



California School  
Employees Association

EMPIRE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT - CHAPTER 850

## CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

**MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2023 @ 5PM**

1. Call to Order - CP Mazorra called the meeting to order at 5:01pm. Members present were Brandon McCoy, Celia Contreras, Irvin Carrillo, Cindy Cromwell, Maggie Rosales, Travis Mazorra, Juan Tabarez, Marcela Calderon and Rosa Carrasco.
2. Additions to the Agenda - No members had any additions at this time.
3. Approval of minutes from April meeting - A motion was made by Cindy Cromwell to approve the minutes; seconded by Travis Mazorra. Without further questions and discussions, the minutes were approved.
4. Treasurer's Report - Cindy Cromwell reported that the previous balance was 4,383.27 (reported at the April 2023 chapter meeting). There were two deposits for member dues. One on April 5<sup>th</sup> and another one on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. Both deposits were \$56 (totaling \$112). The ending balance for May is \$4,495.27.
5. Old or Unfinished Business
  - a. 2023 Member of the Year Awards -
    - **River Delta Member of the Year:** The event will be coming soon. At the February Isa gave the members an update on that: The River Delta Field Office Team is excited about our twenty-third Annual Member Recognition Event "Inspiring Others". This event will be the celebration of the work we have done building the

union throughout our service area. This is a time where we recognize those special individuals who have made CSEA stronger and better through their efforts. Their special time will be a picnic on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at the Yosemite Lake Rotary Cove I, located at 5614 N. Lake Road in Merced. The afternoon festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. with the Awards and Recognition Program following lunch. We will be celebrating the following categories of union activism: Chapter "Unsung Hero" of the Year, Regional Leader's Award, Retiree Member of the Year and Activist of the Year Award.

- During March's meeting our chapter selected Cindy Cromwell to be Empire 850's "Unsung Hero" of the Year. Congratulations Cindy!
  - We also decided to nominate Isa Wiechmann as "Activist of the Year."
  - Travis has submitted the paperwork for both nominations to the River Delta Field Office.
- **Richard C. Bartlett Activist of the Year:** The Activist of the Year Award has been named in honor of Richard C. Bartlett, who served as CSEA's first executive director. Under his leadership, CSEA registered impressive legislative gains in retirement, wage parity, inservice training, job security, holidays, health insurance, organizational and representational rights and a host of other items. Being active legislatively is a crucial part of the CSEA mission: improving the lives of our members, students and community. The Awards committee is now soliciting nominations for the 2023 Richard C. Bartlett Activist of the Year Award. The awardee will be recognized and presented the award at CSEA's annual conference. Nominees must have performed any significant act of an activist nature, such as: Assisted in building the union. Helped to put forward the face of CSEA into the community. Attended mobilizing events or volunteered in campaigns. Promoted the Victory Club. Advanced the labor movement in general by participating in coalitions or

other ally-building partnerships. Involved other rank and file members in union activities. Nomination form is available on the CSEA website (or you can reach out to Travis for a nomination form). Submit your nomination by email to **awards@csea.com**, no later than June 1, 2023.

- **William P. Schwartz Humanitarian of the Year Award:** The William P. Schwartz Humanitarian of the Year Award is given to a person who continues CSEA Founding Father Bill Schwartz' legacy of unselfish concern and reflects a noble desire to improve the lives of CSEA members and/or the community at large. This award emphasizes the importance of a humanitarian nature within its members and the association, characterizing our core values. The awardee will be recognized and presented the award at CSEA's annual conference. Nominees must have performed any significant act of a humanitarian nature: By demonstrating a generosity of spirit and dedication to the betterment of people in need (in particular, CSEA members). By being involved in service which has enriched the lives of others and the welfare of humanity and society. By contributing above and beyond in the name of charity. Nomination form is available on the CSEA website (or you can reach out to Travis for a nomination form). Submit your nomination by email to **awards@csea.com**, no later than June 1, 2023.
- **Laurence Twoaxe Unity Award:** The Laurence Twoaxe Unity Award is given to a person who continues the legacy of uniting classified employees and who has a noble desire to improve the lives of CSEA members and/or the community. Unity in purpose and action is how great things are accomplished, and it is important to the future of CSEA and its members. The awardee will be recognized and presented this award at CSEA's annual conference. Nominees must have performed any significant act of promoting unity and comradery among members. By demonstrating a generosity of spirit and dedication to the betterment of people in need (in particular, CSEA members). By organizing events and activities aimed at bringing members together. By

contributing above and beyond in the name of unity. Nomination form is available on the CSEA website (or you can reach out to Travis for a nomination form). Submit your nomination by email to **awards@csea.com**, no later than June 1, 2023.

