

Cal-Liope



MESSAGE FROM THE CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE CONNECTION **PRESIDENT**

By Dr. James Thomas, President, Silicon Valley member

We have started this year with the new officers providing activities and educational training. I had the opportunity to meet with the Employment Development Department Director Nancy Farias, and our EDD Liaison Deputy Division Chief Cesar Valladares. We talked about our Annual Educational Conference and *EDDNext* program. We will begin keeping you updated and informed regarding the *EDDNext* programs, CWC is totally vested in developing training programs that excite our leaders, and provides the tools needed for upward mobility. Our leaders getting involved and sharing their expertise will help expand our knowledge base. Our belief is that there is no such thing as

failure, but another learning opportunity. Your investment shows everyone what true leadership development looks like. Lead boldly from where you stand. CWC believes in You!

CWC membership should take advantage of the Karl E. Bybee Educational Grant. The grant has eligibility criteria for members who are interested. If you have been a CWC member in good standing for one year and recently completed training from an accredited training facility within a fiscal year, you can apply for reimbursement for some of the cost or all your costs up to \$750 in a fiscal year.

We hope our members read and enjoy the *Cal-Liope* newsletter for activities and event from the Executive Board, District Directors,



PRESIDENT DR. JAMES THOMAS

Chapter Presidents, and members. Some of the information provided is the President Message, CWC Website, Retirement Message, Legislative Update, Personal Message, Activities throughout the state.

The website gives current information on upcoming events, Zoom presentations, new program developments, Chapter calendars, and District events. Visiting the website will keep you informed of events throughout the state.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 2**
Membership Drive Kicks-Off
- Page 4**
Legislative Update
- Page 4**
How Fast Will the World Change in the Next 20 Years? Are You Ready?
- Page 5**
Inventing Your Life
- Page 5**
Retiree Corner
- Page 6-7**
2025 CWC Educational Conference Award Nominations and Sponsorship Form
- Page 7-9**
Around the State: District & Chapter News
- Page 10**
Membership Form

KARL E BYBEE EDUCATIONAL GRANT IS FOR YOU!

Dr. Candy Williams, Education Chair

As your Education Chair, I am thrilled to let our members know about a free educational grant. We want our members to take advantage of this free grant to assist you in achieving your goal. Read and see how easy it is to apply and get reimbursed. Do not let it pass you by; take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Why We Justify Bad Decisions and Foolish Beliefs

Insights For Workforce Professionals In Government

By Violeta (Violet) Velazquez, CWC Executive Office Manager, Inland Empire Chapter

As government workforce professionals, we are tasked with creating efficient, innovative systems that serve the public good. Yet, in large government organizations, we often face resistance to change, especially when it involves admitting past failures. The unwillingness to admit to past failures is known as self-justification, and it is at the heart of Carol Tavris and Elliot



VIOLETA VELAZQUEZ

Aronson's book *Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me)*. The authors explore why people justify bad decisions and avoid facing mistakes head-on, offering critical lessons for our work.

This book was brought to my attention by our very own

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President
DR. JAMES THOMAS

First Vice President
VERLETTA "VAL" MOELLER

Second Vice President
ARLENE BAUTISTA

Treasurer
PHIL DWYER

Past President
MELISSA LAURITZEN

Secretary
NANETTE BOWMAN

Membership Coordinator
LUCELY TUT

Cal-Liope Editor
VIOLETA "VIOLET" VELAZQUEZ

District I Director
KIM WESLEY

District II Director
FRED RUIBAL

District III Director
ANGEL URBINA

District IV Director
RAY CABRERA



Our association is dedicated to bringing education, opportunity, and innovation to all individuals with a common interest in workforce development

STAY TUNED!

CWC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICKS OFF

By *Annette Wiley,*
Membership Chair

As Membership Chair, I'm thrilled to kick off the new year with an exciting Membership Drive Campaign! Keep an eye out for the flyer with all the details – it's coming soon, and you won't want to miss it!

Membership drives are the heartbeat of any thriving organization. They're more than just about signing up members; they're about building a strong, dynamic community of like-minded

people. With every new member, we grow in strength, support, and opportunity. Membership fees fuel our mission, enabling us to sustain our operations and take on new initiatives. But the real magic happens when our community comes together to collaborate, share ideas, and make a difference.

A growing membership not only enhances our financial stability but also boosts our ability to influence and advocate. Together, we can amplify our voices, expand our volunteer base and enrich our programs. Coupled with your valuable input, we can

continuously improve and innovate, ensuring we are always moving forward.

This is your chance to be part of something bigger – an organization that is growing, thriving, and making an impact. By joining, you're not only securing the future of our organization's mission, but also helping us adapt and succeed in an ever-changing world.

