



# In The Know

CSEA's County Office of Education Committee Newsletter



## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

by **Katie Miller Andersen**

September is here, and that means back to school!

Some of us spent the summer in preparation of this very time while others are eagerly awaiting for students to arrive and begin a new year of learning. Whatever your role is in your school community, I appreciate your service. As we say in the COE Committee every month, YOU MATTER!

I always get a renewed spirit for the work of the Union after attending conference, and most of that comes from connecting with you, our members. Join me now, at the beginning of the new school year to renew our commitment to improving the lives of our members, schools and communities.

As a new school session begins, it also brings change, and that is true for the COE Committee. Our member, **Irenea Herrera**, has been appointed as the new **Chairperson** of the **Education Committee**.

## CONTENTS

- 01 Chair's Comments**
- 03 Together We Thrive**
- 04 Conference "Newbies"**
- 07 COE Committee Bids Farewell to Irenea Herrera**
- 09 Update: Unite Here Local 11**
- 10 Read & Learn**

Congratulations on your new role, Irenea, and thank you for your service! We look forward to working with you in a different way, but will miss you on our Committee.

( Continue on page 2 )



# CHAIR'S COMMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

THANK YOU to all of the COE chapter delegates to conference who stopped by our committee booth to say hi, signed up to receive our newsletter, and spin our prize wheel.

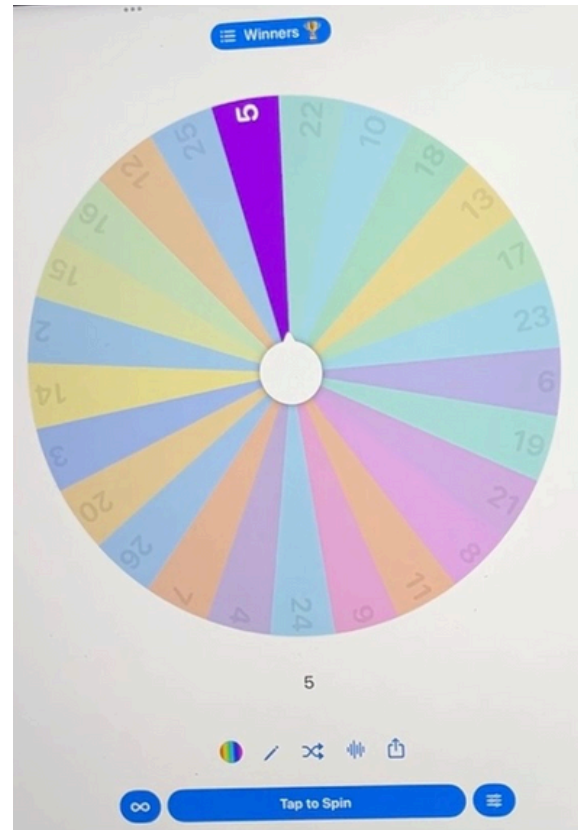
Make sure you share with us what your chapter is up to so we can feature you in upcoming newsletters. Contact your area liaison with your story.



COE Committee Chair, Katie Andersen entertains members visiting the COE Committee Booth



(L-R) Javier Archuleta and Laz Ayala from SDCOE 568. Laz was the lucky recipient of our **Route 66 banner**. Congratulations Laz!



Below photos: Delegates visit the COE Committee Booth





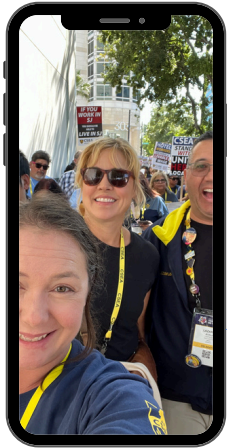


CSEA's 98th Annual Conference

**TOGETHER  
WE THRIVE**



Spot your  
chapter  
delegate



Money raised by delegates during **"Pass the Bucket"** for the Humanitarian Fund - Members helping Members!



[98th Annual Conference News and Photos](#)  
CSEA held its 98th Annual Conference in San Jose. View all the highlights from this year's event, including daily recaps and photo galleries, plus features on award recipients and more. For everyone who was there, thank you for all the hard work you put in to make this year's Conference a success!



# CONFERENCE "NEWBIES"

**By Desiree Ransom, Stanislaus County Office of Education, #688, Region 17, Modesto, Area E**

I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 98th CSEA Annual Conference in San Jose, and what an amazing experience it was!



As the Blue-Collar Union Steward for SCOE for the

six months, I was beyond thrilled to participate in the conference and connect with fellow delegates from various chapters across California.

Summing up my overall experience in just three words, I'd say it was absolutely **thrilling, incredibly fascinating, and undeniably inspirational!**

My fellow chapter members had always raved about the CSEA conferences, and I can confidently say that this one truly surpassed all expectations.

