



Hey, CSL

What's Up?

December 2010

Volume III, Number 12

The California Senior Legislature's Mission: To Improve the Quality of Life for Aging Californians

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Vice Chair

Julia Rosenberg (310) 316-1013
Vice Chair

Lola Young (916) 428-4371
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Kitty Mesler (909) 823-7045

Bruce Steir (415) 626-8025

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Chair's Corner

By Richard Dahlgren

CODE 402: I want to wish every CSL member a "Happy Holiday Season"! Our Code 402 contributions as of the end of October stands at \$279,391. As you know we must raise a minimum of \$250,000 to stay on the Franchise Tax Board voluntary contributions list. Keep promoting Code 402 to get those late tax payers to contribute to the California Fund for Senior Citizens.

TRAVEL EXPENSE CLAIMS

(TEC): If you are like me, you probably have not received reimbursement for attending the Annual Session. This has created a hardship on many of our dedicated CSL members. After conferring with the Department of General Services Accounting, I discovered the TECs were not paid until the budget was signed and then "vendor" payments were made first because they have priority over TEC payments. I erroneously thought our staff was not processing our claims in a timely manner when, in fact, State representatives indicated they can only process a few TEC reports at a time. My recommendation is that CSL increase the credit limits on our American Express Card and use this card for all room expenditures in the future. Your suggestions are also appreciated.

CONSULTING EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR: Senior Senator Joe Cox, Senior Senator Lola Young, and I interviewed the selected candidates for the CSL Consulting Executive Director position. I feel the individual we selected is outstanding and I would like to introduce Clare Smith as our new Consulting Executive Director.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Our Executive Secretary, Sherry Jenkins, will complete her work with CSL on December 31, 2010. Sherry was recognized at our Annual Session for the work she has performed as the only staff member of the California Senior Legislature for the past three years. Thank you, Sherry, for a job well done! We look forward to seeing you in the future as a CSL Volunteer!

LEG COMMITTEE AND JRC WALK THE HALLS:

Our Legislative Committee along with members of the JRC will be walking the Halls of the Capitol January 5 and 6, 2011, in support of our top proposals as voted on at the CSL Annual Session. We appreciate the hard work and dedication shown by members of the Leg Committee. After all, it is our proposals that often become part of the laws passed by State legislators which make life better for all older Californians.

What are Members up to?

Senior Senator Dorothy Schlitz and Senior Assembly Member Alice Loh – Presented CSL at the Veterans Hall in San Luis Obispo.

Senior Assembly Member Shirley Krohn – Wrote an article for the *UC Berkeley Resource Center on Aging* newsletter.

Senior Senator Kitty Mesler, Senior Assembly Members Terry Conaway, Fran Givens and Jane Ann Godager – Presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter for her authoring AJR 34 in her district office.

Senior Assembly Member Fran Givens – Attended the Inland Empire Small Business Tax Seminar given by John Chiang, State Controller, in San Bernardino.

Senior Assembly Members Zelda Hutcherson and Charles Mitchell – Presented the CSL at the Holiday Party at the Harbor UCLA Research Center for Persons with COPD.

Senior Assembly Member Fran Givens – Attended the Fontana City Council Swearing-in Ceremony and presented a suggestion that it is time to create a Senior Affairs Commission for the city of Fontana.

If any members would like a copy of any of the above, please contact the CSL office.

If there is an organization or individual that you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please either call or email the CSL office the contact name and address at

sjenkins@seniorleg.ca.gov

News for the January Newsletter needs to be submitted to the CSL office by January 7, 2011.

Correction

The editor apologizes that the photographer's name who submitted the pictures of the 30th Anniversary Legislative Session shown in the November issue was left off accidentally. That photographer was Senior Assembly Member Dieter Kammerer. Thank you, Dieter, for those pictures.

If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.

Greetings from Session Planning

by Joe Cox

Session Planning will have their first meeting on January 4, 2011. I am looking forward to a great year and with your help that goal can be achieved. We will be working on the plans for the 2011 session and hope that you will be an active participant. The committee will be looking over the evaluations from the 2010 session and will make every effort to incorporate these suggestions into the 2011 session.

