

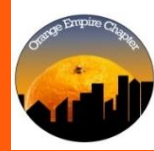
**California
Workforce
Connection**

EDUCATION ★ INNOVATION ★ OPPORTUNITY

WWW.CALIFORNIAWORKFORCECONNECTION.ORG

**Orange Peal
News**

April - June 2024



Orange Empire Chapter

Invites all members

To attend

“Avoiding Identity Theft”

A Zoom presentation by

Tobi West, PhD

Cyber Center Director

Pre-registration required due to limited spots

This is the Zoom link for participants to register for the meeting

<https://cccd-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZModeivrD4pG9BJ95LEk8-OZcSoOPG8JlkD>

Thursday, June 6, 2024

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

All members welcome

Send questions and comments to cwcsecretary2023@gmail.com or 714-269-0612

Inventing Your Life

“The Kindness Legacy”

By

Rob Claudio

There are many inspirational quotes and signs that one can see quite often featuring the act of kindness. I personally enjoy reading all of them, because I use it as a reminder of what I should be doing on a consistent basis. For me kindness can begin with the smallest of actions, such as a simple smile towards another person that one may be crossing paths with. On an early morning a few weeks ago, it was a cloudy and misty start to the day as I was getting into my truck and a lady walked right by me on what appeared to be her morning walk. I stopped and smiled and said good morning to her. She in turn, just kept walking right by me without any response. As I drove off, I smiled and chuckled to myself as I came up with a couple of excuses for why she didn't reply back. What I have learned over time is that I still have to continue with what I value in this world, like continuing to be kind towards others without having any expectations. Usually, over ninety percent of the time people will respond positively and smile back in those instances. The other levels of kindness can also take many different forms, from donating money towards a worthy cause close to your heart, to the donation of your time in volunteering for an organization or a special effort. All of these examples combined can speak to the possibility of what we would like to define in our lives as a cornerstone of our essential values. It was also no coincidence that as I was writing this, I happened to see an interview on television where a young boy in the south eastern part of the country had been given a dollar by his father for getting good grades in school. He ended up encountering a man who happened to be praying outside a diner early in the morning and the boy thought he was homeless and offered him the dollar. As it turned out, the man was shocked by the young boy's actions and he proceeded to tell him that he was the owner of a sporting goods store, where the alarm had gone off and he came to check on his establishment super early that day. It occurred so early, that he had not paid attention to what clothes he threw on before he left the house. It was a bit of a mismatch of clothing and then he realized that it all added up as how he could have been mistaken for a homeless individual. The man ended up buying the young man breakfast at the diner and when he found out that the only money that boy had he was willing to give to him, it made his heart full. Consequently, he invited his new found friend to a shopping spree at his store and gave him anything he could grab in 45 seconds. The interview ended with both of them smiling and speaking about their new found friendship which ultimately featured how that act of kindness not only brought them together, as they also were able to share the story with the rest of the world. This story brought further validation of the importance of this action and how one never knows how deeply it could touch another person. If you already put this action into practice or are contemplating how you can make some small changes to further enrich your life, I highly recommend you taking those steps towards adding to your kindness legacy. We cannot underestimate its power and while the world is watching to see what is not going right, it is a great counterbalance towards showing that same audience of what is going quite well among everyday folks around us.

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

— Mark Twain

Remember to follow the blog at: inventingyourlife.blogspot.com

Katalyst

“Living Life on Your Terms” By Michael Kane

Do you want to live life on your terms?

Lofty title, no doubt. Sounds impossible. That phrase is what fantasies are made of, right? I am a fanatic fan of science fiction, or for short, Sci-Fi. However, it's not all fairy tales given science is still in the name.

Let's explore empowering ourselves to take our power back. Perhaps some of us lost who we were meant to be because of some trauma or negative life experience such as, divorce, death or financial challenges. No matter the source of your pain you can move in a positive direction. Personally, I am on my journey of living life on my own terms. Easier said than done, but you can do the same.

Is that a utopian idea? Definitely a dream, a wish, a hope, a prayer, maybe all the above. How do you do that? It's not simple to do, for sure. It's simple in concept, but to execute, well, that's another story. But you can only start where you are right now. Of course, everyone and especially those of you on the younger side of life, can learn from others' experience and wisdom in marching to freedom and liberation. Experience doesn't have to be your experience.

Where would you start first? Well, where do you want to go? Just like planning a vacation trip, you need a road map. You should determine your destination and where you want to be in one year, five years and so forth. Living life on your terms is firmly establishing a concrete goal, and not just what, but when and how. How are you going to get there?

My process to create a road map is quite simple. I like to draft outlines, brainstorm a list of wants, needs and wishes before I start writing anything formal, such as a newsletter or article, book or whatever. Your homework assignment is to brainstorm your future dream life without self-judgement or criticism. That is to write down all ideas, goals, dreams and fantasies of how you see your life as imagined, no matter how crazy it sounds. There is no right or wrong at this stage.

