

THE SHASTA PROFESSIONAL CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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SHASTA COLLEGE #381

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National healthcare reform moving forward

The fight for affordable healthcare for all Americans has reached the national level, as Congress debates how to overhaul our broken system. CSEA remains committed to working toward a system that provides comprehensive medical benefits for everyone.

As healthcare reform has gained momentum in Washington, D.C., those who support our nation's current profit-based system have launched a misinformation campaign that distorts the facts about healthcare reform. Don't believe the insurance industry's scare tactics about healthcare reform.

Single-payer will save our country billions of dollars, provide fair financing, improve quality and cover every American with guaranteed healthcare.

Despite the insurance industry's attacks on single-payer healthcare or any other "public option," legislation to establish a single-payer system is at the forefront of the debate. Single-payer, which CSEA supports, is a system that is publicly financed, but privately delivered. This means that hospitals and doctors will still provide services, but all costs will be paid by a single source, similar to how the Medicare system currently works.

With both houses of Congress set to vote on single-payer healthcare after the summer recess, CSEA is focusing on three items: CSEA is asking Congress to vote yes when single-payer legislation (HR 676) comes to the floor for a vote. Single-payer will save our country billions of dollars, provide fair financing, improve quality and cover every American with guaranteed healthcare.

The healthcare bill, HR 3200, includes a bipartisan amendment that would allow states to set up their own single-payer systems. California has twice approved single-payer legislation only to have it vetoed by Gov. Schwarzenegger. CSEA believes that the state option must be in any health reform proposal sent to President Obama.

CSEA opposes any taxation of workers' healthcare benefits. Taxing health insurance benefits will raise costs for workers at a time when they need relief the most. Workers have given up salary increases to keep a comprehensive health insurance package, and still have seen their benefits eroded.

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 11-17 National School Lunch Week
- Oct. 17 CSEA Board Meeting, Merced
- Oct. 22 Last day to register to vote
- Oct. 24 Job Steward Training 1, River City HS, Sacramento: 9am
- Oct. 19-23 School Bus Safety Week
- Nov. 1 Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 7 Know Your Rights, Redding Resource Center: 8:30am
Job Steward Training 2, River City HS, Sacramento: 9pm
- Nov. 14 Job Steward Training 2, El Dorado HS, Placerville: 8:30am
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day (holiday)
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day

BTW:

- Job Steward openings are coming in December. Interested parties should contact snicholas@shastacollege.edu or nmillis@shastacollege.edu.
- Elections for 2010 will be in December. Nominations were taken at the October chapter meeting and will be taken again at the November meeting.

2009-2010 CSEA Chapter #381 officers

Sherry Nicholas
President

Ken Cooper
Vice President

Sara Holmes
Secretary

Jamie Spielmann
Treasurer

Tim Heisler
Parliamentarian

Sandy Rodina
Sergeant-At-Arms

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Job Stewards
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Nancy Millis
Mary Pearce
Susan Wallace

Budget Committee
Lynda Little

Insurance Committee
Steven Reeves

Political Action/Legislation
Patricia Carver

Safety Committee
Tim Heisler

Scholarship Committee
Doug Manning

Social Committee
Mary Bailey

Sunshine Committee
Carrie Huff

Meet CSEA Member-Ryan Newcomer

Ryan Newcomer is a fairly new member of the Shasta College family, working as the go-to person in Food Services. He has recently shown a desire to become more involved with the chapter and volunteered to attend the latest CSEA Annual Conference. His enthusiasm and positive attitude prompted this article to find out more of what motivates him.



Q: Ryan, what was it that prompted you to become more involved with CSEA and why?

Ryan: Well to be honest with you, Fear of losing the current Food Service department classified members. I like to say: “you don’t realize how good you have it until it is gone”. With the recession hitting the campus hard, it encouraged me to step up and fight to save our jobs as best as I could. This in return I found time to attend the monthly union meetings.

Q: What will you do to help within the chapter or union and what difference will it make?

Ryan: I think my ongoing involvement will add to the strength of our chapter. My leadership and integrity could be used to help maintain the chapter as a whole. My knowledge will also keep the department I work in, informed of any changes. This will benefit those union members.

Q: What did you learn from attending the CSEA 83rd annual conference?

Ryan: I learned that CSEA is a very large family and we are all “brothers and sisters rowing in the same boat.” I saw the dynamics of how the union functions as a whole. I realized that some members performed better with the support of others. I wanted to be that support.

Q: Did you have fun, and would you go to the 84th conference in Sacramento?

Ryan: I had a lot of fun from enjoying the hotel I stayed in, riding on the light rail, meeting new people, and having an excellent fiesta dinner and dance. I enjoyed the overwhelming experience and would love to go to another conference, but I would also want to encourage others to attend as well.

Q: How will you use what you learned from the conference, and how will it affect others?

Ryan: That is a good question, I believe knowledge is power and the more I learn the more I can better serve my co-workers and to staff and students. I feel I can lead by example and hopefully motivate other CSEA members to get involved or just even support our chapter in the union.

Q: And finally, what is one thing you would like to see more out of our chapter?

Ryan: I would hope that the current regular and experienced CSEA members continue to pass and share the knowledge they have learned over the years. This will hopefully increase our turnout at the meetings and the overall support.

Know your rights

Report unsafe conditions

Safety is a priority for classified school employees. Maintenance workers and custodians make sure that schools are kept safe for the students and staff, bus drivers keep students safe on their way to school, and cafeteria workers are trained in safety procedures to prevent food-born illnesses in children.

Classified school employees should also place high priority on their own safety. Employers have an obligation to provide a safe work place. If you notice any unsafe working condition, make sure you bring it to the attention of your CSEA site representative, job

Patricia Carver featured in Focus



In the August issue of the CSEA Focus Magazine, under the CSEA Cares section, there was the smiling face of Patricia Carver, who was interviewed on her exemplary level of volunteerism.

In the article, Patricia is quoted as saying, “My community is so small, we do the best we can, but more often than not, we really need the help.”

Patricia volunteers for just about everything. Weeknights, she serves as a volunteer usher for the Convention Center. She also provides invaluable assistance to the Shasta Women’s Refuge. She enjoys the fact that her help goes toward raising the money the organization needs to keep going.

“I just do things to help other people. Isn’t that what being a good human being is all about?”

We are fortunate to have Patricia in Chapter 381. Her involvement on various local and statewide levels of the CSEA and her knowledge/experience on political issues makes Patricia a wonderful resource for our chapter.

steward or other chapter leader.

One way to remedy health and safety problems is for chapter members to form a health and safety committee. The committee can focus attention on specific problems, monitor employer actions and assist employees in pursuing health and safety complaints. It also can assist the chapter negotiating team in coming up with contract language that addresses health and safety issues.

