

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
March 4, 2021

Interview with former CSEA President Kathy Glasmann

Former CSEA President, Kathy Glasmann (1998-2001), and her husband, Tom, recently shared some memories from the CSTA Strike of 1975. This included information and thoughts about the pictures we published in a recent *Union Pulse*. We thank her for bringing her inside perspective. Here are some excerpts. (Remember CSTA was the “original” CSEA.)

“Thinking back to 1970 and before when female teachers were not allowed to wear slacks/pants nor let anyone know they were pregnant for fear of being fired/reprimanded seems so foreign to today’s times. We were both AR’s at various times of our careers among other positions appointed or elected. Tom’s career was entirely at Wasson (so hard to believe it is “gone”) beginning in 1969. Flagship school for the state of Colorado for many years, academically, athletically, etc. and the leader in Block Scheduling with Wasson teachers being contracted to conduct workshops for teachers around the country for implementing the full block at their respective schools. I began my teaching career in 1970 at Mitchell with the modular scheduling. What a joy to teach with modular scheduling...”

From previous picture IDs:

“Gary Miller [was the] CSTA “money guy”. Knew the D11 budget in and out. Always knew where the money was that the District said they did not have.”

“Tony Strenola - UniServ Director. When he walked in for a meeting, everyone stood. He was sooooo good. Tony was something else.”

“(Fig 5) Sign of Unity. Usually done right before ending meeting updates during the strike. Meetings held in buildings outside the school district CSTA rented. Masonic Temple, church on Fontenaro for example...I was the only one in the Mitchell womens’ PE Dept that went out on strike. Interesting incident - after Christmas break when everyone returned to their respective buildings, the Men’s Dept at Mitchell moved my desk to their office to be part of their dept.”

“Remember - CSTA Strike was not broken. CEA/Dave DiCocco reported at a CEA spring meeting many years later [that] we were. Teachers only voted to return after Support Personnel that had gone on strike with the teachers voted to tell us to return. Teachers were holding out for the support personnel to get their jobs back.”

“Strike picketing was done at various buildings at random. Not at all of them every day...Holly Sugar, which does not exist any longer, paid their employees their salary while they scabbed during the strike. Consequently, CSTA voted to boycott Holly Sugar products and encouraged CEA to take action to do the same. Bad press for Holly Sugar. Eventually through the years, Holly Sugar folded.”

“Hopefully Tom and I were able to give you a small glimpse into the 1975 strike against D-11/School Board. CSTA/CSEA certainly took a chance by striking against the D-11 School Board/Admin. Many teachers we knew/know, kept their picket signs. The membership percentage was very high and teachers were extremely disgruntled by many things involving the students/classrooms. Pay was not the priority issue even though the press and admin/school board tried to stress to the community that those were the issues... History, as you wrote, plays

a very important role in shaping/reshaping organizations. Master Agreements are history in themselves...”

Thank you, Kathy and Tom, for taking the time to share your experience and knowledge with members!



Thumbs Up- to the teachers at Columbia Elementary School. The ARs at Columbia have spent the year building relationships and as we return to 5 days a week with students, those relationships have teachers standing together in solidarity. They have established a collaborative solution despite management pressure to maintain the status quo. This is what we do. This is the power of Union. Good job, Cougars!

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly...

Noteworthy observations of and commentary from the March 1 Bargaining session:

The Good: CSEA Bargaining Team: “What CSEA is suggesting is that everybody who is in the bargaining unit have a path to non-probationary status.”

The Bad: Board of Education Bargaining Team: “[They are] Not teachers, we don’t want them to have the same, the 2 years probationary—we don’t want to treat them in that same manner, more or less they would be treated like basically an at-will employee, (admin, ESP’s), because they are not teachers.”

Announcements

Bargaining Season

Bargaining continues between CSEA and D-11. All sessions will be *live* via this [link](#). Issues and future dates are on the member side of our website.

California Casualty Music & Arts

California Casualty is once again providing the California Casualty Music & Arts Grants to members. This campaign will run through June 2021 and they plan on awarding approximately 150 music and arts grant awards in the early fall – just in time for school to start up and members to plan to use the \$250 grant. The application is available [here](#).

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

are currently seeking exceptional 7–12th grade teachers for the 2020–2021 application cycle. Recipients of the award receive a certificate signed by the President of the United States; a trip to Washington, D.C. to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities; and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Awardees join an active network of outstanding educators throughout the Nation. Up to 108 awards are bestowed each year, and each cycle alternates between K–6th and 7–12th grades. [Applications are due April 1, 2021.](#)

Articles Of Note

[Thousands of Students Reported ‘Missing’ From School Systems Nationwide Amid COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Colorado Parents Face Multiple Choice Question of Standardized Tests: Data vs. Stress](#)

www.cseateacher.org
csea@coloradoea.org



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