

**California Association of School Transportation Officials
State Board Meeting**



MINUTES
Friday, June 4, 2021
10:30am – 2:00pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting – Live on YouTube
501 N. Crescent Way, Anaheim, CA 92801

I. OPENING – President Matthew Thomas, 10:30am

A. Pledge of Allegiance – Kerri Gardner

B. Attendance

1. 1, 2, 3, 4, ~~5~~, 6, 7, 8, 9, ~~10~~, 12, ~~13~~, 14, 15, ~~17~~, 18, ~~19~~, 20

President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, Professional Associate Rep., Contractor Rep., Sustaining Member Rep., CASTOway's Editor, CASBO Rep., ~~CDE Rep.~~, ~~DMV Rep.~~, Legislative Rep.

2. *Verification of Eligibility* – Mike Sawyer

1, 2, 3, 4, ~~5~~, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, ~~15~~, ~~17~~, 18, ~~19~~, 20

C. Introductions and Welcome -State Board, Executive Board, Audience

D. Minutes of Prior Meetings – 1/8/2021 - (M) Chrissie Stevenson (S) Kristy Van Es (C), 3/28/2021 - (M) Jill Bender (S) Sam Anderson (C)

E. Correspondence - None at this time.

F. Additions / Changes to the Agenda – No Changes. (M) Ross (S) Jill Bender (C)

II. Reports

A. Treasurer – Christina Celeste, checking \$133,343.75 savings \$5,792.35 total \$139,136.10. Christina shared the Budget vs Actuals Report for this current fiscal year. One question we had was about the conference Sam wanted to know the total conference amount of income \$4027.00 is money we received after the close the previous fiscal year, but it is money that pertain to the conference we had in February 2020, it's separated out. Anything that is under conference 2021, \$37,294.26 is the conference we just had virtually. Sam asked about making sure we have enough money in the checking account to cover all our expenses because it appears, we are upside down. Christina shared the reasons one reason Liability insurance we only budgeted \$10,600.00 came back higher about a \$3000.00 difference. Additionally, the web page, Wild Apricot we budgeted \$3500.00 the reason why is because we have been paying \$290.00 a month for the Wild Apricot System however which is a great thing our membership and contact numbers have increased so we had to up grade our package to accommodate the increase in numbers to the executive level and by doing so we actually paid for a two years up front, mid-year. We also got a discount for paying up front, \$7100.00 and change which broke down to about \$297.00 per month which is only about a \$7.00 increase to what we were paying but it was not in the original budget. The good thing is when we go to the proposed budget there is nothing budgeted, its already paid for. (M) Mike Sawyer (S) Tony Peregrina (C)

Sam and Christina also had a conversation about the spreadsheets for the fiscal years 2019 and 2020 Chapter Insurance Payments, Sam wanted information regarding the Chapters that are still outstanding in their payments, he then was kind enough to go back to his Chapter 1 Board to discuss paying for two chapters worth for the fiscal year 2020. Sam shared that he and Chapter Ones board noticed that chapters 5 and 17 currently don't have a board and that after talking to Matt it is in the works for a board to be established so Chapter 1 would like to help clear that debt for 2021 for both Chapter 5 and Chapter 17 so they have one less thing to worry about in getting those chapters going. Chapter 1 Board has approved to pay \$250.00 for Chapter 5 and \$250.00 for Chapter 17. Christina wants a friendly reminder to all chapters that this was voted and approved as a requirement for each chapter to pay every fiscal year, without the insurance payment up to date and active, she will not be able to issue Certificate of Liability Insurance.

B. Membership – Mike Sawyer, are membership runs the fiscal year from July 1, to June 30th so all the emails just went out that memberships are due, so we are kind of in this weird limbo.

Chapter 1 for example has 33 active members 2 pending and 232 pending renewal, total 267 members

Chapter 2 has total 296

Chapter 3 has total 302

Chapter 4 has total 63

Chapter 5 has total 29

Chapter 6 has total 156

Chapter 7 has total 118

Chapter 8 has total 76

Chapter 9 has total 16

Chapter 10 has total 164

Chapter 12 has total 156

Chapter 13 has total 208

Chapter 14 has total 133

Chapter 15 has total 12

Chapter 17 has total 19

Chapter 18 has total 32

Chapter 19 has total 22

Chapter 20 has total 53

We have 150 Sustaining members for a total of 2272 Members, 47 Agency Members. Sam asked for this report to be sent out to the Chapter Presidents. Christina shared that we have four chapter not eligible to vote because they have less then 25 members, 9, 15, 17, 19.

