

President's Report and Welcome

Boldly Taking ACSS to the Next Level



Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I would like to officially WELCOME you to Sacramento and the 13th Delegate Assembly of the Association of California State Supervisors (ACSS).

It is my honor and a true pleasure to begin by saying that we are stronger organizationally than ever before and setting ourselves up to move into the future well planned, with an infrastructure that can support the needs of our members across the state. We are seeing unprecedented representational successes, we have already upgraded virtual meeting services, our legislative program is breaking new ground, ACSS is leading the way with our new supervisors/employee outreach and our website is in the midst of a much needed full upgrade. Without a doubt our ACSS staff are remarkable, dedicated and help to provide reassurance to our members in their time of need related to their individual situations.

It would be an oversight to go forward without recognizing those ACSS Presidents that came before and on their successes we stand proud. A special Thank You to ACSS past Presidents: Ron Franklyn, Tim Behrens, Olin King, Arlene Espinoza and Frank Ruffino for their work, dedication and leadership.

We continue to grow and remain the largest statewide professional organization representing California's excluded employees. COVID-19 changed our world in ways we did not expect and could not perfectly plan for but we have moved forward as leaders. Our history and strength helped us adapt our practices so that the same high

level of service that was seen pre-COVID continues our members today. Adopting and implementing technologies that were not as widely used just a few short years ago is necessary for the ACSS of the future. Today, our systems are refined, members get the representation and support that they expect/deserve. Improvements are already being planned to take ACSS to the next level. ACSS is looking to engage, encourage, invest in and grow our ACSS Member Activists, consider building on your own ACSS activism.

The successes for our over 10,000 ACSS members come from you as a member leader being involved and doing your part. Letting others know that ACSS is a force with CalHR. During my in person meeting with CalHR Director Eriana Ortega and Chief Deputy Paul Starky in pre-COVID 2019, ACSS got agreements that have helped our members in the active COVID-19 California we have today. Presenting proposals straight to CalHR through this agreement has helped us get our voices heard, taking preemptive action instead of the fight and manpower that follows being reactionary.

It seems like just a few short years ago, topics like 'End Compaction and SB 216' were our battle cry. Today, we still have pockets of compaction, pay inequalities but working closely with CalHR, solutions are in our sights for those pockets of inequalities that remain. ACSS member grievances from Statewide, Departmental or local issues are now being given right to the CalHR Chief Deputy who assigns it to the Labor Relations Officer best suited to provide the resolution for our members. Individuals and small groups are seeing wins like never before. Recently, our ACSS Attorneys challenged an outdated 100 year old statute, and won, correcting this wrong for all similarly affected ACSS members.

In the Capitol, the Legislature knows ACSS for our willingness to stand by legislation that benefits our membership and take aggressive action to stop the attacks on our pay, benefits, pension and working conditions. This recent year, one Legislator picked the battle against our pensions. While this Bill was defeated our expectation is that it will not be the only attack, ACSS will keep our eyes out for more of these types of attacks on our members. Another reason that we support Legislators that support our issues and oppose those that would act to harm us. As leaders and being focused in our cause of Supervisor, Manager and Confidential employee issues, we were early on to fight along side of the Governor against his recall. We are committed to watching for the future candidates that will lead our state and already have taken action to support our friends and future Legislators in 2022 and 2024 races. A special thanks to our ACSS Legislative Advocate Ted Toppin with Blanning & Baker Associates, he assists our Political Action in so many positive ways. As we look forward to the 2022 and 2024 races, we are set to interview political candidates in our new ACSS Headquarters building and find out how they will work to benefit our members.

Coming up in 2022, it is the current sitting Board that has set money aside specifically to help our newly elected Chapter Delegates, Chapter Leaders, Board Members and Executive Committee members gather for the purpose of setting our sights, defining our path, collectively gathering to provide guidance for the future of ACSS, it's members and leaders. As I said earlier, this weekend isn't the extent of your involvement but where you will springboard off of whatever ACSS engagement you have had previously. Consider, volunteering for a Committee, Chapter or other ACSS member activist role.

As we move to take ACSS to the next level we are fortunate to have that stability of our dedicated staff, lead by Executive Director, Rocco Paternoster, our Assistant Director of Representation, Gerald James, headquarters staff, Labor Relations Representatives, and our attorneys who do so much every day to help our members across the state. It is this team and their commitment to support and represent our ACSS members, is unmatched. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to ACSS!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd D'Braunstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Todd D'Braunstein

ACSS President