

President's Monthly Message

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

- updated **September 14, 2007**



< **Learn more** about the CCA President, Ron Norton Reel, [here](#).

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Proposition 98 Produces a 5.4% Raise For Community Colleges:

The California Community College System-wide Budget was up 5.4% this year when compared to the funds received last year. The CTA Sponsored Legislation known as Proposition 98 mandates that 50% of the revenues collected by the State of California be spent on education K-12 and the community colleges. The community colleges continue to benefit from this historic and landmark legislation each and every year. The proposed increase in ongoing Prop 98 funding for 2008-2009 in the CCC System Budget Request is 12.2 percent.

Court Orders State To Repay CalSTRS For SBMA Holdout:

A California appeals court has ordered the state to repay \$700 million to the CalSTRS. The funds are earmarked for the Supplemental Benefits Maintenance Account (SBMA) that underwrites inflation protections for some of the system's oldest retirees. The court victory calls on the state to repay the original \$500 million illegally withheld in 2003, along with \$200 million in interest. In addition to this victory, CTA battled successfully this budget session to prevent another raid on SBMA funds in the 2007-2008 state budget.

New Term-Limits Measure Qualifies For State Ballot:

A new Democrat-backed term limits initiative qualified for the February 2008 ballot Tuesday, September 4, 2007. Four counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Riverside, and San Bernardino revised their counts resulting in an additional 5,490 signatures to the "certified" totals they had submitted earlier in August.

Basic Skills Money Restored:

AB 194 (Committee on Budget) was approved. This legislation restored \$33.1 million to the community college system-wide budget in English as a Second Language (ESL) and Basic Skills. Previously the Governor had vetoed this portion of the budget. The community colleges will find 1.6 million for faculty and staff development and 31.5 million for program and curriculum planning and development.

AB 1559 (Berryhill) was sent to the Governor to sign:

If the Governor signs this bill, college nursing programs whose applicants exceed enrollment capacity will be authorized to select students for program admission using a multi-criteria screening process, a random selection process, or a blend of the two criteria mentioned above.

SB 832 (Corbett) was sent to the Governor to sign:

This bill will be known as the College Textbook Affordability Act, and will require textbook publishers to provide the following information:

- A complete list of products that are germane to the subject area of interest and offered for sale by the publisher.
- Wholesale price of the product.
- Estimated length of time the publisher intends to keep the product on the market.

A complete list of all substantive changes made between the current edition and the most recent previous edition of the product.

H.R. 2669 Gets Congressional Approval:

The College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 eliminates Tuition Sensitivity. This bill increases Pell grants, and reforms certain other aspects of financial aid. Community college students will be able to continue qualifying for Pell Grants.

Rio Hondo College Faculty Association Steps Up:

Preparing for the November 2007 Board of Trustee elections, the Rio Hondo College Faculty Association formed an expanded PAC (Political Action Committee). Under the direction and assistance of CCA/CTA Primary Staff Consultant, Robin Devitt, the PAC developed candidate questionnaires and identified potential candidates. In an effort to have college-wide presence felt by all sides, each discipline and department members will take turns attending board of trustee meetings. The faculty will be wearing red buttons to show solidarity. The buttons read, "We Are RHFA."

South Orange County Faculty Association Gears Up:

Preparing for the November 2008 Board of Trustee elections, the South Orange County Faculty Association is preparing for a four seat board of trustee race. They have a year to plan for the monies that will be needed in this 500,000 active voter district. The chapter will work with CCA/CTA Primary Staff Consultant Marianne Reynolds and Region 4 Political organizers during the course of next year to maximize the effectiveness of their campaign. This District has a 4/3 split of faculty friendly members. To complicate matters, it appears that one trustee member may not be able to complete his

term. There may be an appointment or possible election of his replacement. Capable CCA/CTA staff is working behind the scenes to ensure a positive outcome.

Mt. San Jacinto Faculty Association Stages A Campaign:

A first step in many to follow is taking place at Mt. San Jacinto College. Under the direction of CCA/CTA Primary Staff Consultant, Marianne Reynolds, a newly formed PAC is in the final stages of selecting a candidate to run against an incumbent who has been hostile to the needs of all employee groups. Newly found power and work is paying off!

