



JANUARY 2024



In The Know

CSEA's County Office of Education Committee Newsletter



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

by **Katie Andersen**

Happy New Year, COE Members! Can you believe 2024 is here already?!

As we begin a new year, the COE Committee recommits itself to bring you up to date information from CSEA and from your fellow COE Chapters. The most exciting news that we will be sharing with you all year are the new **CSEA Core Values**. Each month in the coming year we will be highlighting the values of **Empowerment, Inclusivity, Respect, Transparency** and **Innovation**. Because these values were created by characteristics that the Board sees in its members, I ask you to take time and reflect on your own chapter members and challenge you to name the members in your chapter who embody these values. Who are those members? Let me know via email so that we can highlight them in our upcoming issues.

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What value do members live everyday, and how are they an example for your chapter? We would love to share real-world examples with the rest of our COE chapters.

Best wishes to you all in this new year- may your chapters be strong and successful.

California School Employees Association

Core Values

Empowerment

The basis for all actions and the driving force behind the other values.

- *We believe in education, service, and fostering personal and collective growth through the empowerment of members and the power of organized labor.*

Inclusivity

Empowerment is for everyone, regardless of background.

- *We celebrate and embrace diversity, understanding that it fosters inclusivity within our organization and enhances our collective efforts.*

Respect

A natural extension of inclusivity, emphasizing the importance of treating everyone well.

- *We respect our members' and staff's contributions, needs, and the importance of being kind to each other.*

Transparency

To show that respect includes being open and honest in all dealings.

- *We operate with integrity and openness, ensuring our actions and decisions are transparent and accountable.*

Innovation

The culmination of all the other values, showing that an empowered, inclusive, respectful, and transparent environment is one where innovation can thrive.

- *We promote innovation that is forward-thinking, encourages continuous improvement, and fosters the exploration of new ideas to enhance our union's service.*

Developed by the CSEA Board of Directors

October 24, 2023



COE COMMITTEE HAS A NEW STAFF COORDINATOR

by Amy Gonzales

I come from a union family. My father is a retired Teamster, my brother is a current member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), and my mother is a retired CSEA activist and Labor Relations Representative.

I spent much of my youth attending CSEA union meetings and events. When it came time for me to determine what career I wanted to pursue I looked at my family, specifically, my mother, and thought I want to help people too.

I decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in labor studies and started my career with CSEA in 2001 as a Labor Relations Representative. In my more than twenty years at CSEA I have been a Labor Relations Representative, Senior Labor Relations Representative and Field Director all in the Orange Field Office. I am looking forward to working with the County Office of Education Committee to improve the lives of our members, students, and communities.



Amy Gonzales, Field Director, and COE Committee Staff Coordinator

California School Employees Association, 326 W. Katella Avenue, Suite E Orange, CA 92867

COUNTY FUN FACT!

Which county in California has the largest marine sanctuary?

Answer: Multiple counties! Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is the second largest national marine sanctuary (Hawaii being the largest!); and the largest marine protected area in the continental United States. The shoreline stretches from Marin (Marin County) to Cambria (San Luis Obispo County) with Monterey (Monterey County) located on the central coast.



MEMBERS MATTER

by Ruth Gloria, Retiree Council
#5010, Modesto, Stanislaus County

I have been retired from SCOE, Modesto for over eight years now.

Recently our Retiree Council had our end of the year gathering at the Black Bear Dinner with guest speaker, Jose Luis Pacheco, CalPers CSEA Board member, who spoke on CalPers financial stability and the importance of having a Power of Attorney on file with CalPers to protect your pension. I serve as the Member Recruitment Chair for our Council, and I cannot stress enough that members will share that they have no idea what a POA form is? Please, chapter leaders, share with your members they should all



Top Left: Isa Wiechmann waits anxiously to see whose ornament will be stolen next. Right: Terri Stone, SCOE, Chapter #688 proudly steals an ornament she has been eyeing.

attend a CalPers seminar/webinar in your areas or your chapter can host a seminar at your site by contacting your Area CalPers Resource Committee Person.

