



# News

April 2009

## From the Front

CCA President, Ron Norton Reel

### All Of The State Ballot Propositions For May 19<sup>th</sup> Are Inextricably Tied Together For Education To Survive!

#### Major Features Include:

**Proposition 1A (Budget Stabilization):** stabilizes the state budget roller coaster and prevents deep cuts in bad economic years. It requires the state to direct 3% of general fund revenues into a rainy day fund each year until the fund reaches 12.5 percent. Part of the money from this fund would be used to begin repaying some of the money cut from public schools and community colleges. **Failure to pass this proposition will lead to over \$16 billion in cuts to education.**

**Proposition 1B (Education Repayment):** establishes a repayment plan to ensure schools are repaid the \$9.3 billion they are owed under the minimum school funding law. Proposition 1A provides the money to repay education. **Failure to pass this proposition will prevent schools from rehiring teachers, enlarge class sizes, keep school districts from buying up-to-date textbooks, and eliminate programs like art, music, and career technical education.**

**Proposition 1C (Lottery Modernization):** will provide \$5 billion in new revenues without raising taxes to help close the budget deficit. The same amount of money currently paid to education will now be placed under Prop 98 and would gain cost of living increases. **Failure to pass this proposition will result in a \$5 billion hole in the state budget.**

## State Ballot Propositions For May 19<sup>th</sup> (cont.)

**Proposition 1D (Children Services):** temporarily redirect money from tobacco taxes to pay for children's health care over the next two years. **Failure to pass this proposition will result in the loss of approximately \$1 billion dollars.**

**Proposition 1E (Mental Health Funding):** temporarily redirect money from the Mental Health Trust Fund from the Mental Health trust Funds to pay for children's social services over the next two years. **Failure to pass this proposition will result in the loss of approximately \$1 billion dollars.**

**Proposition 1F (Legislative Salary Freeze):** prohibits state legislators, the governor and other state politicians from getting pay raises whenever the state budget is running a deficit. **Failure to pass this proposition will weaken the legislature's and the Governor's accountability to the citizens of California.**

## CCA/CTA Files Decertification Petition

CCA/CTA has filed a decertification petition with PERB to replace United Faculty at Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College (San Diego). A PERB conducted election will occur in late spring or early fall.

### Health Benefits Update



CCA/CTA staff continue to work with various coalitions to bring about changes in the delivery of health insurance benefits for our members.

Staff recently met with California Education Coalition for Health Care Reform (CECHCR) representatives and a group of large school district purchasers to discuss the potential for consolidation among existing purchasing pools, implementation of a statewide "School Pool," putting together uniform standards based on the California Health Care Coalition (CHCC) principals.

## CCA/CTA Voted To Co-Sponsor SB 810:

CCA/CTA voted at the most recent State Council to co-sponsor SB 810, the Single Payer Health Care Bill, previously authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl (SB 840).

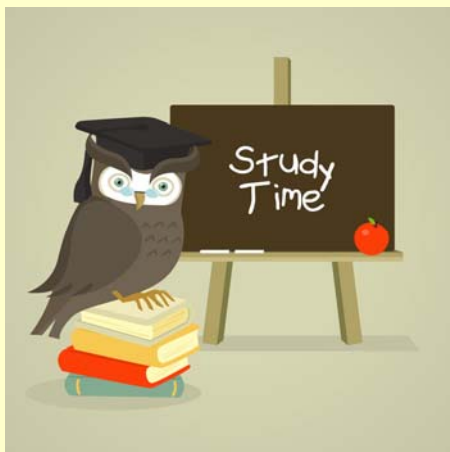
### CTA Budget Committee Recommendation RE: Dues Structure

The CTA Budget Committee has proposed the following dues structure for educators as a feasibility study.

Category	Dues Range	% of Dues
<u>I</u>	\$40,000 and Over	100%
<u>II</u>	\$32,000-39,999	80%
<u>III</u>	\$24,000-\$31,999	60%
<u>IV</u>	\$8,000-\$23,999	25%
<u>V</u>	Less than \$8,000	10%

## CCA

### Building Strong Locals Academy



CCA President, Ron Norton Reel will introduce the community college professors selected for the fourth annual CCA Building Strong Locals Academy at the CCA Spring Conference to be held in San Diego April 25, 2009. The faculty members will complete a year long curriculum and training on how to become advocates at their local colleges.