Kern Community College Faculty Association Retreat Pays Off:

The executive board members of the Kern Community College Faculty Association received training from their CCA/CTA staff consultant regarding bargaining strategy and organization training during their summer retreat.

College of the Canyons Know About Grievances:

College of the Canyons, under the leadership of their CCA/CTA Primary Staff Consultant, Robin Devitt, decided to learn all they could about grievances. The special training that took place during the summer focused on recognizing the differences between a complaint and a violation. They examined multiple methods for processing grievances, and looked at what can be done with the District to keep from having grievances in the first place.

CTA Search Is Expanding:

The CTA-Search web site is undergoing a major change to make it easier for leaders and staff to access its many data bases. It will be easier to find specific language that will assist with negotiations or bargaining. All chapter presidents and negotiation chairs may sign up for a password to access CTA-Search. You must re-register for this academic year. Only use a personal or chapter email address. You may no longer register a school district email address. The CCA web site will have links to specific community college chapter contracts soon.

CTA Dues Calculation 2008-2009:

The 2007-2008 CTA dues are currently \$621.00. This is the last year of the debt reduction and fund balance restoration assessment. By using the by-law computation formula, next year's CTA Dues will be \$579 dollars.

Coast Gets Released:

Coast received a NEA part-time release grant purchasing reassigned time for President Dr. Barbara Price. NEA pays the amount for the President for three years. The chapter must agree to raise dues enough to cover the costs after the three years has expired. Congratulations Dr. Barbara Price and CCA/CTA Primary Staff Consultant, Robin Devitt.

Long Beach Faculty Rock:

CTA Treasurer Dan Vaughn and CCA President Dr. Ron Norton Reel both spoke before the full-time faculty during their flex day activities. NEA was represented by VirginiaAnn "Ann" Shadwick. CTA also was represented by Dián Dolores Hasson and Marty Meeden. The theme song "We Will Rock You" played as the faculty assembled and then once again as they departed after an exciting time of faculty union presentations. CCA President Ron Norton Reel addressed the Part-time Faculty Members at their flex day activity.

Copper Mountain Negotiations Continued:

Copper Mountain Faculty Association is currently negotiating an entire new contract. Marianne Reynolds has spent the summer working with the negotiation team and the organizing team preparing them for success at the bargaining table.

Mira Costa Makes Progress For Part-time Faculty:

The Mira Costa Faculty Association tentatively agreed to new language in evaluations and notification of part-time faculty when they are not reemployed for the following semester.

Butte College To File Unfair Labor Practice Charge:

The Butte College Faculty Association is filing an unfair labor practice charge against the District for unilaterally changing the benefits program.

Lake Tahoe Angora Fire Relief Is Finalized:

Two faculty members from the Lake Tahoe Faculty Association lost their homes in the Angora Fire. Both received grants from the CTA Disaster Relief fund. CCA also contributed additional funds for these CCA chapter members.

College of the Sequoias Received Settlement:

The College of the Sequoias resolved two layoff issues with counselors dating back three years. Counselors received the settlement they were seeking. Primary Staff Consultant Alan Frey was instrumental in the settlement. CTA Legal department is researching Accreditation Commission encroachment into negotiable issues.

College of the Siskiyous Gets A Raise:

College of the Siskiyous settled a new salary contract for 2007-2008. They received a 6.92 percent settlement.

CCA Fall Bargaining and Leadership Conference:

The Fall Conference is scheduled for October 5-7, 2007, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, California. It is not too late to register online for this wonderful training opportunity. Visit www.ccafca.org/register. Chapter Presidents, it is up to you to validate all delegates representing your CCA/CTA/NEA affiliate.

NEA Distance Education Grant Is Utilized:

With the assistance of CCA/CTA Primary Staff Consultant Diana Fernandes Lisi, Solano College was granted money to develop policy and bargaining benchmarks designed to enhance and support quality in distance education. The group is composed of faculty, staff, administrators, and outside experts. Christine Maitland, representing the NEA, was chosen to facilitate the meetings. Under her outstanding direction, the group, who met for the first time at Monterey Peninsula College, began their study. The next meeting will be October 5-7, 2007, at the CCA Fall Bargaining Conference in Sacramento, California. Diane White, CCA Solano Chapter President is the chair of the committee.

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

