



CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE

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MEMBER NEWS

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Improving the Quality of Life for Aging Californians

LEADERSHIP

Joint Rules Committee

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Chair's Corner

By Richard Dahlgren

FOCUSING ON CODE 402

Thanks for continuing to promote the opportunity for people to donate to CSL when completing their taxes. The *California Fund for Senior Citizens* (Code 402) is the primary source of funds for CSL. Thanks for spreading word! Since the last newsletter, Senior Assembly Member Chuck Molnar (Santa Cruz County – PSA 13) has helped CSL by producing 30 and 60 second Public Service Announcements, also known as “PSAs.” These radio spots can be heard by visiting the CSL website www.4csl.org. In addition, the spots were distributed to 100 radio stations across California with a cover letter requesting that stations air the recordings and help support the work of CSL.

Because *Check Off California* is not active this year, these radio PSAs are critical to increasing the amount of funds donated to the CA Fund for Senior Citizens as well as increasing the number of contributors.

GETTING OUT THE WORD

In addition to the PSAs, a short YouTube video has been created that is posted on our Facebook page. Also, thanks to Senior Assembly Member Bianca Langley (Los Angeles County - PSA 19), for translating our February Press Release highlighting Code 402 into Spanish! Copies were recently sent to all members with the 2011 Legislative Roster.

JRC MEETING IN APRIL

The Joint Rules Committee will be meeting in Sacramento on April 11 - 12, 2011. The Agenda as well as the meeting minutes from the February 2011 meeting are currently posted on the CSL website www.4csl.org.

OCTOBER SESSION 2011

The abbreviated schedule for the October 2011 Legislative Session is now available. A copy can be downloaded from the CSL website. In addition, the office will be sending out to all members in early April.

Information for your local community groups, TV and radio news stations:

"Check off CODE 402 on side 3 of your [State Income Tax Form 540](#) to contribute to the CA Fund for Senior Citizens and support the efforts of the California Senior Legislature to improve the quality of life for Aging Californians."

**CSL PROPOSALS =
LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

There are several proposals developed by Senior Senators and Assembly Members that are now in legislative bill form.

Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse**[SB 33 Senator Joseph Simitian](#)****[and Senator Lois Wolk](#)
(AP-34 Senior Assembly Member Krohn)**

Amends the Elder Abuse and Adult Civil Protection Act. The bill removes the current sunset date of 2013 requiring financial institutions to be mandated reporters of suspected of elder financial abuse. Please contact [Shirley Krohn](mailto:ShirleyKrohn@skrohn9520@aol.com) (skrohn9520@aol.com) for more information.

Elder Abuse**[AB 332 Assembly Member Betsy Butler](#)****(AP-11 Senior Assembly Member Shontz)**

Amends the existing law regarding elder abuse. Provides that the penalties would be imprisonment in a county jail and a fine and for each subsequent offense, those same penalties and an additional fine.

Mobilehome Parks:**Liability: Attorney's Fees****[AB 579 Assembly Member Bill Monning](#)****(AP-23 Senior Assembly Member Molnar)**

Permits the award of attorney's fees and, in some cases, other litigation expenses, to a local

governmental entity in an action brought by the owner of a mobile home park to challenge the validity or application of a local ordinance, rule, regulation, or initiative measure that regulates space rent or is intended to benefit or protect residents in a mobile home park, if the local governmental entity is determined to be the prevailing party.

Seniors: Community-Based Services: Long Term Care
**[SB 529 Senator Lou Correa](#)
(SP-11 Senior Senator Levy)**

Requires the Department of Aging, in consultation with the Commission on Aging, the area agencies on aging, and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, to develop a long-term care strategic plan to provide guidance and temporary funding for community-based programs that serve seniors.

Long-Term Care**Ombudsman Program****[SB 354 Senator Lois Wolk](#)
(AP-32 Senior Assembly Member Krohn)**

Would establish an independent State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in California. For more information, please contact [Shirley Krohn](mailto:ShirleyKrohn@skrohn9520@aol.com) (skrohn9520@aol.com).

Please join in and help the CSL, Legislative Committee leadership, staff and supporters successfully pass the above legislation addressing pressing needs in our communities. Please

share the information on these bills with local community-based groups, interested people and local advocacy organizations.

For more information, visit www.4csl.org, or contact the office at (916) 552-8056 or csl@seniorleg.ca.gov.

TRAVEL EXPENSE CLAIMS

There are several important sections on the state travel expense claim form that must be completed in order for faster processing. Here are a few reminders:

1. Note only the last four digits of your social security number on the form.
2. Use military time to note when you left your home address and when you returned to your home after the trip.
3. In the Location column, note "home to destination," such as "Los Angeles to Sacramento" and all of your expenses for that day, including travel, flight meals and lodging must go on that line. On the final day of travel, note "destination to home" such as "Sacramento to Los Angeles" and all expenses incurred on that day on one line.

A sample TEC prepared for CSL members by the Department of General Services (DGS) is now available. Please contact the office for a copy.

The CSL Office is planning a special conference call training focusing on expense claim reimbursement issues. Senior Assembly Member Evelyn Tom San Mateo County- PSA 8 has developed excellent training materials that will be used to help members with questions. The DGS Accounting staff will also be invited to participate. All members will receive a date and time once arrangements are finalized.

