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California School Employees Association

CSEA CHAPTER 759



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Up Coming Monthly Chapter 759 Meetings Kearny High School

- September 14, 2009
- October 14, 2009
- November 18, 2009
- December 9, 2009
- January 13, 2010

Welcome Back to a New School

Welcome back to a new and very challenging school year. Congratulations first for all the hard work that you, as classified employees, helped in being instrumental for the improvement of the quality of education that our students received. Without you and the valuable work that you provide, our teachers would not be able to do quality teaching. You as Paraeducators, do not get enough recognition and accolades.

With the resignation of Dr. Grier as school superintendent, we will once again, be going thru the process of finding a new superintendent of schools. This is just one of the many challenges that we have to look forward to. This year we also get to ratified our contract and

see how the school budget will affect all of us from the downsizing of schools and school employees, to possible changes to our benefits.

We will be holding chapter elections for some of the officers on the executive board. Other changes will be the launching of a electronic newsletter. This will be sent out to school email addresses with the option of opting out of receiving the electronic news letter. You also can send in another email address if you do not want to receive the newsletter in your school email box. Your email address will only be used by the chapter to receive the electron newsletter or to receive information about important meetings that will affect your job. You will



still be receiving the Para Journal quarterly thru the school mail, but we are hoping to go green and eventually eliminate the paper issue in order to save cost and some trees.

We will also be holding contests within the Para Journal and the newsletter. The first person to find *****and email the answer to cseachapter759@gmail.com will receive a prize.

Chapter Meetings Once Again to be Held at Kearny High School Cafeteria

The chapter meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month with an exception in November (18th). A social begins at 4:15 where you get to network with other Para's or to speak to an executive officer about issues you may be having.

The meeting starts at 4:45 and lasts until 6:30. Here you will receive updates on Union news and issues that will have impact on our lives. A light snack is provided.

The first meeting of the 2009-2010 school year is schedule on September 9.

For the time being, Kearny is the more centralize location and located off the 805 and 163. It is near Sharp Memorial Hospital and Mesa College. There are also bus lines that run near it.

"You know, you get, you understand. You are the heart and soul and backbone of every school district, and community college."

School Superintendent

Jack O'Connell

**Spoken to California's
Classified School
Employees at the**

82nd Annual Conference

Chapter Delegates Attends Annual Conference

The 82nd CSEA Annual Conference was held at the Las Vegas Convention Center on August 3rd until August 7th, 2008. Approximately over 2,000 classified school employees from all over California converged to help shape the policies of CSEA. This is how the members keep their eyes, ears, and voices on the pulse of CSEA, one of the most powerful unions in California.

This year Chapter 759 was able to send 15 delegates to represent our Chapter in the decision making. Of the 15 delegates, 3 were first timers.

Robert Spriggs of Hoover HS, Robert Palomarez of Crawford HS, and Sigrid Schrandt, of Monroe-Clark Middle School, had the opportunity to listen to Lt. Governor John Garamendi, State School Superintendent, Jack O'Connell and help decide on issues that affected the governing board of CSEA, it's committee members, retirees, and the all the chapters' members. Some of the issues ranged from more release time for state committee members, to reporting on campaign expenditures, also having live feed of the CSEA monthly meetings,

and proposed changes in the retirement legislation. For a complete list of the resolutions and highlights of the conference and guest speakers go to csea.com and click on conference. The delegates voted on the CSEA Budget for the coming year.

CSEA also provided education days to help members understand some of the issues we face such as retirement, addressing cost and quality of health care, charter schools, the budget crisis, and furthering your education, to name a few classes.



All it takes is \$1 a month to make a difference in your future.

The Victory Club Needs You

No part of your dues goes to anything political. The CSEA Victory Club is a non-partisan club made up of thousands of CSEA members from around the state who understand the importance of joining together to protect education funding, expand pension and health care benefits, insure job security and elect state and local officials who value the essential

work of classified employees.

The CSEA Victory Club raises funds to help us elect classified candidates at the local and state level and to pass important school bond and initiative measures. Candidates receiving Victory Club support have proven voting records on behalf of classified employees or have completed questionnaires showing their strong

support for issues of importance to classified members.

By joining the victory club, you are helping to decide on legislators and bills that effect your life: help to elect a school board that is classified employee friendly; and most of all it is letting you have a voice to strengthen and protect your job.



Watch us grow in strength and let our voices be heard.

Like Our New Look?

The sunflowers have a special meaning for this chapter. When this chapter decided to join CSEA, Judy Fohr came up with the idea to use sunflowers as a means to remind people if we grow in numbers we'll grow in strength.

