
CTA Liaison News



By CTA Vice President Dean E. Vogel and Secretary-Treasurer Gail Mendes

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December 3 is Special Educator Day

The Advisory Commission on Special Education reported that December 3 has been designated as the 2010 Day of the Special Educator. Efforts will be made to promote the day throughout all school districts in California.

During the meeting, panel members heard that Congress's approval of the Education Jobs Bill is providing new money to the state, roughly \$1.2 billion to be used to reverse school employee layoffs.

At the same time, frustrations were expressed about the failure of the governor and lawmakers to finalize a state budget in a timely manner. The delay and the proposed additional cuts to public education are undermining efforts to meet the needs of every student, including students with special needs.

The Advisory Commission's website is www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/as/acse.asp.

CTA's Liaisons to the Advisory Commission on Special Education are Jennifer Moon and Barbara Schulman.

California Resource Specialists Raise Concerns About Wide Disparities

The California Association of Resource Specialists (CARS+) at its September meeting noted that school districts across the state are implementing national standards for Special Education in very different ways.

CARS+ reported that some districts are mandating coursework for educators and paying for the costs. Others are paying educators for the applicable classes but are not counting the earned credits for salary schedule purposes.

Still other districts are allowing Resource Certified personnel to serve these students with special needs, while other districts are not. CARS+ tags these disparities as an emerging issue.

The CARS+ website is www.carsplus.org.

CTA's Liaison to CARS+ is Denise James.

Close-up

Elections Watchdog Agency Seeks to Put More Bite Behind Its Bark

The state agency responsible for overseeing campaigning, the Fair Political Practice Commission, has a new chair who is interested in putting more teeth in the agency's enforcement bite.

Dan Schnur, formerly the head of a university political institute, was recently appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schnur has publicly stated that the agency will increasingly publicize the actions of "political" actors that it believes are in conflict with law.

This year, the agency has posted on the Internet the amount of money put into campaigns by self-funded candidates, including GOP Gubernatorial Candidate Meg Whitman, who has put a record more than \$100 million into her own campaign, about \$65.29 per eligible voter, according to the FPPC.

The agency has also posted information about the amount of funding used by independent expenditure campaigns in favor of candidates.

It has recently added web information about investigations into political and campaign actions the agency has mounted.

The Fair Political Practices Commission's website is www.fppc.ca.gov.

CTA's Liaisons to the Fair Political Practices Commission are Lynette Henley and Patrick Riggs.

Regional Occupational Association Sets Nov. 17 as Date for Conference

The California Association of Regional Occupational Centers/Programs (CAROCP) has set November 17-19 as the date of its annual conference. This year's CALCP/CAROCP event is scheduled for the Rancho Las Palmas Resort in Rancho Mirage. CTA representatives are expected to be at the event to liaison with the CALCP/CAROCP members who

attend. In other news, many Regional Occupational Centers and Programs appear to be actively involved with Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). This involvement will give educators a better understanding of how best to work with these Boards.

CAROCP members are working with the Career Technical Education (CTE) Alliance to frame responses to the Multiple Pathways to Student Success report. They believe the report, with which they have some concerns, could spark legislation.

The CAROCP website is www.carocp.org.

CTA's Liaison to CAROCP is Mike Patterson. A special thanks to Hank Mollett for his CAROCP report.

Pupil Services Coalition Hears About Dire Effects of State Budget Cuts

The California Pupil Services Coalition at the group's September 10 meeting received information on the as-yet not-completed state budget. Fears surfaced about the dire effects further cuts in education funding would have on students, educators, and schools.

CTA Liaisons to the Coalition briefed the members on CTA's recommended candidates and issues related to the November 2 election. Coalition members learned how two key CTA-recommended ballot measures would speed up the state budget and protect education dollars.

A representative of the California School Nurses Association reported on the latest attempts by litigants to overturn a recent court decision that bars schools from requiring school employees who are not nurses to administer insulin to students. The nurses cite this as a dangerous practice that puts the health of students at risk and jeopardizes the professional and legal status of the person administering the dangerous drug. A representative from the California School Health Centers said the group is attempting to revitalize the Healthy Start program.

The California Pupil Services Coalition website is www.naswca.org/cassw/cpscfactsheet.htm.

CTA's Liaison to the PS Coalition is Patty Taylor.

Election Day is Action Day to Protect Students, Schools, and Educators

This election day — Tues., Nov. 2 — is an opportunity for CTA members and school supporters throughout California to help win billions of dollars for public education, speed up the state budget process, and elect friends of education to federal, state, and local offices.

CTA is recommending Jerry Brown for Governor and Tom Torlakson for Superintendent of Public Instruction because they both believe that providing full funding for schools is the most important educational reform.

CTA is also working for the election of U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, who like U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, was a strong supporter of federal legislation that has provided billions of dollars to save educators' jobs in California.

Among the four CTA-recommended measures on the ballot is CTA-sponsored Proposition 24 — the Tax Fairness Act — that will repeal a series of loopholes opened recently by the governor and the legislature to aid wealthy corporate special interests.

Closing these loopholes could secure California more than \$2 billion annually for the general fund. Schools get about 40% of the general fund each year.

A second measure, Proposition 25 — the Passing the Budget on Time Act of 2010 — will put additional pressure on the governor and legislature to pass the state spending plan on time. An on-time budget will help stop needless layoff notifications that harm our schools and undermine morale.

You can help win these fights by contacting your local CTA Chapter and taking part in their election activities. Also sign up as a budget advocate to help lobby for more school funding. Just e-mail your name and zip code to summeradvocate@cta.org.

Also, if you're a CTA member but not yet on the *Liaison News* e-mail list, e-mail dbasurto@cta.org.

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