

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



**MINUTES**  
**Saturday, September 7, 2019**  
**10:30 am**  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**20 Advantage Way**  
**Sacramento, CA 95834**

**I. OPENING - 10:35am**

**A. Pledge of allegiance** - Led by Anna Borges

**B. Attendance** -

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

President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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* – All are eligible to vote at this time.

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 and Audience

**D. Minutes of Prior Meeting** – (M) Sam Anderson (S) Vicky Wingfield (C)

**E. Correspondence** – None

**F. Additions/changes to the Agenda** – (M) Pam McDonald (S) Matt Thomas (C)

**II. Reports**

**A. Treasurer** – Christina Celeste Balances in Checking \$82,930.59, in Savings \$5,791.72. When she sent out the budget vs actuals report Christina asked for anyone to reach out to her with question and she appreciates Chrissie Stevenson and Sam Anderson for reaching out to her with their questions. Sam asked on page two, comparing to the last budget handed out in June the line administrative fees is missing and postage is not listed under conference, Christina explained that she was not present at the June meeting and Barbara was still handling the accounts, but she believes that there are two different reports in our QuickBooks software that is posing the difference in actual line items you see so perhaps there's a slightly different report that needs to be ran or the current on needs to be revised. On page three under Officers Workshop expenses, are those expenses carried over from the recent Officers Workshop? The report was ran from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 20<sup>th</sup> State so it's like this fiscal year being that the Officers Workshop was held in July these are accrued expenses from the workshop we just had. Sam asked why the line items State Elections and Past Presidents Ring, discussion was made that those items were paid prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> in the previous fiscal year and would not show up on this report. It was also discussed that those items would not be needed in this fiscal year. Also under State Board expenses under storage unit we have exceeded that twice over, it looks like we did not pay last year so we have two invoices plus late fees. Anna said to remember that when we pay for it we pay 12 months at a time, that is what keeps the rate low. Dano and her went a few months

ago and cleaned up the record took everyone off, kept it in her name and got all of it caught up. When Sam brought this up, she went back to last fiscal year and it was budgeted \$500.00 but nothing was expensed so both years are included in this fiscal year. Two more things, under State Rodeo, for lodging last year we budgeted \$5000.00 this year we budgeted \$9000.00 and we have only spent \$1972.00 the question is why is there an increase when we have only spent under \$2000.00? So that amount is from expense spent from last years Rodeo that is just now getting recorded in this fiscal year from July 1<sup>st</sup> on. In the past CASTO BINGO has been able to fund Rodeo 100% and as you know BINGO did a lot to help fund the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference so because we are not sure if CASTO BINGO will be able to fund as much to Rodeo we raised the budgeted amount. We increased it just in case to be able to meet the expenditures. The other thing is our State Rodeo happens in May and we put the expenses on credit cards and they don't show until July which puts them in to the next year when they really are this year expenses. Sam asked what the \$9000.00 was based off of, it is based off the cost of lodging for all three Rodeos. Chrissie said that one of her board members from her chapter was also concerned about the cost of the storage unit and believes that part of her question was answered with the doubling of the fees. Her question specify was what is the storage unit for? And is there not a district that might be able to provide storage for free? The storage used for various things boxes of paperwork, CASTO history, anything that has every happened over the years as well as various other things, posters different things that have been use over the years. Tony shared in the past when things have been stored at other places a Memorandum of understanding when things have been destroyed and needed to be replaced the insurance did not want to cover it because it was not theirs it was ours. In a storage unit we are paying for everything including insurance and for the property. We have the ability go in and out anytime we need it. We have also talked about filing some stuff electronically so we might be able to get a small unit at a later date but looking at what we paid verse what it cost we are really doing well because Anna was able to get it at that rate at the beginning and we are locked into the rate as long as we are there. Anna shared that when all our stuff was at Kern County and then when we were kindly asked to leave, where we going to put it? So, it was voted by the board to house it in one place. It is now in one universal place climate controlled. Sam said \$500.00 a year is nothing, Chrissie said that was the question original question she saw the cost and just wonder if someone could do it for free but believes the answers, she has gotten will answer her question. (M) Pam McDonald, (S) Christopher Bates (C)

Christina also handed out the 2019 Mechanics Workshop Budget vs Actuals report. The Final Budget 2018/2019 school year was also handed out. Pam as the last year President thank everyone for attending the events, recruiting others to attend as you can see, we finished the year with \$78,000.00 and that is a big huge difference from the year prior when we had nothing. A big thank you to Dano and everyone else who was program chairs, vender chairs, the executive board, the presidents all who helped to bring that number up. Tony thanked Pam for her leadership for what she did and her nag, nag, nag. She has a great system and it has worked. (M) Pam McDonald (S) Matt Thomas (C)

**B. Membership** – Christina Celeste / Mike Sawyer Tony shared how membership our number one priority this year. We have to make sure our numbers go up we have a new system and it is starting to take a foothold. Not just because the system is a great system developed that is working, you are doing an outstanding job promoting our association and looking at the value a school district, LEA, Contractor get for it. All though the numbers are not actuate need to focus on a big, big number that is possible very soon. Mike share that the numbers are actuate but until we get the money in hand the numbers are low, we need to receive the checks. Right now, the active members that have paid monies received are 679 but the potential are 2273 if they all pay us. So go out make sure members have paid their dues, have them check their emails. If they tell us they are on payroll deduction well that another

subject. Sam asked of that number how many are agency members? So, the old agencies have not renewed yet the new agency numbers 27. New agency, we have one charter company SPAB, one district less than 2000, seven with district with 10,000 – 20,000, three 20,000 – 30,000, four agency members district with 2001 – 10,000 ADA, JPA's 1500, one, and JPA's more than 1500 we have one. Then what's a really fun number is like all those comprise of many members is about 450 members. The next meeting will be a lot better by then the checks will start rolling in. Sam asked if the Agency members will be listed on our website and Mike answered they are their now, the ones that have paid. Mike suggested you go on the CASTOWAYs website and go to membership and you can look up by chapter. As you can see, we have added about 450 members and we are just tapping the surface. Remember the benefit the slightest benefit is the advertisement of employment opportunity. You get a year of free employment advertisement for whatever you want, you want nutritional services, janitorial, bus attendance whatever it is. We need the numbers to have the voice.

