



**Mike Jimenez, State President**

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November 21, 2011

Dear CCPOA Member,

With the Thanksgiving just a few days away, now is the time for us to remember all the things in our lives we should be thankful for - our families and loved ones, our friends and neighbors, and for the men and women who walk the toughest beat.

This has been a year of challenges and successes for CCPOA, and I am thankful for the hard work and dedication shown by every member of our union. As many of you know, CCPOA board members recently convened to discuss the issues before us and to begin writing the next chapter in our union's history.

While much has happened this year, it is important to remember what we have achieved and the context for the challenges we face. 2011 came on the heels of a contentious Governor's race. The importance of that past election for our union cannot be overstated.

For the last seven years we were faced with a Governor who was blind to our issues, who was less than honest, and who treated contract negotiations as a political football.

It became imperative that the next governor be knowledgeable and understanding of the issues surrounding California corrections.

It was clear from the outset that Meg Whitman would have been another Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Ms. Whitman was unabashedly anti-union and hell bent on privatizing corrections. Yet there were those - who should have known better - who were duped and worked hard on her quest to become governor.

Her election would have set our profession back years.

Our union backed Jerry Brown early in the campaign and worked hard to get him elected. By every account we had tremendous success with a very small investment.

I'm happy to say we now have a governor who understands our issues and shares our values. Now finally we have a new contract.

That's the good news.

Now we must turn our attention to the next set of issues we face. Make no mistake, the litany of challenges is the most daunting I've seen in 25 years as a correctional officer:

- The size of the state revenue pie has shrunk twenty percent – from \$102.5 billion in 2007 to \$82.5 billion this year. The state continues, as it must, to look for places to cut. It is clear corrections budget will be a target for many.
- AB 109 was intended to reduce both the prison population and corrections budget by shifting many inmates to county jails. It is clear the implementation of this law will be very difficult for the State and counties, and CCPOA will aggressively advocate for our members as decisions are made.
- Exploding costs for prisoner health care and huge salaries for doctors need to come under control before they becoming more of a threat to other prison priorities.
- As our state gears up for the potential release of tens of thousands of prisoners, our broken rehabilitation system compounds the problem as most parolees are destined to return to prison while endangering communities in the meantime.
- Most dangerous of all? Californians have no clue about what kind of felons are filling our prisons or what you do to make the state safer.

With this background I was humbled to be chosen at the convention in August to serve another term as your President. I know this will not be an easy job. However, in crisis there is both danger and opportunity.

While we face undeniable threats to our profession, we also have the chance to build on the respect held for you, the men and women on the front line.

We all have to be smart about the issues because we are the most respected and credible source of information with our friends and neighbors.

This will be my major goal for the next twelve months.

Accomplishing this will require a very active union administration, more and better communication – both written and face-to-face – between leadership and members, and it will require all of us speaking with a unified voice.

Together, we will take this opportunity to strengthen our union's presence to achieve our mission of promoting the corrections profession and fostering the well-being of those in it.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and be safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Jimenez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mike Jimenez  
State President