

California School Employees Association



Chapter Email: csea33@smccd.edu

Chapter Website: <http://chapter33.csea.com>

Chapter 33 Drive Release Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Location: District Office – Board Room

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Members present: Kathy Chaika, Medelline Lowe, Lavine Mar, Carol Driscoll, Sharon Himebrook, Linda Herda, Stephanie Samuelson, Chris Weidman, Terence O'Neill, Sam Haun, Chris Weidman, Annette Perot, John Martinez, Alana Utsumi, Maggie Skaff, Michael Vargas, Jan Phemester, Dean Drumheller, Melanie Berzon, Rene Renard, Hanns Ullrich, Carol Ullrich, John Hall, Ron Andrade, Maria Lara-Blanco, Linda Ma, Linda Allen, Juanita Celaya

Meeting called to order 12:08pm – Annette Perot

Changes to agenda: Remove item #1: Provident Credit Union has had a personnel changes, so they will have to assign someone to present checks our union.
Remove item #11: There will be no closed session for the Executive Board Members, we do not have a quorum and E-Board members who want input on the changes to the E-Board Minutes from September 12, 2012 are not present.

1. **MINUTES**

The minutes from the combined meeting of August 8, 2012 were attached for review. It was moved by John Martinez and seconded by Chris Weidman to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried. (1 Abstention)

2. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Linda Herda

The report of accounting activity and ending balances for September 2012 were attached to agenda.
 Checking account ending balance: \$6,884.58
 Savings account ending balance: \$10,942.37 with .45¢ interest earned.

Linda noted there were no large expenses for the month.

3. **CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

Chris Weidman reported that Chapter 33 members ratified the 2012-13 contract. There were no wage or medical increases for 2010-11 or 2011-12, but we received a 2.34% salary increase effective July 1, 2012 and a medical increase that varies according to whether the member is single, 2-party or family status and will be effective January 1, 2013. Chris also noted that retroactive pay for the July and August salary increase will be realized in the October check.

The bad news is that medical cost increases will also take effect on January 1, 2013. This means that member costs will increase in varying amounts depending on single, 2-party or family status and could partially or completely use all their salary increase.

Chris reported on a major CalPERS change that will take effect on January 1, 2013. Governor Jerry Brown has been working with legislators to modify CalPERS. Effective January 1, 2013 Additional Retirement Service Credit – ARSC (“air-time”) will be eliminated as a service credit purchase option due to the Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act of 2013. Only ARSC requests received in a CalPERS office on or before December 31, 2012 will be processed. ARSC is a one-time only option – and is very expensive, as members cover the entire cost to fund future benefits,

approximately 20%. Example: if want to purchase 5-years that would be 20% per year (\$10,000) times 5 years equals approximately \$50,000. The good news, is those who choose to purchase ARSC have 15-years to pay for it, and it is pre-tax.

If you chose this, it is very important that members talk with Chris or someone who is knowledgeable on the subject to make sure that you will not be penalized if you have not paid into Social Security for at least 30 years. You don't want to buy time only to have it cost you money down the road.

4. **HOLIDAY LUNCH**

Juanita reported this years' holiday luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at San Mateo Elks Lodge. There is lots of parking, a better menu and several gratis items: dessert, appetizers, punch, no room charge and the total price includes tax and tip. The cost for non-members is \$27, members is \$20 (the union subsidizes members' costs.)

Kathy Chaika noted that we are seeking help in getting donations for raffle prizes.

5. **CHAPTER OFFICER NOMINATIONS**

The chapter officer positions open for nominations are President, 2nd Vice President (Skyline & Canada), Treasurer, CPAC and 8 Union Stewards. Nominations are accepted from the floor at today's meeting and at the November 7 chapter meeting. At the end of the November 7 chapter meeting nominations will be closed. If there is only one nominee for an office, that single nominee will be declared elected to the office and no balloting or other action is required. When there is more than 1 nominee per office, there will be site balloting on December 12, 2012 (the day of our evening combined meeting.) You must complete all training of the elected office (there are 4 levels of training for Union Stewards, and ALL must be completed.)

John Martinez reminded members to please contact members before nominating them to make sure they want to serve and are qualified (see attachment for qualifications.) Chris also noted that nominations can be done by email, but it must be seconded before being sent to Annette. Example: If Chris wanted to nominate Linda Herda for treasurer, he would first have to send the nomination to Linda Allen to second the nomination and she would then send that email with the original nomination and her second on to Annette.