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## New Business Item 03/09 -6 Is Approved by CTA Board



This new business item provides that the CTA Board of Directors make their monthly itineraries available to constituents through CTA minutes. Knowing where CTA Directors have been will allow members knowledge of the duties performed by our Directors and will testify to the interaction of our Directors with our memberships.

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### Legal Cases of Interest:

Hildebrandt v. St. Helena Unified School District (Mar 19, 2009) Case 26-38503 (California Court of Appeal- First District) – Bumping Rights of Part-time Certificated Employees.

This case raised the issue of whether or not more senior part-time certificated employees were entitled to bump into a position held by a more junior full-time certificated employee. The court held that the more senior part-time employee were not entitled to “bump” into the more junior full-time employee position.

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### Restructuring:

College of the Canyons: has formed their first ever Representative Council by election and bylaw modification

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### CCA Chapter Negotiation Wins



Riverside CCA/CTA: MOU to increase the number of faculty on the tenure review committee which establishes the faculty as the majority on the committee.

West Hills College FA: MOU providing additional paid time for Student Learning outcome assessments.

## **CCA Responds To Barbara A Beno Representing ACCJC**

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Memo To: All Interested Parties

From: Ron Norton Reel, Lynette Nyaggah, Alan Frey (CCA)

Date: March 24, 2009

Subject: Barbara A. Beno, President of Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Memo Concerning Community College Association (CCA/CTA) Communications To Some California Public Colleges

Dear Interested Parties:

On March 17, 2009 CCA met with Barbara Beno as a courtesy to put her and the group she represents on notice of the concerns regarding the actions of ACCJC we believe that are outside the purview of accreditation and interfere with collective bargaining regarding the colleges we represent.

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Dear CCA Members,

Yesterday CCA Consultant to Governance Alan Frey, CCA Vice President Lynette Nyaggah and I met with Barbara Beno, Director of the ACCJC in her office regarding various concerns CCA has over the recent findings and results issued by the Commission.

We had a very productive and informative meeting. I wanted to share three things this morning with all of you. A detailed letter will be sent soon.

**First:** Not one community college in California has received a sanction because of SLOs.

**Second:** Colleges are free to use any means they wish to achieve the Standards required by the Commission as long as they demonstrate how the Standards are being accomplished. The “Rubric” used by the Accreditation Team is a way of standardizing information brought by the Team to the Commission, but colleges do not have to complete the items on the rubric themselves in order to be accredited.

For faculty, verification of student achievement is the key component. The Student Learning Outcome is only one way of showing achievement. If a faculty group decided to use another method, it would be acceptable to the **Commission as long as it was data-based and met the Standards.**

**Third:** Faculty can only control the teaching and, to a certain extent, learning part of accreditation. We must demand that our administrators and trustees keep their end of the bargain for those areas which are their responsibility. Many colleges are being sanctioned for issues outside teaching and learning, and faculty should not be held responsible for those sanctions.

Please let your primary contact staff person know if what you are being asked to do interferes with collective bargaining. We did put Dr. Beno on notice that we will be pursuing these issues as they develop.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Norton Reel

CCA President

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**Please understand, the law allows us to communicate with the chapters we represent with an expectation that outside parties not interfere nor try to communicate with our members. It appears that Ms. Beno has tried to sabotage that right. Here is a copy of the communication Ms. Beno sent to CEO'S and ALO's that has been distributed statewide to faculty groups and to our members.**

MEMO TO: CEO's, ALO's  
FROM: Barbara A. Beno, President  
DATE: March 20, 2009  
SUBJECT: CAA communications to some California Public Colleges

Dear Colleagues:

On Tuesday of this week, I met for about an hour with representatives of the CAA to discuss accreditation matters about which they had questions and about which their members have concerns. The meeting was informational only. The CAA may now be trying to communicate some information about its informational meeting with me. Unfortunately, from what I've heard, it appears the CAA communications are not very accurate. I want you to be assured that the Commission has not changed its position or its expectations of institutions, nor would the Commission communicate any changes in its expectations of institutions through another agency or organization.