Get ready – it's going to be an incredible year, and we want YOU to be part of it! Stay tuned in for more details, and don't let this amazing opportunity pass you by!

KARL E BYBEE EDUCATIONAL GRANT FROM PAGE 1

advantage of it.

CWC members are encouraged to explore a \$750 Educational Grant available to provide financial assistance. This grant is designed to help members enhance their skills, expand their knowledge, and achieve their career goals. CWC has simple eligibility criteria:

- 1) Be a member in good standing for at least one year,

- 2) May not be used for conventions, books, or college matriculation,
- 3) Grants are awarded based on solvency of the fund,
- 4) Grants reimbursement of \$750 is per fiscal year for allowable training cost, and
- 5) Qualifying training need to be from accredited organizations and enhance your

professional knowledge, expertise, and skills. You only need to take that course and pay for it, pass the course, and fill out the application with supporting documentation.

It is just that simple! Any questions can be emailed to: cwc.bybee@gmail.com. Visit the CWC website: www.californiaworkforceconnection.org.

BAD DECISIONS AND FOOLISH BELIEFS FROM PAGE 1

Employment Development Department (EDD) Director, Nancy Farias, during the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) Conference that was held in Sacramento the week of September 16, 2024, organized by the Veterans Program Unit (VPU) of the Workforce Services Branch (WSB). Nancy was a guest

speaker, and during her Q&A, she was asked what book she was currently reading, to which Nancy replied that she wasn't reading but listening to an audiobook titled *Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me)*. She enthusiastically recommended the book. The Director's endorsement highlights the relevance of the

book's insights to our work as we continue to move forward with our modernization effort, called *EDDNext*, which is completely transforming the EDD customer and employee experience.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

The Task Force Audit and EDD’s Transformation

In 2020, the EDD faced significant public criticism and backlash for delays in processing unemployment claims, issues with fraud, and inefficient customer service during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Gavin Newsom’s task force conducted an audit that revealed systemic weaknesses, such as outdated technology and a lack of customer-centric services. The audit’s recommendations called for modernizing technology, streamlining operations, improving the customer experience (CX), and strengthening fraud prevention measures.

Rather than fall into the trap of self-justification – blaming external factors like the unprecedented volume of claims or avoiding acknowledgment of internal inefficiencies – the EDD embraced the findings. Thus, *EDDNext* was born, an ongoing modernization effort that involves modernizing technology with more flexible systems to meet the challenges of an evolving economy, safeguarding services and personal information to protect identities and reduce risks of fraud, provide equal access to ensure all individuals can make use of EDD benefit programs and services, deliver a more effortless and faster customer experience across our programs and services, as well as offer self-service automation for quick and convenient customer service and support.

The Director has underscored the importance of learning from the pandemic, often stating that we “cannot let the pandemic and what we learned from it go to waste.”

The Role of Workforce Professionals in *EDDNext*

As government workforce professionals, our role in *EDDNext* is crucial. We must create and sustain a culture that fosters openness, accountability, and a commitment to continuous learning. Tavis and Aronson’s insights offer valuable lessons for us as we support this transformation.

1. Cultivate a Learning Environment: *EDDNext* represents an opportunity to build a culture that embraces mistakes and sees them as an opportunity to learn rather than as reasons for finger-pointing and blame. We must encourage ALL EDD employees, regardless of title, to reflect on past challenges and help

EDDNext is not just a response to a moment of crisis; it represents a deliberate shift toward confronting past failures and building a stronger, more resilient organization. This transformation effort embodies the core message of *Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me)*, acknowledging and recognizing mistakes and fomenting them as opportunities for improvement rather than justifying them.

Applying the Lessons from Cognitive Dissonance and Self-justification

In their book, Tavis and Aronson explain how cognitive dissonance and self-justification create significant barriers to admitting mistakes. Cognitive dissonance occurs when individuals experience mental discomfort from holding two contradictory beliefs or when their actions

them recognize the value of acknowledging mistakes and improving.

2. Confront Cognitive Dissonance: Acknowledge that cognitive dissonance will surface as new systems and processes replace old ones. Employees may experience discomfort when past methods are criticized or abandoned, but by recognizing this discomfort, we can help one another adapt and embrace new ways of thinking.

3. Promote Customer-Centric Thinking: One key takeaway from the task force audit and pandemic experience was the need for more customer-focused service delivery. The EDD has expressed its commitment

conflict with their self-concept. In response, people often justify poor decisions to preserve their self-image rather than admit to the mistake.

During the pandemic, it would have been easy for the EDD to rationalize the operational failures by blaming external factors like the unprecedented number of unemployment claims or the antiquated systems in place. Instead, by recognizing the shortcomings exposed by the Governor’s task force audit, the department chose to learn from these mistakes rather than justify them and responded by creating *EDDNext*.