If you need some help or have questions, please do not hesitate to call Crystal Wallace, Office Technician at (916) 522-8056, or send an e-mail message with your questions to cwallace@seniorleg.ca.gov

CSL NEWS LISTS

If you know someone who might be able to use the CSL News, either via e-mail or hard copy, please send his/her contact information to csl@seniorleg.ca.gov or to cwallace@seniorleg.ca.gov.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Senior Senator Jim Levy of Orange County- PSA 22 represented CSL, providing support to AB 40 and comments at the February "Financial Scams to Surveillance Cams: Spotlight on Elder and Adult Abuse." A first ever joint hearing of the Assembly Committees on Public Safety and Aging and Long-Term Care, with

Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada, Chair, Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care and Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety presiding. Senior Senator Levy provided an excellent summary of the meeting which is available on request.

MEMBERS IN ACTION

Senior Assembly Member Dieter Kammerer, Orange County- PSA #22 recently authored a short piece in the local Senior Reporter news describing the CSL and encouraging seniors to share ideas for future proposals.

Senior Senator Vernon Uecker of Butte County- PSA 3 recently presented on CSL to members of the Business and Professional Women meeting held in Chico.

Senior Assembly Member Quincy Campbell of Alameda County- PSA 9 presented on CSL and current legislative proposals to a community group gathered at the Mastic Senior Center in the City of Alameda.

Senior Assembly Member Michael Haas of Los Angeles City- PSA 25 has published yet another compelling book! Barack Obama, The Aloha Zen President is available now. To order or to get more information, you can visit publishinghouse4scholars.com.

Senior Assembly Member Mary Ella Anderson and Senior Senator Jack Alderson of Humboldt County PSA 1 recently presented at two public hearings located in Eureka and Crescent City. In Crescent City, the pair left 402 post cards where 130 people were gathered for the lunch program that day.

Senior Senator Richard Lundin of Solano County- PSA 28 **wins** as the first CSL member to send in a proposal(s) for 2011! Not that there was a competition...but we just wanted to recognize a job well done.

Senior Assembly Member Chuck Molnar of Santa Cruz County PSA 13 wrote a short article for the Santa Cruz Sentinel that encourages individuals to contribute to CSL and describes the current CSL proposals that are now under consideration as legislative bills.

Senior Senator Lola Young of Sacramento County- PSA 4 continues to be busy at the State Capitol testifying in several hearings addressing various CSL supported legislation, and representing CSL.

Senior Assembly Member George Tucker of Alameda County- PSA 9 wrote and successfully published two letters to editors for local newspapers describing CSL and promoting Code 402.

Joint Rules Committee Meetings

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

Legislative Committee Meetings

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

California Commission on Aging Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Field Hearing Topic</u>
February 1-2, 2011	Sacramento	Celebrating Caregiving in California
April 5-6, 2011	Santa Cruz	Celebrating Caregiving in California (II)
June 28-29, 2011	San Diego	TBA
September 13-14, 2011	Roseville	TBA
November 14-15, 2011	Los Angeles	No public hearing. Meeting will coincide with Statewide Senior Center Forum

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SPECIAL INSERT: LEGISLATION WE SUPPORT (MARCH 2011)

The California Senior Legislature supports the following legislative bills:

AB 20 (Halderman)

This bill requires an attorney who solicits or consults with a client for purposes of filing a residential construction defect action to provide certain written information to the client, including a description of a seller's duty to disclose certain facts concerning real property.

AB 40 (Yamada)

Requires the mandated reporter to report elder abuse to both the local ombudsperson and the local law enforcement agency. Makes various technical, non-substantive changes. CSL is also a co-sponsor.

AB 138 (Beall)

This bill would require, if specified conditions are met, the department to report data from the Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index), as defined, for each service area included in the state plan. CSL is also a co-sponsor.

AB 310 (Ma)

This bill prohibits health care service plans and health insurers that offer prescription drug coverage from creating specialty tiers for prescription drugs that require payment by an enrollee or insured of a percentage cost of the drugs.

AB 367 (Smyth)

This bill requires a county adult protective services agency or a local law enforcement agency to accept a report by a mandated reporter, or any other person, of suspected elder or dependent adult abuse even if the agency lacks jurisdiction to investigate the report, unless the call can be immediately transferred to an agency with proper jurisdiction.

AB 699 (Wagner)

This bill would create a revocable transfer on death deed (TOD), which would transfer real property on the death of its owner without a probate proceeding. Provides the revocable deed must be signed, dated, acknowledged, and recorded to be effective.

AB 533 (Yamada)

Appropriates from the Federal Trust Fund, to the Department of Aging, the amount of federal funds contained in the Federal Trust Fund necessary to pay area agencies on aging for the administration of programs under their jurisdiction and to the Department of Rehabilitation, to pay independent living centers for the administration of programs under their jurisdiction.

SB 411 (Price)

The bill requires a home care organization to inform a client of important information before arranging for the provision of home care services, such as, the types and hours of available home care services and the extent to which payment may be expected from specified sources. CSL is a co-sponsor.

SB 586 (Pavley)

Amends the Banking Law and the California Credit Union Law. Regulates the issuance or use of a signature stamp in financial transactions. Provides for the offense of using a signature stamp in a financial transaction without the express written authorization of a stamp holder who is an elder or dependent adult. CSL is a co-sponsor.

SB 840 (Evans)

Amends existing law requiring the owner of a dwelling intended for human occupancy to install a carbon monoxide device approved by the State Fire Marshall. Includes residential care facilities among the types of dwellings that are subject to those requirements.

SB 897 (Leno)

Relates to the California Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) Act. Enacts the RCFE Residents Foreclosure Protection act of 2011, requires the licensee of a facility to notify the department of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and authorizes the department to initiate a compliance plan, noncompliance conference, or other appropriate action. CSL is a co-sponsor.

[Read more information about hearing dates and other issues related to these bills by visiting the CSL website at www.4csl.org](http://www.4csl.org)