

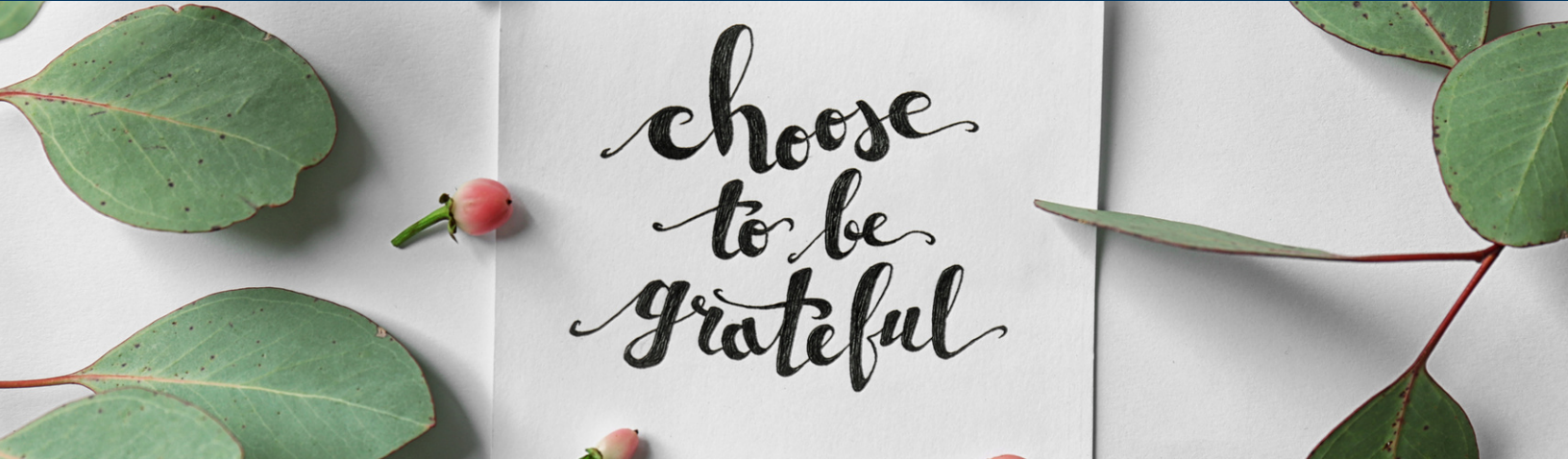


NOVEMBER 2023



In The Know

CSEA's County Office of Education Committee Newsletter



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

by Ruth Gloria

November is a time for us to reflect on the things or persons we are grateful for having in our lives.

The County Office of Education Committee has two new members on our Committee that have been appointed by our State Association President Adam Weinberger. Read all about your COE Committee in this issue of "In The Know," and when you see them, please congratulate them and reach out to them if you have a burning question.

The purpose of the County Office of Education Committee is to research, educate, communicate and network regarding the issues and concerns of the county office of education chapters—providing a liaison between members, the board of directors, committees, governmental relations and the Legislature, while acknowledging the differences and similarities of county offices of education, community colleges, and K-12's.

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MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

In September 2023, Association President Adam Weinberger appointed member volunteer leaders to CSEA's standing committees, including the COE Committee. We have a mix of new and returning committee members, including a new committee chair. Because of our new leaders, your area liaison may be different. Read on to find out who it is!

Katie Miller Andersen Committee Chair

Liaison for Areas H, I & K

Katie Andersen is a member of San Diego County Office of Education #568 in Area K. She has been a member of the COE Committee for seven years. This is her first year as chair and she is excited to be able to continue the work that the COE Committee has started and lead it onward to new ventures.

In her work life, Katie is a Village Leader at Cuyamaca Outdoor School, part of SDCOE's Outdoor Education department. She has worked with 6th grade students, guiding them through nature explorations, teaching them to do cool things and meet new people for 20 years.

Katie enjoys spending time in nature during her free time, especially in the fall.