EDD’s decision to embrace change and self-reflection rather than self-justification is precisely what Tavis and Aronson advocate for in their book. It demonstrates a willingness to confront cognitive dissonance head-

to putting the customer first and has established a unit amongst most of its branches that focuses on CX, designing adaptable services centered on the needs of the customers.

4. Encourage Transparency and Accountability: As *EDDNext* evolves, it is essential to maintain the transparency and accountability principles established by the task force audit. By holding ourselves and our leadership accountable for these recommendations, we ensure that the lessons of the pandemic are not forgotten, and that the department continues to move forward in a positive direction.

on, recognizing that outdated systems and processes no longer serve the department’s mission or the public.

Conclusion: As government workforce professionals, lessons from *Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me)* can be applied to support the EDD’s transformation and modernization effort. By fostering a culture of learning, embracing transparency, and challenging cognitive dissonance, we can ensure that the *EDDNext* initiative achieves its vision of innovation, customer focus, and adaptability. The Director’s endorsement of this book is not just about personal development; it is a call to action for all of us to reflect on how we approach mistakes and turn them into opportunities for growth and improvement.



Labor Market Updates Since The Governor's Budget

By Mary Jane Van Loon Legislative Chair, East Bay Chapter

The California labor market is slowly recovering from COVID-19 Pandemic. Depending on which sectors, it does affect the decline in unemployment rate. The trend shows that there are civilians entering back into the labor force.

The May Revision forecast incorporates the March 2024 benchmark revisions from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the California Employment Development Department (EDD). The annual benchmark revisions indicated October 2022 was an inflection point where the strong job recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic was followed by stagnation, especially in the sectors that drove the recovery. As a result, non-farm payroll employment in the state was 231,800 lower than the pre-benchmarked estimates as of December 2023. Even with the revisions, as of March 2024, California non-farm jobs were 1.8 percent (319,200 jobs) above the February 2020 level, with six of the eleven major sectors having surpassed their respective pre-pandemic levels. The number of non-farm jobs added in recent months suggests California payroll employment growth in the last eight months has been in line with the nation, and appears to be rebounding from essentially flat growth in prior months.

Unlike the swift non-farm job recovery, the state's labor force has not yet recovered to its pre-pandemic level as of March 2024. Nevertheless, the labor force grew steadily in 2023, growing by 0.7 percent, slightly lower than the

Governor's Budget projection of 0.9 percent but still higher than the 2019 pre-pandemic growth of 0.5 percent. Despite relatively healthy labor force growth, only 76 percent of the just over 1 million people that left the workforce at the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic have returned. While at lower levels, California's labor force participation rate has also continued its recovery, driven primarily by participation amongst prime-age workers (those between the ages of 25 to 54) which surpassed its pre-pandemic rate in September 2022 and remained 0.7 percentage point higher than its February 2020 level, further emphasizing the state's slow but ongoing labor force recovery.

As of March 2024, California's unemployment rate had risen 1.5 percentage points to 5.3 percent since falling to a record-low rate of 3.8 percent in August 2022. In comparison, the nation's unemployment rate fell to a historical low of 3.4 percent more recently in January and April 2023 and has since increased to 3.8 percent as of March 2024. California's civilian employment growth has been essentially flat since the second half of 2022 while the U.S. has remained relatively healthy, resulting in the state's unemployment rate rising faster than the nation. However, while California's unemployment has risen by about 300,000 since August 2022, more than 75 percent of this increase can be attributed to labor force growth as opposed to reduced civilian employment. In other words, the increase in the unemployment rate is more attributable to those entering or re-entering the labor force to look for work rather than to employers laying off workers.

How Fast Will the World Change in the Next 20 years? Are You Prepared to Face the Challenges of Change?

By B.J. Sims Marketing Chair and Website Administrator, Silicon Valley Member

Review of Frank Diana, Futurist YouTube Presentation - **Reimagining the Future Keynote with Frank Diana at TechArena, July 25, 2024**

Over the last 100 years there has been a lot of change, from the creation of atomic bombs, expansion of technology, human beings exploring the moon and our solar system, finding treatments and cures for many illnesses, and artificial intelligence to name a few things us humans have produced. The problem with change is that it comes with some baggage such as increasing the pace of life, stress, and learning how navigate through those changes.

Frank Diana, Principal Futurist at Tata Consultancy Services (TSC), is a thought leader and advisor in the context of business, geopolitical, societal on his [Reimagining the Future blog](#):

“Currently, as in the 1920s and 1930s, you see increasing polarization, a lack of crisis resilience, severe economic and social challenges, a shift to regional supply chains and the rise of the surveillance society.”