Getting our session off to an excellent start always depends on our key note speaker. In addition to writing an excellent proposal that will help improve the lives of seniors, you can be the one that determines our session's success. Send in your suggestions to the CSL office and get us off to a rousing start. You are free to email me at any time with suggestions. My email is jocox@sbcglobal.net. Our success depends on you!

STAY ACTIVE AND STAY INVOLVED.

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

Updated Contacts Needed

If you have moved, you must let the office know your new address so that you can continue to receive mailings. Let Sherry Jenkins know of your change of address, email or telephone number AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.

Code 402

Don't forget! When you do your taxes or help somebody else do theirs, remember Code 402 on the California State Income Tax Return. Also, remind all your friends and family!

Website for Ombudsmen

For some information on Ombudsmen on a federal level try this link:

<http://www.ltcombudsman.org/sites/default/files/library/gazette/Feb-Mar2010-Gaz.pdf>

Website for Berkeley

For information on UC Berkeley Resource Center on Aging, try this link:

<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~aging/>

Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.

New Standing Sub-Committees for 2010-2011
Budget and Finance:

Chair - Senior Assembly Member Don MacAllister

Alt – Senior Assembly Sharon Lamagno

Vice Chair - Senior Senator Carla Treuting

Alt – Vacant

Senior Assembly Member Quincy Campbell

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Richard Wolfe

Senior Assembly Member Rick Dahlgren

Alt – Senior Nery Hartschen

Senior Senator Jim Levy

Alt – Vacant

Senior Senator Bruce Steir

Alt – Vacant

Fund Development and Public Relations:

Chair - Senior Assembly Member Julia Rosenberg

Alt – Vacant

Vice Chair - Senior Assembly Member Quincy

Campbell

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Richard Wolfe

Senior Senator Joe Cox

Alt – Senior Senator Joanna Kim-Selby

Senior Assembly Member Rick Dahlgren

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Nery Hartschen

Senior Senator Bruce Steir

Alt – Vacant

Senior Assembly Member Evelyn Tom

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Shirley Krohn

Policies and Procedures:

Chair – Senior Senator Jim Levy

Alt – Vacant

Vice Chair – Senior Senator Anne M. Mack

Alt – Vacant

Senior Assembly Member Don MacAllister

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Sharon Lamagno

Senior Senator Kitty Mesler

Alt – Senior Senator Sol Fingold

Senior Senator Carl Treuting

Alt – Vacant

Senior Senator Lola Young

Alt – Vacant

Session Planning:

Chair – Senior Senator Joe Cox

Alt – Senior Senator Joanna Kim-Selby

Vice Chair - Senior Assembly Member Evelyn Tom

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Shirley Krohn

Senior Senator Anne M. Mack

Alt – Vacant

Senior Senator Kitty Mesler

Alt – Senior Senator Sol Fingold

Senior Assembly Member Julia Rosenberg

Alt – Vacant

Senior Senator Lola Young

Alt – Vacant

Ad Hoc AARP/Wal-Mart Project:

Chair - Senior Assembly Member Evelyn Tom

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Shirley Krohn

Vice Chair - Senior Assembly Member Quincy

Campbell

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Richard Wolfe

Senior Senator Joe Cox

Alt – Senior Senator Joanna Kim-Selby

Senior Assembly Member Rick Dahlgren

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Nery Hartschen

Senior Assembly Member Julia Rosenberg

Alt – Vacant

Senior Senator Bruce Steir

Alt – Vacant

Ad Hoc Bylaws:

Chair - Senior Senator Lola Young

Alt – Vacant

Vice Chair – (More to come)

Personnel/Resource Manual:

Chair - Senior Senator Lola Young

Alt – Vacant

Vice Chair – Senior Senator Anne M. Mack

Alt – Vacant

Senior Senator Jim Levy

Alt – Vacant

Senior Senator Kitty Mesler

Alt – Senior Senator Sol Fingold

Senior Senator Carl Treuting

Alt – Vacant

Senior Assembly Member Don MacAllister

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Sharon Lamagno

Surplus Money Investment Fund:

Chair - Senior Assembly Member Don MacAllister

Alt – Senior Assembly Member Sharon Lamagno

Vice Chair – (More to come)

Please be advised that the alternates for various Standing and Ad-Hoc Sub-Committees must be decided by the Committee Chairs along with members of the Committee. The procedure for selection of alternates will be reviewed at the February JRC meeting.

