CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

CSEA Officer Elections 2013

First Vice President

Sevada Avakian

I am running for Vice President 1 because I believe that the purpose of Classified California School Employees Association (CSEA) is to support everyone at Glendale Community College (GCC). This is a critical time for the CSEA in a challenging and changing climate. I know I can be a strong and reliable support to the President, as well as to the entire organization. If elected, I pledge that I will be a part of building the next generation of leadership in CSEA. I want others in the membership to be future leaders to increase their professional development, and to receive appreciation for their ideas and abilities. I want to make sure to place ethics, integrity, fairness, and the welfare of the membership first, and look for practical solutions to problems. I will create open dialogue with the membership "on the ground" by being accessible and visible. I am devoted to building strong relationships while respecting differences**.**

I have worked six years at GCC, and have experience in most of the issues affecting classified employees. I have served on various governance committees as a voting member. My most recent CSEA service has been serving on the Student Fees and Staff Development Committees. As a voting member, I ask difficult questions but do not settle for easy answers. I am honest, caring, humorous, devoted to building strong relationships, idea-oriented, think creatively, and I enjoy being an agent of change. My passion to change a system drives me to identify impending problems and address them before they become larger. It is important for me to resolve any conflicts through communication and people's involvement. My commitment to relationships and my sense of humor allow me to lighten the mood while reducing the stress and bringing different members of the group feel at their best and welcomed.

Bill Elbettar

For the past four years I served as a political action coordinator and most recently as a CSEA Chapter 76 1st VP. During that time I represented CSEA on all important aspects when our president Hoover Zariani was unable to attend Board meetings, Campus Exec meetings etc. Those aspects have a great impact on classified working conditions and display fairness at the work place. These are my two top priorities at GCC and I strongly advocate for that.

Working closely with CSEA chapter 76 president and the chief negotiator to solidify our position, defend membership rights and voice our opinion against the hiring of non-benefited employees.

While serving on the top manager's account sub-committee, I assisted in saving the college three years in a row 1.6 Million, 1.2 Million and 620K of college funds and to be redirected for balancing the budget, to avoid having a greater impact on our classified membership.

There is much to learn and I believe I can be more effective if given a chance to continue serving a second term as a 1st VP.

Serving in this role and on several committees helped me develop sincere relationships with administrators, faculty and classified, allowing us to have our voice heard. I believe our strength lies within our unity, and therefore I will work closely with CSEA officers to communicate all of issues that affect classified.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this role and look forward to contributing to our community.

Thank you,

Bill Elbettar

Second Vice President

Seboo Aghajani

It is my privilege to accept the nomination for the office of second Vice President. I was elected as a board member 4 years ago as the Public Relations Officer and during this time I had the honor to serve and learn from each and every one of you. Serving and being actively involved on the CSEA Executive Board and different committees has motivated and inspired me to learn more about our union in order to be able to represent CSEA the best way possible. We have been through tough times during the last few years and we came out victorious and that is the power of our union. I hope that more of our members will volunteer and serve on governance committees because that is where we can be more visible and show our power. It is my primary goal as your second V.P. to encourage everyone to become more involved. I feel very excited about this nomination and I feel this nomination will afford me the opportunity to pay back to the CSEA community. These experiences has given me a comprehensive understanding of our union and I hope with your votes I will be able to continue to serve you to create a more positive working environment and a more fulfilling work experience.

Thank You,

Seboo Aghajani

Jessica Lo Guercio

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as the Second Vice President of the CSEA Chapter 76 Executive Board .I have been an employee at Glendale Community College since 1995, where I have served as a Classified Council officer, and a CSEA conference attendee. Currently I have the privilege of being a CSEA negotiations team member. My service has deepened my commitment to Shared Governance and collaboration with colleagues. I hope to serve on the Executive board and aid in attaining more involvement from our membership, whether it be participation on committees or attending Board of Trustee meetings. I would appreciate your vote and support in this leadership position and challenge.

Jessica Lo Guercio
Administrative Assistant
GCC Health Center

<u>Treasurer</u>

Agnes Eisaghalian

The classified employment system at GCC is one that is intended to encourage internal promotion and employee retention. The system of promoting and retaining Classified employees is an arrangement that can be mutually beneficial to both the District and the employee. Low turnover of the classified employee creates a vast pool of institutional knowledge from which *all* members of the GCC community can draw, while promotion from within the classified ranks reinforces and rewards a workforce with a strong skills set.

First priority of the CSEA leadership is to protect its members by:

- encouraging them to know and educating them about their rights as CSEA members,
- providing an environment where members are not afraid to ask questions or voice concerns about unfair treatment, and
- advocating on their behalf in disputes with the District.

I have agreed to take on the responsibility of Treasurer in order to serve my union. As a classified employee and CSEA member, I believe in my union and I want to do my part to contribute to our Classified team. I am a firm believer that making a difference starts with each one of us. I believe that our vision must be one with shared values and common purpose in order to have an impact and exact change, when necessary.

As Treasurer, it will be my task to maintain accurate records and ensure the financial stability of our union, thereby strengthening the organization as a whole. It is a responsibility I am ready and willing to take on. If elected, I will work hard to fulfill the expectations CSEA members have in their union leadership. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to serving you as your next CSEA Treasurer.

Agnes Eisaghalian

Margaret Nadir

One of the passions in my life is dealing with MONEY matters. I have known thatsince my college years when I graduated in Economic & Political Science. Here are the highlights of why I am running for this position:

- I have been a CSEA Treasurer and know the ins and outs of what it takes to be one.
- Past experience helps with hands-on dealing with the financial issues and how to avoidun-necessary mistakes.
- Don't take my responsibility as CSEA Treasurer lightly and devote valuable time to get things done and on time.
- Don't need any off the ground training for the job (vs. a "new on the job" Treasurer) as I am already familiar with the forms and requirements and have gone to training/workshops.
- My motto in life (whether at work or in my own finances) is how to make money grow, and how to spend intelligently.

I will be honored if you voted for me.

Mikhail Nouh

Hello everyone,

My name is Mikhail Nouh and I am running for the position of treasury.

Previously I served in the exec board as a political coordinator for two consecutive terms. I was in charge in organizing and coordinating all aspects of the BBQ day which was a success.

As a treasurer, honesty, integrity is a must. I will use my expertise and experience in keeping accurate detailed records.

Thank you for your vote of confidence

Michael Nouh (Noah)