

# GC Times

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Communications  
Committee

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## Sea of green CSEA explores future possibilities together

By Ray Finnell, CSUEU Bakersfield  
Sunday's General Council 2007 main events were FIS 1/07, B&P 8/07, and, of course, the statewide officer elections.

The Teller's Committee report of the early morning voting was unusually delayed, causing much consternation and speculation during the latter half of the mornings proceedings.

By lunchtime, the word was out that the Teller's Committee had experienced a constellation of problems requiring a complicated hand count and verification process for provisional ballots cast by unregistered delegates who had not reported the previous day. Voting opened at 7 a.m. and the

registration desk opened an hour later.

After lunch, the first order of business was, at long last, the Teller's Committee report. Challenger David Okumura ousted Frank

Luna Jr. in the secretary-treasurer race by a comfortable margin (Luna: 328, Okumura: 639). Donna Snodgrass retained her position as vice president with a wide lead over Joyce Fox (Snodgrass: 592, Fox: 388).

## Kucinich wows GC with fiery speech

### SEIU's Stern pushes health care

By Jamie Jacks, CSUEU Bakersfield  
Democratic Presidential candidate Rep. Dennis Kucinich strode to the rostrum and wowed the more than 1,200 delegates and guests with a fiery speech

demanding social justice and universal health care for all Americans. The charismatic candidate knew his audience, and his message surely resonated.

He told of his childhood in Cleveland, and memories of his parents counting pennies for the electric bill under a dim yellow light bulb. That memory came back to him in 1978 when, as the newly-elected mayor of Cleveland, Kucinich fought a local bank in a dispute over control of that same utility company. Mayor Kucinich stood up to the bank, then paid for his ethics by losing a re-election bid. What followed was about 15 years in the political wilderness for this rising star. Nonetheless, the only candidate for president who proudly holds union membership still makes decisions based on what he believes is

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Photo by Steve Sloan

Congressman Dennis Kucinich



Photo by Steve Sloan

Sunday's floor alternated green and red as time and time again votes displayed a newfound solidarity

The three-way contest for president required a run-off between Dave Hart and incumbent J.J. Jelincic, with Tim Behrens coming in third (Hart: 443, Jelincic: 370, Behrens: 162). A recess of roughly five hours was called to prepare ballots and procedures for the run-off.

General Council reconvened at 8 p.m. to hear the results of the 978 voters in the runoff. The final tally: Jelincic: 438, Hart: 539. President-elect Hart strode to floor microphone number six and addressed the delegation. "I appreciate the trust," he said. "We've set a high bar." He pledged to listen to all opinions, saying, "I want

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Photo by Steve Sloan

Presidential victor Dave Hart promises to listen to everyone

## Podcasting and photoblogging at CSEA's 64th General Council

A podcast is a highly compressed audio file that can be downloaded from the Internet and listened to on a portable MP3 player or any PC computer with the appropriate technology (iTunes, etc.). Please note: All candidates and affiliate leaders are invited to interview. Roving reporters will be available throughout GC.

### To listen:

Go to the CSUEU Web site: [www.csueu.org](http://www.csueu.org).

### To see photos:

Go to both CSEA's and CSUEU's Web sites: [www.calcsea.org](http://www.calcsea.org) and [www.csueu.org](http://www.csueu.org) and follow the links at the top.



**By CSEA's (last)  
Exec. Vice President  
Hylah Jacques**

## Speculating on the future

Feeling uneasy? You are not alone. The final vote was fairly close in the **DAY THREE** CSEA presidential election, 539 for Dave Hart vs. 448 for incumbent J.J. Jelincic. While no clear mandate emerged for the winner, it is clear that people want a new, more transparent leadership style. Less political intrigue, more dialogue.

But the lingering question and concern is whether newly elected CSEA President Hart will be sufficiently independent from his affiliate, an important prerequisite for a successful term of office. Will President Hart be committed to consolidating the gains achieved by the Committee on the Future and so resoundingly endorsed by the 2007 General Council delegates?

Independence is a tricky high-wire walk, requiring extraordinary balance, timing, and political instinct. While each affiliate is an independent entity expecting services and advocacy from CSEA, the four affiliates depend on the CSEA president to

remain non-partisan.

CSEA leadership must be independent, not show favoritism and, most important, not pursue agendas contrary to the best interests of all the affiliates.

The only way to verify a president's independence is through actions and their consequences. Hopefully our new President Hart will meet with affiliate leadership at the start of his term and develop a schedule for meetings that will establish good faith, fair dealing, transparency, and cooperation.

The margin for error is slim indeed for launching the new CSEA. We all wish our new president the very best of luck and are eager to celebrate his success.



Outgoing CSEA President J.J. Jelincic lost his bid for a third term

*Labor's story gives every reason for confidence that the time will come when war and poverty and persecution for opinion's sake are only memories of a cruel past. There was once a time when [some] thought that human slavery was eternal and when the courts held that all trade unions were only foreign conspiracies. The path since ... has been long but in the end, despite all difficulties and all reverses, it has always led forward.*

From "Labor's Untold Story"

## Best of show!



Photo by Rich McGee

CSUEU delegates and staff show off what was clearly one of the best booths at GC

## *Future together ...*

*Continued from page 1*  
to hear from everyone.”

