



**CEMA**  
**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 20, 2006**  
**11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Richard Rapacchietta, First Vice-President  
Sheila Stevens, Immediate Past President  
Mark Hand, Second Vice-President  
Peter Pham, Treasurer  
Mary Mitchell, Member-at-Large  
Dolores Morales, Member-at-Large  
Amando Cablas, Member-at-Large  
Consuelo Collard, Board Secretary

**ABSENT:** Edna Esguerra, Board President

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Randy Johnese, CEMA Business Representative

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Call Meeting to Order.** Richard Rapacchietta, First Vice-President called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM.

**II. PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

**A. Laura Colunga from the Assessor's Office Regarding the PARE Program.** Laura Colunga and co-workers Cynthia Bartolino, Arika Thomas, Carol Rivas, Fraser Louie, Marianne Suriaga, Cristina Torio, Sue Lambrecht, Chuck Mirrassoul, David King, Jackie Cantu, Marie Fuentes, Lanny Blackfield, Rebecca Ross, and Ed Palacio were in attendance for the presentation to the Board about the Property Assessment Revenue for Education (PARE) program. After introductions, Laura proceeded to make a presentation to the CEMA Executive Board. The purpose of the presentation was to ask for CEMA's written support and endorsement of the PARE program through a letter to the State Legislature, the Governor, and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. The program, previously known as the Property Tax Administration Program (PTAP), in existence for over 10 years, was eliminated due to State Budget cuts. The program provided additional State funds to Counties to increase the number of property assessments conducted and taxes collected. Santa Clara County funded 57 additional positions with the extra funds; this in turn increased the number of properties assessed and taxes collected, and the grants were forgiven by the State.

PTAP would replace PARE through a bill authored by California State Assembly Member Sally Lieber. A draft of the new Assembly Bill is expected to be available for review by December 5, 2006, and it may possibly pass in February 2007. It is extremely important that the bill be passed on an urgency basis and put into effect immediately when signed by the Governor; otherwise, the 57 positions funded by the former PTAP program will be eliminated.

Laura and her co-workers asked that CEMA approve, in concept, the writing of a letter in support of the new PARE program. The letter would be drafted by the County Assessor's Office and would be provided to CEMA for review before the Executive Board Meeting scheduled for December 18, 2006.

Board members then asked clarification questions about the PARE Program, including the following: 1) Other than funds for education, does the program include anything else? 2) Do all Counties in California support the program? 3) Is Local 715 also working on gathering support for the program? Laura indicated she would get answers to these questions at the CEMA Executive Board meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Randy Johnese suggested that Tom Starkey discuss this program with Local OE3 and provide additional input regarding support and endorsement.

Having heard the presentation and briefly discussed the program, Amando Cablas and Mark Hand moved for approval in concept for a letter to the Governor, the State Legislature, and the BOS, in support of the PARE program. The motion included a request for Tom Starkey to review the program and seek additional support from Local OE3. The motion was approved.

### III. **AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

- A. Everyone reviewed the Agenda. A correction to the Agenda was noted: The minutes to be reviewed and approved at this meeting are for November 6, 2006. The Lead CEMA Business Representative's and the Board President's reports were tabled as both Edna Esguerra and Tom Starkey are on vacation this week. The discussion about the STO Committee was tabled until January. Also, a report from the Elections Committee was added to the Agenda.

### IV. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. **Review and Approval of Executive Board Meeting Minutes for November 6, 2006.** After everyone read and reviewed the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on November 6, 2006, Mary Mitchell and Dolores Morales moved for approval of the minutes as written. The minutes were approved.

### IV. **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. There were no action items on the Agenda.

### V. **INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- A. **Lead CEMA Business Representatives' Report.** This item was tabled.
- B. **CEMA Business Representative's Report.** Randy Johnese reported the following:
  - The deadline for CEMAGram articles is today. The CEMAGram should go to the printers by December 4<sup>th</sup>, to ensure it is mailed to members before the Holidays.
  - Work continues on confidential personnel representation issues for some CEMA members.
  - A meeting was held with the Probation Managers and Supervising Counselors regarding the County's Contract with Local 1587 which will impact adversely these CEMA classifications in the Probation Department. Dolores Morales participated in the meeting. The group agreed to meet again and work with the County to resolve the issues. A meeting will be scheduled with the Probation Chief Mitchell, and afterwards with Pete Kutras if necessary. The concern was also discussed briefly with the County's Labor Relations Manager, Brian McKenna

who indicated that the issue would be looked at only if it became a problem in recruitment. Randy noted that CEMA wants to work on resolving the issue to avoid this from happening.

