



California Association of School Transportation Officials

State Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, December 9th, 2023 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Hilton Garden Inn, Sacramento

I. Opening

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Attendance

1. 1, 2, 3(late), 4,~~6~~, 7, ~~8~~, 9, 10, 12, 13(late), 14, ~~15~~, ~~17~~, 18, 19, 20
President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, ~~Secretary~~,
Treasurer, Past President, Professional Associate Representative,
Contractor Representative, ~~Sustaining Member Representative~~,
CASTOway's Editor, ~~CASBO Representative~~, CDE Representative, and
Legislative Representative.

2. Verification of Eligibility - Chrissie Stevenson

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

C. Introductions and Welcome - Executive Board, State Board, and Special Representatives

D. Minutes of Prior Meeting - October 13, 2023 minutes (M) Jill Bender, (S) Gilbert Castro (C)

E. **Correspondence** - Chrissie Stevenson read a card sent to Anna Borges in memory of Al Sauvadon. The card had a \$50 donation to be given to a favorite organization and Anna chose to donate to CASTO. Anna also made some comments about how grateful the family was for the outpouring of support during the days after Al's passing. She also thanked CASTO for the gift of table top decorations for the memorial.

F. Additions / Changes to the Agenda - no additions or changes

II. Reports

A. **Treasurer** - Christina Celeste - Checking = \$233,082.06, Savings = \$30804.79 for a total of \$263,886.85. Budget vs actuals was passed out to all board members. Gilbert Castro inquired about the conference budget vs actual numbers. Christina explained that most deposits come out of one section of the budget (lodging in this case) and are broken back up when the actual invoices come through.

Gilbert also inquired about the mechanic workshop travel. Christina explained that, since the workshop is in July, the travel expenses can contain expenses for both the previous and the current fiscal years. It was suggested that the mechanic workshops might be broken down into calendar years for future budgets to make the distinction between. Adrianna Catledge inquired about the insurance line item appearing under conference. It was confirmed that the insurance line is the organization liability insurance and is not specific to the conference. (M) Gilbert Castro, (S) David Lee (C)

- B. Membership** - Chrissie Stevenson - A membership report was passed out to all board members. The current membership is 2860. The number is 136 less than the ending membership in June. We should see an uptick as attendees begin to register for conference.
- C. State Officers** - Executive Board - Karen Knight reported that she has been speaking with drivers about the industry. Some drivers are concerned about the length of time it can take to get an original applicant through the process of obtaining their special certificate. She also brought up an overdose issue that happened on one of her home district buses. Matt Thomas attended a Chapter 2 workshop and utilized Ms Piggy funds to purchase 45 gifts for the regional center. Christina Celeste has been busy wrapping up the finances from the Management Forum and getting ready for the state conference. Cindy Casarez has been working on state social media and the poster contest. Chrissie Stevenson has been busy supporting membership and helping with conference preparation. Mike Sawyer attended the services for Al Sauvador. He also planned the holiday event for the state representatives and is working hard on conference planning.
- D. Special Representatives**
 - 1. California Department of Education** - Anna Borges - provided a report that touched on Home to School Transportation funding, CHP tester training, and other happenings at the Department of Education.
 - ~~**2. Sustaining Member Representative** - Todd Franssen~~
 - 3. Contractors Representative** - Michael Sloan - provided a report that touched on the continued driver shortage throughout the state and strategies to meet the need.
 - ~~**4. CASBO Representative** - Carlos Chicco~~

III. Standing Committee Reports

- 1. Legislation** - David Neben - provided a report that touched on the forecasted 68 billion deficit that is expected to impact pupil transportation in the areas of funding for both transportation and bus replacement. He reminded us that 2035 will be the deadline for all except
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electric vehicle purchases. Legislation that they are looking to “fix” during the next session will be VC 25350 Lighting and VC 35550 which speaks to limits on GVWR for certain roadways.