**C. State Officers – Executive Board**

**D. Special Representatives**

1. **California Department of Education** - Anna Borges, Anna thank CASTO for how gracious they have been with the passing of her brother her family truly appreciates it not only at Roadeo but as his celebration of life. Also mention Cullen Sisskind Representative and Manager of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Section Cullen pass away losing his battle with cancer, they were blessed to go and represent the Department of Education and CASTO at his celebration of life at the CHP Academy. His wife was there, and she was wonderful, and she was great kind of went on about all of us. It was great and a good time they did a great job for him, it was a great tribute to him and his personality. He will be missed greatly especially will miss him as we have National Congress on School Transportation that is coming up May 2020 which is once every five years in which she is the delegate for California along with that we bring representatives from the industry also other state agencies that basically represent you the state of California the best of the best at the national level for Congress. If you have ever seen the National Standards book you will see that 50 – 60% is all California. We were very successful in 2010 we actually got Red Light Escorting children as an alternate loading and unloading for them. Cullen will be missed as his expertise came from the California Highway Patrol. A lot of states adopt this manual and that are their rules to operate school bussing, it has a lot of California stuff in there, re; inspection, carrier requirements. Cullen will be missed but we know they will fill his shoes appropriate, right now Craig Weaver, who has presented a lot at CASTO is covering but don't know if Craig will end up getting the job, but we a still working together and will continue to do so. Thank you on behalf of my family personally as well as the Department of Education as well.

So we can go over a couple of things, first, If you didn't know we are getting ready to celebrate 50 years of the Instructor Certification Program or better know as the Bus Driver Instructor Program or the Bus Driver State Certified Instructor it has had three different titles. We are celebrating that this year it been 50 years for us and we are pretty excited about it. We have had almost 6000 attendees in our program, in country, out of country, in state and out of state. At any given time, we have had instructors that are valid from 2000 at a time, to 1500, present we are running with 963 valid state certified instructors in the state of California. That is for a little over 1100 school district, contractors, 50,000 certified school bus drivers and predominately that percentage is school bus we have very low farm labor instructors, and very low in the way of SPAB, and as well as transit because a school bus instructor can do any of those items. So therefore, that is pretty low but as we see that retirement happening, we have seen a lot

a great instructors retire, some who have been instructing for 40 years, it's a big deal for them bitter sweet. We know the blood sweat and tears, the dedication we give ourselves, for those 19 days. Its an experience that if you never have had it Anna hopes on every person in the room because you will never experience anything like that. The camaraderie, the level of education that you receive of all the things you thought you knew when you took the original school bus class and you get there and you actual realize how the universal work in transportation. You give yourself the opportunity to open up your mind and take it all in you can grow with it and you understand how statues, regulations, mandates, what happens, and its changes you and it alters, and it navigates you in a different direction. When you started driving school bus, which we all need drivers, and then when you become an instructor, then you have people who say I want to be a director, I want to move forward. It's really a foundation and spring board really pushes your level of the industry it changes everything if you let it. We are pretty excited about celebrating 50 years. So, in conversation with CASTO, on Saturday at the State Conference we are going to celebrate 50 years and have an Instructor reunion. They will be sending out a save the date, we will invite all the ex-employees of the department, celebrate with style and grace. And we are going acknowledge all the great attributes that you as instructor provide the state of California and show you our appreciation for you, for without you we don't have drivers. Without you preaching the message of the Department of Education we would have nothing. And we recognize that it's a partnership between you and us. Its not and easy industry, we don't pay a lot of money, we have a lot of rules and it changes all the time. In her mind no driver, no instructor, and definitely management not be thanked enough, from her to us she thanks us for the job we do for the state of California every single day. She hopes that all will register to attend the state conference in Sacramento CA so that all can be highlight your accomplishment that night on Saturday with a big band. Sam asked if there is a deadline for the event, Anna said it will be included in the registration for Conference, it will be included it will not be a separate fee or anything, The next handout going around it the 2020 scheduled for the Department of Ed. If you are planning a Workshop and your want a representative for the Department of Ed at your workshop read the schedule, if there is a class in, it is too difficult for her people to go, they don't have the staffing like they use too. Plan far enough ahead that's even better gives them more time to prepare. At conference Andy will be presenting the brake board, Handy Andy is getting the board all dolled up. Stephanie and Leann will also be presenting. They also are going to be having the CDE roundtable. Just a little bit of insight into Sunday, they are working extremely hard, she makes not promises, one we are going to cover ELDT Entry Level Driver Training, MAP 21 they will go into great detail at conference. Also finishing up units 1, 2, 3, 9 and 12 of the classroom manual and we may be able to present it that day. And that means also skills level 2 of the Behind the Wheel guide and skills level 6 because of the update to the recovery process of the sharp backing cross over, because we have changed the vernacular so it a little bit easier to be able to discuss the theory and the recovery process of the sharp backing crossover. Tony asked if we would be required to attend the class? Anna said its tough because she does not know what they are going to do, does not know if there will be a fee associated. Because of the uncertainty but she wants to be transparent. She wants to think about this, she has seven staff to cover the entire state of California. She has an SSA, OT that's her administrative staff, four consultants that cover the state of California and herself that's it... And we do five training instructor programs, we do admin program, and we do special needs program and then we go out and do recertification, and test your delegates, and do your programs, and do CASTO conference and Managers Forum and

then we travel out of state so as you notice the department is shrinking which will lead me to the next thing;

