Members and Friends:

I’m worried about what this election year of 2016 will bring. How would the nonprofit community fare under President Trump? What immigration policies would President Hillary Clinton propose? With the vast amounts of “invisible money” that goes into campaigns these days, what does my one vote matter?

Oh, and on top of that: how will my nonprofit manage to do the work we need to do? Not to mention the potential of even more burdensome, unnecessary regulations for nonprofits?!

Well, here’s one thing I know: under any and all circumstances, nonprofits will be the lights that keep communities going. Or more accurately: people with ambitious visions for a better world will continue to choose nonprofits as the vehicles for achieving those visions. Last month on Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, most of the press overlooked the fact that Dr. King was a nonprofit employee: he knew that only through authentic, community-based nonprofits could achieve he what he was trying to do. In our era, it has been activists working through nonprofits for decades that brought about healthcare reform and marriage equality. In California, last year’s legislation on the Earned Income Tax Credit — perhaps the most significant of aids to working families — was passed thanks to tireless visionaries and the nonprofits that provide them with the vehicles for social change.

For the most vulnerable in our society, the local nonprofit is the place they know they can turn to. In the worst economic times, we nonprofits keep doing our work. Not as much as we could with adequate funding, but the best we can. And whether the economy is in recession or is booming, we all look to nonprofit dance, music, and all the arts for the renewal of our spirits.

I like this definition of optimism and pessimism: Pessimism is about an assessment of the facts; optimism is an orientation of the spirit.

This is why I can despair and be hopeful at the same time. And why I’m grateful to be at CalNonprofits: it feels good to be working on crucial issues such as minimum wage and on the low-profile, high-impact regulatory issues such as the eligibility requirements for grants from the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF).
Letter from Our CEO, continued from page 1

On both these issues we have made a substantial difference — with minimum wage for the working poor, and with continued CTF funding for nonprofits that serve our low-income communities.

And in terms of my one little vote counting; it’s heartening to know that time after time, we mobilize voters from our constituencies to out-vote the big money machines and the billionaires. Let’s be sure we do that again this year.

Jan Masaoka
CEO, CalNonprofits
janm@calnonprofits.org

“How to Start a Nonprofit” now available in Spanish!

CalNonprofits is always looking for ways to help people interested in starting a nonprofit. We’re happy to announce a new Spanish translation of “How to Start a California Nonprofit,” one of our most popular online resources. Starting a nonprofit can be a daunting task and “Como Empezar una Entidad Sin Fines de Lucro en California” is our effort to make the process easier for Spanish speakers. The document was carefully translated and reviewed to ensure that the requirements are clear and the tone informative and supportive. You can link directly to the page on our website at www.calnonprofits.org/como-formar-una-entidad. We hope that you find “Como Empezar una Entidad Sin Fines de Lucro en California” to be a good resource — and please feel free to pass it along to anyone else who might find this information useful. As always, we welcome your feedback!

New Option for Nonprofit Health Insurance

It’s not very often that a truly new option opens up for health insurance for nonprofit employees. But now there is: HealthWay Trust, which has operated successfully for San Diego nonprofits for 21 years. And through an agreement between CalNonprofits and the United Way of San Diego, for the first time, this Trust is now open to nonprofits throughout California! What’s different: HealthWay is a MEWA — a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement — authorized under ERISA. For nonprofits, it means:

- Choose a group medical plan along with your choice of dental plan, vision, life insurance, and chiropractic/acupuncture.
- NO age-banded rates: all employees have the same rate
- Pay one consolidated monthly bill
- COBRA administration at no extra cost
- Flexible spending account administration at no extra cost
- Wellness program at no extra cost

Curious? Contact CalNonprofits Insurance Services to find out more. Visit CalNonprofitsInsurance.org or call (888) 427-5222 for a free quote!
Policies that Impact our Communities and our Constituents

THE MINIMUM WAGE CONTINUES TO BE A HOT-BUTTON ISSUE IN 2016, WITH LEGISLATION AND BALLOT MEASURES ALREADY IN PLAY. CalNonprofits will continue to support state legislation, with recognition of distinct nonprofit concerns. We’ll also be evaluating whether to take a position on any ballot measures on this topic that may emerge.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR NONPROFIT EMPLOYEES  Student debt is both a personal issue for nonprofit employees, and a public policy issue for the nonprofit community. CalNonprofits will be partnering with others to advocate for less onerous requirements at the federal level, and look for opportunities for relief at the state level too.

Policies that Impact How Nonprofits Do Business

RAFFLES  When it comes to raffles, we may be down, but we’re not out. Stay tuned for our plans on how to help those of us who aren’t major sports leagues!

STATE BUSINESS FILINGS  Ever wonder why the due date for filing the Statement of Information with the Secretary of State is the date your nonprofit was formed? Do you even know what that date is? Nonprofits who miss this filing date can become a suspended entity with the Secretary of State (SOS) and the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), and even subject to a penalty of $250, and they often don’t even know why! Standardizing when nonprofits need to file their Statement of Information form with the Secretary of State will make it easier for nonprofits to remember to file this important document. Last year’s bill to fix this (AB871) stalled, but CalNonprofits is engaged in the effort to jumpstart it – and get this filing date changed to May 15th of each year.

