



Newsletter & Board Report

March 15, 2011

Past President Natasha Lang will be attending the March 15th Board meeting in place of Sharon Gach.

- *Thank you Natasha!*

THANK YOU TO FLEX DAY SPEAKERS & VOLUNTEERS!

The phrase “Couldn’t have done it without ya” was so true for the March 4th Flex Day. I did not realize how many people were involved until the end of the day when I typed up the “Gratitude” email – 15 volunteers and 12 speakers/assistants.

I would like to again thank:

Volunteers & M&O: Joe Andrade, Don Saugar, Rich Duchscherer, Pam Bracy-Levingston, Joe Pimental, and others from M&O, Mike Furuyama, Frankie Alexander, Elizabeth Bettencourt, Cindy Balero, Lilia Camino, Chyi Chang, Sharon Davidson, Jennifer Farber, Karen Kit, Renee Pegues, Connie Reding, Jeff Sperry, Todd Steffan, Julie Thornburg, Daysi Valle, Christie Verarde.

Speakers: Jeff Sperry, Rachel Ugale, Karen Kit, Sean Day, Chyi Chang, Natasha Lang, Cindy Balero, Todd Steffan, Jeff Baker, John Ruys, Zina Rosen-Simon, Jackie Fitzgerald, and Bill Eddy. *-Sharon Gach*

Fun! Morale Booster! Laughter! INTER-CONSTITUENCY OLYMPICS: April 15, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

At the January College Council it was proposed to the 4 participatory governance groups to host a morale boosting Olympics-type event – that could also serve to raise funds for a special student-related event. The Classified Staff agreed to this concept at the meeting on Jan. 27th, and asked for volunteers to help plan the fun. We had 2 planning volunteers come forward, Heidi Ulrech & Sharon Gach, and Julie Thornburg volunteered to be our Referee.

Features of the pre-event & event on April 15th include:

- o Athletes and cheerleaders from each group

- o Athletic ‘events’ planned by Referees from each group, such as: “Plasma-Car” races, Ankle-Balloon contest, Volleyball (with blanket over the net – “where’s the ball?”), etc.
- o Logo designed by *Naked Magazine* (gratis), and placed on the team shirts (Classified is blue)
- o Theme song for each team
- o Fun all-group ‘training’ on March 30th, 12-1pm, with ‘trash talk’ – covered by student media

On March 2nd the Inter-Constituency planning committee decided on the actual student-related benefit from the fund-raising. Since many transfer students have limited funds and narrow means to visit state school campuses, the group happened on a “Students on the Move” benefit which will take a group of students on a field trip with counselors and/or instructors.

We hope everyone enjoys the events, laughs and feels uplifted from helping others also!

A NOTE FROM NATASHA

I would like to extend a special “Thank-you” to Classified Senate President Sharon Gach and Vice President/Activities Jeff Sperry. As a Past President, I can tell you that a lot of hard work goes into organizing, compiling, and facilitating flex day activities. I often see Sharon continue to smile and make sure that everything is taken care of, and notice Jeff efficiently adding both the technology ideas as well as quietly ‘getting things done.’ In addition, most of this work is done gratis or behind the scenes.

This year Flex Day focused on “Mining the Hidden Gems of LPC” and for a small moment, I would like to say “Thank You” to Sharon and Jeff and have the spotlight on these “Hidden Gems”.

On behalf of all of the Classified at LPC, I would like to say thank you and you did a great job!

SUNSHINE EXPRESS: Do You Know of Celebrations, Life Events, Sympathy?

If you know of celebrations, life events or sympathy for our Classified co-workers, please call or e-mail Julie Thornburg, Sunshine Person (ext. 1421). She would be glad to send an appropriate greeting on behalf of the Senate.