Training Fees. The Instructor Bulletin. Which happened to be shocking, I was shocking, It's a shock. Governor Brown before he went out about three years ago Anna met with LAO, DOF, CDE and for three hours she had to fight for what they do and why it is so important and that it is eminent to keep the funding. I'm ok if they don't fully fund the program, the program use to be fully funded they paid for house, we paid for everything, they only thing employers paid was your transportation to the program and maybe a per diem we use to eat at the Highway Patrol Academy. The experience was phenomenal. When we moved in 2008 that's when we started charging \$1000.00 per person but we were still paying for housing, it was to offset the increase in the lease for the new building. Then in 2010 the fee increased to \$3000.00 straight across the board for any attendee. And here we are today, last year we came out with a fee structure depending on small school district, big school district, private contractor, and then boom one year later 50% from where that was the last time. \$5400.00 for a contractor to send somebody that does not include what it cost to lodge them, the cost for them getting paid, their per diem, their travel, that investment is bumping up to \$15,000.00 – 20,000.00, and there is no guarantee they will be successful. What happens if they are not successful in their evaluation? Its very costly, this was not optional, this was not by any means Anna's choice, that's strictly government. They said you will charge, and you will be a fee for services. I said this is ridiculous you are putting this on the backs of the district, on the backs of the contractors who will in turn put it back onto the districts. Its business and we all need to work together. If you drive children in the state of California a school bus is a school bus is a school bus. And now we are forced to charge everybody, I don't like it, I don't agree with it, don't support it, but I don't have an option. And that's why you see it on the agenda, because when you hear Tony talking about it what we can do what happens and we don't have a big enough voice, this entire state should be outraged. But you know what no flash no pizzazz, we are so safe our record is so good, our drivers are training so good, by all the instructors that are here, and were not in the news, then what's the problem your guys are wonderful but the minute you do something like this you raise the rates a district or somebody is going to double think that we don't have the money for this, so lets take one of our drivers that been here forever she a great driver lets send them out, then we'll have a instructor, it promotes people to do things out of the ordinary that they normally would not do. Maybe sign cards that are not true, maybe they don't have valid instructors. I'm telling you its shocking what people will do, they will flat break the law, falsify documents, falsify training, actually put people at risk out on the road, not only the person who is supposed to be operating the vehicle, but then they are out there with the community and let not forget about the kids we transport, That's why I will never understand how anyone can leave a child on board a bus, That's what we do for a leaving! I just happened the other day, CSAS all that work, all that work. Autistic child left on the bus, thank God it was only like twenty minutes, another driver found them in the yard, the driver goes in and quits. Don't care still a process, negligence! Bye bye, you're out of here. We should be outraged, that we are having to pay this, this government, good news is, that was kind of a depressing little speech, the good news is she is getting ready to have a meeting because she wrote a one page paper that goes to Superintendent Tony Thurmond, these on the possible problems, this is why, and these are the people that support it, and don't support it, so that it is updating him on the problem as to what people are having to pay these fees. I write this paper it goes through and five weeks later Anna gets a call the superintendent wants to know what is going on. It final made it to his desk, that's good never had that happen, then they tell her she needs to do a BCP Budget Change Proposal, so any agency that gets money, you go in and request for the department of finance which is

the watch dog of the money they don't want to give you no money then the governor has more to do what he wants to. Then she got a call and now they want a meeting with the Chief Deputy Superintendent, ACSA, Superintendent Association possible CASBO and CASTO I told them that's who you want there. Anna then spoke with Tony to make sure she could speak on behalf of CASTO as well as DOF Department of Finance that's a big deal, they don't want to come to meeting because something has to be done because if it keeps going the way it is going you will have an office folks sitting in Sacramento... How do you want us to test delegates? How do you want us to do recertification? It's a service for fees, then you pay all this money and I say you just pay all this money and now you have to fly them up, you say if I fly them up there, I don't have to pay a fee? No, you still pay. Its horrible, Anna has been with the department for over 20 years Dano has been there 22 years never thought they would see this. So, we are trying to take it all the way back fully funded. We want it fully funded! We are trying our hardest working our hardest for you guys. And I know we can change it and I am hoping that this is a great sign I never seen this done before and I am willing to go in and fight for the next three or four hours which I will do which is kind of dishearten when I am looking at someone who looks like 22 from LAO I'm like do you think she has even ridden a school bus? It's a new age and it's my job to tell the history, it's my job to take from what Fred Sowash, and Ron Kinney, and Stan Dehart, and John Green and CASTO, Dick Fisher, and everybody who sits in this room and put it all in this cute little bow and tell them why its so important. So, she will continue to do that, and we will continue to charge until we are told differently or to change it and she apologizes for it, its sad. We are going to keep on trucking, we are still positive as we always are, we are trying to fill a position, which we need funding for. We are just going to keep moving forward and do what we do that's who we are that work there a bunch of people that care about this industry with 50,000 drivers and 26,000 buses the operate on a daily basis. Thank you for your support. All the other states model after us, every other state, seat belts, instructor programs, its us we are the leader. Pam said we just got to get them to cross the street now, when the other state comes and ask what to do, we tell them to get out and cross your students. And then when they say what do the other kids do it is, the conversation the bigger issue is you have a five-year-old and you tell them good luck in crossing the street by themselves for the sake of the other kids sitting on the bus? But all of us as states work together to do what is best for our states. Anna will be attending NASDPTS in October going to Washington DC they will be with NHTSA, the Feds. We at going to get ELDT MAP 21 taken care of, Entry Level Driver Training. If things had gone according to plan it would have been a done deal but in the state of California Senator sponsored a Bill 15250.1 VC that says they are going to give them hours, give them 15 hours which 10 of those hours will be on the road, 15 hours of behind the wheel which 10 hours must be on the roadway, oh and by the way 50 minutes counts as a hour... Nico was telling Nico that 50 minutes, like 10 times 15 you really only need 12 hours of behind the wheel actually but you only need 10 hours on the road, Don't get it... never rounded up to anything. If you go to the website there is a FAQ right now and it says we on behalf of the Department of Motor Vehicles, because this is not our issue, Department of Ed we work with the Special Certificate, but we are going to take it on because we know DMV is not going to tell you what you need to know, we are working on FAQ right now, is California exempt? Yes. How do I register on the National Registry? Which does not open until February 2020 so I can't even tell you what its going to look like. We are thinking we will register all our State Certified Instructors that come through depending on the process. If they need personal information, then the Instructor will need to register themselves. That's why Anna is going to Washington so she can clarify all these things that are coming up. But what is in effect to day right now is when you go to the California Highway Patrol and apply for a special certificate, remember we are the only state that