New Top 10 State Proposals

AP-34 SB-33 (Simitian/Wolk)

Senior Assembly Member Shirley Krohn
Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse
(*First Proposal to be authored*)

AP-11 Senior Assembly Member Shontz:

Identity Theft Fines. This proposal establishes definite minimum fines for identity theft of \$5,000 for first offense and additional \$3,000 for each additional offense.

AP-4 Assembly Member Tucker: Elder Abuse

Fines. This proposal increases elder abuse fines by 10% and transfers the additional funds to local entities for combating elder abuse.

AP-25 Senior Assembly Member Lucero:

Hearing Aid Availability and Cost. This proposal requires that hearing aids be made available for over-the counter sales and vendors be encouraged to submit a plan to the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau.

SP-16 Senior Senator Eaton: Property Tax

Exemptions. This proposal increases the homeowner's property tax exemption from \$7,000 to \$27,000 for seniors.

AP-13 Senior Assembly Member Rolfe: Income

Tax Mileage Deduction. This proposal authorizes an income tax deduction for mileage equal to the difference between the Federal volunteer mileage deduction and the Federal business mileage deduction.

AP-32 Senior Assembly Member Krohn:

Independent Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office. This proposal establishes an independent LTC Ombudsman Office within a private nonprofit organization.

AP-7 Senior Assembly Member Sorenson:

Prescription Purpose. This proposal requires the prescriber of medication to include the condition or purpose of the drug on the label.

AP-21 Senior Assembly Member Molnar: Senior

Citizens Property Tax Deferral Program. This proposal rescinds the indefinite suspension of the senior citizens property tax deferral program to allow claimants to claim to postpone ad valorem property taxes under the Senior Citizens Property Tax Postponement Law.

AP-43 Senior Assembly Member Bloch: Disaster
Emergency Transportation for Disabled and Senior Citizens. This proposal mobilizes paratransit, paramedics, and others to move disabled and seniors to safe places in the event of natural disasters.

New Top 4 Federal Proposals

AFP-2 Senior Assembly Member Weintraub:

Medicare Coverage of Dental Care and Hearing and Visual Aids. This proposal expands Medicare coverage to include dental care and dental plates; hearing aids; and vision aids, including eyeglasses and contact lenses.

SFP-1 Senior Senator Steir: Public Housing for

Senior Veterans. This proposal requires that preference for public housing be given to eligible seniors who are honorably discharged veterans.

SFP-5 Senior Senator Hartmann: Tire Safety

Identification. This proposal requires tire manufacturers to clearly label tires with month and year of manufacture and include the info on sales receipts.

SFP-6 Senior Senator Eaton: Social Security

and Medicare Sustainable Program Costs. This proposal requires the enactment of legislation addressing the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare program trust funds so that program costs are sustainable.

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

From



*The Sacramento
CSL Office*

**Pictures from the
2010 Anniversary Legislative Session**

by Senior Senator Sol Fingold



Senior Assembly Member Richard Dahlgren, Chair of Joint Rules Committee



Assembly Woman Mariko Yamada



Keynote Speaker Kim Belshé, Secretary of Health and Human Services



Barbara Gillogly, Chair, Gerontology Department American River College



Assembly Member Roger Niello



Keith Hart, Representative from Sacramento Mayor's Office



Mike Mello presenting CSL's Legislator of the Year to Assembly Member Mike Feuer



Senior Senator Dee Erman and Volunteer Robert MacLaughlin in Senate Floor Session

Joint Rules Committee Meetings

January 4-6, 2011	Sacramento with Leg Committee
February 14-15, 2011	Sacramento
April 11-12, 2011	Sacramento
June 13-14, 2011	Sacramento
September 12-13, 2011	Sacramento
October 24-27, 2011	Sacramento

“Help the Golden State Support the Golden Years!”

Legislative Committee Meetings

January 4-6, 2011 Sacramento with the JRC

California Commission on Aging Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Field Hearing Topic</u>
February 1-2, 2011	Sacramento	TBA
April 5-6, 2011	Santa Cruz	TBA
June 14-15, 2011	Merced	TBA
September 13-14, 2011	Sacramento	TBA
November 14-15, 2011	Los Angeles	TBA

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