And the expectation is that the pace of change will quadruple in the next 20 years, with the rate of change at 4x what it is now, and things will keep accelerating from there, and in 40 years, it will be 16x. The changes were driven by a convergence of circumstance and events (such as WW I & WW II), and he feels we are headed for another convergence.

What do mere humans need to do to deal with changing values, points of views and doubts about where we might wind up. Frank stated we... “must keep an open eye for current events and recurring patterns evident in a study of history.” He quoted Winston Churchill - “The further back you can look, the further forward you are likely to see.”

The best we can do is for individuals to prepare themselves by embracing change through knowledge and understanding it. Frank stated “... we must be open to evolving insights and a less rigid attitude towards once learned, but now outdated views and behavior.”

Change is coming no matter what, trying to stop or delay change is a waste of time and will leave people farther behind and more likely repeat prior errors.

“Standing still is the fastest way of moving backwards in a rapidly changing world.”

– Lauren Bacall

“Who Are You Becoming?”

By Rob Claudio, Orange Empire

Several days ago, I was working on a different column when I received an update from Instagram from a renowned speaker who is an educator I follow. I first saw him as a keynote speaker at a national educator’s convention a few months ago. His name is George Couros, and although I had never heard of him before attending his session, he was a compelling speaker, and his personal story was equally motivational too. The social media post quoted, “Your attention needs to be on whom you are becoming, rather than who you have been,” by Gary John Bishop. After seeing this, I decided I needed to write a new column, and the old one would be finished later. This quote made me think for a couple of days about those words, and it took me on a trip through the memory lane of my own life.

When I began to think about who I had been before, I could vividly see different versions of myself. My younger self was always focused on me. As youth always dictates, many things I found significant were rather superficial as I look back today. I remember high school as an uncomfortable time due to the many things a teenager goes through and the feeling that I did not fit in. It is interesting how this feeling is still alive and well today in the lives of youth, so I guess some things don’t change as much universally. My college self was also very me-oriented; however, it showed me a world that was so different outside of where I was born, along with many interesting people who came from a variety of backgrounds than mine. I learned to appreciate all the differences that could exist in others, and yet, in this one educational institution, we could all be the same.

When I started my career after college, it was all work and absorbing everything I could learn to be more competitive as I strived to enter the leadership world. My constant question was, “How could I improve this team?” The answer to this has and always will be that I must improve myself for my team to want to follow me. Learning new philosophies about leadership and looking for capacity-building opportunities are also never-ending. Hence, here we are as I looked through some stages

of my past self, and I still struggle with the answer to who I am becoming. Well, I can honestly say that I am still a work in progress; however, wisdom has allowed me to make more calculated decisions about my next version. My priorities have changed, and what has impacted them has been my ability to see others around me grow and become better versions of themselves. I aspire to further professional growth too. The fact that age shows us how vital health and peace of mind are, for instance, can create a great source of personal joy with lasting benefits. Also, the enjoyment of simple things, such as a get-together with close friends that you haven’t seen in a while laughing so hard that you begin to run out of breath, are among my favorite pastimes in my world today.

I will leave you with this open-ended question as you can mull over your best answer. In it, I hope you find some nostalgic memories of who you once were and that the most important things that matter in your life are things you can still impact. I am here to remind you that there is always time to change, have a different perspective, and, most importantly, find everyday joy when striving to live a purposeful life. You are the captain of your ship, and you can determine when to set new sails in a different direction if you find that it is needed. Keep challenging yourself to be that better version of yourself while giving yourself some grace for any shortcomings in your past. None of us are perfect, so we continue making mistakes periodically. The key now is to make sure the same mistakes are not repeated and that you continue your due diligence in carving out the path you want to travel while paying no mind to anyone who disagrees with your plans. Ultimately, we are responsible for our life’s choices, and how we proceed is for us to contend with. I wish you much success as you peel the next layer of who you are becoming, and may it bring you much fulfillment in knowing that it will be a great next version of you.

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



ROB CLAUDIO

By Nanette Bowman,
Orange Empire Member

On Saturday, June 15, 2024, some of the alumni of the Anaheim EDD 074 office held a reunion for those who worked together on Gene Autry Way in the early 90’s. About 20 of the 60 or so staff were able to attend.



NANETTE BOWMAN

A few of the younger ‘kids’ are still working but most of us are retired. We didn’t so much reminisce but got caught up on the activities of each former co-worker. Special bonds were formed in a workplace where we became family dedicated to helping the public customer as well as each other. Sadly, there are at least 19 that are no longer with us and we did acknowledge each one. Thanks to Michelle Reppenhagen Griffie and Dao Nguyen Dooley for putting it all together and forming the Anaheim 074 Gang 1992 to 1996.

