

DIÁN DOLORES HASSON
CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
DIRECTOR
SERVING CFA, CCA, ICCUFA AND SCTA
-NEA AFFILIATE-

Winter, 2009

Volume 5
Issue 2



CTA Director Dián Dolores Hasson in Ohio for 13-day GOTV drive conducted during the early voting allowed in Ohio



District J-Higher Ed Report

HOPE



Our members celebrated President Obama's inauguration in a variety of ways. Some braved the cold and the crowds to attend the historic event in Washington, DC, such as NEA Director Theresa Montaño. Others worked on community projects as a part of the NEA's partnership with the Obama Inauguration Committee to promote community service over the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend.

Projects ranged from collecting food donations to cleaning up the beaches and parks. Pictured on the left is Maaria Thompson, from CSU, Stanislaus who worked with Chance Carrico and Areli Dohner-Chavez (pictured next) collecting canned goods and then distributing them along with hot coffee and cookies to neighbors in need. At the beach, SCTA members from CSU, Monterey Rachel Jarvis, Nobia Monsauret, Sadie Johnson and a friend from campus cleaned up!

Our STCA members from CSU, Fullerton; Sonoma State; American River; San Jose State; Chabot College; CSU, Sacramento; William Jessup University (new to SCTA); CSU, Stanislaus; CSU, San Bernardino; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Chapman University; UCLA; CSU, Monterey; Mount San Antonio and others deserve a round of applause for giving meaning to **HOPE**.

Other CTA members worked in their community, too. Pictured on the right is Jan McKissick who, along with Dián Dolores Hasson—both from Butte Community College, cooked chili for over 300 in a "Feed Your Neighbors" project in Paradise. Still others work throughout the year feeding the homeless, sending toiletries to soldiers abroad, donating blood, etc. We can change our neighbors' lives for the good.

"YES, we can!" Hope is alive.

The Sky is Falling!

This time Chicken Little is right; the sky is really falling. Previous budget balancing strategies worked in large part because the deficit was minor and most strategies could be used at least once. The magnitude of our current problem means there are no more options to defer the problem.

The Governor proposes **another 10% raise in CSU tuition**. For the first time, Cal Grants will not increase to make up for the increase in tuition. As Judy Heiman, a LAO analyst, states, **“It could get to the point even students with full grants can’t afford to pay fees.”** (LA Times, 1/13/09) Even if a student is able to pay the increased fees and isn’t one of the 10,000 qualified students denied access to any CSU campus this fall, he/she will find that the number of course offerings have diminished as the number of students in the courses available have increased. CSU, Chico canceled over 20 of their English composition classes which means that students will take even longer to graduate.

Faculty who once were at the top of their fields are finding themselves without any financial support from their university to travel to their discipline meetings and are thus unable to maintain vital contacts and currency. With salaries low and stagnant and with increased class size and workload demands, faculty find themselves in a losing proposition. Many CSU faculty who are lecturers have been hit the hardest with no teaching assignment for the fall.

The very heart of the university is being attacked, the quality of the teaching profession. In the end **we all lose**—students, faculty and the State.

To right: John Halcon, CFA Secretary and CTA State Council Representative, makes it clear that students at his campus, CSU San Marcos, and in the CSU system are being underserved. Ten thousand students will be denied acceptance into the CSU and those there will find it difficult to graduate even in 6 years! This is not acceptable.



Leo Kirchhoff, Nena Tórrez and Emma Gibson at the CSU Board of Trustee meeting in Long Beach. Student fees have increased 135% since 2002!



Above: Students at Merced Community College protesting the cuts in the budget. On March 16 CC students and faculty will march on Sac.



Above and to the right: Community College Association President Ron Norton Reel speaking to the CTA Board about the consequences of cuts to the community colleges. From left to right: CTA Board members Michael Bustos and George Melendez, and Assistant Executive Director Joe Nuñez.

Even if a budget is passed, we can expect it to be an on-going process, given that the State has an over \$40 billion deficit to handle and that number is rising as income, property and sales tax revenues are lower than expected.

All components of Proposition 98 are threatened with a **permanent decrease in funding** based upon the Governor’s novel, but wrong, interpretation of that proposition. His office maintains that the State does not have to restore any money withheld under Prop. 98. Of course, CTA is fighting that interpretation since it could mean a \$7 billion loss to K-14 education.