has special certificates, all the others states are CDL with S endorsements, we have a special certificate CHP is our third party tester of the issuance of a School Bus Certificate, SPAB, Transit, Farm Labor. But the only applicant that is allowed to arrive at CHP with a commercial drivers license permit is School Bus. School bus applicant can have a permit, they get trained, nothing changes for us. The ones that show up like SPAB, Farm Labor they must have a permanent Commercial Drivers license. Once you get that, then they can apply for the Special Certificate, this is in effect today right now. So say I do Farm Labor on the side I'm doing some training, They actually go take a written test DMV, they get their permit, with all the curriculum that CDE/OST has written its going to meet the ELDT requirements, now the original certificate for Farm Labor is 10/10 so you are going to have to give them additional two hours which you go behind that anyway with our curriculum it takes longer, then you will have to go back to the department of motor vehicles and take the drive test. Then once they get issued the permanent CDL, then you go to CHP and apply for the Special certificate for Farm Labor. CHP is no longer third-party tester for SPAB, Transit and Farm Labor only School Bus. The good news is the curriculum that CDE/OST has meets the requirements for ELDT MAP 21.

Break at 12:13pm

Resume at 12:42pm

2. **Sustaining Member Representative** - ~~Jason Hohalek~~
3. **Contractors Representative** - Erin Borda, she reported that she has five private schools that have moved toward the later start times, she said the fears that people have had are accurate, it does create longer ride times for the students because the later we start the routes in the morning particularly in Los Angeles the longer the ride time are becoming. We are actually seeing students riding on the buses up to 90 minutes because they are starting later in the morning. So, the effect the Legislature was wanting is not going to happen particular in the city maybe ok in the rural areas but its not going to happen in the major cities. I think that is something she could speak to directly she encourages you to contact your Legislators representatives preventing them from putting this through, because I think you are going to see higher payroll costs, which is what we are seeing, because now we have drivers on the road for much longer than we anticipated. Other than that, right now not much else is affecting Contractors other than the start up of school which is always a messy period in our lives.
4. **CASBO Representative** - Pam McDonald, CASBO 2020 conference will be in Palm Springs CA at the Palm Springs Convention Center. The dates for that are March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>. All of the conference titles, speakers' names and presenters were due last week. So, you should see an announcement come out in October. Keep your eye out.

#### **E. Standing Committee Reports**

1. **Legislation** – Nico Chavez, has two piece to share today, first is the Air Resource Board has a meeting they are going to approve the budget for this upcoming year. In that budget they have the Rural School Bus Pilot Project, and they have a new project Capabilities in Schools Project. The Rural School Bus Project is run by the North Coast Air Quality Management District school bus replacement is based on where you are located first small air district get that money first, they funded it pretty substantially in the past years, this year it is funded proposal is a little bit lower than the one before, so it is important that we get back into the air resource board meetings. So, to have chapter ten come out is really helpful because chapter 10 you are one of the eligible air districts in there. So, getting as many folks as we can into the room, next year we are going to do a push for more school bus replacement, so we want to start with that momentum and build it in the air resources board starting now. So, when we go into the Legislation next year, we already have our presences felt and we get them that money they know where to put it, which is into replacing school buses. They have not set an exact date it's either

the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> as soon as he knows he will send out an email. And then we will try and get as many folks in there to support their program and continue to ask for more funding because the fleet that is on the road today still needs a lot of help. Fighting to make sure that those 25,000 buses that are on the road are within a reasonable age. We still need more money every year to meet those needs. As many of you that can join that day will be really helpful.

The next piece is SB 328 the school start time bill, the bill has move out of the assembly appropriation committee it is now waiting to be heard on the assembly floor we know it went to the Department of Finance this week the department of finance does not like the bill they can't fathom why it is still going through and it a little hard for me too, but this bill is basically running on politics not really on policy as we have said before the chair that is running this bill is the chair for the appropriation committee, it is the most powerful committee in the Senate. So every bill assembly or senate has to go through his committee or that where a lot of bills go to die, it has a lot of power but what has been helping a lot recently with pulling members off that voted yes last year is UC Davis researcher put together a letter pointing and poking holes at the book that the author is throwing at assemblyman and senators desks to promote the bill so now we have another side the UC Davis research letter, where these researcher are saying that it is not conclusive. Which is exactly what the book says if you read the details in the book that he is throwing at people. Last year it was gut command job, we go on two year session in the Legislator, this bill died in the first year, but to could get brought up in the second year, so what he did was he took an existing bill in the second year scraped all the language out and put his bill in and sent it to the floor. So, Legislator did not have time to think about the bill there was no public hearing for it last year, this year there has been which has been really helpful in providing information on how flawed the information is that is used to support this bill. There is no direct correlation right that's what the researchers are saying with changing the sleep time it helps the first six months maybe then after that the kids just stay up later. We are just going to keep fighting, if you want to help the best thing you can do is to call your Legislator office whoever represents you in the senate and assembly, especially the assembly right now, tell them how this is going to affect your district, the more personal stories the better. Just let your office know, a lot of the members are getting flack for voting yes from their school districts because they voted yes for the bill and their school district are opposing it, they are fricking out because they are losing support from their school districts. So, they are coming off the bill as well. The more phone calls we make the better.

Mike asked if there is any word on when they are going to be release the VW mitigation grant stuff? Nico has not heard any more details, but it is this fall.

