



Presidents Newsletter

January, 2009

Dear CAS Members,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year. I hope that each and every one of you enjoyed your time off. As you know we are approaching a very important year ahead of us as we prepare for bargaining. With that said I hope you all had a chance to fill out and return your bargaining survey to voice your opinion about your bargaining priorities. In December I attended my second retirement trust meeting and I believe adequately funding the retirement trust will be the biggest issue in bargaining. The Trust received a big hit with investments being down and incurred a 24% loss in investments. It was recommended by the actuary at the December meeting that the trust should take advantage of the extension legislation that Congress recently passed. This legislation would allow extensions on pensions so that they remain in the "green zone" and not subject to government intervention and arbitrary modifications to the plan. CAS and CSO both agreed and voted on the issue but management did not want to proceed. For more information on this legislation you may go to the NSO website, www.nso.org.

This past weekend the Bargaining Team, Organizing Committee, Grievance Committee and our newly elected reps and alternate reps attended the NSO WAR College in Anaheim, CA. The trainings were great and it was nice to socialize with other colleagues from around the state. We have a great group of enthusiastic and talented individuals who have stepped up to volunteer and offer their talents to CAS. I am excited in the direction we are going!

Your Executive Board and Rep Council met December 8-9, 2008 in Sacramento; it was approved by the council extending the terms of office for the Executive Officers for two years to be consistent with the terms of office for Area Directors and Reps. This change will be put to a vote by the membership. You will be receiving information from the elections committee soon. In addition, council recommended a language change regarding the number of participants that can be on the bargaining team. It was discovered that the Standing Rules and By-Laws are not consistent. I want to thank the By-Laws committee for taking the time to review these documents making sure that we stay in compliance.

In the next few weeks we will be kicking off a House Meeting Campaign. Area directors along with the bargaining team and organizing committee will be coordinating these meetings. More information will be forthcoming. It is vitally important to attend as you will receive the most up to date information and have the opportunity to hear from a member of the bargaining team, retirement trust and to express any additional bargaining priorities or concerns that you may have. Member involvement is key to a successful bargaining outcome. We have a great contract and we want to protect those benefits that we have fought long and hard for over the years. Let's show our union pride and stand beside our bargaining team. Remember in UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH!

Mark your calendars, the General Membership meeting will be March 28-29, at the Westin Hotel in Burlingame. We have a very exciting program planned for you in a new format. This is the perfect opportunity to socialize with your colleagues and have a great time while learning something new and getting up to the minute information about the progress of bargaining. Look for registration materials in the next few weeks.

If you should have any questions or concerns, always feel free to contact me.

In Unity,

Dawn Basurto

CAS President