Anyone is welcome to send me ideas for articles or share what you are up to – you know my email: cwcsecretary2023@gmail.com.

Stay well and stay in touch.



ANAHEIM 074 REUNION

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE CONNECTION STATE AWARD NOMINATIONS

By Arlene Bautista,
State Second Vice President,
East Bay Chapter President

The California Workforce Connection (CWC) State Chapter Annual Awards Program provides an opportunity for EDD management and staff to nominate staff, peers, workforce partners, employers and community organizations for outstanding efforts, innovation, and service in workforce development. Recognize those who go above and beyond the norm by nominating an amazing manager or staff member for a CWC State Chapter award this year! Awards recognize both members and non-members for their hard work and dedication to excellence. Anyone can write a nomination! All award nomination entries must be postmarked or emailed by March 1, 2025. Even though the deadline is next year, it is not too early to submit a nomination now.

Categories

Award of Distinction –
Eligibility: Member or Non-member – individual and group – Recognizes outstanding contributions to the CA Chapter or to workforce development programs. The recipient(s) must be from the private sector or a non-governmental, non-profit organization and not employed by a workforce development entity.

Meritorious Award
– *Eligibility: Member – individual and group* – Recognizes outstanding service or achievement beyond



SAVE THE DATE
MAY 2, 2025

**2025
EDUCATIONAL
Conference**

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!
Limited sitting, early registration is encouraged.

For additional information visit
CaliforniaWorkforceConnection.org



SCAN HERE

Motivational and Leadership speakers to be announced closer to the event date

normal expectations or job requirements that benefit CA Chapter and the workforce development field. Nominees must have demonstrated individual initiative and creativity outside of their job responsibilities.

Services to Veterans Award – *Eligibility: Member or Non-member – individual and group* – Recognizes those who have done the most to assist veterans and promote interest in their rights in the workplace. In addition, it recognizes an outstanding, innovative program or awareness and promotion of veterans' interests and rights in the workforce.

Retiree Award – *Eligibility: Member – individual* – Recognizes a retiree who has shown continued outstanding commitment to the association's objectives following retirement. Nominees should have demonstrated exceptional

accomplishments in advancing CA Chapter objectives, e.g. leadership on a board, committee or initiative group (not restricted to CA Chapter); participation in educational, membership, communication, fund-raising or legislative activities; mentoring chapter leaders and/or participation that advances the member's local community.

Employee Performance Award (EDD & Partner) – *Eligibility: Member – individual and group* – Recognizes an individual or group who has gone above and beyond their assigned duties to provide outstanding service to the public through excellent performance. The Nominee must have demonstrated exceptional achievements that contributed to the smooth performance of operations through positive attitude, accuracy, representing the agency with the public, handling workload

under unusual conditions, adaptability, initiative and dependability.

Customer Service –
Eligibility: Member or Non-Member – individual and group – Recognizes exceptional service to customers served throughout the workforce system including, but not limited to work with job seekers, UI claimants, businesses, schools, and vocational rehabilitation, people with disabilities, former felons, youths, welfare recipients and job training participants.

Fostering Partnership Award – *Eligibility: Member or Non-Member – individual and group* – Recognizes an individual or group who has demonstrated diligent efforts to partner with the EDD and/ or CA Chapter while collaboratively delivering valuable and innovative services to meet the evolving needs of members, employers, workers, and job seekers. Partner organizations such as the Department of Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Act Partners, the Small Business Administration, Employment Advisory Councils, Chambers of Commerce, governmental agencies, etc. all play an important role in the workforce system and employment security, so the CA Chapter would like to acknowledge them accordingly.

Nomination Submission Components

The nomination must be typed, double-spaced, 11 or 12 size fonts, on 8½ x 11-inch paper.

Standard Nomination Form: This form must be the first page of every written nomination.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Narrative: This concise, precise and descriptive narrative must focus on the details/ examples of the actual accomplishment and include any necessary background information that explains why the accomplishment was exceptional to the association or agency. Give information based on the criteria listed on the judging sheet (found on the website in the Local Chapter Handbook), as this will assist the judges in properly and efficiently scoring the nominations.

Documentation: The narrative must be supported only by documentation that relates directly to the accomplishment activities on which the nomination is based. The documentation may be articles, endorsements, recommendations, testimonials, or original and/or digital photographs with a brief description of what each photograph is intended to show.

If you need help writing an award nomination, look at awards on the CWC website. For those award categories where a non-member could win, the nomination must be written by a member. For those awards that are only given to CA Chapter Members, CA Chapter membership is required in both the year during which the activity occurred (2024) and the year in which the nomination was submitted (2025).