2. **Roadeo Report** - Doug Smith, we had a pretty successful year last year at the Roadeo, I had an amazing team that helped me supported me and a small contingent that really made it work me. Also wanted to thank Anna Borges, I'm sorry she left, if it wasn't for Anna, she helped me with the certificates to the contestants, she helped with the letters contestants both at the State level and at the International level, and stood right beside me and help me not butcher all of the names of the contestants out there. That was really neat to have her support out there, that was great. We had three Roadeos that went really well. I have stayed in contact with the Rose Bowl this is the last year we have we have a contract that we kind of got in the middle of and I have stayed in contact with them, there is not much we can do until the have there schedule figured out, I keep asking, they say yes, then they call and say no we have a concert, then I say what about next week, just staying in touch with them to see what we can do. But we have Irwindale still on the back burner for the Southern Sectionals. We have four opening on our committee so, if anyone is looking to be on the Roadeo Committee, on the CASTOways website is the application, we have received two applications today, two in this room



today for the open positions, I will be contacting you. The date has been extended until November, we will be keeping that open a little long as we still have two more positions to fill. The international were attended by four of the contestants from our state level, one of which took second place at the international competition that was Sergio Duenas, we also have Derek Bosserman who place at the Honorable Mention position. Next year the International Competition is going to be in Buffalo, New Year right there at Niagara Falls, so I guess we will be driving around Niagara Falls in a School Bus, who knows. The date is the same as this last year July 20<sup>th</sup>? This is the first year that the International Competition and the Officers Workshop did not fall on the same date, so I was able to attend both, which was amazing Officer Workshop was the hoot of all that I have every been to and yes, the marshmallow fight was amazingly fun. The International Competition will be on the same weekend so if we could coordinate that it would not hurt, he's feelings at all. Doug looks forward to a really, really good year again because now he has one under his belt so he knows approximately what he is doing instead of going what do I do next and praying someone knows what he should be doing. Looks forward to a great year, would love to see more support last year we had a lot of Presidents attend would love to see even more this year, and get some more people interest in it. And Antonio and I have been doing so traveling to a couple of workshops in San Diego and a couple other places, the High Desert Chapter 20 is going to have another workshop in February just to let everyone know on that, not trying to toot my own horn but since I'm standing up for Rodeo. We need to get more people involved it's a great think it makes good drivers better its an amazing thing, now that Anna is back in the room, thank you Anna, Department of Education, Thank you.

3. **CASTOway's Editor** – Kristy Fletcher / ~~Ted Saltzstein~~, Tony shared that you should have received an email in regard to CASTOway's, the President's message introducing our two editors, we are very blessed to have Kristy Fletcher here with us, and she is going to share what she has planned for the CASTOway's newsletter. Kristy shared that Ted Saltzstein from down south, and her will be teaming up to do CASTOway's together. They want to bring back not only what it was before but bring more to it. We want to do Tips from a Trainer, Ask the Bus Lady, words of wisdom, highlight the graduates from the Instructor Course. We are also wanting to bring in a Mechanics Corner to reach them also. So if you all have any stories, outreaches that you are doing in your chapters send us those stories we can't with out all of your help and your continued input. Ted is also making a Transportation theme crossword puzzle. They emails are in the introduction and they are looking forward to serving all, send in those stories. Anna shared her thoughts about ask the bus lady or ask an instructor, Anna asked if we know who this is? Kristy answered no we have not gotten that far yet. Anna continue to share, Remember if you are asking state agency questions and then you have someone in the industry who's answering it and maybe they don't have a full understanding of it or misunderstand it or they answer it incorrectly, then we have to retract or we have to go back and say no, to whatever it might be. I just don't want them to say something about Highway Patrol, because if you are asking the Bus Lady its very general, your asking about DMV or CHP, CDE or whatever it may be and then you have somebody doesn't work for any of those agencies trying to answer what they perceive to be the correct answer. Anna just wants us to be cautious. Tony shared that the idea is that every question will be vetted through the proper channels.
4. **Access & Mobility** – Tony Peregrina, we have lots of books available at this time remember when you have your function bring one, have one available as a demo allowing others to look at it. Tony would love for the chapters to have them available for others to read and get excited about having one of their own. Continue to promote the book it is a great asset to have when transporting students with special needs.

5. **Fundraiser/Bingo** - Dano Rybar, Dano is no longer at the meeting he really did not have much to report, the audit is not completed yet, the Sheriff department is taking a little longer than he wanted. So, Dano will give us a full BINGO report in October. He is very excited about conference, during conference we will have a BINGO session instead of bowling tournament. We are very excited about that so we are going to be advertising it to get as many people to participate as we can. Right now, he is running two sessions a Friday night session and a Sunday session. Some of the months are kind of slow the better months are coming, He is very excited about his new location and eventually being able to wing off the Sacramento location being able to give 100% to the Citrus Heights location. Dano works very, very hard, he gives 100% and all his co-workers at the department 100% although they don't get enough credit, everybody helps out so that Dano is successful and this association is successful. Thank you, Anna, thank you Dano for everything you guys do.
6. **CASTOways.org Web page** - Mike Sawyer, make sure you send electronic version of all the pieces of paper that you all passed out today, email them to Mike at his work email address [michael.sawyer@smusd.org](mailto:michael.sawyer@smusd.org) send them to him as a PDF and he will post them on your chapter section on the website. Mike talked a little bit at the Officers Workshop about the app that you can download on your device Wild Apricot. Download the members version, sign in to the members version with your username and password and you instantly have everything the website has but you can also register for events, pay your membership fees, it accepts credit card payments. You can find other members contacts, you can contact them through the app and you can see your membership card you have a digital copy of your membership card. You can take a screen shot and always have it in your photos. You can always have access to your membership information. Email Mike he is always willing to help. Kerri asked how does a member update their information, Mike's answer is to log onto the app and they can update their own information.

Tony mention that at the Executive Board meeting yesterday we talk about having Mike create a power point on how and what is available on the app one of the things you can do as a President is to take a couple of minutes at your workshop and talk about this app and how beneficial the app is to us. Help them download the app and then they can do a lot of stuff on their own.

