

The City Buzz

In with the old, in with the new!



Above: Assembly Member Jaden McLae arrives from her district

ROCKLIN- This year at COTH, we have a great blend of both freshman and returning legislators. One such member, Mercedes Courteau, woke up at 1am to fly from Winslow, Arizona, in order to make it on time for session! When asked how her first day was, she said, "The public speaking exercise was my favorite part." She got right to work when she proposed the idea that California should legalize the sale and ownership of giraffes.

One local member, Assembly Member Abby Petree, traveled all the way from Eldorado Hills - about 30 minutes away. With Ms. Shumate as her small group leader, she said that the Bible study was her favorite part. Nate Chen, Assemblyman from Hayward, CA, said that his first session was "interesting and cool", and indicated that, "It's a lot of information, but not overwhelming." We at the *Buzz* wish them the best this week! - AT

Assembly speaker election looms large

The big item on today's agenda will be the election of the Assembly Speaker, a position held last year by now-Minority Leader Speaker Emeritus F. Rutledge (who also may hold the record for the shortest bill ever introduced with AB 784, which is all of a single sentence). He seems to have little interest in throwing his name in the hat, perhaps because he is terming out at the end of this year.

Rumor has it that the Constitutionals will nominate Assemblymember Thomas, a returning legislator who is well-liked by his colleagues. With his call to #makeCOTH-greatagain, one wonders if he would like to go back to the days of Karin Anderson-type speakerships

Of course, if the Patriots are able to maintain party unity - always difficult in the Assembly - the Constitutionalist nominee will be effectively irrelevant. - LP

Opinion

Lauren Prichard

Let the mudslinging begin!

Coming from the Senate, the Buzz editor was prepared to get down in the mud with the Lower House but was nonetheless surprised by the lack of collegiality shown in the opening hours of this year's legislative session. Exhibiting behavior that would never be seen in the Senate, the Assembly Patriot Caucus loudly booed Constitutionalist Assembly Member Thomas as he presented the party's platform. Although it may have been intended as a display of party loyalty, such action does not breed bi-partisan cooperation.

But then, the Assembly has never been particularly known for its bipartisanship.

And with a majority of votes – for now – the Patriots are able to ignore their Constitutionalist counterparts with little fear of political repercussions. Of course, they still need some Constitutionalist votes for 2/3 measures, but perhaps they've calculated they have enough political capital through their simple majority to take the risk.

No comment

Early yesterday afternoon revelations surfaced that the Patriot party banned *COTH Report* journalists from one of their key meetings. Last year, the Patriot's relationship with the media could be described as tenuous, at best, with party leaders shutting out the press at nearly every opportunity.

This year, veteran policymaker Petrikas was overheard pointing out press to freshman legislators and warning them to watch what they say "or they'll print it." (To be fair, as the above quote demonstrates, the Assembly Member was correct.)

The Constitutionlists were similarly overheard coaching their newest members, instructing them that when asked a question by media, "Don't just say 'no comment.'" Instead, party members advocated being open and transparent with the press.



Their final bit of advice? "If you don't know what to say, just say something generic."

The *Buzz* reached out to both parties for comment, but had yet to receive a response by the time of printing.

- LP

Contributors



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On the record

Tyranny of the majority: During a Constitutionalist Party meeting: "Anyone who has a Patriot as a roommate should work on them tonight."

Love and Friendship: One Member was heard sheepishly admitting, "I've never read an entire Jane Austen novel."