6. President: Annette Perot

1st: Kathy Chaika
2nd: Linda Allen

CPAC: Charles Jones

1st: Kathy Chaika
2nd: Maggie Skaff

2nd VP Canada: Jeanne Stalker

1st: Stephanie Samuelsen
2nd: Juanita Celaya

Union Steward (1): Linda Allen

1st: Chris Weidman
2nd: Linda Herda

2nd VP Skyline: Chris Weidman

1st: Linda Herda
2nd: Medelline Lowe

Union Steward (2): Stephanie Samuelsen

1st: Jan Phemester
2nd: Sam Haun

Treasurer Nominee: Linda Herda

1st: Juanita Celaya
2nd: Linda Allen

Union Steward (3): Chuck La Mere

1st: Kathy Chaika
2nd: Stephanie Samuelsen

Union Steward (4): Herb Mintz

1st: Kathy Chaika
2nd: Jan Phemester

Chris added that while we would like to have our old Union Stewards back, we need new Union Stewards too. There is time to attend the training, and Kathy added please make sure they are really willing to do this and attend the training so they can start going into the field and be active. We are really in need of Union Stewards, the people who have been serving are getting burnt out – Chris added that more than being burnt out, the 'elders' will be retiring and we need people to start learning what to do.

7. ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT FROM DELEGATES

A handout on the 2012 CSEA Annual Conference Resolutions outcomes was attached for review. Resolution 5 was old business honoring our veterans that was approved. New business: resolution 1 was approved, as were 2 and 3, 4 was defeated (Release time for Chapter Officers representing more than one union,) 5 was withdrawn, 6 was approved and 7 was defeated.

Juanita (first-time conference attendee) said that the energy in the room from all the other union members across California, the speakers, etc was a really inspiring and amazing conference that if you get the opportunity to attend, ask your friends to nominate and vote for you – the process is interesting, to hear the stories from other schools who have faced cutbacks and layoffs really gives you a different perspective and makes you realize why it is so important that we are involved in our union. We have approximately 320 members in our chapter, but at this meeting there are only 22 people in attendance, and as I look at the 22 people I see it's mostly the same faces – which is fantastic – but more members need to be involved. You could say I'm the last person to talk, I'm in my 29th year of employment at CSM, and only became involved in the union last year when Annette and Kathy dragged me kicking and screaming. One thing I've been awakened to is what goes on here, and we are losing the history of how the college works, what the administration can and can't do, what our rights are. I know I'm "preaching to the choir" since you are here and involved, but it is imperative that you talk to your co-workers and try to get them involved we could be in serious trouble. It's is work, it's time away from work but it's necessary, these are our job, our livelihoods, our salaries, the things our union has bargained for, these could be lost and everyone would wonder how that happened.

John Martinez made a comment about resolution #5. An article in the August issue of the Chronicle said the Governor was in Las Vegas hob-knobbing with all the big union leaders, being critical that this was a California Union that was having their conference in Las Vegas and everyone was out drinking, partying and going to shows. When you go to conference, you are on the floor all day and sometimes thru the night, and doing workshops. The cost of going to Las Vegas is less than it would be California, and this facilitates the ability for the delegates to get additional training to be more involved in a democratic process, and allows us to send more people because it is less expensive for us to do so.

8. CPRO

Annette (Herb Mintz was working) reminded everyone that we need people to help with phone banking and precinct walking, and that we are asking for a YES vote on proposition 30 and no on proposition 32. Herb is working on the October monthly review. If any of you were at the Giants games and have pictures that you could send to him so they can be included in the monthly review. The website has been updated, our constitution is on the website as well as our Chapter contract. John added that there are also all kinds of great links to different articles from the state, other chapters and labor organizations, when the meetings are, and Herb has done a really done a great job.

Kathy wanted to add that phone banking is much easier this time. Guest Diana Hull explained that we are using a system that is much better, with a room that is dedicated to phone banking. There are headsets, computer screen and mouse, the computer does the dialing for you and only connects when a live person answers. A script is on the screen, you check the boxes accordingly, and it's very easy. Diana also added that it is so important that we defeat prop 32 which makes it extremely difficult to union members' dues money to be used in elections. If we can't spend our money to support our issues and candidates we are going to be shut out of the process. And it is particularly critical for public employees because the playing field is set by the legislature and the Ed Code and in bargaining law. We've seen in the past they have tried to take away our legal protections against contracting out our work, inroads into our pensions which was mild compared to what they could have done, because this is a democratic state, all of the unions are very involved in politics. But if we are shut out of that process, you will see, piece by piece, your protections taken away. In Wisconsin, they tried to recall Scott Walker and they failed, but even if they had succeeded, they still would not have been able to reel it back in because the legislature, which is dominated by right-wingers were determined to change the laws that outlawed collective bargaining for public sector workers. The bottom line is once you lose your rights, it can take decades to get them back and not all at once. She said our chapter has done a tremendous job of educating our members on how to vote, but what we've determined is even if 100% of CSEA members vote the way we are saying, we can still lose it, so we have to take it out to a larger audience. It's a friendly call to other union households, 2 easy hours, you're fed and it's fun.

9. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Thanks you for coming.

10. **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Thank you to Lavine & Juanita for providing lunch which is really good and saves our chapter a lot of money.

Motion to adjournment meeting – Kathy Chaika, seconded by Linda Allen. The motion carried with all members voting “aye”.

Meeting adjourned 12:54pm.