

Summer housekeeping issue

CSLEA ALERT

August 12-September 2, 2009

www.cslea.com



Quiet August before September storms

The budget agreement reached July 24 did not put an end to the fiscal turmoil the state and its employees are in.

Since that time, the president of the California Senate has sued Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger over blue-lining more spending out of the budget than what negotiators had thought they bargained for.

Legislators return Aug. 17 to deal with a major part of the budget crisis that was purposely put aside for another time – the Dept. of Corrections funding. They were scheduled to adjourn for the rest

of the year on Sept. 11, but the governor says he will call them into a special session to deal with the state's tax structure.

Add to all this the various lawsuits challenging the governor's furlough powers, which continue their slow churn through the legal process, and Sacramento is pretty much in a holding pattern for the remainder of August.

CSLEA is using this lull to do some housekeeping in preparation for the pushes ahead in legislation and contract negotiations.

REACHING OUR MEMBERS

Our most important goal for the remainder of the summer is to re-double our efforts to make sure information is getting to our members.

The first step to accomplishing this is making sure we have all our members' e-mail addresses. When things are moving at warp speed in Sacramento, an e-mail alert is the fastest way to bring you information and call on you for help. CSLEA has around 7,000 members, yet we only have 4,000 e-mail addresses, and of those, only 2,000 get opened.

As summer comes to a close,

please take some time to visit the CSLEA Web site www.cslea.com and go to the "Member Services" link and slide the mouse over to the "Member Address Update" feature and confirm or revise the contact information we have for you. An even faster way to make sure we have your e-mail address is to send it to membership@cslea.com

In this heightened technological age in which we live, by far the most important communications vehicle any association has is its Web site. CSLEA recently updated the look and functionality of its site to better serve the membership. For those who like to read their information on paper, we've even added a CSLEA Alert



newsletter, published every two weeks, for members to print

out and take home or post on their department's or agency's bulletin board.



Still, not everyone visits the CSLEA Web site often or at all.



To account for those who have

taken to the social media sites for their information, CSLEA is now on Twitter, Facebook, and

"And this idea of closing state parks is absolutely nuts. For openers, even if you close parks to the public, you still have to police them--otherwise, they will become camps for crime. I can already see the marijuana seeds being planted."

--Former Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Aug. 2, 2009

Continued on Page 2

From Page 1

YouTube. That way, timely and valuable CSLEA information can be transmitted to these members instantly.

You can visit the CSLEA Twitter page at www.twitter.com/CSLEA and the CSLEA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CSLEA CSLEA's YouTube www.youtube.com/csleaTV page will be used to house all past and current videos that CSLEA and its affiliates have produced and TV news segments featuring CSLEA members. This will give members one-stop shopping for all the videos related to CSLEA. They can be found by typing in "CSLEA" in the search bar of the YouTube site.

Our race to keep up with all the technological angles available to CSLEA will not diminish by one hour the number of member meetings it will hold or the staff time it dedicates to delivering value for members' dues money.

But communications is a two-way street and we need to reach each other. Have a general question or one you're not sure where to send it to? E-mail it to

contactus@cslea.com Have a question about your member benefits or want to make sure we have your latest e-mail address? E-mail it to

membership@cslea.com Have an idea for a story for the CSLEA and/or your affiliate Web site? E-mail it to editor@cslea.com

WHY IT'S VITAL

Just last month, in an extremely tight timeframe, CSLEA and its affiliate, ASA-DOJ, e-blasted its members and posted stories on its

"...that thin margin of difference between victory and defeat hinges on our members' involvement ..."

Web sites that drew public and media attention to a proposed \$20 million in cuts that would have closed 51 narcotic task forces in California. This helped not only restore the funding and preserve the jobs of 70 CSLEA-member narcotic agents and the smooth operation of the state's crime lab, but the activity it started was attributed also to keeping 88 percent of state parks open. "We are second to none in our ability to get to the policymakers who make the acid decisions on everything concerning our members," said CSLEA President Alan Barcelona. "And our record

of accomplishments is the envy of many other unions representing state employees, but quite often that thin margin of difference between victory and defeat hinges on our members' involvement—which is why being able to reach them in a timely fashion is vital. association to our core. I want to thank again those members who have stepped up to the plate and got a key hit, but I want to call on those who remain anonymous to us to join the lineup and help us knock a few out of the park. We need to communicate with you in order to do that."



CSLEA BBQ

The CSLEA Board of Directors invites all CSLEA members to a barbeque on Saturday, October 10, between 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The BBQ will be held at CSLEA headquarters, 2029 H St., in Sacramento and takes the place of this year's CSLEA Conference.

This is an opportunity to hear from top policymakers and meet your fellow CSLEA members. There will be free food, beverages, and a gift bag.

Reservations are required and can be made between August 1 and September 25 with Richard Cota, rmc08@verizon.net, or Tina Brazil, spittykitty@sbcglobal.net.