C. State Officers – Executive Board

D. Special Representatives –

1. *California Department of Education* – Anna Borges, No Report

2. *Sustaining Member Representative* – Brandon Bluhm, asked that is anyone has any feedback that we would like specifically from the Manufacturer Representative in the future to please let him know. First of all, the issues and challenges that you all are probably hearing and see across the board with all manufacturers with the supply chain issues that effecting all sides of the business, really effecting all business, it is a real concern that we all are working through. And then briefly share we are seeing an increase interest regarding all fuels and EV with all Manufacturers and that will continue as most are aware 2024 CARB requirements will not allow any vehicle to be placed that not meeting a .05 NOx standard which up to this point is likely impossible for diesel to meet, the reason Cummins is now getting into gas and propane engines, because diesel is going away. Its an exciting time and important to be preparing, appreciative of

everyone here and the leadership you all take in leading the charge, a lot of you have been pioneers with Electric or other alternative fuels vehicles. Brandon also has information on Grants if anyone is interested. Mike Sawyer shared that he is always interested in the information about Grants even if it doesn't apply directly to him and asked Brandon to sent him a email regarding the information and Mike would posted it on the CASTOWays website. HVIP is opening June 8th, this program has been closed for over a year and a half, this is a first come first service program. CARB is opening the first half on June 8th, the other half on August 10th, the nice part about HVIP is it does not require you to crush a bus, so this can be used for fleet expansion. Which is very helpful, the only program that allows that. Sacramento Metro AQMD, and Ventura programs just closed. The only other program still open at this time is the Bay Area AQMD at this time no deadline to close it's a first come first service and they continue to refund the program.

3. *Contractors Representative* – Erin Borda, Contractor are anxiously waiting to see what the State to does about the capacity on the school buses. The Contractors typically at this time are transitioning into summer work, summer camps and summer school programs however a lot of summer camps in our state are not running as they normally do, another words, field trips, Disneyland, or the beach because that would take children out into the public. So there has been a drastic reduction in summer work. Another huge revenue hit to all of them. It was nice to see some of us back at work come April, but it has been a lot less, only about 1/3 of her fleet. Hoping that in August we will get back to some sort of normal, back to where we were. Also, to dove tail on the school bus initiative to transition to Propane, CNG or Electric Bus, it's very challenging on the school Bus Contractor as most of the time they do not eligible for the grants dollars, because they are privately owned organizations. Its very challenging for them to transition their fleets over to the alternative fuels' vehicles.
4. *CASBO Representative* – Matt Sanchez / Carlos Chicas, Matt thanked Matt Sanchez for being our CASBO Representative and welcomed Carlos Chicas as the new Representative. No Report.

III. Standing Committee Report

1. *Legislation* – Nico Chavez, right now in Sacramento the Legislators and the Governor are figuring out what the budget is going to look like and they both have two different ideas about what that going to be so currently the Legislation meaning the Senate and the Assembly have come to an agreement on their version and the Governor proposed his version in May. Some of the big difference that matters to K12 the Legislators version of the budget is basically funding all the money that were lost during the pandemic so what that means is at the start of the pandemic the governor propose a 10% cut across the board to all Education, the Legislator said we don't want a 10% cut we want a deferral which means that one of the payment that school districts received throughout the year would be deferred so the districts could still count that they have the money but understanding that the State would pay that back eventually. So, this budget that the Legislators want seeks to do that to pay back all school districts that deferred payment. Has no increases for cost of living or school transportation or any of the items that we are working on to help get students back to school. What we are working on, four asks of the Legislators, the first ask of the Legislator is, a \$2500.00 one-time payment for a certified School Bus Driver who have been on unemployment when they come back to work, would come from the Federal Stimulus dollars that the state has received. The other thing we are working on is, to designate Federal Job Trading funds for new School Bus Drivers, meaning that if your District or Contractor group were to train a school bus driver a district can seek to be reimbursed up to \$5000.00 for those training costs for every new driver, they are training. The other piece