Award nominations should be emailed to caworkforcebc@gmail.com for all categories and indicate the contact person for the following categories:

- Retiree: Nanette Bowman, Retiree Chair
- Toll Trust: Verletta (VAL) Moeller
- All other award nominations: Arlene Bautista



EDUCATION ★ INNOVATION ★ OPPORTUNITY

2025 CWC Educational Conferences—Sponsor/Exhibitor
Please note: There may be multiple sponsors at each level.

Platinum Sponsor: \$300

- Full Page Ad in the CWC Program and an Ad in the *Cal-Liope* (California's CWC Newsletter)
- Award presenter via Zoom
- Two complimentary registrations

Gold Sponsor: \$100

- Half Page Ad in the CWC Program and an Ad in the *Cal-Liope*
- One complimentary registration

Silver Sponsor: \$50

- Quarter Page Ad in the CWC Program

Exhibitor Only: \$100

- Contact information and logo will be in the CWC Program
- A table will be provided for each exhibitor in the Atrium

**To reserve your sponsorship, please return this form by
Friday, March 7, 2025, with payment**

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION NAME _____

CONTACT PERSON _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

WEBSITE _____

PAYMENT METHOD: CHECK ENCLOSED (PAYABLE TO CWC)
 OTHER AMOUNT TO BE SENT \$ _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE _____

Submit this form and all payments to:
CWC, Attn: Phil Dwyer, 12550 Calle Tamega #125, San Diego, CA 92128
E-mail a copy of this form and arrange payment with: cwctreasurer2022@gmail.com

DISTRICT II NEWS

By Fred Ruibal



FRED RUIBAL

As of this writing, fall is already upon us, coming up in the blink of an eye. Students are back in the classroom and most folks have been winding down the barbeque cook outs. Summer vacation is but a recent memory as we sense and feel the change in weather and season. I do not know about you, but fall is my favorite season of the year. This came to mind just yesterday while out for my walk, dodging the falling leaves, and greeting the cool air as I went about my trek.

But as we ponder the days ahead in District II, I would like to report on some of the events that transpired during the summer, namely District II's Installation of New Officers Luncheon, which I hinted to in my last writing of District II News. As I had previewed, our luncheon was held at Georgio's Italian Restaurant, located in Milpitas, CA. The chapters of District II-East Bay and Silicon Valley-jointly install their officers in an intimate setting that includes lunch and usually a speaker. By doing it this way, it allows district members to interact with each other by networking and getting better to know one another a little better.

Lunch included a choice of either chicken alfredo with penne pasta or Lasagna or Eggplant Parmigiana or Salmon. My personal choice was the lasagna, which I like to report was particularly good! A love for lasagna is what Garfield and I have in common! Salad was also included and of course preceded the main courses. The food fare at Georgio's is always delicious and their pizza is also excellent. (By the way, they did not pay me for my helpful review!)

Our lunch then followed a very excellent presentation by our featured speaker. His name is John Lang, and he is the Economic Vitality Manager for the City of Mountain View. He has spoken to us before, and his presentations are always excellent and informative. His topic of discussion was "How AI Will Impact Selected Industries." AI or Artificial Intelligence can be defined as a field of computer science that develops and studies methods and software that enable machines to perceive their environment by using learning and intelligence to achieve a specified goal. AI is here to stay and will affect every one of us in our daily lives as we go forward into the future. Those science fiction movies about robots and computers taking over the world do not seem too far fetch once you learn what AI can do now.

After Mr. Lang's presentation, we then proceeded with the installation of new officers for the chapters. We had a few fresh faces who were willing to step up and be part of the new board. I look forward to working with our new executive board in the coming year!



CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

A DAY IN THE PARK WITH THE IE CWC CHAPTER



By John Szeibert,
Inland Empire Chapter President

The Inland Empire CWC Chapter recently held their summer outing at the picturesque Teamster Local 63 park. The day was graced with beautiful weather, setting the perfect backdrop for the variety of activities planned for our members and their families.

The highlight of the outing was undoubtedly the canvas painting session organized by Party of Paint, predominantly catering to the children. They engaged in painting vibrant butterfly canvases, and some fortunate participants received prizes for their exceptional artwork. The children also relished a day filled with fun in the private playground and participated in various sports games, including badminton and frisbee. Additionally, a piñata and other entertaining activities kept them joyfully occupied throughout the event.

While the kids were immersed in their fun-filled day, the adults savored grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, expertly prepared by me. An assortment of refreshments and treats further complemented the delightful culinary experience. As the day wound down, it left everyone with cherished memories and a sense of fulfillment.