As a State Appointed Committee member, I'm invited to attend Area's E, Regional President's Meeting, held monthly. This is another resource to learn what other chapters are negotiating for contract raises/language; and share issues with one another to learn how chapters resolve conflicts with the districts. I invite you to reach out to your Area Regional Rep to be invited to their monthly meeting.

Pictured above is Area E, Region Rep, Isa Wiechmann's year-end RPM meeting.



Top photos: Members in attendance donated clothing to the men's shelter and to the Toys for Tots Drive. An ornament exchange was enjoyed along with raffle prizes; monies raised is for the Blanche Bispo Scholarship fund for high school students of CSEA family members continuing on with their education for Retiree Council 5010.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHAPTERS

Sean Frame, Sacramento County Office of Education, Chapter #480

UPDATE: Sean filed his campaign papers and takes the oath for **State Assembly District 6** election making it official to have his name on the ballot, while wearing his Union Steward Jacket!



Go to www.seanframe.com and sign up for an event, or just sign up to get involved by entering your information into the "Stay in Touch" section.

The good news for all of us is, we can win this together!

District 6 Overview

The newly redrawn Assembly District 6 is a Democratic stronghold, with Democrats outnumbering Republicans 2.5-1.

AD-6 is an open seat in the heart of Sacramento. It has attracted nearly a dozen candidates, most of whom share "insider" backgrounds as current or former staffers and/or lobbyists. Most are also first-time candidates and none have won a race above the school board level.

San Diego County Office of Education, Chapter #568



SDCOE Chapter #568 celebrated the holiday season virtually again. What started out as a modification for COVID has become an annual tradition that members look forward to. The chapter E-board purchased gift cards in amounts ranging from \$25-\$100. Each afternoon at 3 p.m. the week before Winter Break began, Chapter President, Keith Hildreth, and Chapter Secretary, Judy Butterfield, randomly drew members' names. Then Judy emailed the entire chapter with the day's winners.

The winners used to have to wait until their gift cards were delivered via truck mail - but with upgrades in technology, the winners were emailed their certificates the same-day! The E-board chose a variety of gifts from local grocery stores, to coffee shops to gas cards (very popular these days!) Members felt appreciated and had a way to connect daily, across the many sites operated by SDCOE. This year over 50 members were celebrated in the gifting.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHAPTERS

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by Iirenea Herrera, Monterey County Office of Education, Chapter #35

The South Bay Field Office hosted a Meet and Greet for Area C members on December 7, 2023, at Monterey COE. It was well attended with over 70 people enjoying a holiday dinner and mingling with other CSEA members. Attendees learned more about their union benefits and received goodies from various vendor tables. Members even raised \$85 towards the Dorothy Bjork Humanitarian Fund, and won some fun raffle prizes.



Debra Cole, CSEA Field Director, addressing the audience.



Monterey COE #35 employees: Left, Becki Hadley (retired), Regional Rep 28, and Melissa Luna-Hinds



Monterey COE #35 employees: Left, Iirenea Herrera, COE Committee Member, and David Kong (retired), PACE Committee Member, with their raffle prizes.



Left, Donnell Fassler, Area C Director, and Marc Gonzalez, (retired) Regional Rep 88

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHAPTERS

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by **Araceli Garcia, Glenn County Office of Education, Chapter #718**

On Monday, December 11, our chapter had a meeting. In this meeting, we discussed the upcoming election for leadership. We also discussed the upcoming new training such as the paraprofessional training in March 2024. We also discussed the potential increase in pay for instructional aides.