we are working on is to help CHP with what we see as a huge influx of Driver recerts and original Driver certification testing we are asking for augmented funding for additional staff. None of these items are in the budget but we will continue to work on it to get it be a last-minute item in this budget and if that does not work try and get it as trailer bill language in August. And the fourth item we are working on is we trying to get that COLA School Transportation, once again it is not in the budget right now and if we are not able to get it in at the last minute then it's unlikely that is something that will change in August. But the other three we will keep pushing for to get some support for district to get school bus drivers. Christine asked if the one-time money that was proposed for all drivers who come back to work or just drivers who have been off on unemployment and come back to work? Nico answers that they are asking that the money go to all school bus drivers, but the baseline goal would be to incentivize those that have been off on unemployment to come back to work.

2. *Roadeo Report* – Doug Smith, Doug thanked everyone who attended the Roadeo Workshop, it was well attended, a blast and he and Antonio had a great time doing it. The participation was incredible, 300 people there abouts maybe a little more. They have been discussing doing a Special Needs Roadeo Workshop next and then presenting this workshop again in February to get ready for the Roadeo season in March. Looking at this year's venues, will be contacting the Irwin Dale Speedway to see if they will be interested in having the Southern Section there and the others as well. Looking forward to a really good year of Roadeo Competition.
3. *Access & Mobility* – Tony Peregrina, Books are still available, great asset to have to sell as well as a great Special Needs resource and guide for the Best Practices in California. We have a little more than 200 books available.
4. *Fundraiser / BINGO* – Dano Rybar, No Report
5. *CASTOways.org* – Mike Sawyer, it's very important when you receive the email about events that you take the time to register for the event, example this meeting today is Zoom by clicking on the button that you will be attending it will generate another email the day before and the day of the event with the Zoom link to join the meeting. Officers Workshop was announced this morning, I encourage everybody who is currently or is thinking about serving on a board to register. This event is virtual normally this is an in-person event but this year it will be virtual so all officers should be able to attend. Those who attend will get an updated Officers Handbook. Again, we are in the renewal process so make sure your membership gets renewed, reminder we no longer accept payroll deductions. The website is up to date anything you might need to know is there.

IV. Business and Issues

A. Old Business

1. *2021 State Conference* – Kerri Gardner, when the executive board started to talking about this years conference we knew our membership need something, some kind of training with the year that we have been through, when we start our early planning stages with the virtual conference we did not know how we were going to accomplish that with a great under taking and the dedication of so many of our members and executive board members we were able to provide a fantastic State Conference in a virtual format. Of course, it was not like anything like an in-person conference, but we were able to gather, we were able to share great ideas and training with everybody. Overall, it was attended very well, Mike shared that we had 294 people attend the conference virtually on the Hopin platform and a lot of vendor support, 25 vendor booths. Matt shared that he will

never stop raving about the in person 2020 conference and how lucky we were to have held it in February and bring in the amount of money we did and put on such an amazing conference and then to get off the plane and all I hear is about this COVID 19 thing. And the 2021 Conference, I can't thank everyone enough for all they did and especially Mike and Christina Celeste for the all the amazing work they did. It went amazing, beautiful. I think we got one call out of 294 people.

2. *Bingo Report* – Dano Rybar, No Report
3. *Conference Report* – Mike Sawyer, Christina Celeste, nothing more to report.