With the weather now cooling, our next park event will likely be scheduled for the following summer. We hope you can join us for that. However, if you can't attend the Inland Empire Chapter's event, I highly recommend participating in the Puerto Del Sol Chapter's beach event. Held on August 17, it was an extraordinary day spent in the beautiful city of San Diego. The Puerto Del Sol Chapter went above and beyond to ensure a fantastic experience for everyone. They featured a taco stand along with a delightful array of food. The park, situated in an ocean inlet, was monitored by a lifeguard tower, providing a safe environment for swimming. It was a perfect excuse for a weekend escape from the Inland Empire, and I strongly encourage you not to miss it next year.

Looking ahead, the IE Chapter has a few exciting events planned for October. For professional development, we will host a Meet a Manager Series, alongside participating in community events such as the Ronald McDonald House and the Believe Walk in Redlands. For more details, please check the CWC website for flyers and announcements. If you are not receiving our local newsletter, please reach out to me, as we need liaisons to help distribute information to our members.

I look forward to seeing you at our events. Until next time.



ORANGE EMPIRE CHAPTER

HOW TO AVOID IDENTITY THEFT

By Nanette Bowman, Orange Empire Member

How to Avoid Identity Theft is a presentation by Dr. Tobi West, a Department Chair of Technology and is a professor of Cybersecurity and Computer Information Systems at Coastline College in Garden Grove. She is the director for Coastline's National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense education designated by the National Security Agency. She serves on multiple national committees supporting cybersecurity curriculum development. She also hosts events for teachers and high school students to help increase cybersecurity awareness.

A webinar by Dr. West was hosted by Orange Empire on June 6, 2024, for an hour and a half. She explained the dark web, social engineering, and scams. Briefly, she reviewed impact (national figures terminology motives), scams (phishing social media scams), prevention (tips detection resources) and at work (filters training reporting).

Following are some comments from those who attended: I find the information is very helpful and I am more aware of different types of Identity theft after the presentation. Easy to follow. Presenter was very knowledgeable and professional. The presentation was excellent. In my job this information cannot be over emphasized. The presenter was very knowledgeable and she delivered the information in a way that was easy to follow and understand as well. Thank you for providing this very important information. The presentation was amazing. The information of staying vigilant with protecting your personal information and how to spot spam emails. We must create strong passwords and do not duplicate them. The dark web is a scary place, but having a better understanding about it keeps you alert.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

MORE CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Keeping a watchful eye can avoid a lifetime of heartache.

Watch for more presentations from this well qualified expert. You won't want to miss it. The outline of her presentation is on the CWC website: www.californiaworkforceconnection.org.

■ ■ ■ ■ PUERTO DEL SOL CHAPTER

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SUN, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE PUERTO DEL SOL PICNIC

By Maritza Marroquin-Sanders, Puerto Del Sol Chapter President

Under the brilliant San Diego sun, the Puerto Del Sol Chapter (PDS) of the California Workforce Connection (CWC) celebrated its 20th Anniversary Picnic at Bonita Cove, Mission Bay, on August 17, 2024. The day was filled with connection, celebration, and nostalgia.

The picnic began with the aroma of sizzling tacos from Taquizas Los Chuchys. The menu was complete with hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, and a refreshing variety of snow cones graciously provided by Alex Araujo's family. The extraordinary Picnic Planning Team and volunteers – Solomon and Christine Barks, Jennifer Lucy and Matt, Alexa Navarro, Lynn and Dalton Lam, Phil Dwyer and Luis Perez, Alex and Jeannie Araujo, Hugo Rivera, Jared Davis, Ken Underwood, and Melody Sanchez – handled every detail with care. A special thanks to Edward and Maggie for their dedicated efforts in keeping everyone at the picnic happy and well-fed. Jared suggested a bigger dessert table for next time!

As PDS Secretary Alexa Navarro put it, "As someone who works mostly remote, I look forward to these picnics and other similar events as it's a nice way to connect with and meet other fellow EDD and/or state employees. It's a nice way to make connections and to get to know others who are outside of your immediate work unit."

Grateful for the CWC inter-chapter support, we were thrilled to have Inland Empire Chapter's Violet Velazquez join us. Violet is currently serving as the CWC Executive Office Manager/Cal-Liope Editor. Thank you also to CWC Inland Empire Chapter President John Szeibert and his family who joined us. John shared, "What inspired me to come out to the PDS Picnic was the opportunity to meet other EDD coworkers at the beach in beautiful San Diego. Living in the Inland Empire, going to the beach is a special day, and the Puerto Del Sol Chapter provided an opportunity to visit San Diego with my family, meet new people, and reconnect with friends. Plus, the tacos, photo booth, and snow cones were awesome. My family had a great time, and we look forward to seeing you all again next summer."

