

Legislature Retreats Quietly



There's an old saying around the state capitol: No one's life, liberty or pursuit of happiness is safe while the legislature is in session.

This was never more true than for the legislature that recently adjourned its two-

year session. That legislature allowed Governor Schwarzenegger to end run collective bargaining and eliminate two holidays (Columbus Day and Lincoln's birthday),

and to revise overtime rules to eliminate counting sick leave as time worked when calculating overtime. Some said these benefits were a costly boondoggle long in need of overhaul.



This "tune-up" should have been done in the context of collective bargaining, not as a bargaining chip during budget negotiations. We got nothing for it, and, frankly, neither did the legislature. No sooner was that deal inked last February, that another, even bigger budget deficit spawned another major fiscal "crisis" than required yet another budget revision. Turned out the first one was all smoke and mirrors.



When the Governor unilaterally implemented first two unpaid furlough days, then later a third, legislative leaders and majority party lawmakers were conspicuously quiet. Instead, they "scored" it as a budget savings, which helped result in a balanced state budget, at least on paper. The only time Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg really got worked up was when the Governor allegedly reneged on a handshake deal with him and vetoed social programs he valued. He has since sued in San Francisco Superior Court over that.

Now it turns out that the purported savings from mandatory furloughs might actually be COSTING the state money as a result of lost productivity from the state work force, something CAPS warned about from the very beginning.



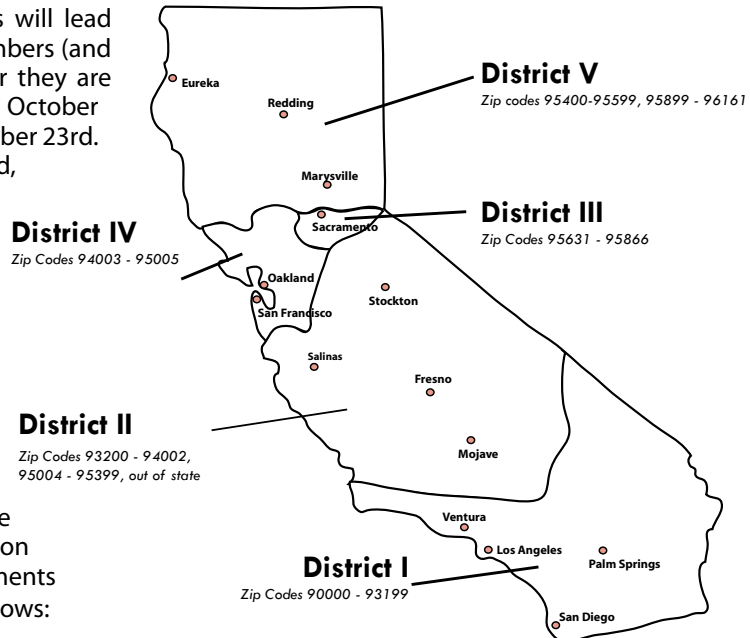
The good news was that the state legislature adjourned without final action on state employee retirement or health benefits. It may return to deal with tax and water issues if the Governor calls a special session. The danger to employee benefits remains, as one or more measures are rumored to be headed for the statewide ballot. CAPS will be there, front and center, to fight proposals detrimental to state scientists and the state's scientific programs.

CAPS Board of Directors Election Underway

The election to determine which state scientist volunteers will lead CAPS for the next two years is well underway. All CAPS members (and members ONLY) will receive a ballot in the mail soon after they are mailed on October 6th. The deadline for return of ballots is October 22nd. Ballots will be counted and results announced on October 23rd. There are five contested seats on the twelve member board, meaning that seven members are running for seats unopposed.

The four officer and two at-large positions are subject to a statewide vote. District offices are broken down geographically as illustrated by the map shown here. The supervisor director is elected by CAPS supervisory members. Supervisory members may vote only for that director and organization officers.

