

**WEEKLY UPDATE
April 8, 2005**

Schwarzenegger Abandons Pension Overhaul

By Jim Wasserman, Associated Press Writer

Sacramento, CA – “Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday backed off, for now, his plan to privatize California’s public employee pension system. Over the past few weeks, Schwarzenegger has waged a campaign to put privatization on the ballot during a special election next fall. But on Thursday, he said he would wait until the June 2006 election if lawmakers did not craft a compromise measure in the coming months.

The move followed days of meetings with police and fire chiefs and survivors of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty, all of whom expressed concerns that the ballot language opened the possibility that the employees would lose death and disability payments.

The attorney general’s office, analyzing the proposed ballot language, had earlier reached the same conclusion. Schwarzenegger said that was not his intention. Schwarzenegger, who has called the state’s pension system ‘another government program out of control’, wanted to hold down the state’s escalating pension contributions by making new employees open 401(k)-style individual investment accounts.”

This is a huge win, but the coalition will be prepared to target whatever initiative is drafted for the June election. Thank you to our members who contacted the Governors office in opposition to the pension privatization. Together, the coalition of state employee organizations will monitor and be ready for the next fight in June of 2006.

CCSO Toll Free Nationwide Number

CCSO has opened up its California toll free number to a nationwide toll free number. It was brought to my attention by State Lieutenant Vice President Louie Campos that some of our members living in Arizona or Oregon did not have access to our toll free number. We are here to please; therefore, CCSO made the toll free number 1-800-449-2940 accessible to all our members. The nationwide toll free number became active on Wednesday, April 6th. A big thanks to our Lieutenant Vice President Campos for noticing there was a problem.

Chapter Websites

CCSO now has the ability to have chapter information via their own chapter website. HDSP Chapter President Robert Peery and NKSP Chapter President Mark Skaggs have already started their sites. Just go to ccsonet.org, click on “News” and at the left is a column called “Chapter News”. Click on “Chapter News” and then on any blue highlighted chapter. The chapters in blue are the only ones to date that have provided information. This is a great way of sharing information between facilities and within your own facility. Give information to your Chapter President and he/she will move it on to the main office for review.

50th Anniversary for CMF

CMF celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Wednesday, April 6th. The CCSO Chapter President Gary Riddle and State President Tatum were on hand to participate in the celebration activities.

Fire Chiefs Meet and Confer

Friday, April 8th, CCSO State President Tatum, Administrative Field Representative Canutt, Chief Operations & Financial Officer Le Sage and Fire Chiefs Petitt (PVSP), Chief Ellison (CRC) and Chief Garcia (LAC) met and conferred over duties for Safety Officer. I will provide further updates next week on that meeting.

Meet and Confer re: Supervisory Log Book

CYA-Chaderjian Chapter President Ross Moore, State President Tatum, Administrative Field Representative Canutt and myself, Chief Operations & Financial Officer Le Sage, had a meet and confer on Friday, April 8th regarding the Supervisory Log Book. I will provide further updates next week on that meeting.

Compromise Plan re: Restructuring Prison System

A bipartisan compromise plan to restructure California's troubled prison system cleared its first legislative hurdle without opposition Tuesday, with the author anticipating approval in the full Senate as early as Thursday. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proposes to shift power from the adult Department of Corrections and the Youth Authority to a consolidated Cabinet-level Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, headed by current Youth and Adult Correctional Secretary Roderick Hickman.

Legislative Report

Administrative Representative Canutt reports:

"It has been a very busy week for CCSO's legislative agenda. Representatives from CCSO and our lobbyists testified in support of several Assembly Bills that protect or enhance benefits for supervisors. Listed are a few of the more significant bills.

AB 276 State Employees Military Benefits: Which will provide more financial enhancements for our Reserve Military members.

AB 643 State Excluded Employees Meet and Confer: Which will strengthen the excluded employees' meet and confer rights.

AB 1186 State Civil Service: Will establish a commission to recommend salary ranges for excluded employees.

AB 314 CYA: Which requires CYA to complete a comprehensive study on a newly committed ward with regards to that ward's education, physical, mental status, and substance abuse involvement.

Every bill CCSO testified for passed the Assembly Committees this week.

Welcome New Members

On behalf of the CCSO State Board and staff, I want to welcome the new members who have joined CCSO this week.

Thought for the Week

"The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook". William James