Each day of the conference was filled with such vibrant energy and enthusiasm as soon as you stepped onto the conference floor.

Since taking on the role of steward, I've been eager to absorb as much information as possible to better support my fellow chapter members, and attending a conference was high on my priority list.

Learning about the democratic process and the functions of CSEA was not only incredibly informative but also empowering.

I attended two enriching classes during Ed Days: "A Leader's Guide to Conflict Resolution" and "Increasing Chapter Strength." The tools and techniques I acquired from these courses are not only beneficial for my work but also

applicable in my personal life. Implementing conflict resolution and mutual benefit strategies was particularly enlightening for me.

After witnessing the power and excitement of democracy in action, I wholeheartedly encourage anyone to become involved with the union. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the decisions that can be made and their impact. Many of our members are unaware of the influence they can wield by simply participating in meetings. ***Do you have an issue? Show up to a meeting. Grateful for your negotiated raise? Show up to a meeting. Want to see more positive changes for your fellow members? Attend a conference and learn.***

Our influence extends not only to our membership but also to those around us.

For instance, we showed our support to our sibling United Local 19 in their pursuit of a contract for hospitality workers in nearby hotels. We marched, we picketed, we stood together in solidarity. It was truly an uplifting experience. This was my inaugural march, and I am truly enthusiastic and ready to do it all over again!



Desiree holds up a picket sign in Solidarity, back row.  
Photo Credit: Maria Ochoa, SCOE #668

**(Continue on page 5 )**



# CONFERENCE "NEWBIES"

(Continued from page 4)

I have been a part of the Stanislaus County Office of Education for seven years, initially as a Data Technician and currently as a Data Specialist in Graphics. Our department supports the county and all our districts with their printing needs, whether it's a poster or math curriculum. Graphics is a self-sustaining department within our organization, and I oversee the daily operations to ensure everything runs seamlessly. The unwavering support I have received from my union has only strengthened my ability to be a reliable pillar of support for my colleagues in our department.



Desiree stands proudly with CSEA Association President Adam Weinberger.  
Photo credit: Dianne Warner, SCOE #668

**By Kim McAlexander,  
San Diego County Office  
of Education #568,  
Region 97,  
Area K**



Kim McAlexander is the Child Nutrition Supervisor at the San Diego County Office of Education's Cuyamaca Outdoor School.

Kim was nominated to attend conference by her respected colleagues and had never attended before. She was "honored and excited to be able to attend" the 98th CSEA Annual Conference held in San Jose.

The Conference was, "everything I expected and then some. I learned so much and came away with a new appreciation for my union and the processes involved."

Kim attended three classes offered during Ed Days: "The 5 Buckets Principles", "A Leader's Guide to Conflict Resolution" and "10 Steps to Financial Success."

Kim responded after attending the classes that, "The 5 Buckets Principles," and the "A Leader's Guide to Conflict Resolution," would "**absolutely,**" benefit her and her work site.

After attending Conference and learning more about how CSEA works as an organization, Kim is inspired to become a Union Steward for her chapter.

Kim has been a member of CSEA since 2006.

(Continue on page 6)





# CONFERENCE "NEWBIES"

(Continued from page 5 )

**By Arlene Mercado, Imperial County Office of Education #614, Region 63, Area K**



When I first heard about the CSEA conference, I wasn't fully aware of what it entailed or the significance it held for our community and beyond. My initial curiosity was sparked when I volunteered and began attending various trainings and meetings. These experiences helped me realize how crucial our collective voice is not just locally but on a statewide level.

I wanted to attend the conference to gain a deeper understanding of its purpose and to see firsthand how it could influence and enhance our community's impact. It was important for me to be part of this event, not just to learn more, but also to contribute and engage more effectively with the issues and opportunities that matter to us.

Attending the CSEA conference was an eye-opening experience that differed greatly from my initial expectations. While I had heard various things about the conference, the reality far surpassed those expectations. The speakers were truly enlightening, and the scope of the discussions was beyond what I had imagined. Additionally, the networking opportunities were more extensive than I had anticipated.

I was told to expect a high level of engagement and insight, but the conference delivered even more impact than I expected.

The sessions provided a wealth of knowledge and sparked a newfound appreciation for the importance of our collective voice. It was a powerful reminder of the role we play in shaping our community and advocating for our members.

Overall, although my initial expectations were based on limited information, the actual experience was far more enriching and inspiring than I had anticipated.

I attended two Ed Days classes: "5 Practical Steps to Increase Financial Wellness" and "Understanding the District Budget to Improve Negotiations."