B. New Business

1. *2021 – 2022 Proposed Budget* – Christina Celeste, sent out the report, she received no questions back. Access and Mobility was increased a little bit because we had an opportunity to sell books to CASBO for their Transportation Leadership Academy Program. We are hoping that is a continual partnership with them. Advertising under income is for job announcements on the Website. Business Forum we are having this year and the Conference. Insurance payments we left that at \$4500.00 that is with each chapter paying their \$250.00. There might be discussion in the future about increasing that just because our insurance is increasing, don't be surprise in the next couple of year if that is a conversation, we must have at our State Board meeting with all the Chapter Presidents involved. Mechanic's Workshop, Memberships, numbers fluctuate as we begin to sell more and more and going over the benefits of having agency memberships that will decrease what we see in all the individual memberships. Officers Workshop Registration. Going into expenses Access and Mobility increase because of the increase of postage. Affiliation that we have, bank charges, expense for all the events we are plan on having. You can see the increase in the Liability Insurance we budgeted \$10,000.00 and change and we ended up spending like \$13,000.00 and change. And since then, the Board of Directors at the Insurance has announced that they are increasing it again. The notification I received is they are increasing our Insurance payment to \$15,450.00. Legislative Advocate that is Nico and the School Coalition. Mechanic's Workshop and the supplies that might be needed, Pins, expenses for Officers Workshop mainly regarding postage. Poster Contest and so you can see we are being very conservative here between the Income and the Expenses, leaving a net operating income of \$3.00. (M) Mike Sawyer (S) Jill Bender (C)
2. *Officers Workshop July 20, 2021 (Virtual)* – Matt Thomas, it is going to be virtual and on July 20, 2021. Matt sent a letter to all the Chapter Presidents stressing the importance of being in attendance. It will be 9:00am-11:00am and 12:30pm-2:30pm. It is on a Tuesday and its important to get as many chapter officers their as possible. There will be a speaker to give the history of CASTO and then each different Officer on the State Board will speak on their position and what they do. The importance of that position and all the helpful hints, what needs to be reported.
3. *Reopen California* – Tony Peregrina, want to give a huge thanks to our Chairperson for the committee Nanette Rondeau and her co-partner Tony Lavezzo who did an amazing job to keep us focus and on task with this document. I think it is an amazing document that is available on our Website. The document was written and released in August 2020 and we have had one amendment January 2021. It is a living document that changes as things change. It can be used for any future pandemic, flu, or outbreak of any sort. Keep it, download it and we will continue to update it as needed. If all goes well California will be open June 15th. Thank you, Nanette, thank you Tony and thank you to all the Committee Members who help put this document together.

4. *School Transportation Business Management Forum / Mechanic's Workshop CA Best Tech & Inspection* – Kerri Gardner, Business Management Forum will be held October 20-22, 2021 in person, in Sacramento. It is geared toward Pupil Transportation Professionals that are in a Leadership capacity within our industry like Driver Instructors, Dispatchers, Supervisors, Lead Mechanic, Directors even CBO's. It's a great place for Networking with you colleagues as well as Vendors. Receiving any update on Rules, Laws and Regulations that change sometimes daily in our Industry. We are working on the speakers at this time, hope you all can make it. Mechanic's Workshop and Best Tech, Tony Lavezzo, working on finalize the presenters. We have some great programs lined up not sales pitchy but very technical. This will be a virtual Workshop, hopefully the last one. Pam is working on the Vendors. Hoping it will be well attended it being during the week and with not as many routes running they should be able to log on for some good training. July 15-16, 2021.
5. *2022 State Conference* – Matt Thomas, it will be in person in Sacramento at the Double Tree Hotel February 12-14, 2022. We are currently looking for a Program Chairperson, so if anyone knows anybody or want to step up or two persons want to step up lets us know. Tony Peregrina shared that historically long, long ago it was the local chapter Presidents that put on the state conference that brought on the presenters and put together the program, stayed organized and efficient. We had great professional development in these conferences. If any President was willing to step up and assist or maybe a couple that would absolutely amazing.

Matt added that we are in the process of updating some forms in the Officers Handbook, thank you Sam Anderson, the main one information regarding agency member, there are things in there that don't apply anymore. There are seven items that they are looking to updating.

Also looking, thank you Kerri Gardner, to update the Mutual Aid Directory, it is way out of date, brainstorming now. Mike wants to help with that because he believes that it could be as simple as a click to opt in, those that opt in to be on the directory.

Mike also shared that normally when our State Board meeting are in person, the Chapter Presidents walk around and hand flyers out sharing when they are having their Rodeos, Driver Workshops and various events, email those flyers to michael.sawyer@castoways.org there is a whole section under events for chapter events and he will get them posted on the Website. There is also a Want to be a School Bus Driver section and when you are having your original classes email him with the date and information or the flyer and he will post it on the Website. Can also email it to michael.sawyer@smusd.org .

V. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

A. Chapter News – Chapter Presidents

1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 40, 12, 13, 14, 15, 47, 18, 19, 20

VI. ADJOURNMENT 12:13pm (M) Mike Sawyer (S) Ross Rosborough (C)