



OCTOBER 2024



In The Know

CSEA's County Office of Education Committee Newsletter



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

by Katie Miller Andersen

Happy October, COE members! My hope is that you are settling in to a new school year with your favorite hot beverage while the crisp air of autumn renews your perspective.

Here at the COE Committee, we are starting to plan for our upcoming year, and have our first in-person meeting scheduled for the state-wide Super Session taking place at the end of October. During that meeting, we will set goals that will guide us in our Committee's purpose to research, educate, communicate and network regarding the issues and concerns of the county office of education chapters. We are also welcoming Everett Sivils from Monterey COE 35, representing Areas B & C.

As we build our COE community - through newsletters, becoming job stewards, and supporting classified-friendly candidates through our Victory Club, remember to exercise your vote and your voice this November. We have included a **voter guide** and a link to **register to vote** on **page 6** of this newsletter.

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Now, more than ever, your vote matters and means something. Make your voting plan now, and encourage your members to get to the polls too. **Together, we can make a difference for all.**



UNION STEWARDS

CSEA ensures that its Union Stewards get as much training as they need through the Union Steward Training Program...

Read about a member that just completed the program and is now ready to represent their members!



By Joseph J. Gomes, LVN, Union Steward, SCOE, #668, Modesto, Area E, Region 17

Shortly after I began working with SCOE, I was asked if I wanted to represent the nurses in the union. I have always been very supportive of unions, and was a member as well, but I was nervous representing a group on the executive board. I was new, I didn't even know what the job fully entailed. After waiting my probationary period, and learning that the union hasn't had any nurse representation in a number of years I felt I needed to step up and fill that role.

The training is, well, a lot. There is a lot of information to learn, as well as a lot to understand. It consisted of several full days in front of a computer, learning how to read and interpret a contract.

It also taught a more valuable skill, in my opinion, which is **"good communication skills."** You are going to be put in difficult situations, and remaining calm and firm is important, as well keeping a clear mind. All in all, it was a valuable training.

I am currently in my second year as a trainer, **first year fully jacketed!**

I am proud to represent my Nurses in Chapter #668 and hope to keep representing them as long as I am wanted.

Thank you Joey for stepping up; **You Do Matter!**



Joey is pictured amongst his fellow members of Chapter #668 during the RDFO Awards Ceremony, 2024, proudly wearing their Steward Jackets.

To learn more about becoming a Union Steward for your chapter click here:
<https://csea.com/events-and-training/union-leadership-training/union-steward-training>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHAPTER?

By Araceli Garcia, Vice President of Glenn COE, Westside #718 Area A, Region 6



Editors note: We reached out to Araceli as your COE Committee member and asked her a few questions about her participating in the Union Steward Program.

Q. What motivated you to take the Union Steward program?

A. I want to learn more about the Steward program and help the members.

Q. What was the hardest part of the program?

A. Understanding the rights of a Steward. A lot of reading to do.

Q. How will this program help you?

A. It will help me to learn more about my rights and how I can defend our members better!

Q. What classification will you be representing?

A. Paraprofessional members; CSEA union that make us STRONG by being united.

Q. Do you serve on the executive board?

A. Yes, I am the vice president of my chapter.

Q. What is your job title? And how long?

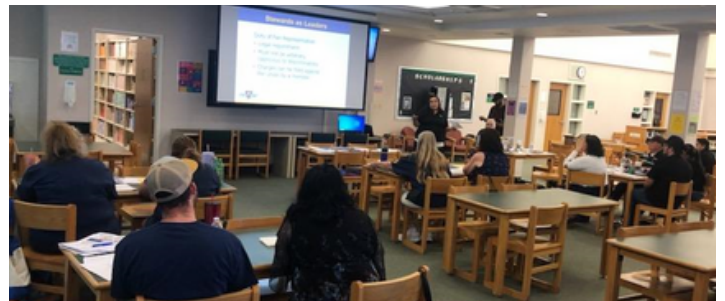
A. Paraprofessional for 18 years.

Q. Will any of your skills you learned assist you in your daily duties? If so, how?

A. Yes! They will help me because when you have training on Steward as a Leader you will be preparing to defend yourself or defend others in your chapter better.

Q. How has the program inspired you?

A. For me, it inspired me to continue with the three levels of the Union Steward training. Level 2 class will be Oct. 12 in Redding - Yes, I can do it! And, I want to have my beautiful Steward jacket -- I can Steward like a leader. CSEA thank you!

