

CSEA on your Side

May 1, 2004

CSEA Chapter #180

Volume I, Issue 1

CSEA Calendar May

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month:

Reading is Fun Week	2-9
National Association of Classified School Employees Meeting	3-6
County Office of Education Meeting, Rancho Cucamonga Field Office	7-9
Mother's Day	9
Research/Negotiations, San Diego	14-16
Classified School Employee Week	16-22
CSEA Chapter 180 Meeting at 3:00 p.m. in CL 101	17
Public Relations Committee Meeting, San Jose	20-23
Memorial Day <i>All CSEA Offices Closed</i>	31

2004 CSEA Chapter#180 Officers:

Nancy King, President
 Suzy Woods, Vice President
 Denise Mac Donald, Secretary
 Cecy Garcia, Treasurer
 Nicole James, PRO

Volunteer efforts pay off in March election

Our endorsed candidates did well in the March 2 election, thanks in large part to the work of CSEA volunteers. More than 90 percent of CSEA's endorsed candidates were successful.

CSEA-endorsed presidential candidate John Kerry virtually locked up the Democratic nomination, and all but one of the ballot propositions CSEA supported were passed.

Prop. 55 PASSED: This statewide \$12.3 billion school bond will repair classrooms and build new schools from kindergarten to the university level. It contains strict standards to ensure that the money goes directly to our schools. This considerable investment in school construction should also lead to more jobs.

Prop. 56 DEFEATED: This measure would have held legislators accountable for passing a budget on time rather than face the annual



**Remember:
Every Vote Counts!**

budget gridlock we have endured for years.

Prop. 56 failed in large part because of a multimillion dollar campaign by tobacco and oil companies to defeat the measure.

Prop. 57 PASSED: This authorizes the sale of \$15 billion in bonds to help California through the budget deficit. This should help the Legislature and the governor avoid making devastating cuts to public education and other vital services in the 2004-05 budget.

Prop. 58 PASSED: This creates a constitutional amendment requiring that the state adopt a balanced budget and provide for midyear adjustments if the budget falls out of balance. It also includes state budget reserve requirements and limits on future borrowing to balance budgets. This measure does not redefine state revenue growth in a way that imposes new limits on Prop. 98 or that changes the amount otherwise owed to the public schools under Prop. 98.

Celebrate Classified caring and dedication May 16-22

Classified employees have cared for generations of California school children. That's why we're celebrating Classified School Employee Week (CSEW), May 16-22, with the theme "Caring for Generations".

In 1986, the California Legislature declared the third week in May as our week. Yet this year, the

California Legislature is considering the repeal of SB 1419, which could lead to classified employees losing their jobs to private contractors such as Laidlaw and Aramark.

Before you head off to your CSEW celebration, write a letter to your state legislators telling them you're too good to be replaced by low-paid strangers from outside our

community. Contact your chapter leaders or visit www.csea.com for help with writing your letter.

Then, let the fun begin. Be sure to participate in a celebration in your area. From picnics and barbecues to award ceremonies, CSEA is sponsoring events all around the state.





If you are interested in attending, contact Nancy King at 921-5552 or nking@paloverde.edu

Get a great deal on a new car!

CSEA has taken the hassle out of buying that brand-new dream car. We've invited many auto dealerships throughout the state to become part of CSEA's Auto Referral Program. They offer fleet discount pricing to our members. Call Member Benefits at (866) ITS-CSEA (487-2732) to get your current copy of the participating dealers list.

CSEA to hold 78th Annual Conference this summer

CSEA.com—During CSEA's 78th Annual Conference, Aug. 1-5 in Las Vegas, members will do a year's worth of union business in just four days. They will debate and vote on resolutions, decide the union's budget, discuss political strategies and present awards to outstanding members. In all, it promises to be a busy yet productive time.

Early registration for an all-inclusive \$80 delegate fee ends June 14. The late registration fee is \$100.

All members, not just delegates, can attend

Members who are in the Las Vegas area during the conference are welcome to come watch the union in action. You can attend as a visitor at no cost to you,

though you must register and show proof of membership to obtain a badge and program. If you would like a conference packet, which includes all materials found in the delegates' packets, the charge is \$20 (to cover the cost of printing and handling).

Visitors and guests can also purchase tickets to the President's Banquet of Honor for \$50 each.

Spouses or guests of delegates must also register, and they can also purchase tickets for any social events they wish to attend.

Education Days

Member Education Days at the conference will take place on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning.

These sessions offer a wide

range of topics, and the workshops are designed so members can learn new ideas to take home and share with their local chapters.

Community College Symposium

The Community College Committee will host a symposium on Tuesday, Aug. 3, during the lunch period, for all members from community colleges.

