

From: [Liz Bettencourt](#)
Subject: President's Message - November 14, 2013
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2013 6:03:38 PM
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[11-12-13 Bd spkg points.pdf](#)

Members:

Tuesday evening EA, ES and PMA delivered our petitions and our message to the Board of Directors. It was a satisfying and amazing fete—we gathered signatures from *over two-thirds* of the district's total number of classified staff, and in just about a week! Thank you to all who signed in support of *Respect, Trust* and *One District*, including some of our PMA brothers and sisters. I also want to thank those who were able to come out to the board meeting. With us and about ten members of the public in attendance, the board room was packed. The three union presidents took the podium together, with **Metra Ulloa** delivering the message amid a sea of *Respect, Trust* and *One District* signs in green and blue. *(text of address is attached)*

One result of our collective efforts over the past few weeks is that CAO Jesus Nava has stepped in to work with us as we move forward on labor/management issues. We are pleased and hopeful; and, we have a new resolve to begin rebuilding trust and a respectful relationship that will provide for a collaborative and mutually beneficial contract negotiations next year. We'll need each and every member's continued involvement to continue this progress and to achieve this goal.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

I want to take a moment to say a few things about the officers of EA. I am proud to serve our membership again and I will address my term as president, past and future, in my officer report later in the month.

It's great to have **Jan Ortiz** continue as our Vice President of Benefits. Her knowledge and experience, coupled with her commitment to our members, has been invaluable. There is little doubt that she will play an important role this term as we enter bargaining. I am excited to welcome back as an officer, Vice President-elect for Grievance, **Glenna Brambill**. Glenna has remained an accomplished and active Steward since her last stint on the EA Board. Her previous years of experience will serve us all well.

What can I say about out-going Vice President of Grievance **Mala Magill**? She leaves office on December 4 and then the District December 30! Mala took on the VP Grievance role with incredible commitment, skill and professionalism. Under her watch we added new stewards and reconstituted the Assistant Chief Steward council into a working group taking on tough cases. She has been a staunch supporter of me in my role as President (and a

treasured friend) and a tireless defender of our contract and our rights. I have learned from her and been in awe of her. She will be missed not only as a tried and true union leader, but also in her role as a great communicator and advocate for the district and its mission.

Continuing to serve the membership with me, Jan and Glenna are **Ingrid Bella**, Vice President of Management Relations, **Cathy Paramo**, Vice President of Membership, **Janell Hillman**, Vice President of Outreach and **Michele Keefhaver**, Secretary-Treasurer, as well as our ace Business Agent, **John Tucker**.

Have a wonderful, safe weekend.

In solidarity,

Liz Bettencourt

President, Employees Association

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