A one-hour protest period ensued, which outgoing President Jelincic waived after several minutes, recessing the council until Monday.

Passage of FIS 1/07, CSEA's two-year budget, and B&P 8/07, the resolution memorializing in proposed bylaws the work of the Committee on the Future, were the main events of the morning as delegates anxiously awaited those election results. Motion after motion passed the floor, just as they had come out of committee. The budget went uncontested—thanks, in part, to a pledge from all Committee on the Future members. Even the revolutionary B&P 8/07 passed by an overwhelming margin above the two-thirds required, with speakers expressing well-considered arguments on both sides of the issue—silenced too early for some when the question was called.

President Jelincic had begun the day's session with an announcement about the pending issue of unfilled Sergeants-at-Arms posts, now a non-issue. An expected protest over the Local 1000 seating arrangements never materialized, another positive by-product of

affiliates getting to know one another and opting to go forward in good faith.

Nine more B&P resolutions were dealt with before recess: they were dispatched efficiently. Resolutions 1/07 through 10/07 all upheld or rejected according to the committee's recommendations.

The mood of the day was captured in precious moments like the dancing in the aisles when a break was declared and the music came on.

Two very special guests spoke following lunch, presidential candidate Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and SEIU President Andrew Stern. (See article on page one.)

The hatchets are buried; now we can use 140,000 hammers for building.



*Challenger Joyce Fox (above left) lost her bid for vice president; outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Frank Luna (above right) lost to Region XI Director David Okumura (right)*



*CSEA Vice President Donna Snodgrass (left) won her bid for a second term; ACSS President Tim Behrens lost his bid to lead CSEA*

**Guest speakers ...**

*Continued from page 1*

best for regular Americans.

"It's time we all stood up for our rights. It's time to have a president of the United States who stands for the people," Kucinich proclaimed. That means supporting Medicare for All, the congressman's proposal for low-cost, federal single-payer health care. "The insurance companies make money by not providing health care. We need to break the hold these private insurance companies have over health care."

Standing up for the people also means resolving the Iraq war by getting U.S. troops out. He proposed strength through peace, as opposed to the Bush administration's "peace through strength" approach.

Social justice was also on Kucinich's

mind. Privatization is a major concern. He said it "splits the people from their government," adding, "As soon as I become president of the United States, privatization will be a dead end."

Kucinich's strong ethics were apparent in his speech: "I can't be bought, period. I am not for sale."

Kucinich left us standing on our feet, hungry for more of his straightforward style, grass-roots concern, and his abiding faith in the common American. "I think this country is ready for profound political change," he said.

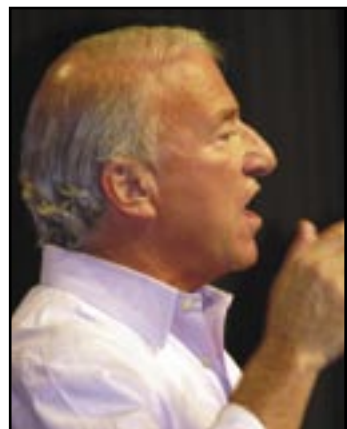
SEIU International President Andy Stern, following Kucinich, also stressed the need to fix the health care system. But first he demystified classic Republican economic theory: "Wealth doesn't trickle down. Wealth trickles up."

Stern touched on health care and SEIU's campaign to reform the U.S. system. He related the stories of two families whose situations were altered profoundly due to lack of adequate coverage.

He also gave a presentation on SEIU's push to get all Democratic presidential candidates focused on health care reform. He sees California as the leader in changing the national agenda on this issue.

President Stern said he has been visiting CSEA's General Councils for the last twenty-five years.

"The way to predict the future is to create it," said brother Stern. A very apt slogan for us this year.



*SEIU President Andy Stern*

**Bridging the generations ...**



*Photo by Rich McGee*

*Janna Sterling, 26, and Merle Cale, 92, representing the bookends of lifetime union activism at CSEA's General Council.*

**"Quote" of the day**

"It takes years to create a masterpiece and just a one second slash of a knife to destroy it."

—Pat Busby on the floor of GC addressing attempts to dismantle the Committee On the Future of CSEA's Bylaws package.

**Tribute from the GC Times**

A special thanks to all those expressing their appreciation for our efforts to produce a daily publication at GC. Our aim is to help us all feel a little more connected as one association. While it's produced by one affiliate, it is a product of *interdependence*. We want to thank the staff at the print shop, CSEA Communications Office, and event staff for their valuable, beyond-the-call assistance (and patience). I also thank the Local 1000 volunteers who sat and folded the paper in the early hours of the morning when the mechanical folder failed. We are thankful for the support and faith our affiliate leadership placed in us and the investment of resources. I especially thank the all-volunteer staff of the CSUEU Communications Committee and many others from the CSUEU delegation, and the staff (for their concern over the editor's eating and sleeping patterns). Finally, thanks to Steve for the wine and chocolate to inspire the last issue. See you next time!

**Best of show!**



*Photo by Steve Sloan*

*CSUEU Chapter 311 CSU-LA delegates show off what were clearly one of the best shirts at GC*