

The Bottom Line

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What is The Bottom Line???

In an effort to get important legislation information out to CSNA members, the Public Policy & Legislation Committee (PPL) will be sending out The Bottom Line Newsletter after every committee meeting. We hope that this information will be helpful to you all and break down a bit of the mystery surrounding policy & legislation.

Your PPL Committee Members

Here are your PPL Committee Members for 2013-14 Term:

Chair	Rene Yamishiro
Co-Chair	Jennifer LeBarre
Far North	Denise Ohm
Motherlode	Valerie McDonald
NorCal	Sandee Larsen
Central	TBD
SoCal	Harold Sullins
Industry	Ken Barsanti & Allen Scott

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State Update

The 411 from Capitol Advisory Group

Our advocate, Capitol Advisory Group, keeps an eye on all the State legislation making the way through the halls in Sacramento. Here are the top pieces of legislation we are keeping an eye on and our official stance.

AB 626- Skinner

This is essentially a clean-up bill to align State regulations with Federal regulations. We were a bit nervous about this at first, but Assembly member Skinner listened to our concerns and made many amendments. **Position: Support**

AB 302-Canella

This bill came about in response to the *Food Fight* report which detailed inappropriate use of cafeteria funds throughout the State. This bill calls for additional oversight and audits of Cafeteria Funds budgets/expenses. **Position: Watch**

2013-14 Budget

We have a budget!!! There will be several budget related bills that will work to "clean up" certain aspects of the budget. Two things you need to know:

School Meal Funding: Secured with a COLA increase.

New Formula for Funding Education: There will be a new way of funding education now. Everyone district will get the same based funding. Additional funds will be given based on free/reduced percentages, English Language Learners, and other criteria. This will put additional pressure on our departments for processing meal applications. We are also looking in to how this will affect Provision II & III schools.

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Member at Large Tish Litchfield & Ralph Peschek

The Committee will meet

July 9th – conference call
August 6th – conference call
September 10th – face to face in Natomas
October 8th – conference call
November 12th – conference call
December 10th – face to face in Natomas
January 14th – conference call
February 11th – conference call
March 25th – face to face in Natomas

Chapter Presidents are welcome to attend.

Federal Update

Farm Bill

In general, the Farm Bill doesn't affect our program that happens through Reauthorization of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. However, some programs, including Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program are funded through Farm Bill. It also provides funding for innovative programs in agriculture that may ultimately benefit or harm our programs. One of the biggest parts of the bill is SNAP Benefits (aka Food Stamps). These benefits go to many of the same children we serve. Here are a few highlights from the different versions circulating:

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program: Effort to eliminate the fresh mandate. Some of this is coming from California, especially with our large dried fruit businesses.

Innovative Programs: Money to increase facilities to freeze fruit and vegetables.

Food Stamps: Lots of talk and movement to cut these benefits upwards of \$2 billion per year.

By the time you read this we may have a Farm Bill, but time is ticking.

HR 1303 Fudge-Stivers Bill

As you all know the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) provided new menu planning regulations. There has been a lot of push back on these changes especially around the maximums of grains/bread and protein servings. USDA removed the maximums for

2012-13 & 2013-14 school year. This bill seeks to permanently eliminate the maximums. It also seeks to eliminate the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) piece of the HHFKA which requires school meal programs to incrementally raise paid meal prices to equal free reimbursement rates. This bill, if passed, would allow all financially solvent school district to forgo PLE.

PPL supports the permanent elimination of the maximum requirements. However, we do not support the PLE aspect. It is our belief that each District should make the determination about paid meal charges, regardless of fiscal solvency. Representative George Miller has also come out against the bill. His reasons were:

1. The eliminations should be handled during Reauthorization, which will start next year.
2. The reason for PLE was to ensure that Federal dollars were not used to support paid meals. It is too early to see if PLE is the cause of reduced paid meal participation.

Regional Indexing

As you know California has the same eligibility standards as the other 48 contiguous States. You also know that we have higher cost of living than the most of the country. Families who are barely making it aren't qualifying for free/reduced meals.

With the help of Barry Sackin & Representative Sam Farr, we are hoping to get different standards for California, like Alaska & Hawaii. Several California representatives signed on to a letter sent by Farr's office asking the GAO (General Accounting Office) to conduct a study on Regional Indexing. We hope that the study will be done in time to incorporate the findings in Reauthorization.

Assembly member Skinner will also be working on a resolution to send to Washington DC in support of Regional Indexing. We are keeping an eye on this bill and also sending a letter to Miller about CSNA's position.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CSNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PALM SPRINGS, CA

NOVEMBER 14-17, 2013

STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE

SACRAMENTO, CA (SPECIFIC LOCATION TBD)

JANUARY 26-28, 2014

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON DC

MARCH 2-5, 2014

Management Bulletin NSD-SNP-07-2013

This Management Bulletin came out in response to the Food Fight report referenced earlier. For the most part it outlines the appropriate & inappropriate uses for Cafeteria Funds. One aspect of the MB caused some concern. Specifically, we would have to request approval from CDE for any equipment purchase over \$5,000. The Executive Finance Committee will be asking that the State use instead the purchasing threshold of \$85,400. Stay tuned!!!

State LAC

Please mark your calendars for State LAC, January 26-28, 2014 in Sacramento, CA. Legislation is an important aspect of our job and State LAC is the perfect place to learn about the process, new bill, and get your feet wet!

We will be trying something new this year, a one day registration for the office visit days. This is a perfect way for you to participate without taking a lot of time out of the office or large pricetag. Look for more information!