Understanding the District Budget to Improve Negotiations: I believe this class will benefit me at my work site. I didn't have much or any knowledge about negotiations before and I am still limited but this class provided valuable information regarding budgets, which is crucial for effective negotiations. It has given me a much better understanding of the financial aspects that will help me contribute more effectively.

I have been a member of CSEA since 2017 when I became a regular employee for ICOE and was appointed President of Chapter #614.



(L-R) Laura Aguilar Treasurer, ICOE 614 with Arlene



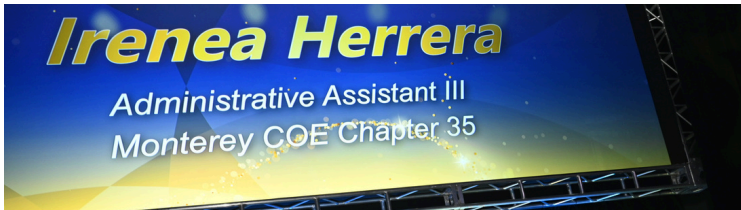
(L-R) Arlene, Michael Breyette, Susana Zarate Sandoval (RR - Imperial Unified SD), Laura Aguilar and Lynn Breyette.



Left photo: Center, front row, Arlene proudly holds her badge amongst the delegates attending Conference.



# COE COMMITTEE BIDS FAREWELL TO IRENEA



Irenea Herrera is a relatively new COE Committee member, appointed in 2023, but her hard work and dedication to CSEA and its members is something that makes Irenea special. Irenea was awarded the “Member of Year” during the 98th CSEA Annual Conference, held in San Jose and also received a Communications Award. During our committee chair’s time in the Member Intern Program, Irenea stepped up as committee co-chair and led the COE Committee.

Her leadership experience did not go unnoticed, and Association President Adam Weinberger, has appointed her Chairperson of the Education Committee, as former chair Laura Moore is now the Area H Director. We send Irenea our best wishes on her next endeavor.

The COE Committee reached out to her and asked her for one final article for our newsletter, describing her position at the Monterey County Office of Education on her well deserved recognition -- **“CSEA Member of the Year 2024.”**

Irenea works as an Administrative Assistant III at the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE). She has worked at the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) for over 13 years. Irenea is a liaison to the Superintendents in the county that make up the governing board of the Monterey County SELPA. She coordinates the agency’s public meetings and the SELPA Director’s Cabinet meetings while also assisting families with special education resources.

Irenea is the Chapter Communications Officer at Chapter 35 Monterey COE and has received three CSEA Communication Awards - Award of Excellence in Newsletter '21 and Web '23 and '24.



Pictured (L-R): Dr. Ralph Porras, Deputy Superintendent, MCOE, Rosalyn Litzza, Awards Committee Rep, Irenea Herrera, MOY 2024, and Adam Weinberger, CSEA Association President. Photo credit: Elite Photography Group



Adam Weinberger, CSEA Association President, presents the Communication Award to Irenea Herrera, CH35 MCOE. Photo credit: Elite Photography Group

She is also the recipient of one of CSEA’s highest honors presented to members for their commitment and dedication to the students of California, community involvement, and union activism. Irenea was recognized at the CSEA Annual Conference 2024 in San Jose with a Member of the Year (MOY) award. It was a moment she will remember all her life.

Irenea has been a member of CSEA since 2011.

**(Continue on page 8)**



## COE Committee bids a farewell

Irenea started to volunteer with the American Cancer Society early in her career, but it became personal when her cousin died of breast cancer. She is a team captain at the **Relay for Life of The Salinas Valley**, and along with her daughter, Leilana, and niece, Sophia, they created **“Team Geraldine.”** Their family continues to honor her memory and help raise funds to support cancer research for their community.



Pictured (L-R: Sophia Lagasca, Irenea Herrera and Leilana Herrera) of **Team Geraldine Lagasca**, Salinas, CA. Photo credit: Mel Herrera

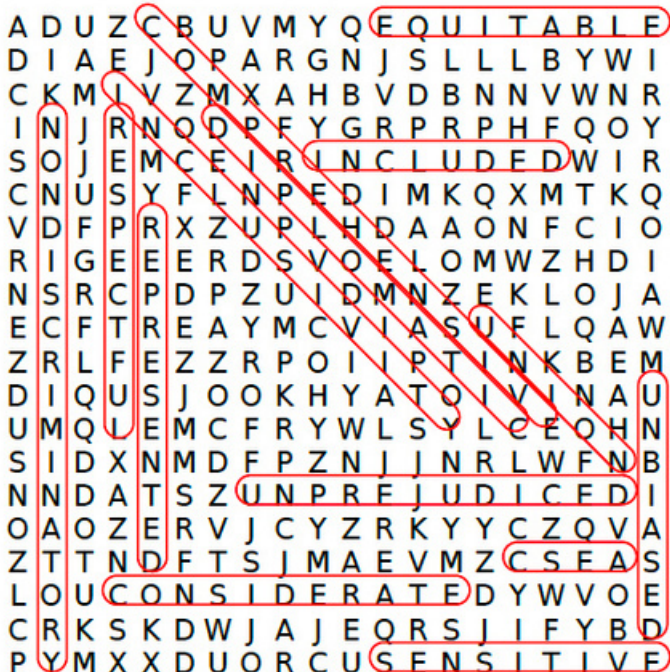
(Continued from page 7)



