

January 2012

## Straight from Chapter 788



### Executive Board Members

President  
Sylvia Alvarez  
1st Vice President  
Sovey Knowles  
2nd VP  
Tiffany Lilley  
3rd Vice President  
Nanci Maguire  
Treasurer  
Gustav Swanson  
Secretary  
Rebecca Korey  
Chief Job Steward  
Debbie Beaver  
Parliamentarian  
Sharon Powell  
CPRO  
Katheryn Wester  
CPAC  
Jo-Ellen Archer  
Web Mistress  
Shirley Love  
Past President  
Frances Fierro  
Site Rep  
Coordinator  
Sherry Chester  
Pre-Retirement  
Coordinator  
Treasurer  
Love

**Office and Technical Business Services O.T.B.S Happy New Year!**

## Department of Finance Pulls the Trigger

The Department of Finance released more optimistic revenue projections in December than those previously offered by the Legislative Analyst's Office. Unfortunately, the projections were not good enough to prevent pulling some of the K-12 education triggers. In addition to cuts to community colleges (\$102 million reduction to base apportionments partially offset by a fee increase from \$36 to \$46 per unit), social services and higher education, the Director of the Department of Finance triggered the complete elimination of the remaining home to school transportation funds (\$248 million) as well as a cut of nearly \$80 million to revenue limit funding. The higher revenue projections largely spared school districts from a possible \$1.5 billion cut to revenue limits. The cut to transportation has a disproportionate negative impact on low income families;

it will force thousands of students to walk to school through dangerous areas and could result in the layoff of thousands of classified employees. We can still convince the governor and state lawmakers that this is a budget cut California can't afford - but we need to act now. Call your legislators today and urge them to mitigate the cuts to transportation.

Let's show that we are united in our effort to support our co-workers in transportation. Please pass the word on to others at your worksite, and join hundreds of thousands of CSEA members in making phone calls.

CSEA leaders and staff are coordinating our efforts to fight these cuts on multiple fronts. We are leading a coalition of statewide and local stakeholders, including transportation officials,

superintendents, and others, to educate and activate our communities and legislators against these destructive cuts. If you have not taken action yet, please help our efforts by making three critical phone calls. It should only take a few minutes of your time to call the governor, your state Assembly member and your state Senator to leave a message.

Find your representatives with [CSEA Capitol Connection](#).

We can save the big, yellow school bus for generations to come -- all it takes is three short phone calls from you.



## President's Message

### Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

I hope you enjoyed your holidays and took advantage of a much needed break. In December, we were successful in preventing mid-year cuts. No one received a pink slip! That is a major victory. There was a lot of hard work behind it by all CSEA chapters. As we move into the New Year, the budget crisis continues. The new board president John Lee Evans has vowed to work collaboratively with all labor groups. He also called each president personally to convey his message of working together. We joined him in a press conference on December 15th, where he announced his commitment to work closely with all labor groups. We will hold him to that promise.

Please remember, the union is YOU. By working to the rule, taking your breaks and lunch, it helps all our members. The effects of layoffs and cuts are not noticed when you take on incredible work- loads and the stress that goes with it. We will continue to be proactive and are still in the fight Thank you all for your support.

In unity and solidarity,  
Sylvia Alvarez  
Chapter President  
O.T.B.S 788

## Election Results and New Officers

Elections were held at the December chapter meeting for the positions of 3rd Vice President and Treasurer. Thanks to all of you who participated in voting. Your vote does count! Most of all, a big thanks to those of you who ran for a position as well as those of you who have diligently served. It is encouraging to see new members get involved. New people with new ideas and knowledge can only enrich our Chapter.

### New Officers:

3rd Vice President - **Nancy McGuire**  
Treasurer - **Gustav Swanson**  
Chief Job Steward - **Debbie Beaver**

### NEW CONTACT INFO

[otbshotline@gmail.com](mailto:otbshotline@gmail.com)

**Any questions or concerns should be directed to the new Chief Job Steward, Debbie Beaver at the email listed above.**

Message from past Chief Job Steward **Zoe Leighty**:

*I would like to thank all our members for being able to serve them for the last eight years. I have enjoyed meeting each and every one of you. I hope that in some way I have helped you and hope that the coming years in O.T.B.S serve you well. My time as Chief Job Steward has come to an end, but I will still be able to assist members if assigned a case by the new Chief Job Steward, Debbie Beaver. I wish all of you a Happy New Year! Zoe Leighty*

## New San Diego Unified School District Board Positions

The Board of Education elected [Dr. John Lee Evans](#) as President and [Scott Barnett](#) as Vice President. Dr. Evans has been on the Board of Education since 2008 and represents Sub district A. Mr. Barnett was elected in 2010 and represents Sub district C.