In her chapter, she serves on multiple committees and has spent time on the E-board. She first became active in CSEA when she noticed outdoor ed employees were being unfairly treated by administration.

A life-long student, Katie just completed her Master's degree in Social-Emotional Learning. When she has free time, Katie enjoys camping, hiking, traveling and checking out books from her local library. Katie considers herself a Californian- born and raised in San Diego County, and a graduate of both Sonoma State University and San Diego State University. Living in two very different regions of the state has given her an appreciation for the unique biodiversity found in California. Do you know which county is the most bio-diverse in the nation? Hint: The answer is one of the 49 that have a CSEA chapter in their COE. Look for the answer in Next month's "In The Know."

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

Araceli Garcia Committee Member Liaison for Area A

Araceli Garcia has been residing in Glenn County for 17 years now.

She moved to Northern California from the Bay Area and went from living in the city to now living in the country and she absolutely loves it.

Araceli and her family live on a farm with so many animals and pets. She has five children- three girls and two boys. Her children are deeply involved in sports and extracurricular activities such as 4H.

She has a son who is autistic and he is amazing and is also involved in so many activities. Araceli has been a coach with the Special Olympics of Butte County in various sports for about eight years. It is because of my son and the rest of her children that she is who she is today. She enjoys advocating for families and providing resources to help them in any way possible

Araceli has been working with the Glenn County Office of Education for 17 years as a ParaProfessional for Special Education children.



She was a Chapter President for four years for Chapter 718, Area A, and now serves as the Vice President.

Araceli loves to learn about CSEA so she can help her chapter and inspire new ideas.

She has attended the CSEA Annual Conference held in Las Vegas and is also a member of the Victory Club.



A few of the animals and who live on Araceli's farm.



MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

Ruth Gloria

Committee Member

Liaison for Areas D & E

Ruth is on her eighth year as a volunteer for Area E, Region 17, CSEA State Appointed County Office Of Education Committee Member. She retired from the Stanislaus County Office of Education, Modesto, after 15 years. She was actively involved in her chapter and was the Chapter Vice President for seven years and prior to that served as chapter secretary for two years. We all know, once we join CSEA and serve in an official capacity we wear many hats- Ruth served as Pre-retirement Resource Person, Negotiations Team member, White Collar Job Steward, and CSEA Central Labor Task Force. She received the 2014 Activist Award for the River Delta Field Office being recognized for the Pre-retirement Seminars hosted and co-sponsored by CSEA and Stanislaus County Office of Education; open to management and classified unit members, making our seminars unique and well attended with over 300 in attendance.

Ruth is the editor and mastermind behind the "In The Know" newsletter- making sure all COE members are up to date with the latest info and committee members submit articles by the deadline.

Pictured far right : Ruth & husband, Rey Gloria, during one of their many travel adventures. Since retiring, they have traveled: Italy, Hawaii, Alaska and Mexico. They love to take cruises.



She is also a member of CSEA's Modesto Retiree Unit Council 5010 and have been the Chair of the Membership Committee. She received the Retiree of the Year Award around 2017. Ruth has been now retired for eight years and married for 52 years. She has two children, and six grandchildren who keep me very busy with soccer, basketball, baseball games and cheer.



MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

Irenea Herrera Committee Member Liaison for Areas B & C

Irenea Herrera has been an Administrative Assistant III at Monterey County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) since 2011. The SELPA provides countywide regional coordination and leadership to assure that appropriate public education programs are available for all students with disabilities. In addition, she has a background at corporate high-tech and the hospitality and tourism industries.

Irenea was newly appointed by AP Adam Weinberger as a member of the CSEA County Office of Education (COE) Committee, and she is looking forward to serving at the association level.

Irenea is also a union steward and serves as the Chapter Communications Officer (CCO) for CSEA Chapter #35 Monterey County Office of Education.

She has been the recipient of the CSEA Communications Awards. The Award of Excellence Newsletter 2021, and more recently, the Award of Excellence Web 2023 in which she was recognized at the Annual Conference in Reno, NV.