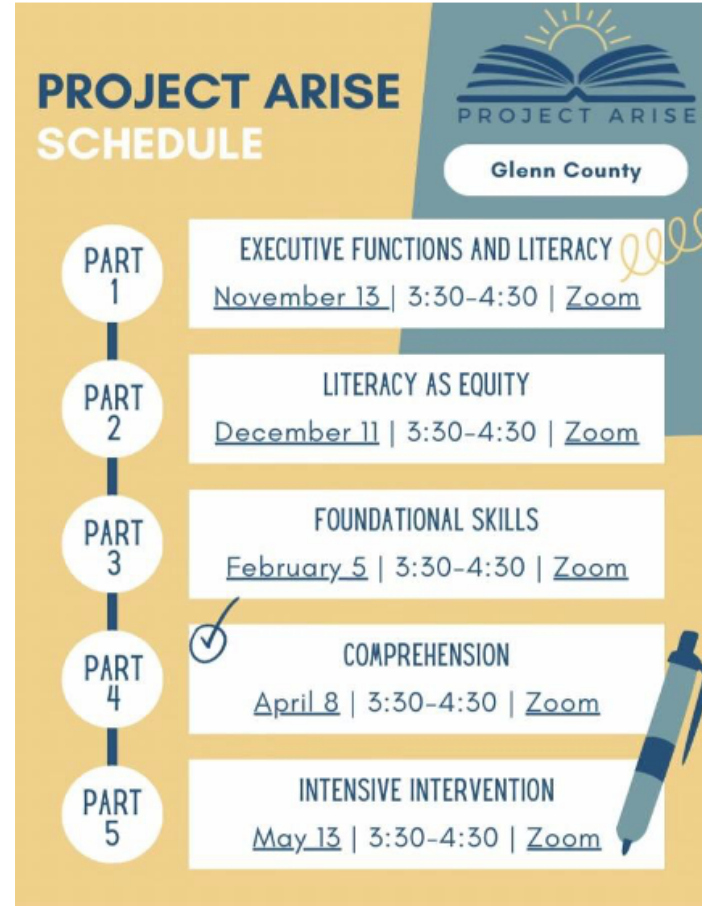
We also focused on the new training for everyone in Glenn County called "Project Arise." We had a good meeting, and we celebrated with a Christmas Party. Everyone brought food from their homes, and overall, it was a delightful and informational meeting. We cannot wait for the next one in January 2024!

President: Diana Roach

Vice President: Araceli Garcia

Secretary: Christine Stifter

Treasurer: Shari Rinehart



PROJECT ARISE SCHEDULE

Glenn County

Part	Topic	Date	Time	Platform
PART 1	EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS AND LITERACY	November 13	3:30-4:30	Zoom
PART 2	LITERACY AS EQUITY	December 11	3:30-4:30	Zoom
PART 3	FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS	February 5	3:30-4:30	Zoom
PART 4	COMPREHENSION	April 8	3:30-4:30	Zoom
PART 5	INTENSIVE INTERVENTION	May 13	3:30-4:30	Zoom



Left and Right photos: Members of Glenn County Chapter #718 share a meal to celebrate Christmas



Dorothy Bjork

ASSISTANCE FUND



COMING IN FEBRUARY: HAVE A HEART MONTH

Donate your Wonderful Gifts and Creations to CSEA for Have a Heart Month 2024!

There is something beautiful that happens when we all pitch in to make Have a Heart month a fundraising success with our wonderful homemade creations and generous donations. The Humanitarian Fund Committee would like your help once again with silent auction donations for Have a Heart month in February of 2024. You can donate cool and fun items to help raise money in the silent auction.

Have a Heart month is our biggest fundraising month of the year for the [CSEA Assistance Fund](#). This fund provides much needed financial assistance to members experiencing hardship and your donations for the silent auction make all the difference. [Click here](#) for more information about the programs.

Here's how to make a difference with your donation. CSEA needs all donation information.

- **Start crafting or organizing your Chapter donations with your fellow CSEA siblings!** The last silent auction we hosted, we received beautiful artwork created by members and staff. Chapters also donated themed baskets and gift cards. We accept individual and Chapter or group donations. Decide on what you would like to donate this time!
- **[Fill out the Silent Auction Donor Form](#)** - We will need a [separate form for each donation](#) that is considered one award item. We require details such as who is donating, a complete description of the item being donated and photos.