I digress, if you're living a life, you don't like or accept, that qualifies as not a good thing, not necessarily a horrible life but you have to see a way out of holding onto hope. I charge you to remain optimistic and start your journey toward the life you dreamt about.

Disclaimer: don't get me wrong, your journey isn't just about money, but without some level of financial stability the road will be that much more challenging to travel. On the other hand, some readers may need to seek professional counselling which I recommend, encourage and support if needed.

And now, true, to change or improve your circumstances, you have to do certain things to avoid putting yourself in a position where it would be highly improbable or extremely difficult. For example, let's say you have a good job and make good money. However, there are a lot of people that have a good job and make good money. We're talking deep five figures or six figures plus, but they're still live paycheck to paycheck. Well, being broke is not going to get you any closer to living that dream life on your terms.

The root causes of financial instability may have varying causes. This is no attack or slight on anyone, my goal is exposing the truth about people's circumstances and how they got to where they are now. This is important to identify and resolve any underlying issues as history is a transparent guide. Not reflecting may block your path to future success. That said, you must know where you've been before you set a path to where you want to go. One significant cause could be making poor decisions. Overspending on homes, cars, jewelry, vacations and fancy clothes is a dream or goal destroyer of many individuals and families. It's called living way above your means or living like the Joneses. Of course, this scenario doesn't pertain to all of you, maybe some of you.

Many people may have experienced medical issues where they got deep in debt. Or someone in your family needed financial help. That's fine to help other people, especially family, although with discretion. Regarding medical issues it may or may not be unavoidable. My point is to avoid the avoidable. If you're financially, emotionally destroyed or just not taking care of yourself as you should, how are you going to help anyone moving forward, or yourself? Case in point, when you are on an airplane and the pilot is preparing for take-off what does the stewardess do? They quickly go over the emergency procedures such as placing your oxygen mask on first before helping someone else like a child or parent.

I'm saying part of living a life on your terms involves being prudent and using wisdom. But how do you become wise and being true to thyself without overstepping and convincing yourself that the ends justify the means? It's like selling your soul for a worthy cause but you still sold your soul. You may not like what I am about to say, but you may have to have some trade-offs, compromise or a balance. Patience, common sense, establishing goals and perseverance will take you to that place in your life you most desire. Another hard pill to swallow is to watch your circle of friends or family, making sure only those authentic and supportive of you get close. It's not about cold hard cash or fake miracle potions, it's also about having the right mindset. If you are not in the right mindset, you will keep making the same poor decisions over and over again. A definite plan of action is in order. Don't misread what I am saying, saving and growing your financial resources and a healthy lifestyle would greatly help you live life on your terms by being financially independent, healthy and successful.

Please follow me at: katalyst.beehiiv.com

Orange Empire Chapter

EXECUTIVE BOARD ZOOM MEETING

Monday, June 10 & July 8, 2024

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

REQUEST ZOOM LOG IN FROM

NANETTE BOWMAN, SECRETARY

714-269-0612

cwcsecretary2023@gmail.com

ORANGE EMPIRE INVITES MEMBERS TO JOIN OUR TEAM ON THE BOARD

Serving on the Orange Empire Chapter Board provides experience with developing and demonstrating leadership ability. Promotional examinations and orals often ask the applicant to describe leadership assignments and examples including results. Volunteering here is a safe environment. You can learn more about your strengths and weaknesses where you can build and overcome, safely. Attending on Zoom creates no obligation to commit. We are seeking fresh ideas. Hope to see you June 10. NB

Calendar

May 23 Cover Letters & Chat Trng

June 6 Identity Theft Training

June 10 Orange Empire Board Mtg

July 8 Orange Empire Board Mtg

Orange Empire Collects Labels for Education



As easy as downloading the APP and scanning receipts or clip and mail to:

Diamond Elementary School
1450 S. Center St., Santa Ana, CA 92704
www.boxtops4education.com

HONORING AWARD WINNERS FOR 2023

WS 042 Orange County Individual Employee Performance, EPR Maria Crespo

For calendar year 2023, Maria has assisted over 2200 customers with over 700 of them in need of or prefers bilingual Spanish assistance that she provides. Due to her efforts, customers are more than satisfied with the level of service, professionalism, empathy and courtesy that Maria brings in representing the Workforce Services Branch. Of the surveys collected and received by the Brea AJCC, Maria has received the most five-star rating for customer satisfaction!

WS 042 Orange County Veteran's: Luis Acosta, Hieu Nguyen, Joshua Noonan, and Luis Rodriguez

The Veteran Team consistently maintains a "can-do" mindset, fostering a proactive and optimistic approach to the challenges and responsibilities of their role. Notably, when confronted with changes arising from the DOL audit, the Veteran team embraced them with an open mind, demonstrating a willingness to adapt and conform to evolving job requirements.

