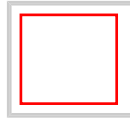


President's Monthly Message (archived)

- updated **July 1, 2005**



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CCA
President,
Carolyn
Inmon,
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The One Million Vote Project!

On June 24, the governor held a small, modest dinner costing invitees \$5,000 to \$25,000 to attend. At the Grand Havana Room at the Beverly Hills Hotel, Arnold and his closest friends got together for some political planning.

You can read about it at www.ArnoldWatch.org

I don't know how that makes you feel but it makes me angrier than I've been for sometime. The hypocrisy is evident in calling us special interests suggests that the government is being run at the expense of our students and for the benefit of Arnold's rich friends.

Our efforts have made a difference. His popularity has plummeted from the sixties to the high thirties. People are not buying this definition as to who is a special interest and who is not. In short, people are not buying his political untruths. However, we cannot let up now.

He called his overpriced special election even though it makes no difference at all as to when the initiatives, if passed, would begin. The Governor's three initiatives have no chance of being implemented any sooner by being passed in the special election than if he had waited to place them on the June 2006 ballot! Therefore, the Governor is wasting the \$52 to \$80 million it costs to have a special election.

There is widespread belief that the main reason for the election is the Paycheck Deception (which he calls Paycheck Protection) Initiative. If passed, it would require every member of a California public employee union to authorize every year any portion of his or her dues used for political campaigns.

The governor's measure to freeze state spending at current levels whenever legislators and the governor cannot agree on a budget by the June 30 deadline would take effect June 30, 2006, whether it passed in November 2005 or June 2006. His plan to make teachers work a few years longer before they get tenure cannot take effect until September 2006 whether it is voted on in November or June. Even the Secretary of State, Bruce McPherson, says there is no way the Governor's plan to take the legislature out of the process of redrawing district lines for their own seats and for Congress can be implemented before 2008 or maybe not until 2010. There is no reason for the State to go through all this when we could clearly wait until June 2006 regularly scheduled primary election.

However, a special election has been called for reasons only The Governor knows for sure. And now we must make sure that his initiatives do not pass.

What can we do?

Every single one of us is going to have to do our part. What can you do right now? Each chapter must set in motion the most powerful grassroots movement it has ever organized. Summertime is the perfect time to do things like the following:

- Make sure the data base of your members is corrected and in place.
- Create a listserv with your members.
- Set up telephone trees and telephone banks.
- Appoint a strong political action committee to begin work on getting out the message and getting out the vote.
- Develop fliers for all targeted audiences: tenured professors, probationary professors, part-time professors, administrators, classified, students, community.
- Plan to coordinate your message with the state message: Yes on Board of Trustees / No on Initiatives. Plan a strategy for cost cutting measures such as door-hangers with one message on one side and the other message on the other side.
- Chapters with bargaining issues need to develop messages and strategies that coordinate the campaign themes with the bargaining crisis.
- Meet and plan strategy with administrators and classified staff. We're all on the same team for this one!
- Plan strong Opening Day activities.
- Plan strong Labor Day activities including letters to the editor communicating the importance of Labor Day to working people and the current attack by the governor.
- Give out special water at the beginning of school when it's hot. (Create your own Faculty Association No to the Governor water bottles.)
- Participate in summer community events including festivals, fairs, farmers markets, etc. and distribute material developed by the campaign related to the Governor's initiatives.
- Hold community outreach programs and spread the "No" on the initiatives message while you do outreach.
- Hold some type of social activity to discuss current happenings in the campaign. This could include a summer barbeque, house party, potluck or some other type of gathering.
- Develop rapid response networks so that we can continue to shadow the governor's activities.
- Plan phone banks. Consider hiring students to help with phoning. Possibly use speech students.
- Plan student voter registration.
- Plan a student speakers' bureau.
- Plan student get out the vote activities. Establish a polling place on your campus.
- Ask your vendors to support these efforts. How important is your business to them?
- Plan a special campaign for new hires.
- Volunteer to be at Arnold sightings. A group of protesters went to the Beverly Hilton.

Other groups have followed him every place he goes. We must keep the pressure on. You will think of more!

Don't wait until August. November 8, will be here before we know it. Pieces of paper will not win this for us. We must put into motion ways to contact as many people as possible in person and on the telephone.

CTA has as its goal to get out 1,000,000 votes. CCA let's be a major part of that!

Recently someone said, "I am busy negotiating. I don't have time for all that state stuff." I think they are missing the point. The union as we know it is dead if Arnold's initiatives pass. Like it or not, education is political. When politics stops deciding how much money we have and how we operate, we can stop being political. Until then, we cannot allow Arnold and his cigar smoking rich pals to take away our money and take away our voice. Let's get busy!

Any questions? Call the CCA office at 916/726-4207.