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HAVE A HEART MONTH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

If there is a group of items that can be considered one auction item, send one form, but please list each individual item in the description section of the form.

For example: "Lottery ticket basket includes 5 - \$20 scratchers, 10 - \$10 scratchers, 10 - \$1 scratchers, lottery basket, one fall leaves kitchen hand towel."

- **Deadline** - We will be accepting completed donor forms now through January 9th for the February 2024 silent auction. Complete the Silent Auction Donor Form, save it and email it to memberbenefits@csea.com with your photo/s by January 9th. Please make sure all sections of the form are completed before sending it to us.
- **Shipping your donations** - This year, instead of having the items shipped multiple times, we are asking that you hold on to your items until the winners are recognized. Soon after the lot containing your donation item is closed, you will receive information on where to ship your donation to get it into the winner's hands. It is important that you provide us with a valid email address on the form.
- [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SILENT AUCTION DONOR FORM](#)

If you have questions, please call the Member Benefits Service Center at (866) 487-2732 or email memberbenefits@csea.com.

Tips for taking good photos of your donation:

1. Make sure your phone or camera/equipment lenses are clean before taking the photo.
2. Use a well lit area, or use the flash. Test it out and see which looks better, with or without flash. Using flash outdoors can help. Know your flash's range.
3. Steady yourself or try using a tripod if you have one. Shaky hands can create blurry photos.
4. Use a plain background for focus on the item.
5. Move in as close as you can without the item getting blurry.
6. Try different angles.
7. Review your photos before sending them.
8. Sending them as attachments works better than sending them within the body of an email.

Your generosity is truly appreciated!



For additional questions or assistance, call CSEA Member Benefits at (866) 487-2732 or email memberbenefits@csea.com.



READ & LEARN



• **PACE Bulletin 2-23; Chapter Requests for PACE Financial Assistance**

School board/bond elections for many of the state’s public-school districts will be held in March of 2024, for the primary election, and in November of 2024, for the general election. In addition, special elections can be held throughout the year. Please check with your school district to verify when your school board elections will be held.

Ref. Leadership mail, dated 12/4/23

• **2024 In-Person Paraeducator Conference, March 12-14, 2024**

Ontario Convention Center in Southern California. [Watch this video!](#) Save the date and share this exciting news with your districts so they budget for CSEA paraeducators to take advantage of this amazing training and professional development opportunity.

For up to date information regarding this event, go to csea.com/paraconference. To download a flyer about the event, [click here](#) and pass it on to your members, or post it on your bulletin board.

• **Resolutions Bulletin 3-23; Instructions for Submitting Resolutions for 2024 CSEA Annual Conference**

The deadline for chapters to submit resolutions for the 2024 Annual Conference is February 1, 2024. Provided are procedures for submission of a resolution. Ref. Leadership mail, dated 10/16/23

• **General Information Bulletin 49-23; Leadership Academy Training Program Application**

CSEA’s Leadership Academy will be held in the South on May 7-8, 2024 and in the North on May 14-15, 2024. If you are interested in running for local public office such as school board, county board of education, or community college board of trustees, **please note the application period for members is now open and closes on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.**





AFL-CIO

Know Your Committee



COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Katie Andersen, Chair
San Diego COE Chapter #568
Areas H, I & K
katherinemillerandersen@gmail.com



Araceli Garcia
Glenn COE, Westside #718
Area A
araceli.garcia@glenncoe.org



Ruth Gloria
Retired,
Stanislaus COE Chapter #668
Areas D & E
grandmaruth3@gmail.com



Irena Herrera
Monterey COE Chapter #35
Areas B & C
ibc.herrera29@gmail.com



Catherine Wind-Muro
San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools
Chapter #633
Areas F & G
sbcsc-csea633@outlook.com



Amy Gonzales
Staff Coordinator
Field Director, Orange Field Office
agonzales@csea.com

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

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Content: Ruth Gloria, Katie Andersen, CSEA Communications

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

Upcoming Committee Meetings

January 3, 2024

February 7

March 1-2, Sacramento

May 1

June 5