

FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Issue 1

Important Dates:

Representative Council Meetings:

- December 6th 11:30-1:00 LTC-160
- March 13th 11:30-1:00, Founders Hall
- April 3rd 11:30-1:00, Founders Hall
- May 1st, 11:30-1:00, Founders Hall
- June 5th, 11:30-1:00, Founders Hall

Board of Trustees Meetings

6:30 pm in Founders Hall:

December 14th
January 25th

CCA Winter Conference:

February 3rd through 5th, 2012
at the LAX Marriot

Spring Flex Day (OPTIONAL):

February 24th 2012

CCA Spring Conference and

W.H.O. Awards:

- April 27th through 29th 2012
at the Palm Desert Westin

Fee Payer or Member?

By Luisa Howell, V.P.

Many Adjunct Faculty are under the false impression that because union fees are withheld from their salary they are automatically Faculty Association members.

Not true.

The FA is embarking on a more aggressive approach to educating our Adjunct faculty by informing Adjuncts on the benefits of membership so that they may make an informed decision.

During the Fall semester 255 Adjunct Faculty will be invited to visit with FA officers and Executive Board members at one of 12 separate presentations, so as to be informed of their rights and benefits under

the contract and of the benefits of membership. Thirty six other Adjunct faculty, whose schedule does not allow them to meet during the scheduled 12 presentations, will be invited to drop into the FA offices during 4 days of 4 to 6 off-hour periods (or will be contacted personally) to be provided the information.

**Are you a Faculty
Association member?**

**When in doubt, call your
FA office and have us
check for you.**

(909) 274-4531

Important Websites:

FA: <http://fa.mtsac.edu>
CCA: <http://www.ca4me.org>
CTA: <http://www.cta.org>
CalSTRS: <http://www.calstrs.com>

Current Legislation:

The following has been signed by the governor

AB 130 & 131 Dream Act

AB 684 Waiver of community college governing board elections

AB 743 Common Assessment tool

AB 1059 E-Transcripts

AB 194 Foster youth priority enrollment

AB 636 Fee refund for vets

AB 882 Residency status continuous enrollment for vets

SB 813 Priority enrollment for vets

SB 774 Community College parking fees

See www.ccleague.org for more information

From the President

By Jennifer Galbraith

This has been a very busy semester for the Faculty Association. We are getting acquainted with the new College President, Dr. Scroggins. In fact, Dr. Scroggins has asked that the FA appoint two members to sit on the President's Advisory Council. This change in the PAC membership was approved by PAC at their October meeting. Both Luisa Howell and I will now be attending PAC for this year. PAC also created a Smoking on Campus Task Force to write the AP on smoking on campus and develop the map for smoking areas as well as the fine process. Misty Kolchakian and I represent the faculty on this taskforce. The new AP should be going to Representative Council in the Spring.

The Representative Council voted to send AP 3720 on Technology Use back to the ITAC committee for concerns in the consistency with it and the Acceptable Use Agreement, as well as concerns regarding the responsibilities for closed captioning and faculty's role in student use of social media. Also in Representative Council this semester is the decision on when to pay full-time faculty overload and intersession pay. There were several faculty who had issues with the pay schedule this past summer. The FA took this to payroll to get options on dates and process. The Representative Council will vote on this at their last fall meeting, December 6th. The FA is stepping into the age of technology and did the

negotiations survey via the faculty portal this semester. Faculty were encouraged to respond to the survey at the faculty portal between the dates of November 8th and November 21st. The FA Executive Board has hopes that there will be an increase in respondents, since it is easily accessible. Since this is a reopener year, the FA is only allowed to bring 5 issues to the table in addition to salary and benefits, which are automatic reopeners.

On behalf of the Faculty Association I want to wish you all happy holidays and enjoy the winter break. We will be looking forward to a productive spring semester with negotiations as well as other FA business. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at (909) 274-5752 or via email at jgalbraith@mtsac.edu.



The Myths and Facts about the Public Teachers Retirement System

For Members Only

Did you know that ...

as a CTA member you have a free Death Dismemberment Plan?

If you have not yet done so, then sign in at www.cta.org

& designate your beneficiary.

But, that's not all!

You also have a \$1,000,000 Educators Employment Liability Insurance!

Download an EEL Certificate of Insurance by signing in at www.cta.org, then go to **Member Services & click on Legal Services**

And, there's more...

You have an NEA Complimentary Life Insurance

For more information, go to www.neamb.com

But wait, that's not all....

Newly hired faculty may acquire a CTA Voluntary Group Life Insurance

For the first **120** days of their hiring **without** having to take a **medical exam.**

One can't pick up a newspaper today without reading about how California's public pensions are hurting our state. With scandals like the cities of Bell and Vernon the public has lumped together all public pension plans as plans that allow members to retire at a young age while receiving around 100% of their salary. In order to counter this attack on our retirement system, CCA and CTA have decided that we need to get the truth out to our members and the public. CTA has put together a "Myth VS. Fact on Teacher Retirement" piece on the website www.CCA4me.org. A portion of the piece is contained below.

MYTH: The CalSTRS retirement fund is a taxpayer giveaway.

FACT: Over the life of their careers, teachers contribute 8% of their monthly pay to their retirement. Employers contribute 8.25% of the monthly pay, the state contribute 2% (which previously was 4.6% but was reduced a decade ago), and the returns garnered by CalSTRS investments do the rest.

MYTH: Teachers engage in pension spiking.

FACT: CalSTRS is vigilant in preventing spiking. All extra compensation for teachers over and above their normal salary is deposited into a separate account that

cannot be used towards their final retirement salary.

Learn about CalSTRS new Pension Abuse Hotline to help combat spiking.

MYTH: Teachers retire too early and into a life of luxury.

FACT: The average benefit payment is \$3,300 per month (\$39,600 annual) while the number of years a teacher works for those benefits averages 27.

MYTH: The CalSTRS system is headed toward insolvency.

FACT: While it is true that CalSTRS has a \$56 billion shortfall and is 71% funded, this is not an amount that is paid overnight. Just like a mortgage, this is an amount that will need to be closed over 30 years, not in the first month's payment. Even under current economic conditions, CalSTRS has sufficient assets and projected contributions to pay benefits until 2045.

MYTH: Our state would be better off financially without having to contribute to teacher's retirement benefits.

FACT: The state benefits economically from teachers' retirement benefits. In fact, \$4.5 billion in value is added to the state's economy each year from generated business activity from retirement benefits.

Puttin' on the Hits

FA Scholarships

Come see your fellow faculty strut across the stage performing your favorite songs at Puttin' On the Hits, Friday March 9th and Saturday March 10th. The proceeds of this event go towards the Faculty Association Scholarship Awards in June. Last year the FA awarded \$18,000 to deserving students in the Academic and Extra-curricular categories. The FA will be adding a separate award for CTE (Career/ Technical Education) students.

The recipients of last year's FA Scholarship Awards were:

Academic:

Rebecca Stewart, Ashley McNeil, Jack Lin, Xi Chen, Kaitlin Boyko, Amy Wangsadipura, Aida Ghorbani, & Samantha Antonio.

Extra-curricular:

Amy Wangsadipura, Amna Pervez, Diana Zambrano, Seyha Klam, Chaz Perea, Karina Vich, Yihuan Hu, Aida Ghorbani, & Samantha Antonio.

Make sure to mark your calendars for Puttin' on the Hits March 9th and March 10th.

Let's make this year a banner year for the FA Scholarship awards to recognize our students.