### **III. BUSINESS AND ISSUES**

#### **A. Old Business**

1. **Officer's Workshop** -Tony Peregrina, One of the things we need to talk about is that some people were not able to participate, some chapters that were not able to participate because of funding, I do not want that to be the reason why you cannot come and be a part of our association, networking and educational and professional development opportunities to run your chapter. What we talked about at the Executive Board meeting was to create some kind of a scholarship fund or scholarship grant that we can give out to some of those chapters that might have someone that is needing to come like your treasurer or your new president but financial you do not have the money to do that. Now of course how do we come up with that money? You need to help use with our venues, we need people to show up to our Managers Forum, we need people to show up to our Mechanics Workshop, we need people to show up to our number one draw which is our State Conference. The more people that show up, the more they get involved, the more funding we have available to assist our association to function. Without you being educated to know how to do your job we are hands are tied. We can't get to San Diego, we can't get to Orange County, we

cannot get to the High Desert, we have to be there because those are your people. You know their needs and their wants, and we need a leader as well as a leadership in that area so that we can bring everybody together and provide the services that we provide to everybody in the state of California, but if you don't know how to run your business your business is going to fail. We have a lady in the back of the room that runs her own business and tell you immediately if you are not organized if you don't have the right attitude or atmosphere at your place of work it will fail. People don't just come to work because you pay them, they come to work, and they do things for you because you are creating and atmosphere of success. So, if you are not being successful at your facility or your chapter it might be because we have not been able to transfer the information and the knowledge and the skill that you need to be successful in your chapter. i.e.; Roadeo, i.e.; your workshop, you get five people in your workshop and then you want to give it up, well there is a reason why that's not happening so it the same thing that happens at the state level if we don't communicate correctly if we can't grab onto people and let them know this is something that you need not necessarily something that you want to do on your weekend but it available its going to make you better at what you do and tomorrow it might opens some doors you are giving them an opportunity to succeed. Your chapter creates successful transportation officials or drivers or whatever it is that you are representing that's coming to you with those needs. As we start this school year you must focus on your budget you must focus on identifying a line item on that budget that allows for your staff for your executive board or your board to come to the Officers Workshop. Its very important we give you this information and you get an opportunity to say hey you haven't done this for me this is what I need this is what we need in my side of this world. Without you there I don't know what's going on we don't know what to do to help you and we don't know what resources we need to develop so that you have those to be successful. So, think about the Officers Workshop next year and although a lot of fun stuff comes out like the marshmallow fight that's not the only thing that we did on those days we did get an opportunity to learn a lot about how a board meeting is ran its intimidating to come up here and run a meeting with professionals like yourselves and do it correctly and right so that you get something out of it and you what to come the next time because if you don't what the point. If we do what we need to do I think that we will be able to help you be successful with your functions so that you'll have the finances so that you can bring your people. Even if you can't come, your Vice President, your treasurer, your associate professional rep, the one that represents the vast majority of your membership, they all need to be there, they need to know what to do to simulate that membership and keeping going with us to keep us strong larger and focus to success. We will be working on an idea and we will bring that idea to you at the next board meeting. Of course, we will need your approval because we use the associations money to fund back to you. So, if you have other ideas to come up with let us know we are going to work to make sure you have the finances.

2. **School Transportation Business Management Forum** – Mike Thomas / ~~Stephanie Oliver~~, currently there are ten speakers confirmed that is in additional to the State Agency Panel, Legislation update and the Vendor Direct Show. They are all excellent speakers, we actually had speakers knocking the door down to come speak. We made room for an additional one and we have two more as back up in case anyone cancels. Its going to be a great event, you can download the matrix from CASTOways, it's the draft but it is pretty much finalized just got confirmation from the last one Lafaye Platter she is going to speak on Mindfulness. We only have 45 people register so far and we are coming up on the deadline for hotel reservations, so we have to sell these hotel rooms. Please go spread the word for us, Mike has been pushing out emails there is a cut off date for early bird registration fee and everything goes up by \$50.00. So back and get nag someone. If everybody in this room goes back and starts sending out emails let's get people signed up to attend. Last year it was phenomenal. The number that you would really like is 200-300, 150 is your bare

minimum. Just yesterday Mike sent out an email blast, if you receive the blast you are not register yet. The Hotel cut off is October 1<sup>st</sup> so, when you are going out there talking to people Managers, Supervisor, if you have Director meeting bring it up. Tony is working on the Mutual Aid Guide and the reason why he is doing that is because a lot the stuff is not correct and there are new director and new supervisors he is getting new accurate emails and when he does he will send out a blast to those people that are not members that we have never talk to before and invite them personally to this Managers Forum. So, if he calls you its because he is updating the information. He will be working on the Contractors side, on the Districts side, Private school, everybody he can get a hold of we are going to be calling to make sure they show up, our number is 200, we are at 45 today, we will talk in a month and see if we are successful or not. We need you to promote it and bring them in, believe me there is a lot of talent out there but there is a whole lot of talent in here people that show up there it will be a benefit to them. Anna asked if there was a list of the folks that attended last year? Mike answer that they have been sending them emails. Anna suggested that maybe we should divide up the list and make phone calls to them, maybe the chapter presidents could call and reach out to the individuals?

Pam shared that she and Stephanie Oliver are the Vendor Chair for the Forum and we got a list from Mike a couple of weeks ago and we had about half of what we normally have so they sent out nag emails and they have already gotten about half a dozen more signed up since then, the others they will continue to nag and will get them there. We are co-chairs this year and then Stephanie will be the Vendor Chair for 2020.

3. ***Mechanic and Supervisor Workshop / CA Best Tech & Inspector Comp*** – Justin Gregori / Pam McDonald, The Vendor show for the Mechanics Workshop went well we had 21 Vendors two years prior to that we did have about 29 so we were just a few short for not having it for a year. Next year I had a lot more that said they had conflicts and they already have the date for next year so they are excited about coming and Justin Gregori is going to be the co-chair next year and then he will take over in 2021. Then Programs was Tony Lavezzo from chapter 6 and their facility was beautiful. Tony then shared that they are planning on ASC certification Tony, Justin and he will be working on getting the right resources , some of the career path issues that we have had in the pass is they have the curriculum but unfortunately they don't have the trained professional for our association to provide that service when you don't have the curriculum expert and you just give it out to anybody to do it then it is not going to have the same power and grip when it comes down to the curriculum. Pam then shared that we do California's Best Tech at the Mechanics Workshop and the winners are listed on the CASTOway's website, TransTrak sponsors for them to go to America's Best Tech and it is usually NAPT in November this year they have postponed it until December 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> it's a Friday – Sunday and it will be at Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District in Texas right outside of Houston and we will be sending the 1<sup>st</sup> place Technician from Tahoe Truckee he is a Mechanic there. The 1<sup>st</sup> place inspector and he is from Michaels Transportation. Pam has been in contact with them concerning the change from November to December. The registration is open for them to attend but there is no information about lodging so Pam will be helping them when the information is available.

