

# CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

September 11, 2009 - Weekly Update

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In Remembrance of September 11, 2001

Please take a moment, in your busy day, to recall September 11, 2001 when Al-Qaeda terrorists attacked our nation, and killed 2,993 Americans. On September 11, 2001 our various nationalities were set aside, and we were all truly Americans. Americans, who on that day were angered, saddened, frightened, and hopeful that tomorrow would be a better day. Let us continue to unite, as one people, who are privileged to live in the greatest nation in the World. Thank you to the military men and women who serve our country and keep us safe. God Bless America ~ P. Le Sage



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## CCSO Picks Up Member Premium for Enhanced VSP!

Effective October 1, 2009 all CCSO members and their families (Retired members excluded) will receive a new benefit to the existing state coverage provided through Vision Service Plan (VSP).

CCSO knows that state employees are experiencing a financial hit due to the 3-day furloughs and the nation's weakened economic state. Therefore, there will be no out of pocket expense to CCSO members. This enhanced VSP benefit will be paid by CCSO. Information on the enhanced VSP has been mailed out to members' home address this week.

**Nevada prisons chief says CA riot fuels furlough fear:** The head of Nevada's prison system, said his fears of requiring correctional staff to take furloughs were exacerbated by the August riot at CIM, where seven of

eight housing units were left uninhabitable. "On the day they had their incident, approximately 15 percent of their officers were on furlough," Skolnik said. "I personally don't believe that having those officers present would have stopped that incident from taking place, but I think 15 more staff could have significantly reduced the time and amount of damage that was done."

**Audit Slams CDCR:** An audit of CDCR showed "skyrocketing costs" without sufficient monitoring or tracking of expenditures. CDCR officials said they are taking the findings of the audit "very seriously" and have purchased two new computer systems that will bring online all 33 prisons, camps and institutions over the next two years.

**State Fund Employees are Off Furlough—Immediately:** A decision signed on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Charlotte Woolard ends unpaid days off for all 7,900 or so State Compensation Insurance Fund employees throughout California, according to an announcement by SEIU Local 1000, which represents about 6,000 fund employees.

Woolard had ruled in favor of the union earlier this month. The hearing formalized that decision, which mirrored an earlier judgment in favor of about 500 fund legal staff.

**Reported by Lt. Chris Gold, CCSO Board Member & Law Enforcement Liaison**

**CDCR Undersecretary Scott Kernan Confirmed:** September 9, 2009, Scott Kernan was unanimously confirmed by the legislature at the State Capitol, as the CDCR Undersecretary, of Adult Operations. This truly was a standing room only event as supporters for Mr. Kernan, from friends, family, and co-workers stood by to demonstrate their support.

Also present and representing the California Correctional Supervisors Organization (CCSO) in support of Mr. Kernan was the CCSO elected State President Rich Tatum, Administrative Liaison Ford Canutt, and myself. Mr. Kernan has earned our respect, and admiration because he has worked diligently with CCSO on multiple issues impacting our members and staff in general. This has not gone unnoticed.

As a State Board Member and Law Enforcement Liaison for CCSO, as well as a personal friend to Scott, it was an honor and privilege for me to stand in front of the legislature and express CCSO's support.

On a personal note, I would like to thank CCSO President Rich Tatum for allowing me this opportunity to speak at this confirmation hearing. Knowing Rich as I do, he would object to me putting this information out to our members, but I think it's important for all of you to know that upon arriving at the State Capitol Rich was approached and recognized by many departmental and legislative dignitaries who demonstrated their respect and support for Rich Tatum and CCSO. Thanks Rich.

T a k e C a r e a n d B e S a f e