

# CSU Employees Union SEIU Local 2579

(formerly CSEA)

Cal Poly Pomona

Chapter 319

Winter 2005

## Schwarzenegger's Pension Proposal Untruths

Governor Schwarzenegger has manufactured a "crisis" in our public-employee pension system (PERS). He proposes to change the current defined benefit plan to a riskier 401(k) plan. His proposal is based on myths, lies and broken promises. Here are some of the facts:

- **The Schwarzenegger 401(k) plan will NOT save taxpayer money for many years.** It is estimated that it would cost the California State Teachers' Retirement Systems (CalSTRS) nearly \$6 Billion *more* to administer the Schwarzenegger plan than the current plan during the first ten years. According to the California Public Employees' Retirement system (CalPERS), it would cost up to eight times more to administer a 401(k) plan than the current plan.
- **The Schwarzenegger plan will NOT help solve the state's budget problems.** Since this proposal would not take effect until at least 2007, it will have no impact on the current budget deficit.
- **Current shortfalls in some pension funds are NOT the result of bloated pensions.** Rather, they are due to the

precipitous drop in the stock market in 2000-2001, which affected even giant pension fund managers such as CalPERS. Yet Schwarzenegger now wants to shift the stock-market risk from fund managers to individual public employees.

- **Public employees are NOT growing rich on their pensions.** The governor implied that the "typical" public employee retires at age 50 with an \$80,000-a-year pension. The fact is that the average public pension benefit paid by CalPERS is only about \$20,000 for someone with nearly 20 years of service. That's hardly a "lavish" pension.
- **Weakening the public employee pension system will NOT help California attract the "best and the brightest" to public service.** Recruiting top talent for state service was a key recommendation of the governor's own California Performance Review.

The governor's pension proposal will affect all of us--rank and file state and university workers, supervisors and retirees--not just new state employees.

If this should reach the ballot, if you are

not registered to vote--go register and then get out and vote this measure down. Educate your family and friends on this issue.

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### *Name Change*

The CSU Division of CSEA has incorporated and changed its name to "California State University Employees' Union" or CSUEU.

We completed our charter and service agreement and began operations as of January 1, 2005.

The CSU Employees Union is still affiliated with SEIU, but is now Local 2579. Our local number reflects the membership from the four bargaining units we represent: units 2, 5, 7 and 9 of the CSU workers.

The incorporation was important so that we could have more autonomy and control of where the money is spent. CSEA often would spend money outside of California to fight a cause, which did not benefit the CSU system employees.

Now that we are directly affiliated with SEIU, leaders from the new local are already working with International representatives to build strength as we prepare for salary and benefit reopeners.

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### *In-Range and Reclass Initiation?*

Have you submitted an "In-Range Progression" or "Reclass" to your HEERA manager, only to have it sit on his/her desk?

With no raises for over three years, the Union the past few years has encouraged its members to initiate their own raises by utilizing Article 9.24-9.32 In-Classification Progression and Article 20.25 In-Range Progression of the Union contract.

If an employee has taken on added responsibilities, ongoing special projects, or more complex work they should file the

proper paperwork and the Union can help!

If the changes in your job description is 51% or more of your job and falls into a higher classification, then you need to request a In-Classification Progression. The In-Range Progression would be utilized to move within the salary range of your position description and will disappear June 30, 2005.

If you have taken the proper steps and submitted paperwork, but find that your supervisor is not processing the request, please contact MaLinda Howze at x3429.

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### *Holiday Luncheon*

The holiday meeting/luncheon held on December 21, 2004 at Kellogg West was a huge success. We had 192 employees attend, including our Deputy Division Director of CSUEU Pat Gantt and CSUEU Administrator and past Labor Relations Rep for Cal Poly Pomona, Virginia Watts. We also wanted to thank President and Mrs. Ortiz for attending.

## Mark your Calendar

**March 15, 2005**

### Chapter Meeting

*Chapter Elections for Officers*

Bldg. 1, Room 228

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**April 19, 2005**

### Chapter Meeting

Bldg. 1, Room 228

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**May 17, 2005**

### Chapter Meeting

Bldg. 1, Room 228

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**June 21, 2005**

### Chapter Meeting

Bldg. 1, Room 228

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**All Units 2, 5, 7 and 9  
employees welcome.**

***Attend during your  
regular scheduled lunch hour!***

## Membership Increase On-campus

The Organizing Committee at Cal Poly Pomona had an exciting recruitment campaign, utilizing an "opportunity drawing" to win prizes, bought with money from an organizing grant received from headquarters.

The "opportunity drawing" was held at our Holiday Meeting/Luncheon on December 21, 2004 at Kellogg West.

Employees' in bargaining Units 2, 5, 7 and 9 who joined CSEA between September 1, 2004 and December 21, 2004 were entered into the drawing. A 13" color TV/DVD combo, a cd player, digital camera, Kamelion 6-in-1 control, and a "Blackout Buddy" were given away.

Through this effort our chapter recruited seventeen (17) new members, putting Unit 9 membership on campus over 50%, and our overall membership at 62%. Up from 38% two years ago.

## Chapter Officers

**Deborah Campbell** x4557  
President, Unit 7 Rep.

**Vicky McLeod** x3353  
Vice-President & Secretary  
Legislative Committee Member

**Kim Allen** x5250  
Treasurer

**Christine Thomas** x3116  
Chief Steward & State Deputy  
Division Director/Organizing

**MaLinda Howze** x3429  
Organizing Chair

**Dorothy Davis** x2757  
Unit 2 Representative

**Cindi Grani** x3030  
Unit 5 Representative

**Rozalyn Tarrant** x3011  
Unit 9 Rep. & Newsletter Editor

**Dean Chetkovich** x2001  
WebMaster

***"Not everything that is faced can be changed,  
but nothing can be changed until it is faced." -- James Baldwin***

### **P.I.N. (Power In Numbers!)**

In light of California's new leadership,  
And the huge state budget deficit,  
I do believe and I'm sure you will agree  
Things don't look good for CSU employees!

It's imperative that we educate  
our bargaining unit employees,  
Especially those who are paying  
A fair share fee!

We need to increase our membership  
No matter what it will take!  
We have to be united  
Our futures are at stake!

Together we stand, divided we fall  
Increasing union membership  
Will benefit us all!

Written by,  
**Carmen Carswell, President**  
**Chapter 320**

***Return the above application to any of the Board members listed above and receive a free gift !***