## **B. New Business**

- 1 **Mutual Aid Guide Update** – Tony Peregrina, just an update Tony is working on updating the information and it should be complete in the next week or so with the most accurate information to that date that changes as you know Supervisors, Directors retire or they move on so its going to be very hard to keep that information current but as we gain access to their email when we sent the email he's going to get something back

saying hey this email no good this person no longer there. We will get the contact eventually it will come myself or whoever is chairing the Mutual Aid Guide to make those changes and make it current every year. Not so much because its also a great asset that when you break down somewhere in the state you know someone you can call but we need to make sure that we can identify how many transportation systems are out there and whose running them so we can be apart of them and they can be apart of us. We will send you an email blast when its updated on the website, download it, print it or put it on your phone so that way if you ever have a question or you have someone out there stranded you can call someone to help you out.

- 2 **CASTOways Newsletter** – Tony Peregrina / Kristy Fletcher, thank you Kristy for taking it on, thank you Ted for taking it on. Take a looked at the introductions today and the message from not just me but everyone here at the table and all of you, its not just a message from your President but everyone we represent.
- 3 **2020 State Conference** – Dano Rybar, Pam McDonald, Mike Sawyer, Kerri Gardner, Tony introduced Kerri Gardner, the Program Chair for the State Conference, welcome Kerri. Kerri thanked CASTO for the opportunity to serve the organization, she hit the ground running as soon as she received the phone calls and was asked to chair, she was glad to accept. We have quite a few speakers already confirmed for classes and subjects, some of the different subjects we are looking is we are bringing in some information and classes for mechanics, we have dispatcher classes, we are going to have a panel discussion and a Q n A for transportation leaders with in the industry. Sometimes as a leader you feel like your drowning and you just need to ask different question so we have some expert sitting on the panel, hopefully that will be helpful for leaders. We have a fantastic program about community relations and how a transportation department reacts after having a DUI within their program by one of their drivers, that's a very powerful program. One of our keynote speakers will be the Solano County Superintendent of Schools, she has a fantastic program and I'm not sure any of you have had an opportunity to attend, Lisette Estrella-Henderson's program is called "What you do Matters" is talking about everybody that is involved in the industry how important and how impactful it is. Anna does not have confirmation as of yet, but they are working on getting our State Superintendent Tony Thurmond to be the keynote speaker maybe on Sunday morning. Transportation and IEP's meeting etiquette on attending IEP's when it's necessary for transportation to be at the table. We say yes, its wonderful transportation should be at every single IEP but in realty that's not possible when your transporting hundreds and thousand of students. We are hoping that will be a very successful program. We still have a couple open slots that we are working on filling. But for the most part the classes are filled. Outstanding job Kerri, for those of you that don't know Kerri she is one of those that has always been identified members of CASTO that are up and coming. But she has already came up and is stepping up. We are really excited to have her and excited for the conference. Anna confirmed to Kerri that the Color Guard is confirmed for Sunday morning breakfast.
- 4 **CASTO Awards** – Tony Peregrina, remember that CASTO has several awards that we show case people that go above and beyond not just for CASTO but for the industry we want to make sure that we get as many applicants as we can and I know you have people, first of all I know you are busy, its crazy busy every single day, there is not enough hours in the day to do all the work that you do but if you don't recognize people that are just amazing around you more than likely if they are the kind of person you know they are they don't like to be recognize but they need to be recognized they need to be showcased as people that go above and beyond what every it is they do for the kids, for the industry, for your organization. Another really important things is all your life members you don't get an opportunity to become a life member very often there are several people that desire that honor and you must take the time to recognize them we

want them there but we can recognize them unless you submit something to us so that we can identify who that person is qualify, quantify their abilities and their contributions to the industry and the people that we represent. Please do whatever you can to fill every single one of those, its not just to fill it you know they are out there write something about this person submit it tells why they desire this award and we would love to recognize them. Another thing that is really important to this association is the poster contest. I can tell you how much these kids love this stuff to participate in it and its not so much being recognized by winning but looking at each child's ability to identify what you are asking them to do put on paper what they feel is the model of that year. Give them the opportunity make sure that your school districts have an opportunity for you kids to participate in this poster contest.

Amanda shared for you to go out to your school site that you associate with when you are dropping you students off if you could have a driver take the application into the school site and introduce it to the school get the kids interested in wanting to do the poster Chapter 6 always has a great way of reaching out to their kids. You might want to touch bases with them to see how they get their students involved. They bring to use one poster for each category. They receive multiple poster for each category and their chapter has to decide and vote on which posters they will bring to us on the state level. We will be voting on them at the January Board meeting, so you need to start you running now get it out there introduce it to your school sites and let's get those posters back to us. Mike shared that the application and information is on the CASTOways's website under upcoming events, Poster Contest. Sam shared the theme is "Can't touch this, the danger zone". Pam suggested that you reread it they had to make a few adjustments in order to be able to move the poster forward to the national contest, we had to change a few things, like the border.

- 5 **CDE Increase for Services** - Tony Peregrina, with all due respect to CDE, Anna and her staff, the Superintendent, WOW when he received the email he could not believe the increase, it is an unfunded mandate, and because of the respect we have for the department because of the respect we have for Anna and her staff we are taking way to much on just doing a little bit of research just on his side I lose an instructor she retired I need to get another instructor at my facility its going to cost him somewhere in the realm of \$11,000.00 to send someone to the academy program, this is including pay, this is including per diam, this is including the lodging, the program, it is a lot of money. Anna said we have less than 1000 instructors in the whole state of California. That is not enough and it going to get worst because we can't afford it and it's a lot cheaper for me to put down \$5,000.00 of my budget and hire someone from a different school district or someone that is independent then to sent my own because not only spending that kind of money to sent them, how much is it going to cost me to train them to be successful? I worked at that department I'm telling you right now it takes years to get someone to go up there and perform the way they way to see the performance. So, sometimes we set them up for failure and we are setting our budget up for failure as well. So, we cannot if we need someone at our facility we cannot continue to not say something, what I am asking today is to take a look at what it is that is going to cost you or the people that you represent on a day by day bases at your own chapter. I want you to make sure that you take a hard look at what it's going to take to make sure that our Department of Education listens to us and please funds the department fully. And what we mean by that not just that they and I get it you have to have fees, there is an operating cost for everything, but I've never seen a department and I've never seen a federal department or a state department come up thousands of percentage when it comes down to the costs from one year to the next year. You when from zero, to probably when I'm all done, over \$3000.00 to train someone that might not even make it because of the standard that is set by the department of education, which it shouldn't change. If its any low than it is

