grievances, arbitrations, PERB hearings, organizing, and coordinating local political elections in the San Francisco and San Mateo areas. He has worked in Governmental Relations since 1984 and has been responsible for managing legislative, lobbying, political and campaign activities. Additionally, he chairs the Labor Coalition, which includes legislative and political representatives from public employee unions. He is also Chair of the Labor Coalition and of Californians for Health Care and Retirement Security. These coalitions represent over a million public employees in California on pension, healthcare and labor issues. Dave holds a B.S. in Business Administration from U.C. Berkeley.

### A Message from Association President, Allan Clark (con't)

I know you will join me and the Board in welcoming Dave Low and Keith Pace into their newest chapter in CSEA, as we build a solid future for our members.

In Solidarity,

Allan Clark

## MICHAEL BILBREY IS THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR THE CALPERS BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Michael Bilbrey is the right choice for the CalPERS Board of Administration. Association First Vice President Michael Bilbrey has been endorsed by CSEA's Board of Directors for an at-large seat on the CalPERS Board of Administration. Michael is a 22 year employee of Citrus College and the only classified school employee on the ballot!

Bilbrey has the skills and experience to deal with investment, corporate governance, asset management, healthcare benefits and cost containment issues. An active listener who considers all sides before reaching a conclusion, Bilbrey holds an MBA and currently serves on CSEA's Budget Committee, balancing a budget of more than \$60 million. He also chairs CSEA's Investment Committee and Health and Wellness Taskforce.



Bilbrey has a proven record of accomplishment as a dependable and dedicated coalition builder. If elected to the CalPERS Board of Administration, he will fight to protect defined benefit pensions; preserve and improve CalPERS healthcare programs; and increase CalPERS openness and transparency.

Ballots are scheduled to be mailed April 21 to all eligible active and retired members permitted to vote in the election. The new CalPERS Board member will take office immediately after certification of the official results by the secretary of state on August 29.

Retirement security is under attack. Wall Street tanked our economy and now wants to blame us. The economic recession has hurt working families across California and people are faced with the fear of losing their jobs, being furloughed and worrying about their security in retirement. We know that proposals to slash retirement benefits for classified school employees, teachers, nurses, firefighters and police will not solve any problems. In fact, it will just make them worse.

Many of these factors are out of our control. But the one thing that we can definitely do is vote to ensure our voices are heard on the CalPERS Board of Public Administration. That means a vote for Michael Bilbrey. Ballots will be mailed for this important election on April 21.



### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE



you.

Wishing all CNUSD Employees a very Healthy and Happy New Year! I am looking forward to serving all our members as your new 1st Vice President. Members input and concerns are very important to set the direction in how Chapter 369 will operate and conduct CSEA business. I personally invite and encourage every member to attend Chapter Meetings, Trainings, Join Victory Club or Volunteer to become a Site Rep. Thank

Liz Urrea

[EUrrea@cnsud.k12.ca.us](mailto:EUrrea@cnsud.k12.ca.us)

*"Tell me and I forget; show me and I remember; involve me and I understand"*

*-Anonymous*

**Brown's Budget Proposal Spares K-12 Education**

**Sacramento**—On Monday, Governor Brown introduced his budget proposal to address the state's \$25.4 billion budget deficit. Brown called the proposal "a tough budget for tough times."

In stark contrast to the approach taken by Governor Schwarzenegger, and in recognition of the \$18 billion in cuts education programs have taken over the last three years, Governor Brown's proposal spares K-12 education funding from any additional cuts contingent on voters approving an extension of temporary taxes that are set to expire in July.

"Schools are borne the brunt of spending reductions in recent years, so this budget maintains funding at the same level as the current year," Brown said.

Just last week, new State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson declared a "financial state of emergency" in California's schools, saying that \$18 billion in cuts over the last three years are taking their toll.

To help ease the school funding crisis, Brown has offered a balanced approach to the budget with \$12 billion in revenues, \$12.5 billion in cuts, \$1.9 billion in "other solutions" and a \$1 billion reserve. He will also ask voters approve a five-year extension of temporary taxes in a June special election. If voters do not pass the temporary tax extension, Proposition 98 will be cut by an additional \$2 billion.

"We appreciate Governor Brown's frank and open dialogue on California's budget and his willingness to propose solutions that would spare schools from further drastic cuts," said Association President Allan Clark.

While K-12 fares well under the proposal, community colleges and higher education face deep cuts in funding and raised fees for students. Community colleges face a \$400 million cut and an increase in fees from \$26 per unit to \$36. Two months ago, the chancellors and trustees of community colleges agreed in principle to support fee increases tied to inflation, as long as additional revenues were kept in the community college system, and not diverted into the state's general fund.