No Crystal Ball

When you’re engaging in public policy, the key word is always flexibility. And it’s an election year, which will take up a lot of political bandwidth. CalNonprofits will keep our ears to the ground and stay limber as we monitor how to chart our course in the coming months. And as we do this work, we look forward to flexing our policy muscles with you!

CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE

CalNonprofits members get exclusive access to CalNonprofits Insurance Services, a one-stop solution for great health, dental and vision insurance, directors and officers insurance, workers’ compensation and more – along with the knowledge that you are supporting CalNonprofits’ advocacy work!

Visit CalNonprofitsInsurance.org or call (888) 427-5222 for a free quote!
CalNonprofits Congratulates Nonprofit Leader Anthony Rendon on Election as Assembly Speaker

The California Assembly has elected Assemblymember Anthony Rendon — a longtime nonprofit executive — as Speaker of the Assembly, a position he is expected to hold for several years. Rendon, who will be sworn in on March 7, represents the 63rd District — home to several cities in southeastern Los Angeles County.

Prior to his election to the Assembly in 2012, Rendon led Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services, Inc., a nonprofit provider of comprehensive child development and social and medical services to over 2,300 children and families offered through thirty-five child development centers located throughout Los Angeles County. Before working at Plaza, Rendon served as the Interim Executive Director of the California League of Conservation Voters from 2008 to 2009.

CalNonprofits’ policy director and Sacramento advocate met with Speaker-elect Rendon in his district office last fall, confirming his strong understanding of the significant role that nonprofit organizations play in California communities statewide. In his speech before the legislature January 11th, he said: “We have the work of creating a better California. A California where half the children in the world’s 8th largest economy are not in poverty but instead have infinite opportunities before them including the kind of life-changing public education experience that I had, a California that engages residents in its democracy again, and a California with a safe environment with clean air and clean water that lets families, communities and businesses thrive.”

“On behalf of CalNonprofits and our more than 10,000 member organizations statewide, I am delighted to congratulate Assemblymember Anthony Rendon on his election as Speaker of the California Assembly,” said CEO Jan Masaoka. “He understands the importance of California’s nonprofits to our state’s economy and well-being, as well as the obstacles that limit nonprofits’ impact. In other words, when it comes to nonprofits — he gets it!”

NEWS
You Can
USE

A hit session at our Fall Convention was “Ten Rules Your Nonprofit Needs to Know for 2016” – it was such a hit, in fact, that the list of rules expanded to 16! Three top nonprofit attorneys — Rosemary Fei of Adler & Colvin, Gene Takagi of NEO Law Group, and Elizabeth Bluestein of Public Counsel – led a discussion covering everything from elections and lobbying to charitable donations and compliance plus everything in between.

Want to be ahead of the curve instead of playing catch up? Want to know the good and the bad that your nonprofit should be on the lookout for in 2016? Then check out the information and resources for these rules you need to know for 2016, all available here: www.calnonprofits.org/2015-convention-handouts-menu

Your nonprofit needs to know the latest rules on these 16 issues for 2016:

1. Electioneering/Voter education, engagement and registration
2. Lobbying and ballot measures
3. IRS regulations for c4s (and 5s and 6s) on political activity
4. Formation/Exemption processing at the IRS — Form 1023 EZ v Form 1023
5. New Private Foundation Rules
6. Raffles
7. Form 199 Schedule B Disclosure of Donor Lists
8. New entity forms — L3Cs, B corporations, and social purpose corporations
9. Commercial fundraisers
10. Crowdfunding
11. Minimum wage
12. Overhead in grants/contracts
13. Affiliations among exempt organizations (501c3-501c4)
14. PILOTS
15. Local lobbying ordinances – nonprofit exceptions.
16. RRF-1 requirement for underwater fiscal sponsors and charities

Information and resources for rules on these issues are all available here: www.calnonprofits.org/2015-convention-handouts-menu
The CalNonprofits Nonprofit Student Loan Project

Millions of nonprofit staff have student loans, and many don’t know that there is a student loan forgiveness program that they could be taking advantage of. In addition, nonprofit executive directors and HR directors often aren’t aware of this either!

Student debt is both a personal issue for nonprofit employees, and a public policy issue for the nonprofit community. For many nonprofit employees, student loan payments make up a large portion of their salary and the overall debt can at times seem insurmountable — leading some to abandon nonprofit work.

The Nonprofit Student Loan Project is CalNonprofits’ new campaign to inform and educate California’s nonprofits and their staff about Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The campaign will: inform and educate nonprofit employers on how they can help their employees to become and remain eligible for loan forgiveness; inform and educate policymakers on the importance of public service and loan forgiveness; encourage nonprofit employers and employees to become advocates for the program to ensure its long-term sustainability.

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program is a federal program that forgives student loan debt for nonprofit employees after 120 qualifying payments. The first applicants will be eligible for forgiveness in 2017. There is a great deal at stake: over four million Californians have student loans and many are employed in the nonprofit sector — the state’s fourth largest industry, employing over one million people.

