



CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE

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Improving the Quality of Life for Aging Californians

LEADERSHIP

Joint Rules Committee

Richard Dahlgren (209) 826-0936
Chair

Legislative Committee

Alice Loh (805) 543-9055
Chair

California Senior Legislature

1020 N Street, Room 513
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 552-8056 Office
(916) 552-8013 Fax
www.4csl.org

Crystal Wallace, Office Technician
cwallace@seniorleg.ca.gov

Clare Smith, Executive Director
csmith@seniorleg.ca.gov

Spread the word!

Check Code 402!

When filing your tax return, remember **Code 402** on the California State Income Tax Return. Support statewide efforts to improve the quality of life for aging Californians.

Chair's Corner

By Richard Dahlgren

I want to wish you all a very **Happy, Prosperous, and Healthy 2011**. This year it will be critically important to get out and promote CODE 402. The survival of CSL depends on meeting our goal of receiving a minimum of \$250,000 in contributions by next September. Each and every one of us must promote CODE 402. The Check-Off California campaign is looking for a new sponsor and as a result we may need to work even harder this year. We have printed cards promoting "Support Our Seniors" and Code 402. Simply contact the CSL Office to receive a supply of cards for distribution. Code 402 is the Life Blood for CSL.

JRC & LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Members delivered the top twenty state and top eight Federal priority proposal books to the legislators during the week of January 4-6. Reports from all team members were very positive. It looks like we will have another successful year. Good job, Leg Committee and JRC members.

GOOD NEWS: According to Eugene Louie, Accounting Administrator, Office of Fiscal Services at the Department of General Services, Clare Smith's contract to perform "Consulting

Executive Director" services has been executed.

TRAVEL EXPENSES: Several batches of travel expense claims have been sent to the State Controller's Office for payment distribution. The processing of travel reimbursement requests have been delayed for several reasons: Members do not fill out their TEC forms correctly, the State takes some time to review claims, and the State budget was delayed for several months creating a work backlog for all State Departments. The new Payment Specialist at the General Services is dedicating at least one day each week to CSL paperwork. Also, the new Consulting Executive Director will be able to authorize the requests, so these changes are expected to considerably speed up the reimbursement process in the future.

JRC MEETING:

February 14 and 15 the Joint Rules Committee (JRC) will meet at the Vagabond Inn, Sacramento. Agenda's for the meeting will be sent to all CSL members in the near future.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Senior Assembly Member Alice Loh of San Luis Obispo was elected as the new Chair of the

Legislative Committee following the announcement of Anne Mack's resignation from the position effective January 6, 2011. Alice is a retired Professor from the College of Architecture & Environmental Design at California Polytechnic State University located in San Luis Obispo. Alice has published several professional articles and was past Chair of the City of San Luis Obispo City Planning Commission, as well as the Cultural & Heritage Commission. Alice and her husband Larry, designed and then donated a public park located in Downtown, City of San Luis Obispo which the entire community enjoys!



Senior Senator Alice Loh
Chair, Legislative Committee Chair

Alice is working closely with Senior Senator Anne Mack, former Chair of the Committee to ensure a smooth transition in leadership. Anne's expertise and successful efforts are greatly appreciated and Alice is warmly welcomed to apply her skills and talents in leading CSL Legislative Committee activities. Senior Senator Craig Orange will continue to serve as Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee. The next CSL Legislative Committee is scheduled for February 15-16, 2011.

INSIDE THE OFFICE:

Crystal Wallace started in her position as **Office Technician** with the CSL on January 18, 2011. Crystal has expert clerical

experience in a variety of administrative positions. She comes to us from the Department of Corrections, Folsom State Prison, where she worked as an Office Technician within the Procurement Division. During her time there she became well versed in the Purchasing Authority Manual created by the Department of General Services and is an avid supporter of purchasing from Small Business', Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises, and Recycled Product Manufactured vendors.

Clare Smith began working with CSL as **Consulting Executive Director** on December 15, 2010. Clare was able to help in the process of interviewing and hiring to fill the Office Technician position. Clare has extensive experience in statewide health care consumer advocacy and community-based education addressing services for older adults and their families. Previously Clare served as President & CEO of California Health Advocates, a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and promoted the work of the California Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) network serving Medicare beneficiaries. Clare's experience includes working with the Area Agency on Aging (PASSAGES) in PSA 3 and as a Senior Citizen's Social Services Coordinator with the City of Fairfield Senior Center. Clare is currently an active volunteer in the Older Women's League of California and is Principal at SmithAhern Consulting offering professional services in the areas of non-profit fund development and project management.



Clare Smith and Crystal Wallace

CSL MEMBERS WORKING WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS

At the orientation for new CSL members on the first day of our October Session, you heard about a program that has been developed that teams up CSL members with graduate students at various universities throughout the state. The purpose is to help research and write legislative proposals. Some expressed interest in this program. So far we have made contact with three institutions - CSU Bakersfield, Chico, and UC Berkeley. We are attempting to make contact with other schools in the state. While it would be advantageous to find a school close to where you live, if you are interested in this, it isn't absolutely necessary. Relationships can be established with schools not in your PSA. The use of teleconferencing and emails closes the gap created by distance. So, if you are interested in teaming up with a grad student for proposal projects for next year, or if you have questions about how to get started or are interested in further information, please contact: Shirley Krohn, at: skrohn9520@aol.com

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.

Joint Rules 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

MEETING DATES TO NOTE

Legislative Committee

February 15-16, 2011	Sacramento
April 26-28, 2011	Sacramento with the Alternates
July 12-13, 2011	Sacramento

California Commission on Aging

<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	San Diego	TBA
September 13-14, 2011	Roseville	TBA
November 14-15, 2011	Los Angeles	TBA

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