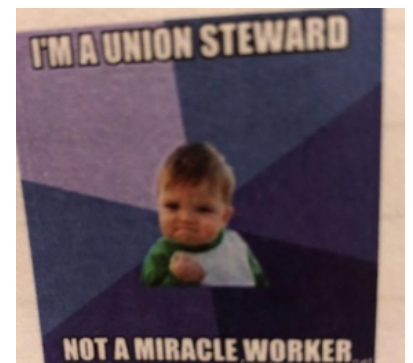


"Stewards as leaders" - Level 1, class presentation



Left photo: Patty Valenzuela of Colusa COE and Araceli Garcia

Bottom photo: Displayed Class photo



DO YOU KNOW YOUR BASIC RIGHTS?

As classified employees, we are afforded many basic rights by law or through collective bargaining.

Learn about your rights on the job and what you can do to protect yourself if your rights are violated.

The emphasis of CSEA's Know Your Rights training workshop is to assist members in detecting violations of the law and their collective bargaining agreements.



The following subjects may be discussed:

- Personnel Files
- Safety
- Leaves
- Layoffs
- Benefits
- Hours of Employment
- Right to Representation
- Disciplinary Action

Find upcoming Know Your Rights Training events near you.

[View Events](#)



THE CSEA VICTORY CLUB NEEDS YOU

Join the non-partisan CSEA Victory Club to help us raise vital funds to support classified-friendly candidates running for local, state and federal offices.

Your membership will help support candidates who have received CSEA's endorsement based on their completed questionnaires, voting records and demonstrating strong support for issues of importance to classified employees.



[Join Now](#)

These issues include:

- Protecting Prop 98 and increasing education funding
- Electing pro-education and pro-labor school board members and community college trustees
- Increasing pension and healthcare benefits
- Stopping the privatization and outsourcing of classified jobs to the private sector
- Standing up for working families

Join today and help us give classified employees a powerful voice in protecting our rights, retirement and job security.

CSEA DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Dependent Scholarships - \$1,000

Your family members are our family. And to show our appreciation to the commitment of our members, we offer annual scholarships to your dependents.

With an overall annual scholarship and grant budget of over \$160,000, CSEA offers \$1,000 scholarships to dependents and spouses of CSEA members, helping many continue their education after high school.

These scholarships are for:

- Graduating high school seniors
- Community college students
- College/university students
- Trade/vocational student

Applications will be available November 1, 2024.



County Office of Ed Quick Facts

- There are 58 County Superintendents in California.
- 53 County Superintendents are elected, 5 are appointed.
- Do you know which 5 counties are appointed?
- Email your liaison with your guess! (Answers will be in next month's "In The Know.")

Source: cacountysupts.org



EMPOWERMENT

At CSEA, we believe in education, service, and fostering personal and collective growth through the empowerment of members and the power of organized labor.

EMPOWERMENT



CORE VALUES

RESPECT

At CSEA, we respect our members' and staff's contributions, needs, and the importance of being kind to each other.

RESPECT



CORE VALUES



READ & LEARN



- **CSEA Endorsements and 2024 Voter Guide**

CSEA endorsed several candidates in this election. Endorsements are listed in the CSEA Voter Guide along with an overview of CSEA's endorsement process.

Click here for your **Voter Guide** !

- **Register to Vote**

California's 2024 General Election will be held **November 5**, and ballots will be mailed to voters on October 7. Check your **voter status** or register to **vote** by clicking the links here.

- **Board of Directors Meeting**

Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; must register to attend online; **in person**, San Jose Headquarters, 2045 Lundy Ave., San Jose.

- **Find the right training for you and your chapter. Click on the link below; must have an account with CSEA**

<https://csea.com/events-and-training/upcoming>

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS IN NEED!

With fire season in California upon us, CSEA is here to help. CSEA offers emergency financial assistance to subsidize losses experienced due to evacuation or loss of home. Submit an application for emergency assistance now at **csea.com/assistance** or call **866-487-2732**

Apply for Assistance



California School Employees Association



Clip & Save for a Chance to Win a Prize!

Turn in at the COE Committee vendor booth at CSEA's next Conference in 2025.

See you in Reno!





AFL-CIO

Know Your Committee



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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

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CONNECT WITH US



[@CSEA County Office of Education Committee](https://www.facebook.com/CSEACountyOfficeofEducationCommittee)



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

Upcoming Committee Meetings

**October 2, 2024 via Zoom
&
October 24-27 Super Session,
Reno, NV**