



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY FOR: Thursday, March 24, 2011

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Educators Elect New Leaders To Fight For The Future Of California Schools

Six hundred educators, members of the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), convened at the Manhattan Beach Marriot this past weekend, and chose new officers to lead their union in its fight for the future of California public education. Amidst national attacks on teachers and other public employees' right to bargain collectively, to receive modest retirement benefits, and with California school districts issuing thousands of layoff notices, more educators than ever before attended, and elected Joshua Pechthalt president and Jeff Freitas secretary-treasurer.

Pechthalt taught at Manual Arts High School in L.A. Unified School District for 21 years. "The attendance at this convention, and the spirit of the delegates, show the determination of teachers and school employees to build a movement to defend public education and social services. Our students deserve an education more than billionaires deserve tax breaks," said newly-elected CFT President Pechthalt.

Freitas, who attended West Point before gaining his B.A. and Masters in Education from UC Santa Barbara, taught in Carpinteria and most recently served as a CFT lobbyist. Freitas said, "20,000 teachers have been given pink slips. That means record-high class sizes will only become worse. We must address the financial crisis that is harming students, and we will help lead that effort."

The two announced a news teleconference on Thursday to outline their vision for the fight against attacks on education funding, worker rights, pensions and jobs, and the way to turn California public education around.

WHAT: California Federation of Teachers' Newly Elected Leaders

**WHO: Josh Pechthalt, CFT President and Jeff Freitas, Secretary
Treasurer**

WHEN: Thursday, March 24, 1:30pm – media availability

TELECONFERENCE: Call in number will follow tomorrow.

For more information please visit: www.cft.org