**NEXT Steps**

The governor has adopted an aggressive plan and is working with the Legislature to adopt the statutory changes proposed in his budget within 60 days or by March 1st. The timeline is intended to adopt the statutory changes necessary to implement the program cuts measure and place the extension of the temporary taxes on the June special election ballot. Once the results of the special election are known, the appropriate changes and adjustments will be made for legislative review and approval by the Governor.

CSEA and the Education Coalition will continue to work with the Governor and the Legislature to move the temporary tax extension to the ballot and ensure that they understand that any further cuts will devastate California's education system.

**OFFICE SITE**

**CSEA CHAPTER 369  
2820 CLARK AVE  
P.O. BOX 78285  
BETWEEN LEARNING  
CENTERS NORTH &  
SOUTH  
NORCO, CA. 92860**



Have something interesting to share or an important date that you want other members to know about, please contact me so that I can include it in the next newsletter. You can email me at [lesparza@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:lesparza@cnusd.k12.ca.us)

**CSEA BOARD MEMBERS**

- Nancy Walters, President - (951) 847-6336
- Liz Urrea, 1st Vice President - (951) 870-5415
- Cathy Leonti, Secretary - (951) 736-4646
- Lisa Giles, Treasurer - (951) 736-4600
- Lori Esparza, CPRO - (909) 261-9314
- Robert Garcia, Parliamentarian - (951) 736-3316
- Carleen Sigsbee, Past President - (951) 736-3441
- Lorena Lopez, Chief Grievance Officer -**

**CSEA IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY**

- 8th - Chapter Meeting
- 10th - Know Your Rights Training  
RCOE (Riverside)
- 14th - Lincoln's Birthday Holiday
- 17th - Site Rep Meeting - Mimi's Café  
5:00 p.m.
- 21st - President's Day Holiday



**MARCH**

- 5th - Job Steward  
Training Basic I  
Colton Joint USD
- 12th - Job Steward Training Basic 2—  
Colton Joint USD
- 8th - Chapter Meeting—Nominations  
for Conference Delegates
- 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- 28th - Spring Break Begins



## MEMBER BENEFITS

### VALENTINE IDEAS...

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Express how much you care this year without spending more than you can afford. Use your union discount for See's Candies, flowers or a romantic night at the movies!

**See's Candies:** 1 lb Certificates for \$12.50 (Regular price: \$16.10)

**Union Plus Flower Service Program** (Save 20%)

**Movie Passes:**

AMC \$6.25 (Regular \$10.00)

Brenden \$7.50 (Regular price \$9.75)

Cinemark \$7.25 (Regular Price \$9.00)

Mann \$8.00 (Regular Price \$11.00)

Pacific \$6.25 (Regular price \$9.00)

Reading Cinema \$6.25 (Regular price \$10.00)

Regal \$7.75 (Regular price \$11.50)

Ultra Star \$6.25 (Regular price \$9.00)



### Battle of the Dance Coming to Anaheim

Be among the first to experience Southern California's newest entertainment spectacle: **Battle of the Dance!** CSEA will be offering discount tickets to this unique dinner show that brings the cosmopolitan stages of Europe and world-class performers right to Anaheim. This spectacular presentation of international performers, captivating dancers, and exquisite dining is the perfect backdrop to an electrifying show and unparalleled entertainment experience.

For discount tickets to the show, call CSEA Member Benefits at (866) 487-2732.

## Upcoming CSEA Trainings (Chapter 369 and State)

**February 17 Site Representative Meeting, Chapter 369, Mimi's, McKinley Street, Corona (Chapter 369) 5:00-7:00, Dinner Provided**

February 26—(CSEA state) PreRetirement Seminar—Hemet Unified School District, 1791 Acacia Avenue, Hemet in the Professional Development Service Center Board Room, Hemet

March 5 (CSEA state), Job Steward Training Basic I, Colton Joint Unified School District, SS Board Room, Colton (8:30-4:00),

March 12 (CSEA state) Job Steward Training Basic 2, Colton Joint Unified School District, SS Board Room, Colton

## Part-Time Employees



Please don't forget that you can now purchase income protection insurance through American Fidelity Assurance Company. This insurance protects your income if you are injured and cannot work! Please call Nancy Walters at 951 847-6336 if you are interested or email Nancy at [nwalters@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:nwalters@cnusd.k12.ca.us) for more information.