## Our CalPers Pension.

### Know The Facts!

Despite the sensational headlines on pension abuses, here are some facts you need to know:

The average CalPERS member receives a pension of \$2,100 a month—for most classified employees it's less than \$1,200 a month. That's not a lot to live on in California!

Cutting our pensions along with other public employees will do almost nothing to help solve our current state budget problems. Retirement costs represent an extremely small fraction of the state budget. If we need to cut costs, the state should eliminate waste and fraud, not take away the pensions of school employees, firefighters, police, nurses and other hardworking Californians.

Pension costs amount to only 3 percent of the state budget. This percentage has actually fallen over the last 2 years. CalPERS is not bankrupting the state. As school employees our pensions are only part and parcel of a larger wage and compensation structure. We didn't cause the state budget crisis. Blame should be placed where it belongs - on politicians, Wall Street greed and the impact of corporate abuses on the stock market.

## New Diastat Law

Diastat law went into effect as of January 1, 2012. (Emergency medical assistance; administration of epilepsy medication)

### To All Classified School Employees:

**Voluntary** - A classified employee who does not volunteer, or who has not been trained, shall not be required to provide emergency medical assistance.

**NO Intimidation** - The employer "shall not directly or indirectly use or attempt to use his or her authority or influence for the purpose of intimidating, threatening, coercing, or attempt to intimidate or threaten any employee who does not choose to volunteer. Therefore, classified employees who do not volunteer to be trained to administer Diastat may not be disciplined, laid off, or have their hours reduced because they do not volunteer.



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## Resources

PacifiCare Behavioral Health plan offers a broad range of services including but not limited to:

- Work Issues
- Emotional Well-Being
- Parenting and Child Care
- Substance Abuse
- Money Management

PacifiCare Behavioral Health (888) 625-4809  
[www.pbhi.com](http://www.pbhi.com)

Keep in mind, if you are: Unemployed OR working less than full-time, AND You are able, available, and actively seeking work: You may be eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits. The California Employment Development Department (EDD) determines an individual's eligibility for benefits. To apply for Unemployment Insurance Benefits, please call the EDD at 1-800-300-5616, or apply on-line

**Don't forget: Need any Union help? e-mail**

[otbshotline@gmail.com](mailto:otbshotline@gmail.com)

### Apply for a CSEA Scholarship

Since the early 1960's, CSEA's Scholarship Program has awarded more than a million dollars to union members and their dependents who want to begin or continue their secondary education. \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to recipients based on academic achievement, character, leadership and extra-curricular activities within the community. Financial need may also be taken into consideration on some. There are graduating high school senior, community college and college and vocational school scholarships.

CSEA Scholarship Applications are accepted Jan 1—March 31.

Applications available January 2, 2012 visit [www.csea.com](http://www.csea.com) for more information.

"A human being is not attaining his full heights until he is educated". -Horace Mann

### CSEA Call Out!

The Communication Committee at the CSEA office would like to recognize our veterans, especially woman. If you are a veteran, please contact Beth Saldana @619-306-1948 or at [bsaldana@cox.net](mailto:bsaldana@cox.net)

Please email me at [katherynw71@gmail.com](mailto:katherynw71@gmail.com) for ideas, feedback or any special interest story you would like to include in the newsletter. A Big Thanks to all of you who have already emailed me. It is valued!

**Do you want to get the Newsletter via email? Email**

[classifiedotbs@lists.sandi.net](mailto:classifiedotbs@lists.sandi.net) and put subscribe in the subject. You may also put unsubscribe in the subject if you do not want to receive the newsletter.

## Catastrophic Leave Bank

**Classified Catastrophic Leave Bank Open enrollment Donation Period is from January 1-31<sup>st</sup>.**

### Brief Explanation:

January 2012 is the annual open enrollment period for permanent employees who wish to participate in the Classified Catastrophic Leave Bank. Employees in the (OTBS), (OSS), and (PARA) bargaining units must annually donate a minimum of one (1) or more days of full salary sick leave or one (1) or more days of full salary vacation day to the bank in order to be a member of the Bank for the calendar year. Donating one or more days qualifies the employee for membership in the bank should they ever be in need of a donation of sick leave days and assists other employees who are catastrophically ill or injured.

## January is National Mentoring Month

Each year since 2002, President George W. Bush has endorsed the campaign by proclaiming January as National Mentoring Month. The declaration has been endorsed by both chambers of the Congress.

To be a mentor, you don't need special skills, just an ability to listen and to offer friendship, guidance and encouragement to a young person. And you'll be amazed by how much you'll get out of the experience.

Mentoring happens in a number of settings:

- The community.
- Schools.
- The faith-based community.
- Business.
- Through the Internet.

*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. -Maya Angelou*



**Nominations for the 86th annual CSEA Conference held in Las Vegas will begin at the January Chapter meeting.**

