

## October 2019 State Council Report

Friday, October 25, 2019

The CTA African American Caucus and UTLA African American Committee hosted a **President's reception honoring E. Toby Boyd**, CTA's first African American Male President. The reception was will attended and President Boyd was thankful.

Saturday, October 26, 2019

The CTA State Council general meeting began with the **acknowledgement of the native people** for whom the land originated.

Joe Boyd was introduced as the **new CTA Executive Director**.

The four **ethnic caucuses** (African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic and Pacific Asian American) convened at 7am. Previously, ethnic caucuses met on Friday evenings. The goal for the change of meeting day and time is to provide greater opportunity for participation.



### Committee Assignment - Retirement

The CTA State Council **Retirement Committee** asked that CTA support Karen Yamamoto to continue as a CalSTRS Board Member utilizing all appropriate means as deemed allowable per CTA Policy and as recommended by the CTA Board and/or CTA management. This recommendation was accepted.

- Lori Easterling, Manager Legislative Relations, explained the complexities and issues around divestment. She shared with the committee that the legislature wants to direct how money is invested, but is almost always unwilling to indemnify the fund against potential loss of funding. She encouraged the committee to continue to keep lines of communication open with other State Council committees on the issue going forward. NEA continues to work on legislation to eliminate the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Additionally, she spoke to how other education groups (ACSA, CASBO, etc.) continue to raise concerns about how much money CalSTRS costs school districts. She shared the history of how the CalSTRS full funding plan was created and that the above-mentioned groups were at the table when decisions were made. She also shared that CalSTRS is projecting that contributions that the employers are required to make will likely go down in future years—a fact that districts fail to acknowledge. The rhetoric is harmful because it feeds into the forces who want to eliminate defined benefits for public workers and convert the retirement system into a defined contribution plan.
- Karen Yamamoto, CalSTRS Board Member, spent time with the committee explaining what it means to be a trustee with fiduciary responsibilities that include maintaining a viable CalSTRS Defined Benefit. She told the committee that as a fiduciary, she must make decisions based on the best interest of the fund, its members, and beneficiaries. She takes her responsibility very seriously and always acts with the utmost integrity and ethics. As a board member, she serves on several CalSTRS committees and is constantly continuing her education so that she can make the best decisions possible as a trustee. She reminded the committee of the importance of logging into their MyCalSTRS account and checking to make sure members have an up-to-date beneficiary registration.
- Dana Dillon, CalSTRS Board Member, gave an overview of the structure and function of the CalSTRS Board and a broad summary of who the system serves. She shared important information on how CalSTRS is addressing global climate change with its institutional clout. CalSTRS has adopted a low carbon investment strategy in order to maintain a viable long-term and sustainable fund for generations of

educators to come.

- Jackie Lee, liaison to CalPERS, reported that CalPERS has cut the number of meetings from 11 to 6 starting in January 2020. One meeting will be dedicated to a stakeholder's forum in Sacramento.
- Marc Sternberger, President to CTA/NEA Retired, reported that CTA/NEA Retired is firmly behind the Schools and Communities First campaign. They will be providing accurate talking points to their members of what this campaign is and what it's not, dispelling the misinformation that is being targeted to seniors. Marc informed the committee of a CalSTRS Cadre that has been formed to field questions regarding the CalSTRS program. HR 4540 was introduced in the House of Representatives to address the inequities in Social Security and public pension recipients. NEA has a position of watch because the bill only targets the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP.)
- Websites to access retirement information include: [www.mycalstrs.com](http://www.mycalstrs.com)  
[www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov) [www.ctainvest.org](http://www.ctainvest.org) [www.nirsonline.org](http://www.nirsonline.org) [www.ssfairness.com](http://www.ssfairness.com)

### [All State Council Committee Reports](#)

#### **Sunday, October 27, 2019**

NEA President, Lily Eskelsen García addressed CTA State Council regarding the continued fight for public education.

#### **Election results**

CTA/ABC Committee Member, District I – Hilary Hall  
CTA Board of Directors, District Q – DeWayne Shaffer  
NEA Director from CA, District 14 – Chris Finley  
NEA Alternate Director, Seat 2 – Nichole DeVore

### [Legislative Candidate Approvals](#)

#### **Upcoming**

For Details of the following, click on the attached link

Give Direct Input on the **CTA Budget** - <https://ctago.org/budgetsurvey/>

**Schools and Communities First Initiative** - <https://www.schoolsandcommunitiesfirst.org/>

**NEA Human Rights Awards Program and Nominations (Due 12/6/19)** -

[http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/HCR%202020%20Awards%20Brochure\\_Final\\_web.pdf](http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/HCR%202020%20Awards%20Brochure_Final_web.pdf)

**CTA Human Rights Awards Program Nominations (Due 1/10/20)** - <https://www.cta.org/humanrightsawards>

**CTA Conferences and Grants** - <https://ctago.org/>

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