right now, then we should just get rid of it but we cannot take on that type of cost when its mandated by education code. So, what I am asking is that we create a resolution to direct Nico Chavez to write a letter to both the Governor and the Department of Education in support of full funding for the Department of Education Office of School Transportation and to make reasonable changes to what the cost is for them to provide the service. (M) Pam McDonald (S) Mike Sawyer (C)

Anna shared how the office of school Transportation came about, it was CASTO, back in the late sixty's Fred Sowash, Dick Fisher, and all these Grandfathers of CASTO, what happened was we received a grant from NHTSA to have this School Bus Driver Instructor Program and they found within those two years that there was a direct correlation with the education given to the instructor that there was decline in accidents and statistic and that the reduction would be great so CASTO and the Department of Ed worked together to were then it became full funded but it really started with CASTO and what is know now as the Office of School Transportation. That's why were partnered so closely because if you look at your bylaws it says the Department of Education will run the State Champion Rodeo. So, if you start looking at stuff like that where else in bylaws do you see state agency doing that? But because we are like one in the same everyone works together for the same exact objective and goal at the end so I think it's really important support of everybody quite frankly and to have all the support of everybody in the state of California, everybody should be coming together to say we need this program to be fully funded as it was in 1970.

- 6 Payroll Deductions** – Tony Peregrina, want everyone to know that payroll deduction has been an absolute nightmare for CASTO since the inception, since we lost our relationship with Kern County and Evette. Back in those days we had someone we paid six hours a day to do this work it worked because that's what they do, and when that's all they do then that's great but then you have a bunch of professionals here that are taking their extra time their weekends their nights and we just can't keep up with it. At this point in time with the shift in the agency memberships the executive board believes that we are going to be able to capture the vast majority of those members that are in that payroll deduction. What we want to happen is that we need to put the brakes on it as soon as we can since this is the first year that we start the agency membership we want to give it this year but what we want to do is bring to you the possible of no longer having payroll deduction as of today . We no long start people on payroll deduction everyone stays on payroll deduction the rest of the fiscal year. But after next year if everything happens the way we want it to happen we want to make sure that we capture those people on the agency side and that we have a serious talk with the people that want that payroll deduction to say why can't we come up with \$35.00? or \$40.00? or \$45.00? or \$80.00? or \$90.00? What do we need to do can we put you on a payment plan with you credit card? We need to be created with it but it need to be manageable and a \$1.25 check that's goes from the school district to the county office back to the school district to CASTO is going though thousands of dollars of hands and man power to get to us and we just don't have the resources to keep that up. It's a lot more work then I believe its worth. So what we are asking today is that we ask for the question on the floor to as of today no longer accept payroll deductions and consider eliminating payroll deductions for the next fiscal year. (M) Pam McDonald (S) Mike Sawyer (C) No two - Chapter 1 and Chapter 12.

Sam made the comment that we move forward with the understanding that we review it next year because he understands that it is a pain in the butt but also if we are not generating as chapters agency members then we are going to lose our right to vote through individual memberships. That is what his concern is. Mike added that just helping this weekend, like Christina got handed a pile, that's all he has been doing, You get a \$1.75 check and you don't know who it's for or what district it's from you don't

know what membership level its being applied to, and you just have this mystery check. And then anyone can pick up the phone and say they want payroll deduction, and we don't know who to apply the payment to. It's just crazy! One district sent in and reference an invoice number, we searched everything and we could not even link it up to a profile in the system so if you guys still want to offer this service to your chapter then you write the full check and you collect the money from the person since you have the relationship with them it might be an easier way, It's not that we don't want to do it there is just no way to manage it. Sam asked if there was a different way to do it then monthly. Mike said that Wild Apricot has a feature if you pay by credit card that we can turn on, I have not had direction to do, the feature will do automatic renewals come July 1<sup>st</sup> it will charge that credit card. Sam added the one thing that is concerning as well is that fees that the bank the we pay for credit cards already we have tripled that amount we have had to pay the more credit card transaction the more fees we will accrue. Mike said that convenience will trump that we will get more memberships. The credit card will make it more convenient.

- 7 **Clean up the Savings and Checking Account** Tony Peregrina, we have all kinds of people on the bank account that needs to be cleaned up and we need to make sure that the board allows us to take these people off of the account. As of right now we have Kathryn White, Janet Hutchison, Tammi Cooper, and Kevin Wedemeyer on our savings account. So, what we are asking is that we have a motion to delete these people from the account, now we also would like to add; right now we have Pam McDonald on the savings account we would also like to add Anna Borges and Dano Rybar on the saving account. They are Past President and two Life Members if for any reason something were to happen to any of us here, someone will always to be there to handle our finances and can add or delete as needed. So we are asking to delete Kathryn White, Janet Hutchison, Tammi Cooper, and Kevin Wedemeyer from our savings account and add Anna Borges and Dano Rybar to the account. Christina Celeste also added that the bank mentioned that she too needed to be included in the minutes as well to be added to the savings account. Tony agreed that Christina needed to be added to the saving account also. Anna made the motion and recommendation that the board needs to start the process to switch banks. A bank that has more locations. We also need to make sure that Matt Thomas gets add to the account. (M) Jennifer Hanshew (S) Vicky Wingfield (C)

#### **IV. Information Exchange**

##### **A. Chapter News – Chapter Presidents**

- V. **ADJOURNMENT** (M) Jennifer Hanshew (S) Christopher Bates (C) 2:13pm