Using the sunflower as our parajournal header will remind

people that like these flowers that will grow strong wherever their seeds may fall, we too can continue to grow and our voices heard.

We can make a difference. By sticking together, recruiting our fellow employees to attend meetings, and join the victory club, then we will have the

power to make changes. One voice can make a point but adding two, three, four. . .and it gets louder.

With a year of such political unrest, now is the time to protect our jobs, and elect union friendly officials.

Spotlight on Josie Alves ~ a woman of many facets

Josie Alves was recently chosen to be Area K state political action coordinator (PAC). She is currently working on getting a union friendly school board. She meets with other PAC's from around Area K to discuss and meet with legislators and senators that can help better the jobs and benefits of the classified employees. She was the chapter's PAC in the past and also is a Site Rep. The following is from a Josie and why she works so hard for the union.

The reason I have become part of this Union is because we need everyone to know that in this world, everyone is im-

portant. I believe that labor is very important and that we all count. Needs of the working people must be met and not live beyond our needs.

I hear many people say, "What is the Union doing for us?" I too, once said this. Until I got to know our Union.

We, yes you and I, along with our brothers and sisters run this Union.

One day I thought of something President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you

can do for your country." Now I change country to union and say: Ask not what your Union can do for you, but what you can do for your Union.

This is what I try to live by, to help make it better and stronger.

I have some ideas, you too, have ideas. Us, together, we can make it better. Yes we can. Si' se puede.

The Union fights for your benefits, retirement plans, and fairness at work. You can help too.



Josie Alves (on right) attending the 2007 Annual Conference here with the Chapter's Treasurer, Patricia Donaboe (center) and Chapter's retirement coordinator, Beverly Durcan.

A Word from you PAC

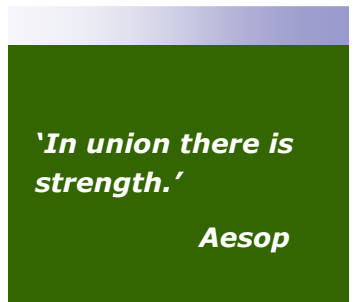
Hello everyone this your Political Action Coordinator Robert Spriggs. I hope you have had plenty of time for rest and relaxation. It seems like the summer was short for those of us who worked summer or year round school.

As we embark upon another school year let us keep our

brothers and sisters ,who have lost their jobs due to cut backs, in our thoughts and prayers. Let us continue to stay vigilant in our efforts to help them get their jobs back. Remember the union is only as strong as its members.

So let's keep the faith as we get ready to roll up our sleeves

and work hard on electing legislators, senators, and a new president that are education and working class citizen friendly. Keep up the good work.



Apply for a Career Grant!

CSEA offers career grants to members who are going to school on a part-time or full-time bases.

Grants of \$1,000 are awarded to recipients based on financial needs, goals and objectives, community in-

volvement, and CSEA activities.

CSEA also offers a dependent scholarship of \$1,000. Scholarships are based on academic achievement, character, leaderships and extra curricular activities in

the communities.

CSEA Grants are accepted June1-September 30.

Dependent Scholarships are accepted January 1-March 31.For more information go to:

www.csea.com/scholarships



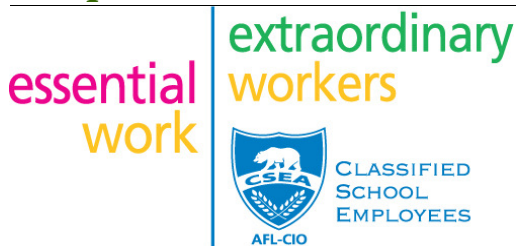
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We're on the Web!

Chapter759.csea.com



2008 Paraeducator Conference *'inspire and motivate'*



The conference will be held April 2-4, 2009 at the Sheraton Grand in Sacramento. This conference provide skills development training for

paraeducators working in general, special and bilingual education, grades pre-school thru high school. It is a good way to come together with other paraeducators from all over the state to share ideas, discuss the issues that affect our jobs, hone skills, and hear about career ladders for personal advancement.

Early registration is \$119 before Feb. 1 and after that it goes up to \$149. Hotel guest rooms are discounted to \$123 a night.

If you would like to attend but feel the cost is too high, come to the chapter meetings.

Members who attend 5 chapter meetings by January have the chance to be nominated to attend at the expense of the chapter. Your fees and hotel accommodations will be paid and all you need to do is become more active.

The chapter usually sends 12-15 delegates and likes new faces at this event. This is something that is very beneficial to the paraeducator with information that you can take back to you workplace. This is district sanction. Come to the chapter meetings to find out more.