Check out our new web page for all the details and resources you need, as well as a recorded webinar on Getting Ready for Public Service Loan Forgiveness — all at www.calnonprofits.org/programs/nonprofit-student-loan-project

Eligibility

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program application has not yet been written, but the basic eligibility requirements for the program are as follows:

- Your loans must be Federal Direct Student Loans.
- You must be employed full time by a public service organization.
- Your loans must not be in default.
- You must make 120 separate monthly payments on the eligible loans after October 1, 2007.
- The 120 payments must be made under an eligible Direct Loan Program repayment plan.

To learn more about eligibility follow this link: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service

What You Can Do Now

- Review your loan status – Are you currently making payments, in a deferment, delinquent?
- Check your loan status with your loan servicer.
- Are you participating in an eligible repayment plan?

SPOTLIGHT ON WORKERS’ COMP:

Did you know CalNonprofits Insurance Services offers workers’ compensation plans? CIS has been an insurance industry leader and the only insurance agency exclusively serving the California nonprofit sector. With many workers’ compensation plans to choose from, we help you find the right one for your agency. If your current policy doesn’t challenge questionable claims, offer support for reducing claims, or provide prompt customer service, ask us about a program that does. Contract us for a comprehensive review of your current policy and cost. We’ve helped thousands of nonprofits save money on their insurance premiums!

Visit CalNonprofitsInsurance.org or call (888) 427-5222 to find out more.
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- Zero liability fraud protection guarantee2
- e-Deposit3—Deposit checks remotely

3 simple requirements to receive the rewards:
1. Purchases of $300 or more using a debit and/or credit card per statement cycle
2. One direct deposit or automatic debit/credit per statement cycle
3. Receive e-Documents

Open a New Account With Checking and Earn $150!

You must be a new member, 18 or older and reside in California. You are not eligible if you are a current owner or signer on a Provident Credit Union personal or business account or if you have been an owner or signer on a Provident Credit Union personal or business account within the last six months. One New Account Bonus per household/business. To be eligible, you must open one of the following checking accounts: Super Reward Checking, Provident Checking, Simply Free Checking, or College Checking; all other checking accounts are not eligible for the bonus. New Account Bonus offer may expire anytime. The minimum balance for the Membership Savings account is $5.00. You must fund your Checking account within the first 60 days of account opening with a minimum deposit of $25. If you fail to fund your Checking account within the first 60 days you are no longer eligible for the New Account Bonus and your account will be closed.

To earn the $150 New Account Bonus, simply perform all of the following for two statement cycles, starting the month following your account opening:
1) 10 (ten) debit card transactions per statement cycle (PIN or signature-based, not including ATM transactions).
2) Monthly direct deposits or automatic credits of at least $500 per statement cycle.
3) Enroll in Online Banking and e-Documents with email address.

To qualify for the Super Reward Checking APY*:

- APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is effective as of October 1, 2015 and subject to change anytime.
- Provident will rebate each nationwide ATM surcharge imposed by the other institution, up to $2.50 per transaction. Rebates will be deposited into the qualifying account on the next monthly statement.
- Provident accounts come with our special zero liability fraud protection guarantee that reimburses you 100%, for any unauthorized electronic transactions. You are automatically covered when you report the incident promptly and meet your responsibilities for handling your account. For more information, visit providentcu.org/risk-free.
- Certain restrictions apply. See www.providentcu.org for full eligibility details.
- These are the requirements to receive the Super Reward Checking APY. Please visit providentcu.org for current rates and fees. All three requirements must be met in their entirety to qualify for the SRC APY, and for ATM rebates. The minimum deposit required to open this account is $5. To qualify, you must also be a member, 18 or older. Limit one Super Reward Checking account per membership. IMPORTANT: All transactions must be posted within the statement cycle which begins on the first business day of the month and ends on the last business day of the month.

* APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is effective as of October 1, 2015 and subject to change anytime. To qualify for the $150 New Account Bonus, you account must be active and in good standing for two consecutive statement cycles following the month that your account is opened.

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CalNonprofits membership has something for everyone in your nonprofit.

CEOs will like...
- Being involved in advocating for the nonprofit community in Sacramento and with philanthropy
- Free online resources for finance, governance, and human resources
- Making your insurance dollars work for our communities
- Free webinars and special members-only pricing for events

HR managers will like...
- One-stop shop for insurance from experts you can trust at CalNonprofits Insurance Services and HealthWay Trust
- Free subscription to HR360.com, an online library of compliance information and templates, with email alerts on changes to deadlines and requirements
- Special pricing and excellent customer service from background check providers
- Half price job postings on CalNonprofits job board
- Our Nonprofit Student Loan Forgiveness Project

Finance staff will like...
- Spending less on office supplies, credit card processing fees, and more
- Accurate compliance information at your fingertips
- Contributing your expertise to advocacy efforts for the nonprofit community
- Free review of your employee retirement plan with advice for lowering your costs and boosting portfolio performance

Communications and tech staff will like...
- Getting your message out on buses and on outdoor kiosks for a fraction of the retail price
- Great rates on audio and web conferencing
- Discounts on nonprofit technology webinars and series

Join us!