

January 1, 2012

Dear AEU Brothers and Sisters,



HAPPY 2012! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and your family and friends are all in the bloom of health and happiness.

I look forward to the coming year to serve as your AEU President. We have much work to do, and my fervent belief is that we can do it together. I will be recommending, to the Executive Board, a list of varied committee appointees that come from all offices and departments throughout the State. We must strive to remember our own teachings to the CSEA members... "YOU are the Union. If you want to see a change, get involved." I know it is easier to sit back and perhaps point fingers or complain that someone isn't doing what you wish them to do. I remember some years back at a San Diego AEU meeting, where I'd brought my young sons with me. At that meeting was a passionate discussion (I believe it had to do with the member intern program), pro and con debate was vivid. I spoke and voted one way (I don't remember which). The vote went the other way. As we were driving home, my youngest son asked me, "are you upset that they didn't vote your way?" I laughed, and said, "No, that is what Democracy is all about. It's wonderful when we have the right to express our opinions and vote, and I am happy to support now what MY UNION has decided to do." You could tell that my son was a bit confused at that. Let's all get involved in **OUR** UNION to make a change. We have six AEU meetings a year, 3 in the north and 3 in the south. Attending three meetings a year in your area is a good number to commit to for getting involved in YOUR union...what do you say?

Another one of my main focal points in my presidency will be the same as when I served as your Chief Negotiator – COMMUNICATION. While it may be uncomfortable to some, my ardent moral is to share information to all as much as possible. There is no such thing as bad information, and let's face it, there are no secrets here. There is also no such thing as a bad question... if one or two people are asking a question, you can be sure that fifty people have the same question in their minds. There is strength in bringing light to the dark corners and unity in shedding that light. I will be writing monthly President's Messages, and there will be updates as well. Why not make AEU the home page on your computer and you will be assured to see the latest news as it comes out. Your editorials and opinions are welcome also.

We have much to do this year. We are going to arbitration on the pension agreement. Negotiations are also forthcoming. Your involvement and participation in **YOUR** UNION is crucial.

I hope to see you at the next AEU meeting on **January 28, 2012** in San Jose.

Thank you my Brothers and Sisters, and let's work together in the coming year.

In Solidarity,

Dvora Mayer
AEU President