**C. President's Report.** This item was tabled.

**D. Treasurer's Report.** Peter Pham reported the following:

- Copies of the Profit and Loss Statements for 2005 and 2006 were distributed to everyone present. The reports show that expenditures are under control, and the net income doubled in '06.
- The cash on hand has also improved in comparison to 2005. The better financial picture in 2006 is due in part to the dues increase and additional CEMA members.
- The CitiBank CDs will be moved to Merriwest Credit Union at 6% interest rate that is better than CitiBank's yield. Peter recommended that an additional \$10,000 be moved to the Merriwest CD from the checking account. Amando Cablas and Dolores Morales moved for approval to transfer the CitiBank CDs to Merriwest Credit Union and Mary Mitchell recommended that the amount be made even. The motion was approved.
- Peter noted that CEMA had also saved in Accounting fees from 2005 to 2006, and noted that the Contract with Donna Le is expiring on December 31, 2006. He will find out if there would be any fee changes for a new contract in 2007 and will review with Tom prior to the next Executive Board meeting.

**E. Political Action Committee Report.** Sheila Stevens reported the following:

- The Committee met and reviewed the PAC Plan and Budget and will present updated versions to the Board in January.
- The Committee is proposing a PAC fundraising event combined with a reception to welcome new BOS Ken Yeager. Admission fee to the reception would be \$25 and sponsorships could be obtained at \$100 each. The Committee is also looking for other fundraising ideas. Dolores Morales suggested a friend's house for the reception. Sheila encouraged all Board members to participate.
- Randy noted that whether CEMA's PAC can legally raise funds for its own activities should be looked into.

**F. STO Committee in 2007.** This item was tabled.

**G. Juvenile Hall Advisory Board.**

- Randy Johnese reported that there was a meeting of the Executive Committee this morning. It was decided that each committee will have specific assignments and will be responsible for reporting to the full Board on activities.
- Randy noted that there are many Juvenile Commissions and the Juvenile Hall Advisory Board has spent a lot of time determining what their role would be. It has been determined, however, that the Board has no authority to require Juvenile Probation to do anything or to subpoena records or information.

**H. Local OE3 Contract Language Regarding Dues.**

- Randy noted that the Affiliation Agreement with Local OE3 calls for dues reviews on a yearly basis, and there was no review done in 2006. Therefore, CEMA should expect a review in 2007.

- Randy noted too that construction worker dues in Local OE3 are over \$100 per month. The goal for the Local 715 merging unions is 2% of salary; currently they are at 1.7%.
- Board members discussed briefly the potential ramifications of a dues increase for CEMA members.

**I. Professional Development Committee Report.** Mark Hand reported the following:

- The December Luncheon will be the last event he helps coordinate as he is running for re-election as a Member-at-Large instead of Second Vice-President.
- The next Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, December 1, 2006, at the Wyndham Hotel on First Street.
- The featured speaker for the December Luncheon is Carmine Gallo who will be talking about the ten (10) most important things in communication. Mr. Gallo plans to give away fifty (50) copies of his book on communication.

**J. Communications Committee Report.** Consuelo Collard reported the following:

- Laura Colunga has resigned from the Communications Committee due to other commitments. The vacancy will be announced at the December Luncheon and in the CEMAgram.
- The CEMA banner for display during events will be ready by the end of December.
- Samples of nametags for CEMA Executive Board members to wear while attending events will be provided at the next meeting.
- The Committee will review the current Communications Plan to see if all activities are being covered and to update it as needed.
- A web page will be added to the CEMA website for providing information to members about the procedures and differences for re-alignments, re-classifications, and re-organizations.
- Randy has had to re-do the artwork for envelopes and stationery at least twice; this is almost completed and new stationery and envelopes will be available soon.
- Randy is waiting for the new release of Adobe Acrobat before upgrading this software in his PC.

**K. Membership Committee Report.**

- Mary Mitchell reported that a membership meeting would take place in Superior Court on December 5, 2006.

**L. Scholarship Committee Report.** Dolores Morales reported the following:

- The deadline for new scholarship applications is November 30, 2006.
- Thus far, two applications have been received. However, it appears that neither applicant qualifies for the Keith Garvey scholarship.
- The Committee will meet the first week of December to decide whether the remaining scholarship can/should be awarded.

**M. Elections Committee Report.**

- Sheila Stevens reported that there is a candidate for every officer position in the CEMA Executive Board, including one for the currently vacant Member-at-Large.
- The new candidate for Member-at-Large is Eric Goodrich from Parks and Recreation who also served in the Negotiations Committee this year.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/KUDOS**

**A.** The following announcements were made:

- The Friends of Human Relations of Santa Clara County will be hosting a symposium on immigrant families on December 8, 2006 at San Jose City College, called Immigrant Relations and Integration Services (IRIS), and are asking for CEMA's support and sponsorship of the event. Dolores Morales and Amando Cablas moved for approval to support the IRIS Symposium at the \$500 level. The motion was approved.
- Peter Pham announced the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of Donna Le and Company.

**VII. DEVELOPMENT OF AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

**A.** Agenda items should be forwarded to Consuelo Collard. The next Agenda will include a discussion about a dinner celebration for outgoing and incoming Board members.

**VIII. MEETING EVALUATION**

**A.** Board members noted that the meeting is ending a few minutes early.

**IX. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**A.** As all the Agenda items had been discussed, Amando Cablas and Mark Hand moved for adjourning the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.