

# The Bottom Line

Volume 1, Issue 5

February 6, 2014

## What is The Bottom Line???

In an effort to get important legislative 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 Yamashiro              |
| Co-Chair   | Jennifer LeBarre            |
| Far North  | Denise Ohm                  |
| Motherlode | Valerie McDonald            |
| NorCal     | Sandee Larsen               |
| Central    | Laura Bullene-Jacobo        |
| SoCal      | Harold Sullins              |
| Industry   | Ken Barsanti & Steve Spears |

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## State Update

*The 411 from Capitol Advisors Group*

Our advocate, Capitol Advisors Group (CAG), 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.

### AJR 31- Skinner

We were very excited to discuss this with Assemblymember Skinner during LAC. She has been such a great champion for Regional Indexing. We hope AJR 31 will work its way through the Assembly and Senate in time for us to take it to DC in March.

### AB 626- Skinner

This bill passed last year and was effective January 1, 2014. This bill essentially cleaned up state laws around after school meals and competitive food sales to be in alignment with USDA regulations.

### AB 628- Calderon

Well, we thought this one was dead, but the plumped chicken bill came back to life in early January. Thanks to some fast action by members and, of course, Lee Angela, the bill died in the Appropriations Committee. We explained to the committee that this would be a burden to the school meal program as we rely on USDA Foods for most of our chicken and have little to no control on the product. We also emphasized that HHFK already addresses sodium content of meals.

### 2013-14 Budget

**New Formula for Funding Education:** This is better known now as LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula)

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|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Member at Large    | Tish Litchfield & Ralph Peschek |
| President          | Lynette Rock                    |
| President –elect   | Agnes Lally                     |
| Vice President     | Dena England                    |
| Industry Rep.      | Allen Scott                     |
| CDE Rep            | Carol Chase                     |
| CAG                | Kevin Gordon & Lee Angela Reid  |
| Executive Director | Janine Nichols                  |
| Leg. Advisor       | Barry Sackin                    |

The Committee will meet

February 11<sup>th</sup> – conference call  
 March 25<sup>th</sup> – face to face in Natomas

Chapter Presidents are welcome to attend.

All conference calls can be joined using the CSNA line:

1-800-977-8002

Participant code 916154#

## Federal Update

### Farm Bill

Finally!!! Both the House and Senate approved a Farm Bill. It is on the way to the President's desk for signature and he has indicated he will sign. There was an \$8 Billion cut to Food Stamps. Fairly certain Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program was not changed. Still looking for information on that. A Farm to School pilot was also approved.

### Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act

Reauthorization is right around the corner. SNA asked all States for their priorities for Reauthorization. Here are California's top priorities for Reauthorization:

1. The need for permanent elimination of the maximums on grains and meat/meat alternates
2. Repeal the restrictive sodium standards
3. Repeal the mandate of offering more fruit or vegetable at breakfast

4. Eliminate the Paid Meal Equity requirement
5. Streamline and consolidate requirements when programs are reviewed, NSLP, SBP, CACFP, SFSP

### SNA Position Paper

SNA recently published their Position Paper. There was a lot of lively discussion at our Sacramento LAC on these. Can you guess why?

#### Meal Pattern Flexibility

1. Retain the initial 50% whole grain requirement for breakfast & lunch.
2. Suspend the implementation of the Target 2 Sodium requirement until studies are completed.
3. Remove requirement that all children must select ½ cup fruit or vegetable for breakfast & lunch.

#### Competitive Foods

1. Reopen & extend comment period for "Smart Snacks in School" Interim Final Rule through July 2015.

#### Strengthening School Meal Programs

1. Encourage clear communications strategy between USDA and US Dept. of Education to achieve a school environment supporting students' health, well being, & academic success.
2. Return to five-year administrative review cycle.
3. Address problems of unpaid meal charges.
4. Increase program simplification.
5. Provide flexibility on Paid Meal Equity.

### Regional Indexing

Along with AJR 31, we are making progress in DC with Regional Indexing. The General Accountability Office (GAO) has agreed to do the study! We will learn more about the study when we meet with them in March. Thanks to Barry Sackin for keeping us updated!

## 2013-14 Budget cont.

Since Provision II & Provision III schools have not collected meal applications for several years, most students at these schools would be considered paid for LCFF purposes. BIG PROBLEM!!!

Some progress has been made. In particular, the extended date for reporting free/reduced in CalPADS is now March 21<sup>st</sup> for Provision II Schools/School Districts vs. February 15<sup>th</sup>.

An Ad Hoc Committee made up of several education organizations and led by Lee Angela, continues to meet on this issue. We also think we were able to get some traction on the issues during Sacramento LAC. There are two legislative members who are especially interested on this issue since they represent areas with large amount of Provision II & III schools. Lee Angela keeps plugging away and looking for any opportunities to get this issue addressed. We will keep you posted!!!

## PP & L Positions

It is almost time to have new members on PP & L. There are three positions that will be open starting in May:

1. PP & L Co Chair
2. Industry Member at Large
3. Food Service Member at Large

If you are interested, the applications will be coming soon!!!

## State LAC

Sacramento LAC was amazing!!! We had a huge turnout, over 100 people. There were several CBOs who joined their FSDs.

Ted Lempert from Children Now

(<http://www.childrennow.org/index.php/>) was our keynote speaker at Monday's lunch. Children Now has really come up with a great approach to garner the support of groups that are at times competing for attention & resources, for child related issues. We see a partnership there!

We awarded a few of our Legislature friends some awards this year:

Dr. Richard Pan, representing the Sacramento area, was given the "Friend of Child Nutrition" award for his consistent support of our meal programs, especially Sacramento USD's.

Nancy Skinner, representing the Bay Area communities, was given the "Legislator of the Year" award for her support of our programs. She is the Assemblymember carrying AJR 31.

We had several great panels and our main topic was LCFF. Our reception in the Capitol Rotunda was great. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson kicked off the event and several legislators stopped by for a visit, as well.

Finally, everyone had great visits with their legislators on Tuesday. Our LAC vets really helped out our first timers. So great to see since legislation is such a critical part of our work.

Special thanks to Lee Angela Reid and everyone at CAG for their great work. Thanks also go out to the CSNA staff for their support.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON DC

MARCH 2-5, 2014