In order to save on printing and mailing costs, CAPS' Bylaws provide that officers and directors running unopposed are elected by acclamation, without the need for confirmation on the ballot. Members will be presented with candidate statements and may vote only where there is a contested election, as follows:



Office	Candidates*	Department	Status
President	Patty Velez	Fish and Game	Incumbent
Vice President	Valerie Brown	Public Health	Incumbent
Secretary	Ryan Kinsella	Toxic Substances Control	Incumbent
Treasurer	Wes Carr	Pesticide Regulation	Incumbent
	Tom Napoli	Fish and Game	Challenger
District I Director	Stephanie Lewis	Toxic Substances Control	Incumbent
	Kris Wiese	Fish and Game	Challenger
District II Director	Margarita Gordus	Fish and Game	Incumbent
District III	David Miller	Toxic Substances Control	Incumbent
District IV Director	Chris Rogers	Public Health	Incumbent
District V Director	Scott Bauer	Fish and Game	Incumbent
Director At Large	Melissa Boggs	Fish and Game	Challenger
	John Budroe	OEHHA	Challenger
	Gordon Leppig	Fish and Game	Challenger
	Zoltan Matica	Water Resources	Challenger
Supervisor Director	Yvonne Addassi	Fish and Game	Challenger
	David Rasmussen	Toxic Substances Control	Incumbent

*Ballot order yet to be determined

THUD

By Patty Velez, President

Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger's famous movie line is "I'll be back." **Governor** Arnold Schwarzenegger's famous line is "I want action, action, action!"

With just over one year left in office, he needs a new line. I offer this one: "I need legacy, legacy, legacy."

He is searching for a legacy because his term as Governor is in serious danger of ending with one giant thud.

First elected in 2003, the actor turned governor promised to reverse the car tax, which he did, then promised to "blow up boxes" in state government. His assumption of office was highly anticipated. Six years later, he still has star appeal to some, but significant accomplishments as Governor don't exactly come to mind.

For state scientists, he has evolved into a mean-spirited boss with frequent press appearances touting the good work of state government. Yet he rarely says anything good about the employees who do the work. He operates without any particular vision or philosophical foundation. He has targeted state employees for layoffs and unpaid furloughs in his running budget feud with members of his own party. His awful treatment of state employees is reminiscent of the

Pete Wilson administration. Schwarzenegger has refused to bargain on basic labor issues, and has sought unilateral authority to cut our pay and benefits. He has made enemies of labor groups through gratuitous and unnecessary actions.

Conversely, CAPS has attempted to cooperate and support his policies whenever possible. We pioneered cooperative interest-based bargaining in state service. We helped fund and kick-start the Human Resources Modernization project. We have supported the Administration's "green" environmental policies, such as the "green chemistry" project by CalEPA. We actively helped on the Light Brown Apple Moth eradication project in the Bay Area, which was a particularly difficult political issue for the Governor. In return, we have received lip service and empty promises.

"Schwarzenegger has refused to bargain on basic labor issues, and has sought unilateral authority to cut our pay and benefits."

We approach the Governor's last year in office. We hope to start it with productive meetings with key administration officials, including his Chief of Staff. But unless there is a sudden change of philosophy and direction, we expect more of the same, which has us in the legislature to protect what we have and in court to overturn what he has done.

CalPERS Ballot Count Commences October 5



It's not too late to mark and return your ballot in the election for the two At-Large positions on the CalPERS Board of Administration.

CAPS is recommending J.J. Jelincic for Position A and Kurato Shimada for Position B. J.J. Jelincic is a 23-year CalPERS investment officer who has been a strong advocate on behalf of CalPERS member benefits, including the defined benefit retirement program that guarantees every career state scientist a living retirement. He has and will continue to push for a strong, vibrant health benefits program that serves active and retired state employees without burdening members with higher copays and reduced coverages. Kurato Shimada is a long time incumbent on the CalPERS Board and a champion for member benefits. Please mark and return your ballot immediately!

In This Issue

- ***Legislature Retreats Quietly***
- ***CalPERS Ballot Count Commences October 5***
- ***CAPS Board Election Underway***
- ***THUD, by Patty Velez, President***

CalPERS Plans Limited Health Plan Premium Holiday



In April 2009, the CalPERS Board of Administration approved a two-month premium “holiday” for CalPERS self-funded preferred provider organization health plans. CalPERS took this action to reduce excess reserves that accumulated over the past several years. The State Controller will implement a two-month premium holiday during the September and October 2009 pay period for qualified employees.

During these pay periods, no monthly CalPERS PPO premiums will be deducted from pay checks. However, employees’ health coverage will continue uninterrupted. Regular CalPERS PPO premium billing will resume during the November 2009 pay period. This premium holiday affects only employees enrolled in the following CalPERS PPO Health Plans: PERSCare, PERSelect and PERChoice. Employees enrolled in other health plans, FlexElect or CoBen cash options, and employees not eligible for health benefits are NOT affected by this premium holiday.

CAPSule (ISSN 10446230) is published monthly by the California Association of Professional Scientists, 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814. Periodicals Postage Paid at Sacramento, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814-2483.

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 420
Sacramento, CA