

**From:** Liz Bettencourt  
**Sent:** Friday, September 07, 2012 4:29 PM  
**Subject:** President's Message - September 7, 2012

Members:

***Happy Friday to all!***

As you know, we held our September membership meeting this week. We had a nice turnout (in spite of the holiday week), some good food and we completed every item on the agenda with time for open Q&A and 20 minutes to spare. Thank you to **Ingrid Bella** and **Jan Ortiz** for coordinating and picking up the food and to **Dave Matthews, Ed Maciel, Roberta Stewart and Ramona Ramstead** for their help setting it all up.

### **Strategic Initiatives Approved**

I am excited that together we have developed and approved the first EA Strategic Plan. The Executive Board, Stewards and Representatives have already been busy implementing some of the action items, but we are just getting started. Remember the volunteer card we sent out a couple of weeks ago? Well, thank you to those of you who have returned them—we will be contacting each of you. However, if you have not sent yours in, please take a look *and* take a part in making this plan a reality. The volunteer card is attached below for your convenience and is also on the EA website.



EA volunteer  
card.pdf

### **Speaking of Volunteers...**

EA's representative on the Deferred Compensation Committee, **Jan Ortiz**, announced there is a vacancy for an alternate EA member on the committee. If you are interested in learning more about it, or if you want to put your name in the hat to be considered, contact Jan directly as soon as possible.

### **Election Committee Seated**

The Election Committee for the upcoming officer elections was confirmed: **Patty Ross** (Chair), **Jan Romanski** and **Penny Larussa**. In accordance with our Bylaws, nominations are held in October, and voting is conducted in November. The Committee will soon begin the process of nailing down the precise schedule and will distribute it to the membership. The offices up for election are: VP of Management Relations (currently Tom Drinkard), VP of Membership (currently Cathy Paramo), VP of Outreach (currently Dave Matthews) and Secretary/Treasurer (currently Michele Keefhaver).

### **Pensions, Propositions and Bonds**

Lots going on here. We had a report from our Business Agent, **John Tucker**, on the Governor's pension reform bill. But, even as we spoke, additional changes were made and are now being analyzed by our AFSCME experts. We will have the most up to date info possible next week.

Another topic of pretty dire consequences for public employees is Prop 32. We have had numerous discussions on this and there is lots of info on the EA website about it. Please take the time to read the materials and help us defeat this proposition. It is disguised as political reform, but the "reform" it offers is to continue to allow big corporations the right and power to contribute millions of dollars to politicians and propositions while outlawing union and other small PACS from existing. The middle class working family won't stand a chance, let alone we as public employees. Even the San Jose Mercury News has come out against it (see op-ed on the EA website: <http://valleywaterea.com/>)

Last but not least, we talked about the importance of Measure B – Safe Clean Water. It is vital to the long-term health and success of the District. However, we caution members who have expressed fear of its potential failure in light of the recent media assaults on the District, not to panic. Instead, let's support it and teach our families, friends and neighbors why they should vote for it too. Unfortunately, we have not yet seen any campaign materials, buttons or lawn signs. We are looking into when we might have them to share with you both in person and on our website.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on October 3. Have a great weekend!

*Liz Bettencourt*

**President, Employees Association**

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