Member Honors

Member of the Year recipients will be honored at the President's Banquet of Honor on Tuesday evening. Other awards will be presented on the conference floor, including awards for political action, chapter newsletters, chapter Web sites and internal organizing.

If you have some good news or thoughts on an issue that you would like to share in next month's "CSEA on your Side" newsletter, please email njames@paloverde.edu on or before May 21.

CSEA offers peace of mind



Call (866)ITS-CSEA for supplemental benefits brochures!

CSEA.com—Whether you work full time or part time, CSEA-sponsored insurance plans can fill in the insurance gaps your district doesn't offer.

A quarter of CSEA members work part time. CSEA negotiates insurance plans for their benefits. Even if you're a full-time employee, you may want

to supplement your coverage, such as additional life insurance, a dental plan that covers orthodontia, disability protection or homeowner's insurance.

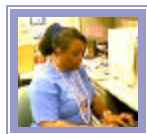
Call Member Benefits at (866) ITS-CSEA (487-2732) for a brochure on:

- Accidental death & dismemberment coverage

- Auto or homeowner's insurance
- Disability or in-hospital income protection
- Life insurance
- PMI dental/DPO plans

All insurance plans recommended by CSEA have been reviewed by the union's Insurance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

CSEA Employee Spotlight



It might be a nice idea to use this space of the newsletter as a way to better get to know some of the great members that we have in CSEA Chapter #180! The first employee that will be featured is our very own Irene Rayford.

Irene has worked at Palo Verde College for about three years. She started out as the CalWORKs Case File Manager/Job Developer. She is currently employed in the Financial Aid Department as the Financial Aid Technician I.

Irene has one son and three beautiful grandbabies who live in Fontana. Irene very much looks forward to the weekends so that she can travel out of town to visit them.

In her spare time, Irene

enjoys shoe shopping, sewing, (when her sewing machine is in working order), watching the L.A. Lakers play basketball and the Oakland Raiders play football. Her favorite food is "soul food".

Irene has an impressive collection of African-American figurines that she has collected throughout the years from different areas of the country (by the way, she welcomes any and all donations!)

She also enjoys working with the students here at PVC, and encouraging them to stay in school.

Although Irene is a native of Blythe, CA, this is far from the only place she has ever lived.

For just over a decade, Irene lived in Pasadena, where she worked at the Ralph M. Parsons Engineering and Construction Company as a Document

Controller and at Pasadena City College as an Intermediate Clerk/Executive Secretary.

For another ten years she lived in Pomona, where she was employed by General Dynamics as a Lead Word Processing Technician and then at ARCO as an Assistant Supervisor/Document Controller.

After spending four more years in Rancho Cucamonga, where Irene worked as a Pharmacy Technician in a closed-door pharmacy, she states that she was "dragged back to Blythe, kicking and screaming". And, boy, are we glad she came back!

Irene hopes one day to advance in her position in the Financial Aid Department. In the years to come, after retirement, she plans to move closer to Fontana, where she will be able to see her grandbabies grow up.



**Don't Forget!
Mother's Day is May 9!**

CSEA Chapter #180 is conducting a raffle for a **Mother's Day Basket** with the winner being announced on May 7 at noon. Tickets are on sale for \$1.00 each, 6/\$5, and 12/\$10. All proceeds will go towards scholarships. Please contact Maria Gracia at 921-5405 or stop by her desk in Student Services if you are interested in purchasing tickets. Remember, it's for a great cause!

It's never too early for retirement planning

CSEA.com—Whether you'll retire next year or in 20 years, you need to attend a FREE CSEA Pre-Retirement Seminar. You'll learn about:

- *CalPERS and Social Security retirement income
- *Purchasing service credit
- *The best retirement date for you
- *The four CalPERS retirement options
- *Health insurance and long-term care coverage

Pre-Retirement Seminar Dates and Times:

Seminar 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Registration 8:30 a.m.

May

8 – Imperial

TBA

Bakersfield, Lancaster

Dates & locations subject to change

For more information, call Member Benefits at (866) ITS-CSEA (487-2732) (option 4).



Benefit of CSEA membership: Metrociti Mortgage

CSEA.com – Metrociti Mortgage is the preferred mortgage lender for CSEA members. Call your dedicated mortgage services team when you start thinking about buying your first home, moving up to your dream home or refinancing your existing home loan. They

will make it easy for you.

?? Find out how much you can afford before you start house shopping by pre-qualifying first.

?? Find out if it makes sense for you to refinance with their free analysis.

?? Your dedicated Metrociti Mortgage services home on the web makes it easy for you to apply for a new home loan or refinance your existing home loan. Visit them online at www.cseamortgageservices.com or call 1-877-241-5578.



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