

From: Liz Bettencourt
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 4:07 PM
Subject: President's Message - March 8, 2013

Members:

We had a good membership meeting on Wednesday. As you know, some months back we began the practice of asking members to print their own packet materials if they wanted to bring them to the meeting. That has cut down on overall costs, time and trees! Thank you for that. Recently, member **Jerry De La Piedra** suggested that instead of sending our meeting packets out with the meeting request, we find a way to post them on the website and provide the link (less email/calendar clog). We discussed this at the meeting and there was consensus to try it. Our webmaster, **Michele Keefhaver**, will be working on it and we will need to get input from those of you who don't have easy access to a computer. We'll keep you informed of our progress.

We reported at the meeting that we have filed an unfair labor practice against the district for failing to bargain over proposed changes to our MOU regarding retirement for new employees. More on that later. The grievance on that same issue has been advanced to step 2.

On a broader labor front, members in our sister chapter at the City of Santa Clara are working without a contract and they are nearing impasse (see attached flyer). The City is demanding additional furlough days and no wage increases for the next two years despite an improved financial outlook. The members of AFSCME in the City are asking for our support to attend the City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara City Council Chambers. I will be there with some of our officers—***please join us***—especially those of you who call the City of Santa Clara home. Wear your AFSCME green tee shirts if possible (we still have some available if you need one—contact Cathy Paramo).



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Have a great weekend!

Liz Bettencourt

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