DI 222 Chino Hills, Individual Customer Service, Chelsea Ponce, DIPR

The efficiency with which she recognized how to approach a customer, identify any claim issues, and communicate solutions for claimants was extraordinary. Her professional and calm demeanor with anxious customers put everyone at ease, including her, peers, management, and disabled claimants seeking assistance.

DE 222 Group Employee Performance DIPM I's: Haydee Avila-Hernandez, Leticia De LaTorre, Brenda Galiano, Nelson Lewes, and Sheree Speed

Their initiative in prioritizing and communicating with our customers contributed to a smooth operation in servicing our customers. They keep the Disability Insurance purpose in mind to provide prompt economic support through positive customer experiences.

DI 219, Individual Employee Performance DIPR's: Michael Toscano, Eduardo Arciga, and Sandy Huynh

Each one demonstrates outstanding service to the State Disability Insurance Branch through excellence and efficiency in duties. They are exemplary employees who provide excellent customer service to internal and external customers. They understand the Policy and Procedures and how changes affect the Disability Insurance Program.

UI 019 Pacific Center, Individual Employee Performance: Nicole Lopez, EPR

Due to her excellent communication and organizational skills, she was selected to oversee and be the lead for an very high level priority investigations support effort, managing internal and confidential requests and inquiries from our partner investigations offices in obtaining claim information and returning it back to the ID unit in a timely manner.

UI 019 Group Customer Service EPR's: Hsiu Hsin Sun, David Kim, Kyong Park, and Hye Chung

This bilingual team is special due to their current proficiency in both reading and writing in the Korean language. It is through their efforts that the UI Branch has been able to provide Korean language services in both writing and verbally to our Korean population and communities, which provides the highest level of customer service to our non-English speaking population.

UI 017 Anaheim Group Employee Performance Disaster Response Team EPR's: Peter Emelue, Laura Esqueda, Fermin Garza, Andrew Khuu, and Carlos Reyes

The DRT demonstrated extreme flexibility by traveling to destinations as necessary across Northern and/or Southern California. Disaster related locations included but not limited to the following: Kern County/Lake Isabella, Monterey County, Riverside County, Tulare County/Farmersville, Santa Cruz County/Watsonville, and San Luis Obispo County.

UI 017 Group Employee Performance Language Translation Team-EPR'S: Jacklyn Shih, Winna Hui, Phoebus Hon, Christi Trinh, and Kathy Tran

Members worked on the UI Online (UIO) Language Access Project to add six additional languages to myEDD and UIO to allow our customers to view and select content in their preferred written language. The Language Translation Team has demonstrated absolute commitment in contributing language translation skills to the various related language projects as well as the office's core services and programs.

Retiree Carol Kolesar: *Toll Trust Winner for her service and dedication to CWC for over 30 years*

Congratulations to each nominee

Thank you for your dedication to serving the people of California in 2023. We also thank the nominators who took the time to recognize their staff. Orange Empire trophies have been delivered to respective office managers to arrange an event to honor their staff.

Now is the time to start recording the accomplishments for 2024 using the same criteria. Remember, anyone can make a nomination.

Toll the Bell!
By Carol Kolesar

My most memorable moment during the 2024 Annual Conference Awards Luncheon was the announcement by the CWC Past Presidents' Association, PPA, that I had been awarded the 2023 Toll Trust Award. It was with shock and awe that I made my way forward to receive this honor along with the Golden Bell and the monetary amount that came with it. Needless to say my heart is bursting with pride at receiving the Toll Trust Award along with the recognition attached to it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PPA members for this honor and I truly appreciate all the members who have helped me over the years and continue to help me during this journey with the California Workforce Connection and my local Orange Empire chapter affiliation. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members

Chelsea Ponce, Jasleen Kaur, Carlos Reyes, Laura Esqueda, Nelson Lewes, Sheree Speed, Josh Noonan, and Hieu Nguyen

We invite you to take advantage of member benefits by attending training sessions, receiving education grants, writing newsletter articles, and serving as board members. All these and more contribute to your career development.

A wealth of information is available on the website : www.californiaworkforceconnection.org.

Submit your members only access request to : bj Sims@gmail.com

A brief history of the California Workforce Connection

By Nanette Bowman

The California Chapter ratified its first constitution in 1944 at a convention in San Jose. In 1964 Articles of Incorporation were endorsed by the California Secretary of State establishing us as our own corporation. The name has been changed but the fundamental purpose is always the same. The Orange Empire Chapter was chartered on May 5, 1962; one of 12 local chapters and one of the largest. Statewide membership is around 1,500 and Orange Empire has over 200.

The California Workforce Connection (CWC) is a 501 (c) 6 mutual benefit membership organization recognized as a bona fide association by the State of California to provide training and education to develop the careers of the members.