

NSO Contact

National Staff Organization

October 2018

NSO RA Round Up

The 2018 National Staff Organization Representative Assembly started on the Thursday, June 7, 2018 with a Basic Unionism Training (we had about 75 participants new and veteran attend), New Delegates Orientation, Associate Staff Forum, Budget Hearing and the Emerging Issues Forum.

On Friday, June 8, 2018 our hosts Nicole Love (President of the California Staff Organization) and Dawn Basurto (President of the California Associate Staff) welcomed us to sunny San Diego. Our NSO President, Brad Darjean, gave a resounding speech on the state of our union. "NSO stands ready to deal with the challenges on the horizon. The challenges that are before us in our respective states as well as those that are before us on a national level are indeed serious and should not be taken lightly... this is the perfect time and place to re-affirm our commitment to our core principles - to lead, to promote, to secure, and to defend. We have been fortifying our resources, increasing our number of advocates to make sure that we are in a strong position to assist each other and stand with each other in our collective time of need."

Our get speaker this year was Richard Barrera. Richard Barrera was first elected to represent District D on the San Diego Unified School Board in 2008 and then re-elected in 2012. On both occasions when he ran for office, he received nearly 100% of the vote. He has helped lead the district through the most devastating financial cutbacks in the history of California public schools, by pulling together a community coalition of students, parents, teachers, classified staff, neighborhood businesses and civic leaders around a long-term vision of excellence in public schools. Despite the budget cuts, over Barrera's time on the board, students in San Diego Unified have achieved record high graduation and attendance rates, record low dropout, lower suspension and expulsion rates, and today rank at or near the top of large California districts in reading, math, science, and social science proficiency.

A first-generation San Diegan whose father immigrated to the United States from Colombia and whose grandparents immigrated through Ellis Island, Barrera has spent nearly three decades striving to improve the lives of working families in San Diego and throughout the United States. As a community organizer, he has worked with residents of high poverty neighborhoods to improve quality, affordable housing, access to living wage jobs, and to increase civic participation. As a labor organizer, he has worked with homecare workers, healthcare workers, nurses, teachers, construction, and grocery store workers and thousands of others to fight for economic and social justice. Most recently, he has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, and currently serves as a leader with the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Many members commented on the salient points that Mr. Barrera made- "Threats to corporate elite are our strengths! Public schools are the great equalizer in a democracy and we are on the front lines... we must redistribute power in this country to make it more equitable..."

Retirements of faithful colleagues

We had two retirements from the board this past year Ron Goldenstein, treasurer and Robert Blackwell, At Large Director B. Both Robert and Ron will be greatly missed as the institutional knowledge and dedication for the job they have done on the NSO board did not go unnoticed by the RA delegation. Both retired board members were thanked by standing ovation.

NSO Awards

Our most prestigious awards are the Emil Oxfeld Award and the John Warms Legend Award.

- Emil Oxfeld was an attorney from New Jersey and a Labor Relations Consultant for NSO. He worked very closely with NSO in the years prior to his passing away. His work was pro bono and he loved unions and everything about unions. This award is meant for an individual for epitomizes the concept of an advocate--knowledge, tenacity, courage, wisdom, integrity, compassion, and who exhibits dignity and honor. Butch Santicola was this year's recipient. Butch passed earlier this year and his wife, son and daughter addressed the delegation with some inspiring word for us all to remember—

THINK: Where would this union be without you?

BELIEVE: That individuals can make a difference.

DREAM: There is no limit to what one can accomplish and what we can accomplish together.

DARE: What legacy will you leave?

We **ALL** can make a difference.

This was Butch's mantra and we are very thankful to have had Butch in our NSO lives for the years he gave us. He will be remembered for years to come--An outstanding gentleman and NSO leader.

- The John Warms legend award John Warms was the second president of the National Staff Organization. Serving from 1976-98. Mr. Warms was a brilliant man with wit, charm and charisma. He had a reputation of being an excellent advocate and overall effective labor leader. Under the leadership of Warms, the membership of NSO grew from a few hundred in a few states to over 4,000 members with affiliates in every state. Under his leadership, our union flourished. This award would be for an individual who has demonstrated ideas, values, and vision. The recipient would be one who has given unselfishly of themselves to this union. This person would have contributed to our national agenda in a way that would affect the landscape of NSO for years to come. This year the award was given to Lynn Adler of Illinois. Lynn served as the NSO Region 5 Director and Vice President of Programs for over thirty years. Adler shaped and molded our Winter Advocacy Retreat in the successful, vibrant, and relevant program that it is today. Her involvement in the formation of our National CBC Goals and Standards ensured that we were all working together rather than individually.

Her involvement in her affiliate, IEASO, in the capacities of President and Bargaining Chair; her participation on the grievance committee, in strategic planning, and on Labor Management has ensured that her affiliate is strong and thus has made NSO stronger. We thank Lynn for all she has done for NSO.

Elections of NSO Executive Committee and Leadership

There were several executive committee seats up for election. There were three candidates running for the At Large B seat. The election was quite exciting as the At Large B position resulted in a run-off election between Mike Prehoda from Illinois and Justin Zartman from Connecticut.

The NSO board members are:

- **President - Brad Darjean (Maryland)**
 - **Vice-President of Defense – Mike Boyer (Washington)**
 - **Vice-President of Programs – Catherine Alexander (Oregon)**
 - **Treasurer – Eric Urban (Ohio)**
 - **Secretary – Dawn Basurto (California)**
 - Region 1 Director – Charmaine Champagne (Massachusetts)
 - **Region 2 Director – Kelley Clouser (Pennsylvania)**
 - Region 3 Director – Tammy Whittaker (Florida)
 - **Region 4 Director – Rose Tapp (California)**
 - Region 5 Director – John Avouris (Ohio)
 - **Region 6 Director – Kurt Swanson (Missouri)**
 - Region 7 Director – Edna Jenkins (Washington)
 - **At Large Director A – Justin Zartman (Connecticut)**
 - At Large Director B – LaTasha Ball (Ohio)
- *Bold are newly elected or re-elected*

Last day at the RA

Saturday, June 9 was dedicated to new Business items after the election excitement of course! The RA saw 10 new business items with one withdrawn. [The RA adopted these new business items.](#)

NSO 2019 Winter Advocacy Retreat (WAR)

Request for Proposals (RFP)

The 2019 NSO Winter Advocacy Retreat will be January 17-19, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County (Anaheim, California).

The list of courses will be published after Labor Day Weekend. Be on the lookout...

Contact [Catherine Alexander](#) if you need additional information.

NSO National CBC

The 2018 National Coordinated Bargaining Conference will be held November 9 and 10 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Airport (Chicago, Illinois).

Registration information will be send directly to affiliate presidents in the next couple of days.

Contact [Brad Darjean](#) if you need additional information

Harvard Trade Union Applications

Harvard Trade Union Applications ([insert hyperlink](#)) are due September 14, 2018. Send your applications to Charmaine Champagne, NSO Liaison to the Harvard trade program at strategicgrace@gmail.com

Don't forget to mark your calendars for upcoming NSO events!