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CCA met with Ms. Beno for the purpose of clarifying our concerns so we could communicate with our members the clarification Ms. Beno provided us and reassure our members about their concerns. We told Ms. Beno we would communicate with our members and verified with her what we were going to communicate was accurate. In addition, we are very concerned that Ms. Beno would write a memo when it is very clear she had not read the communication we sent to our members.

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When one says, “Unfortunately, from what I’ve heard...” the art of rumor and intimidation along with misinformation is sent forth as truth when indeed it is not. How would anyone suggest a communication we sent as not being accurate when Ms. Beno in her own words indicates she has not read our communication we sent to our own members. This was a communication to our members from us. Not once in our communication did we indicate we were the **spokespersons for the ACCJC.**

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During the course of the conversation, I shared with the CAA information that the Commission has compiled from its actions on institutions and which I presented in detail to the NorCal CEO's last week. I will be discussing this information with the SoCal CEOs next month.

The information is about the common deficiencies that have caused the 22 ACCJC member institutions that are currently on a sanction to be placed on sanction. The institutions currently on sanction are deficient in meeting standards in one or more of the following areas: program review, integrated planning, governance, and financial stability or management.

These are the same four common reasons for sanction that I reported to the CEOs last time the ACCJC did this analysis, in Spring 2004.

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At our meeting, Ms. Beno did share some information from her presentation to the NorCal CEO's and asked us not to discuss that information with anyone until after she had a chance to share it with the SoCal CEO's. We honored that request and did not nor will we share that information until she has had a chance to share it with others. I don't know why it is mentioned.

HOWEVER, IT WAS MS. BENO WHO SAID WORD FOR WORD, “Not one community college in California has received a sanction because of SLOs.” We quizzed her with several additional questions regarding that statement to clarify and repeated the sentence

The CAA is apparently conveying a confused message that faculty can or should stop work to implement the accreditation standards that have to do with student learning outcomes and assessment because colleges are not yet being commonly sanctioned for failure to do this work. This logic would imply that colleges should only meet standards as the result of the extreme pressure of an accreditation sanction. This is not the message that the ACCJC conveyed to the CAA, and it is an ill-advised message.

Please reread our simple three paragraph communication. There is not one mention or suggestion that indicates anyone should stop working or to not implement the accreditation standards to do with learning outcomes and assessment. We simply repeated Ms. Beno's statement to us that said it is not the only method that can be used. Ms. Beno was very clear that Student Learning Outcome is only one way of showing achievement.

The ACCJC has not changed its expectations for institutional compliance with the standards that have to do with student learning outcomes, as described in the ACCJC letter of September 2008 and the Rubric on Institutional Effectiveness. While the rubric is a way of assessing institutional progress in meeting the standards, it does not replace or substitute for the standards. Institutions are responsible for meeting the standards.

Our letter said, " For faculty, verification of student achievement is the key component. The Student Learning Outcome is only one way of showing achievement. If a faculty group decided to use another method, it would be acceptable to the Commission as long as it was data-based and met the Standards." We cannot understand how one would misconstrue our statement as an, "ill-advised message" when in fact, it was Ms. Beno who made the statement.

I would advise institutions with any questions about accreditation to contact the Commission offices for an answer

We agree that on issues of accreditation, colleges should contact ACCJC, however, CCA has the right to contact membership concerning issues that deal with collective bargaining.

## Community College Accreditation Sanctions Across Commissions 2003-2008

Agency	Community Colleges Served	Number of Sanctions	Percent of Colleges Sanctioned
Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools	95	6	6%
New England Association of Schools & Colleges	64	0	0%
North Central Association of Colleges & Schools	243	2	0.8%
Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities	56	0	0%
Southern Association of Colleges & Schools	298	7	2%
*Western Association of Schools & Colleges	110	41 Ca.	37%

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## New CCA /CTA Cases

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***Solano College Faculty Association:*** PERB charge alleging unilateral change in salary rights under contract.

***Coast Community College Association:*** Advise chapter regarding verification of membership process.

***Lassen Community College District:*** Union member charges disability discrimination/accommodation.

***Solano College Faculty Association:*** Challenge of non- re-election.

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