Under CTA President David Sanchez’s leadership, CTA **proposed an initiative** with a 1 cent sales tax devoted to K-14 funding. If passed by State Council in late January, it might qualify for a special election ballot if one is called for November 2009. If passed, it would take time to raise revenues by the sales tax which of course means it would be helpful for the future but not for the mid-year and 2009-2010 cuts community colleges (CC) are facing.

Unlike the CSU, the Governor’s budget proposal for 2009-2010 protects community college students from a tuition increase and also increases money to CCs to fund enrollment growth (planned at 3%). On the negative side, community college districts will have their January and February funds from the State

deferred until July. Given that most CCs have healthy reserves this should not affect services.

Unfortunately, many districts are tightening their budgets anyway and **canceling any class** taught by part-time faculty which bring the college over its enrollment cap (students served who are not funded by the State). Some CCs are not offering summer school, or are reducing summer school by 50% and/or deleting winter inter-sessions. CCA President Ron Norton Reel says, “If we take the 150,000 students whom the chancellor's office says won't have classes, divide it by 30 for each average class, there will be a loss of 5,000 class sections.”

At other CC campuses, counselors predict almost all classes in the fall will be filled by this spring, meaning new students, such as the ones turned away by the CSU, are unlikely to find a seat at a community college near them. Leaders at private colleges such as Azusa Pacific and Westmont, a part of the Independent California Colleges and University Faculty Association (ICCUFA) which is a CTA affiliate, maintain their students can still be guaranteed the opportunity to graduate in 4 years.

Not so for public higher education!

CTA President David Sanchez is outraged at cuts to Pre K-G. He reminds politicians:
You have failed to keep your promises to the young.

DIÁN DOLORES
HASSON
CALIFORNIA
TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION
DIRECTOR
SERVING CFA, CCA,
ICCUFA AND SCTA
-NEA AFFILIATE-

Phone: (530) 518-3930
Fax: (530) 876-2327
E-mail: hassondi@aol.com
Web Host:
<http://www.ccafcfa.org>



Chaumonde Porterfield-Pyatt (CCA) and Leo Kirchhoff (CFA) serve with Sherry Miller White (CCA) on the Resolutions Committee.

Chaumonde is an alternate on Resolutions. Leo is term limited and therefore a new person will be elected to this post at the NEA RA this summer.

Chaumonde also serves as a Director on ABC, Association for Better Citizenship.

CTA Director Chaumonde Porterfield-Pyatt did it again! Even in a year when more chapters requested funds, she was able to get a substantial dollar amount to our community college chapters for campaign contributions to candidates for board of trustees, for and against measures and for bonds.

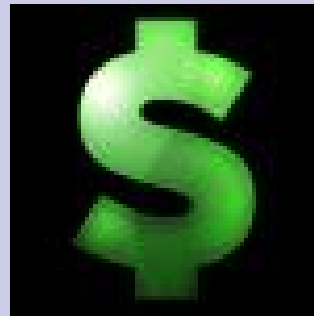
Deadlines: The ABC Intent Form must be in 50 days in advance of the election and the Application Form must be in 35 days in advance of the election. No late forms are accepted.

Contact information:

bettercitizens@sbcglobal.net

Fax number: (559) 734-9465

Forms: www.cta.org



74% of all the candidates for local board of trustee and school board elections recommended by CTA/CCA chapters who requested ABC funds **won!** Even some we lost were significant given that our candidate ran against an entrenched incumbent. Carolyn Inmon for example had approximately 47.6 % of the votes. She lost but was close to a win against a formidable entrenched incumbent. Bravo for a well-conducted campaign!

Barstow's Fed and Ted Baca; Coast's Jerry Patterson, Lorraine Prinsky and Mary Hornbuckle; College of Sequoias' Earl Mann; Mira Costa's Gloria Carranza; Rancho Santiago CCCEFA's Dave Chapel; Riverside's Mark Takano and Mary Figueroa; San Bernardino CCDTA's Carlton Lockwood, John Futch, and John Longville; San Joaquin Delta's Maryann Cos, Steve Castellanos and Teresa Brown; Sierra College's Elaine Rosen; So Orange County CCFA's Bill Jay and John Williams won their elections to their respective board of trustees.

CTA/ABC funded measures also did well with 40 out of the 42 measures backed by our K-12 schools and community colleges winning. The College of the Sequoias did especially well with two measures passing!