

President's Monthly Message

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

- updated **January 9, 2008**



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

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Chapter Special Projects:

Monterey Peninsula College Faculty Association will host Enlance (Engaging Latino Communities for Education) Project (Arizona State University) to begin a coalition to address retention rate for K-14 and (4-year University). The Project will include K-12, Community Colleges, and Universities.

- *Chaffey College CDC* (San Bernardino) held an all-unit member dinner meeting. They now have 100% membership.
- *Citrus College Faculty Association* formed a PAC and is doing three consecutive trainings on identification and recruitment of candidates for the 2008 election.
- *Mt. San Antonio College Faculty Association* received \$20,000 from the ABC Committee for school board elections. The chapter conducted a direct mail campaign with two pieces and also candidate contributions.
- *Rio Hondo College Faculty Association* received \$3,000 from the ABC Committee and used it to launch a campaign to unseat a difficult and nonfaculty-friendly incumbent. The efforts of the faculty and PAC sent a strong message to the Board of Trustees that the association is now an official player in the political arena.
- *Victor Valley College Faculty Association* endorsed the Board of Trustee candidate who won the most votes out of seven candidates. They won two of the seven seats.
- *Imperial Valley College Faculty Association* endorsed the Board of Trustee candidate who dominated the incumbent and won by a 20% margin.
- *Mt. San Jacinto Faculty Association* endorsed a candidate who fell short of winning his seat. However, the effort made the Board of Trustees in that district realize there now exists a force that never existed before.
- *College of the Canyons Faculty Association* is currently in the midst of negotiations training for all bargaining team members.
- *Rio Hondo College Faculty Association* is in the middle of PAC training for the Executive Board and PAC Team.
- *Palo Verde Community College Association* is currently conducting "Know Your Rights and Responsibilities" training open to all faculty members.
- *Shasta College Faculty Association* is having internal union discussions on how to provide office space for part-time faculty.

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Negotiation Highlights:

- *Shasta College 2007-2008*: Settled for 6.7% salary increase.
- *Barstow College 2007-2009*: Settled for 12% salary increase retroactive to August 2007, 3% for 2008-09, and an increase in the district cap on its contribution to medical benefits.

Community College Association Chapters Facing WASC Encroachments:

Accreditation issues continue to raise concerns among CCA chapters. WASC, the accrediting agency for community colleges, has been encroaching into collective bargaining matters. Topics of concern include Student Learning Outcomes (a workload issue), Evaluation, and Tenure. CTA has issued a legal opinion, and asks each local chapter experiencing such encroachment to report such practice to their Primary Contact Staff.

Distribution of Newsletters via School Mailboxes Going to California State Supreme Court:

"San Leandro Teachers Association v. San Leandro Unified School District" case will be heard by the California State Supreme Court with the outcome to conclude in about one year. The court of appeal overturned the Alameda County Superior Court's decision permitting the San Leandro Teachers Association to distribute newsletters containing political endorsements via school mailboxes. What this means for us is that the decision to not allow use of mailboxes has been vacated until the next decision is finalized. If your District does not allow your use of mailboxes, please contact your

Primary Staff Consultant so CTA can contact our legal department and provide the most current legal interpretation. Assistant Chief Counsel Priscilla Winslow will represent the association before the California Supreme Court.

Electoral Vote Measure Fails To Make June Ballot:

A proposed initiative to affect next year's presidential election did not qualify for the June ballot. The proposal would have replaced the current state winner-takes-all system appropriating all 55 electoral votes to be broken up to the candidate winning individual congressional districts. Republicans suggest they would have gotten 19 electoral votes, about the size of Ohio. Democrats suggest they need all 55 votes to win the White House. Currently California provides more than 10% of the 538 electoral votes needed and has the most of any state.

State Budget Crisis Grows:

California is facing its worst budget deficit in years with a projected \$14 billion hole. CCA & CTA will be working with the entire Education Coalition to protect public school funding and to ensure that any midyear cuts that need to be made will be done far away from the classroom. We will all need to work together. The irony of this budget crisis is that if the Governor had not repealed the car tax when he was first elected, there would be no budget

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