Sunshine was sent to these co-workers so far in 2011:

- Andi Schreibman
- Connie Hildebrand
- Scheanelle Green

NEXT MEETING:

**Thursday, March 24, 1:00 PM
Room 4129 (Green Room)**

EXCELLENT FLEX DAY-MARCH 4TH “Mining the Hidden Gems of LPC”

The Flex Day Planning Committee put together a voluntary flex day based on input from the Fall survey. Survey responses included that members would like:

- A half day
- Motivational activity/talk
- Ice breaker activity
- Technical training & a Speaker
- Info on CalPERS for retirement planning*
- Time management

Therefore, the Committee created a flex day that included:

1. Icebreaker: Speed Relating (3 minutes + 3 questions to get to know the person across from you – then switch!) → Everyone LOVED this, we will do it again!
2. Two Banner trainings: Student & Finance
3. A communication game to enhance our understanding of environment and interrelationships
4. “Connection/Voice/Commitment – Leveraging Group Ideas to Strengthen our Problem Solving”
5. “Mining the Hidden Gems of LPC” – Sharing our hidden talents and skills that may be useful to others – List to be published soon.
6. Italian lunch – provided by Classified Senate fundraising
7. Walking tour of the Child Development Center and new Track & Field.

A nice sidelight was that activities 1, 4, and 5 (above) inter-related and we learned a lot about each other, our skill sets, and problem solving.

For future flex days we were requested to do some similar things, plus mix it up and offer other trainings, speakers and events. Just a note: the off-campus events cost quite a bit of money and people drop out while driving to and fro, so we chose an on-campus event this time.

* CalPERS, 403B & 457 info will be provided by Lori Benetti from Payroll on 3/18/11, 12-1 p.m., 1300D. There will also be a Fall session TBA.



LPC Classified Senate Officers – 2010-11

President	Sharon Gach	925-424-1001
VP Communications	Christie Verarde	925-424-1188
VP of Activities	Jeff Sperry	925-424-1655
VP of Fundraising	Cindy Balero	925-424-1548
Treasurer	Sharon Davidson	925-424-1632
Senator I	Cindy Ahre	<i>email only</i>
Senator II	Frankie Alexander	925-424-1690
Senator III	Todd Steffan	925-424-1571
Senator IV	Bill Eddy	925-424-1282
Past President	Natasha Lang	925-424-1634

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME FOR MEETINGS? Survey Ongoing

The Governing Council is surveying the membership to find best time for most Classified Professionals to attend meetings. We will keep the survey open until Monday, March 24th, and people may choose more than one time. Thus far the results are:

- 1:00 pm – 12 people
- 1:30 pm – 5 people
- 2:00 pm – 14 people
- 2:30 pm – 10 people

Please go to this link to participate in the survey!
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dDN0NEV4M05LU1lhX1NtM2J1aXIBS/Wc6MQ#gid=0>

END OF AN ERA: Bldg. 1600 is gone!

On Friday January 28th, a number of Classified Professionals put on their protective gloves and packed up the cabinets in the ‘old’ Staff Lounge, Rm. 1601, and the hallway bulletin boards.

The next week the area was fenced off and demolition began on buildings 1600, 1500, and 1000. Many of us watched throughout the day and said ‘goodbye’ to building 1600 as the location for many years of events, meetings, receptions, and the Veterans’ Hub room.

The new Staff Lounge, 1300D, has already been the site of a number of meetings, including the Classified Professionals’ Flex Day luncheon, and an SEIU meeting. The room seats 55 around tables, about 70 in just chairs, and has side tables for buffet service or meeting materials. The building features a separate “kitchen” area with refrigerator, counters & microwaves. However, plumbing water to the building was not feasible for the short term. I.T. staff can bring in projector and screen when requested also (use a Room Reservation form).

The kitchen items are now put away thanks to Renee Pegues & Karen Kit, and many repairs have been done by M&O, and the carpet and windows cleaned by Custodial Staffer Don Saugar. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the new, temporary Staff Lounge as comfortable as possible for the next 2+ years!

NO CUTS TO PELL GRANTS

A little good news, or “good gnus”, as Scott Lay of the Community College League of California joked recently. He announced that the US Senate rejected the \$5.6 billion cut to Pell Grants. That would have been \$203 million cut from 418,000 California students. More good news is wanted!