For many, the location was a dream, "Great location for a relaxing day at the beach in beautiful San Diego surrounded by current or former EDD employees and enjoying delicious food. The tradition continues," said Phil Dwyer, CWC State Treasurer and PDS Member.

PDS Chapter President Maritza Marroquin-Sanders reflected, "This picnic was inspiring, bringing families and friends together. It's wonderful to hear that many children grew up attending this annual event."



"A FUNTASTIC TIME AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PDS PICNIC!" FROM LEFT: MARIA ROSARIO SILVA REYES, JENNIFER LUCY, ALEXA NAVARRO, MARITZA MARROQUIN-SANDERS, HUGO RIVERA, AND LLOYD CHEN



"PDS PICNIC FOUNDERS" LEFT TO RIGHT: JEANNIE AND ALEX ARAUJO, PHIL DWYER AND VERONICA MARTEL

We took the opportunity to honor several members for their contributions. Alexa Navarro was recognized for her two years as Chapter Secretary and congratulations on her promotion to AGPA. Lynn Lam was celebrated for her roles as Chapter Treasurer and Vice President, and for launching a statewide t-shirt fundraiser; congratulations on her promotion to *EDDNext*. Solomon Barks was acknowledged for his service as Chapter President and his role in energizing networking events, with congratulations on his promotion to AGPA. Jennifer Lucy was honored for her advocacy and leadership as former Chapter Secretary and Education Chair. Maria Rosario Silva Reyes was recognized for her innovative contributions during the pandemic and leadership as former Chapter Treasurer. Alex Araujo and Phil Dwyer received Retirement Candy Poems for their contributions and retirements. Veronica Martel also received praise for her heartfelt appreciation of Alex and Phil. Key figures Veronica, Alex and Phil were honored for establishing the Annual Puerto Del Sol Chapter picnic twenty years ago!

Many thanks to all those who shared the Picnic invitation far and wide: CWC leadership President Dr. James Thomas, District Director IV Ray Cabrera, Secretary and Orange Chapter Newsletter author Nannette Bowman, Marketing Chair BJ Sims, and Social Media Chair Wendy Lomeli. Here's to another 20 years of sun, fun, and fellowship! Thank you to everyone who made this year's picnic a success. See you next year!

Interested in joining the Puerto Del Sol Chapter of the California Workforce Connection? Visit the CWC website at: www.californiaworkforceconnection.org to complete a Membership application. Feel free to reach out by emailing us at PuertoDelSolSD@gmail.com.

Membership Application

New
 Update
 Renewal
 Cancellation

Date:

Mail application and payments to: **CWC Membership Coordinator**, P.O. Box 7858, Oxnard, CA 93031
 or email application to cwcworkforceconnection@gmail.com (mail payment, if applicable)

*Full Name:	First	Last
*Local Chapter:	Select chapter you want to join	Telephone: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
*Personal email:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
*Address:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
*Employer:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	*Location: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
*Job Title:	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	ARU# <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> *Bargaining Unit #: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>

*Type of Member	Annual Dues	*Payment Option
<input type="radio"/> Employment Development Department (EDD) Employee (Bargaining Unit 1 or 4)**	\$48.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$4.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<input type="radio"/> EDD Supervisor/Exempt Employee**+	\$0.00	*SSN: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<input type="radio"/> Other State Employee (Non-EDD)** <small>Refer to your Bargaining Unit Contract for possible reimbursement</small>	\$98.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$8.17) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<input type="radio"/> Partner (Non-EDD)	\$98.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check
<input type="radio"/> EDD Student/Youth Assistant**	\$36.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$3.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<input type="radio"/> Retiree	\$36.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check

I recognize that the processing of this form/payment may take 1-3 months. If I have selected the **Automatic Deduction** option, I hereby authorize the State Controller’s Office (SCO) to automatically deduct from my salary each month the amount listed above and transmit, as designated, an amount for membership dues to the CWC; I understand that processing may take 2-3 pay periods. If I have selected the **cash or check** option, I hereby agree to be sent annual dues renewal invoices (**make check payable to: CWC**). I agree to provide my full social security number, which will be kept confidential. I certify that I am now a member of the CWC and allow the organization to establish, change, and/or cancel my deduction, as applicable. I understand that this authorization will remain in effect until I submit a written request to the CWC Membership Coordinator to terminate my membership and cancel any deduction, as appropriate. I also understand that the CWC organization does not issue refunds for unused dues or the months taken for processing.

***Signature:** _____ ***Date:** _____

Name of Recruiter (if applicable): _____

* Required
 ** If you do not wish to provide your Social Security Number (SSN), then you must pay the full membership dues for that type of member by cash or check.
 + For this membership type, if you do not wish to supply the SSN, then the amount due is \$98.00.