Irenea enjoys spending time with her family. She is married and has two young adult children. Irenea has also been a team captain at the Relay for Life of the Salinas Valley supporting the mission of the American Cancer Society since 2017.



AP Adam Weinberger presents 2023 CSEA Communication Award

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

Catherine Wind-Muro
San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools 633
Committee Member
Liaison for Areas F & G

Catherine Wind-Muro started working for SBCSS in November 2004; hired as a Paraeducator. She then went on to take Braille classes where she earned her Library of Congress Certificate for Braille Transcribing for the blind. She then was hired to become a Braille Specialist with SBCSS.

As a leader for her chapter, Catherine has served as chapter president twice! Catherine's leadership was extended to the state level when she was appointed to the COE committee in 2022. She is currently the liaison for Areas B & F.

She loves working with people and she loves to learn. She wears many "Hats," so she's very busy all the time. When she was first approached in 2022 to be part of the County Office of Education Committee, she was excited that she didn't even ask, "what do they do?" Pres. Adam Weinberger shared that she would be going to Super Session in Sacramento and she said okay.



She has been married for 35 years to Victor, and has 2 wonderful children Eric and Emily, she has 2 handsome grandsons Eric 6. and Oscar 3. She is also blessed with her daughter-in-law Theresa, and her son-in-law Donny.

In her spare time, she spends it with her family, and goes to the beach. Her interests and hobbies are bike riding, scrapbooking, painting, cooking and reading, She is also an NRA sharpshooter.

She learned in her lifetime that saying "I can't do it, doesn't make sense, because you never know what you can do until you try it!"



READ & LEARN



- **The September/October issue of Focus magazine.**

This edition is brimming with content that shines a spotlight on the remarkable achievements and stories of our CSEA family.

- **CalPERS Pre-Retirement Webinar**

It's never too early to learn now how CalPERS pays you later. Encourage your members to get key information about their pension and Social Security benefits by attending one of CSEA's Pre-Retirement Webinars.

Ref: 9/18/23 leadership

- **General Information Bulletin 38-23; Member Student Loan Reducer Program**

Applications are now available for CSEA's Member Student Loan Reducer Program. CSEA members with \$10,000 or more in student loan debt and who have completed a degree program can apply for this grant in the amount of \$500 to assist in paying down their student loan debt. Thank you to SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union for helping to fund this grant program.

Ref.: Leadership email, dated 10/9/23



VETERAN'S DAY (OBSERVED NOVEMBER 10)

Veterans Day is when Americans honor those who have served in the U.S. Military. It is a time to express gratitude to those who have made great sacrifices to preserve our freedom. We honor the brave men and women throughout history who fought in battles, served in the National Guard and the reserves or were stationed in a base, stateside or overseas, and did their part to protect the safety and rights of Americans.

Many military veterans have gone on to serve California's public schools as classified school employees. There are a variety of reasons why CSEA members who are veterans served in the military. Some were drafted, some followed long family traditions and others felt a duty to defend their country.

NOTE:

Statewide -- All CSEA OFFICES ARE CLOSED



Pictured: Cassandra May Alonzo Ward, IT3 (Information System Technician) (rank E4) served in the US NAVY, (9/17/99 - 11/23/2003) Cassandra is the niece of COE Committee member Ruth Gloria



Know Your Committee



COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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COE COMMITTEE'S PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the County Office of Education Committee is to research, educate, communicate and network regarding the issues and concerns of the county office of education chapters — providing a liaison between members, the board of directors, committees, governmental relations and the Legislature, while acknowledging the differences and similarities of county offices of education, community colleges, and K-12's.

"In The Know"

Monthly Newsletter of the CSEA County Office of Education Committee
Editor: Ruth Gloria
Layout: Katie Andersen
Content: Ruth Gloria, Katie Andersen, CSEA Communications

CONNECT WITH US



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<https://csea.com/committees/county-office-of-education-coe>

Upcoming Committee Meetings

COE COMMITTEE members will attend Super Session, Nov. 3-5 in Glendale, CA