



# Classified Crier

Central Services Classified Senate Newsletter



June 26, 2006

## A Message from the President:

*Bret Watson*

When we look back at the 2005/06 fiscal year, our first year in existence for the Central Services Classified Senate, we should be proud of the work that we have accomplished. To start the year, we had 4 goals to address as follows: to improve communication, to improve our image, to have funding for our group, and to reward our employees for a job well done.

Thanks to our hard working Senate Committee and volunteers of our General Membership, we made significant strides in all areas. Some of our accomplishments include creating our website, developing a logo design to represent our group, opening up our own bank account from contributions from our members and management, and having a good time at the Classified Retreat at the Cocoanut Grove.

As my position as President of the Central Services Classified Senate draws to an end, I just want to thank you for a terrific experience in working with such a gifted and hard working group of people. I look forward to continuing the momentum that we started and supporting the Senate next year as the "Past President".

## Our First CSCS Sponsored Retreat

On May 5th, in the most beautiful location, Santa Cruz, the CSCS made history by attending our first classified retreat as our own entity. The retreat was a joint effort by the CSCS and FHCS. Next year CSCS will join De Anza Classified Senate on their yearly retreat. The theme of the retreat was "SEEING THE OPEN DOOR," a fitting theme for the invaluable information presented by a most qualified group of fellow workers.

The day started with a delicious continental breakfast and was followed by welcoming words from Sherry Mines, Lesley Noone, David Garrido and our own Bret Watson. Kim Chief Elk, the new District HR Director, gave a

very enthusiastic and valuable message on "Moving up in the District." David Garrido made us aware of "Staff Development Leave."

After a fun break with an interesting Classified Bingo game, Kris Lestini got everyone's attention with her information on "Professional Growth Awards" (PGA's). Sirisha Pingali and Esme Shih provided information on "403b/457 Retirement Plans", and Chris Vo presented information on "Flexible Spending Accounts" and "Ergonomics." There was more information provided by Sherry Mines on "Computer Loans, Fitness Center and P.E. Classes", and Maureen Chenoweth on "Travel and Conference Funds (SEIU & Classified Senate)."

An excellent and generous lunch was enjoyed by all; the committee surely did their homework here. After lunch Herlisa Hamp informed us of "Other Discounts and Benefits" available to us. A very interesting and most fun Boardwalk Photo Scavenger Hunt followed. This was a lesson where the value of cooperation and teamwork was shown while having fun at the same time.

After getting some nice goodies, the session came to an end. All in all, this was a most joyful and informative gathering. The value of the information given to us by the very knowledgeable and articulate speakers was second only to the experience of getting to know new coworkers and enjoying old friendships in a non-work environment.

All speakers were presented with well-deserved certificates and gifts. Our thanks and gratitude go to the tireless and overworked Classified Retreat Committee.

Your 2006/2007 officers are:

President – Andrew LaManque	x8777
President Elect – Scottie McDaniel	x6265
Past President – Bret Watson	x6272
Secretary – Steve Schmidt	x6168
Treasurer – Debbie Haynes	x6219

## What's Happenin'

As the first year of its inception draws to a close, the newly formed Central Services Classified Senate (affectionately known as the CSCS) has come a long way. The foundation of a great committee has been established through the hard work of many, beginning with the early concepts and discussions related to forming the committee back in early 2005.

Recently, elections were held for open Officer and Senate positions for the 2006/2007 fiscal year and the bylaws were updated. Congratulations to all of the new senators and to our new President-Elect, Scottie McDaniel; and thank you for voting.

Your participation as a CSCS member can help make the difference. Want to join a really fun committee and earn PGA hours at the same time? Join the Central Services Employee of the Month Committee. Are you interested in posting an article in the next newsletter? Contact any CSCS officer or Section Senator for further information.

## Changes in Technology

There are some new technologies coming to our District that may affect how you do your job — one of these is the Portal project. ETS is working with the campuses and Central Services to provide staff and faculty with their own web page, or portal, containing information and easy access to many of the services you use in your work.

More than one hundred volunteers are now testing the portal. It will be available this summer with web pages designed just for you. Once you enter the log-on information, the portal can give you access to your email, Meeting Maker calendar, direct deposit pay stubs and more, with only one password. These services will be available from anywhere on the web, even at home.

Reports designed just for Deans will allow them to track the latest enrollment figures on their portal site. Faculty will find lists on their pages showing student status in the classes they teach. Web availability allows part-time faculty access to these same services from outside the District.

Your payroll timesheet will soon be submitted electronically. Testing has already begun, and most users have found the new system easier to use than the current paper versions. These too will be made available through the portal.

To be sure all employees have the computer skills needed to take advantage of these services, the District has begun a training program. Forty users have already attended, and about fifty more will be given instruction. Those who do not have access to computers will have one provided for them to use in their work area.

The passage of Measure C will guarantee more technology improvements in the District. Look for some exciting changes in the months and years to come.

## Employee of the Month Nominations

There is nothing better than to be recognized by your peers, co-workers and administrators for a job well done. Every month, the Employee of the Month (EOM) committee chooses a Central Services employee from a group of nominations as Employee of the Month. The EOM committee members then visit the chosen employee and congratulate him. Viola! The band starts playing and the excitement begins as the Employee of the Month committee members come to brighten the day of someone whose work has been recognized by others.

Do YOU know someone who works really hard and is committed to his or her job? If so, show them that the work is appreciated and nominate them as an Employee of the Month! You can visit the CSCS web site and easily download a nomination form. Even better, just click on the link: [http://hr.fhda.edu/personnel/EOM\\_nomination](http://hr.fhda.edu/personnel/EOM_nomination). If Internet access is not readily available, contact any CSCS officer for a nomination form or ask your Section Senator for one, it's that easy.

## Editor's Note

*Gina Bailey*

We, the Central Services Classified Senate, have been fortunate to have the support of our Chancellor Martha Kanter, and senior administrative staff. Our thanks to each and every one of them!

We also hope you enjoy this first edition of the Central Services Classified Senate newsletter. Your input and feedback is important to us. Any comments or questions, please feel free to let us know.

And don't forget to visit our web site at URL: <http://hr.fhda.edu/personnel/classified/senate>.