

**From:** Liz Bettencourt  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2012 3:46 PM  
**Subject:** President's Message - September 20, 2012

Members:

### **Uniform Brown Bag held today**

We had an excellent meeting today. Thank you to **Janell Hillman** and **Chad Grande** for facilitating, and to all who participated. Folks, this is important—forget what you are hearing about changes to the uniform policy, usage and catalog. *Nothing has changed, so use it.*

Now more than ever there are profound reasons for keeping a healthy and accessible uniform program.

1. **The safety of our staff, and that of the public we serve, is critical.** When staff goes into homeless encampments, we want them to be easily recognizable, especially to law enforcement. We also need the public to know they are dealing with actual District staff and not imposters. The uniform program ensures that field staff have the appropriate attire for the work they do. Often field work involves the use of chemicals, heavy equipment, and requires accessing confined space such as vaults—as well as natural hazards such as poison oak, mud, thick vegetation and heat. It's important to have the right clothes for the job. Overall, management's efforts in this area have put our employees' safety first and we commend them for that.
2. **The image of the District has never been more vulnerable.** Those workers "Joe Homeowner" sees in his neighborhood should look professional and represent the District well. We are frequently the front-line face the public sees and first impressions can be lasting.

If you become aware of issues or problems regarding uniforms or the safety of staff, please contact us!

### **Joint Union Membership Meeting next week**

We have received a great response for the joint membership meeting on Wednesday, September 26. I do want to remind everyone that this meeting will not take the place of our regular monthly meeting, which will be on Wednesday, October 3. Among other things on the agenda for October 3 is the election committee report and the opening of the officer nomination period.

### **Check out the EA Website for more info on Propositions 32, 30 and Measure B!**

We have posted several great pieces for your information and to share with your family and friends.  
<http://valleywaterea.com/>

### **Members on the Move!**

Congratulations to **Roderick Jefferson** on his promotion to Supervising Program Administrator in the Consultant Contracts Services Program; and to **Joyce Takaki** on her promotion to Management Analyst II in Capital Program Planning & Analysis Technical Support.

A fond farewell and our best wishes to **Dave Mahaffey** who retired on September 4, 2012, after 22 years of service. Well done!

And last, but not least, I will be attending the *AFSCME Leadership Conference* this weekend, right here in sunny San Jose Cal! Attending with me will be Assistant Chief Steward, **Ingrid Bella**. Ingrid, who is also an officer of our Local Union AFSCME 101, has been asked to do a workshop at this conference. We will report back to you on how it goes and what we learn.

Have a great weekend!

*Liz Bettencourt*

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