Irenea Herrera enjoys the Awards Luncheon with (L-R) Rosalyn Litzza, David Kong, Katie Andersen, Pres. Adam Weinberger, Joshua Leimann, Dr. Ralph Porras. Photo credit: Mel Herrera



Pictured (L-R): Irenea Herrera, Catherine Wind-Muro, and Katie Andersen of CSEA COE Committee. Photo credit: Elite Photography Group



INCLUSIVITY - Answer Key (June 2024 Issue)

Thank you Irenea for your contributions as **Co-Chair** to our COE Committee and for your commitment at your work site; your CSEA members; and, to your community, **“You Do Matter!”**



# UPDATE: UNITE HERE LOCAL 11 WINS FAIR CONTRACT

In November of 2023 during CSEA's Super Session, CSEA member leaders marched in solidarity with Unite Here Local 11 in order to raise awareness of working conditions and a contract dispute at the Glendale Hilton. We are happy to report that there has finally been a resolution to the contract dispute. Unite Here Local 11 reports, "The workers of the Hotel Figueroa and the Glendale Hilton have reached a tentative agreement with management, winning Wages, Pension, Healthcare, and Fair Workloads! Sí Se Puede!"

**Source:** Unite Here Local 11's Facebook, posted, August 8, 2024

Photo: Front row: (L-R) COE Committee members: chair-Katie Andersen, Ireena Hererra, (daughter Leilana Herrera), Ruth Gloria and Anna Ramirez, RR, Reg. 67 Area E. Second row: Araceli Garcia, (CSEA Staff Danny Corum) and Catherine Wind-Muro. Back Row: Jeremy Panelli, Newman-Crowslanding #551, walked the picket line with CSEA leadership from across the state to support **Unite Here Local 11 in Glendale**, November of 2023.

Photo credit: Jennie Curto







## READ & LEARN



- **Policy Bulletin 5-24; Policy Handbook, Newly Revised**

Policy Handbook, updated as of the 98th Annual Conference. Please download a digital copy and only print if necessary.

Source: Leadership mail, Aug. 19, 2024

- **General Information Bulletin 29-24; Constitution & Bylaws, 2024 Revised Edition**

Constitution & Bylaws, 2024 Revised Edition, updated as of the 98th Annual Conference. Please download a digital copy and only print if necessary.

Source: Leadership mail, Aug. 19, 2024

- **Your college benefit just got better: More schools & programs for fall**

With more in-demand college options than ever, the Edvance college match process helps you quickly and easily find the school and program that's best for your union family.

Copy the link into your browser:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQVxtmdptDdXkdVxrKmlnhThRxM>

Source: Union Plus emailed Aug. 1, 2024

### September 2



## Looking for A Scary Good Time This Fall?

[csea.com/fun](https://csea.com/fun)



California School Employees Association

Keep [csea.com/fun](https://csea.com/fun) on your radar and we'll update the seasonal filter with some of California's best thrilling and chilling favorites, like: Universal Studios Halloween Horror Nights, Knott's Scary Farm and Disneyland Resort's Halloween décor. Plus, let's not forget family fall favorites like California's Great America Tricks and Treats, Legoland's Brick or Treat, and The Great Big BOO event at Gilroy Gardens. These events will be starting in the month of September, so beware!

### How can you access these discounts, you ask?

Access these discounts and purchase tickets at [csea.com/fun](https://csea.com/fun)!

**Coming Soon:** Waterparks, like South Bay Shores at Great America, The Island, Wild Water, Wild River, and Knott's Soak City. Check back in at [csea.com/fun](https://csea.com/fun) soon!

Save some change and have some fun with CSEA!

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



AFL-CIO

# Know Your Committee



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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



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



**Irene Herrera, Co-chair**  
Monterey COE Chapter #35  
Areas B & C  
ibc.herrera29@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



**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

Content: Ruth Gloria, Irene Herrera, CSEA Communications

### CONNECT WITH US



[@CSEA County Office of Education Committee](#)



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

### Upcoming Committee Meetings

**September 4 via zoom**