**b.** CSEA Annual Conference – Travis shared that our application for delegate assistance was not processed. HQ stated that they never received our application. Therefore, our chapter will not be sending a delegate to the 2023 conference. The CSEA annual conference will be held July 23 – 28 in Reno, NV. Members are welcome to view the conference as a guest online through the CSEA website: **csea.com**

## **6.** New Business

**a.** Update on summer unemployment benefits – Travis shared the following information from CSEA with the members:

- This bulletin is to inform members who do not receive a paycheck during the summer months of the rules for applying for unemployment benefits. It is also for members who previously received unemployment benefits for the summer and have received a demand to repay those benefits from the state Employment Development Department (EDD). Many members find themselves facing summers without income, which is why CSEA sponsored Assembly Bill 1691 in 2022 to expand eligibility and funding for the Classified School Employee Summer Assistance Program (CSESAP). The provisions of and funding for AB 1691 were successfully included in the 2022-23 state budget and CSEA has encouraged every district we represent to participate in CSESAP.
- **Summer unemployment benefits:** The law is now clear that if a district issues its employee a letter assuring them reemployment in the fall, they are ineligible for unemployment benefits during the summer UNLESS their district is essentially running a year-round program (that is, its summer program is so robust as to resemble its regular-year offerings). There no longer is an exception for school employees who thought they would get rehired for the summer but ultimately did

not. Please do not apply for unemployment benefits hoping EDD will miss the fact that you are a school employee. Their systems have improved to the point where they will likely detect the problem with your claim. If they determine you acted fraudulently, you would have to repay the benefits plus a 30 percent penalty and would become ineligible to collect any unemployment benefits for two years.

- **If you have received a letter from EDD demanding repayment:** Some classified employees who mistakenly applied for unemployment during recent summers have recently received a notice from EDD demanding repayment. However, in sending out these notices, EDD overlooked the one-year statute of limitations on its pursuing overpayments (absent proof of fraud on the claimant's part). Because of this oversight, EDD was sued by the Center for Workers Rights (CWR) and has settled, which is attached to this bulletin. As a result, EDD will be sending out notices rescinding its erroneous demands. It also must refund any payments which employees made in response to these faulty notices. EDD's one-year deadline to demand overpayments starts at the end of your benefit year. If you have questions about these repayment notices, please contact CWR at **rightscenter.org/contact-us**. Any other unemployment questions should be directed to our local field office (which is the River Delta Field Office): **(800) 757-4229**.

**b.** CSEA Association President Town Hall meetings - Join CSEA state leaders, including Association President Adam Weinberger and Executive Director Keith Pace, to hear about the state of our union at an upcoming Town Hall Meeting in your area. This is an opportunity to meet member leaders and staff leaders, share your thoughts with us, and hear about important issues facing our union and the role you play in its future. They look forward to seeing you and answering any questions you may have. The Modesto Town Hall meeting was being held during our chapter meeting at Downey High School from 5pm – 7pm, Travis encouraged members present at the chapter meeting to attend the town hall meeting afterwards if they were able to. The next

town hall meeting that is local for us will be held at 2045 Lundy Ave in San Jose (which is CSEA Headquarters) on June 22, 2023 from 5pm – 7pm. RSVP with the South Bay Field Office if you'd like to attend, email: **sbfoworkorders@csea.com**

**c.** Contract Reopener Brainstorming - For the 23/24 school year our collective bargaining agreement (contract) between EUSD and CSEA Chapter 850 can be reopened for negotiations on Article IX: Compensation, Article X: Benefits, two articles selected by CSEA and two articles selected by EUSD. During this portion of the chapter meeting members were encouraged provide suggestions on changes, additions or revisions to articles of our contract.

- 7.** Good of the Order - No members had anything to share at this time.
- 8.** Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned by CP Mazorra at 5:35pm.