2. **Roadeo Report** - Doug Smith - provided a report regarding Roadeos. The committee is still looking for a Southern location and is considering returning to Irwindale. There have been 2 applications for the open 2 committee positions. Doug will be forwarding those nominations to Mike for action. He suggested that the state consider not raising the participant registration cost for sectional Roadeos. Doug is also still willing to come out to Chapter workshops to give a Roadeo presentation and/or demonstration. Dano Rybar gave a quick history of the Roadeo and asked that the start line at State Roadeo Championships be named the Al Sauvadon Start Line in memory of the fantastic job at EVERY championship getting the drivers ready for the course.
3. **Access & Mobility** - Dano Rybar / Christina Celeste - Less than 27 books remaining. Revisions are still in the plan for the near future. Christina will ask her home district printshop if book printing is in their scope. The 24/25 budget will need to include the printing.
4. **Fundraiser / Bingo** - Dano Rybar - provided a brief update that included just signing a 3 year lease for 2 sessions per week. They are fully staffed with volunteers and plan to continue to support the state organization with financial contributions.
5. **CASTOways.org Web Site** - Mike Sawyer - asked that Chapters continue to send in both updates and corrections.

IV. Business and Issues

A. Old Business

1. **Closing of Nominations** - Matthew Thomas - Nominations were opened at the October board meeting. No nominations were received prior to the December meeting. Matthew opened each executive board position individually to nominations from the floor. None were received. By acclamation, the 24/25 Executive Board will be: President - Mike Sawyer, 1st Vice President - Chrissie Stevenson, 2nd Vice President - Cindy Casarez, Secretary - Jana Graham, Treasurer - Christina Celeste, and Past President - Matthew Thomas (M) Gilbert Castro, (S) David Lee (C)
 2. **Raffles** - Dano Rybar - handouts were distributed that contained both the California Raffle Registration Form and a FAQ regarding raffles for non-profit organizations. All chapters are to remove the line item Raffles from their budgets. There shall be no 50/50 raffles. The State organization will be completing the registration form to identify the state conference and the 3 Roadeos as raffle dates for 2024. Chapters can either provide their raffle dates to Raffle Committee Chair Cindy Casarez prior to the submission of the application or apply by Chapter in order to hold raffles
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in their chapter. Door prizes (no purchase of tickets) are allowed without a permit.

- 3. Poster Contest Voting** - *Cindy Casarez - only one submission was received by the State. It was hung for judging. The poster did not contain the correct theme of "My School Bus Driver Keeps Me Safe". Motion by Adrianna Catledge to extend the poster contest deadline to January 9, 2024. (S) Christine Marney (C) . A virtual meeting will be held directly after the deadline for judging.*
- 4. First Light Safety (VC Section 25350)** - *Anna reported that the DOE will not be placing the LED School Bus sign on a state owned bus. Motion by Danielle Lane - CASTO to not support the request by First Light Safety to sponsor legislation. (S) Adrianna Catledge. Followed by a lengthy discussion regarding CASTO sponsoring legislation. Motion failed to carry. Motion by Emily Keeran - CASTO will remain neutral on all product endorsements. (S) Danielle Lane - no discussion, motion failed. Motion by Danielle Lane CASTO will not support legislation creation to alter VC 25350 on behalf of First Light Safety at this time. (S) Adrianna Catledge - no discussion, motion failed. Motion by Jill Bender - CASTO will remain neutral and CASTO does not offer it's legislative arm to First Light Safety. (S) Brad Kirby. No discussion, motion passed.*

B. New Business

- 1. 2024 State Conference** - *Dano Rybar / Mike Sawyer / Donna King - Dano introduced Donna King as CASTO long standing vendor committee chair. He gave an update on the layout of the conference center and events. Mike also added a few details regarding the bowling event. Current registrations are hovering around 100. The Saturday pre-conference package will be limited to 100 and they hope to have a full 400 attendees.*

V. Information Exchange

- A. Chapter News** - *Chapter Presidents - all chapters reported events that will be happening during the year.*

VI. Adjournment - *(M) Danielle Lane, (S) Brad Kirby (C)*
