

# Cal-Liope

Join CWC  
 The Professional  
 Association  
 For Workforce  
 Professionals

## MESSAGE FROM THE CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE CONNECTION **PRESIDENT**

By James Thomas, President

I want to thank you for electing me as president of the California Workforce Connection (CWC). I am looking forward to sharing knowledge, expanding membership, challenging leaders, information sharing, and enhancing training programs. We were excited to be able to hold an in-person conference this year on May 13. We had excellent speakers and an exciting awards

presentation. We had the opportunity to network with old and new friends while sneaking in a few hugs. The conference had lots of laughter, joyful tears, and many shared stories.

The CWC educational grants have been increased for our members. CWC wants our members to take advantage of our grant program toward educational advancement. We are currently in the process of developing our educational website portal. The CWC



PRESIDENT JAMES THOMAS

website houses workshops and training videos for our membership. CWC training is developed for promotional advancement or personal development. You must invest in yourself and CWC will be the bridge to success.

## What's New On The Website

By B.J. Sims, Website Administrator and Silicon Valley Chapter member

[www.californiaworkforceconnection.org](http://www.californiaworkforceconnection.org)

Members can now view the 2022 conference video presentations:

- EDD Director, Nancy Farias
- Devin Hughes, motivational speaker on changing workplace cultures.
- Rob Claudio's impactful personal growth presentation on "Reinventing Your Life."
- California State Senator, Josh Newman spoke on his military experience and how it motivated his efforts to help veterans.
- Penny Lambright, of Clutter Cleaners and CEO of Patriots and Paws offered "Tips on Ways to Declutter Your Life."

If you attended the Conference and want to view the presentations again or if you missed the 2022

Conference and want to see it, you can find the videos on the Members Only Portal on [www.californiaworkforceconnection.org](http://www.californiaworkforceconnection.org). Just sign in with your user ID and password, and go to the Archives page.

If you have not requested your Members Only access, just complete the Contact Us form, including your personal email address. After your membership is confirmed, you will receive an email with your access information.

Our website is always looking for new, fresh information to communicate to members. The CWC website wants your Chapter's News and Events flyers, local chapter training, and presentations, as well as educational articles. By sharing your flyers and articles on the website you can market and share them with a larger

audience. Having them on the website will also highlight and recognize your efforts. Remember to share your flyer and articles with your Local Chapter President and District Director.

See how [www.californiaworkforceconnection.org](http://www.californiaworkforceconnection.org) can help you get connected to what's happening!

- The "About Us" page provides an overview of our organization and current Board of Directors members.
- "News & Events" has flyers and information posted on State and current local chapters to let members know about upcoming meetings, training, and activities.
- "Awards" page has award categories, nomination processes, and forms. The

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## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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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**

# Tips On Applying for a Bybee Grant

*Bybee Board: John Szeibert, Arlene Bautista, and Tom Sims*

**TIP 1** Do your research before starting a training program, make sure the training provider is an accredited organization. Check Better Business Bureau for any complaints and ratings for the training provider. Compare that their costs are in line with other organizations providing the same training. Make sure the course is what you want and need for your career enhancement.

**TIP 2** You must have been a member in good standing for one year at the time you submit your application.

**TIP 3** You must have completed the training prior to applying for the Bybee Grant.

**TIP 4** You must have attended a single course, program, or related activity which clearly relates to your professional advancement in the field of workforce development.

**TIP 5** The course cannot be a required course for a degree or the purpose of matriculation.

**TIP 6** The course is related to career advancement or enhancement of skills in workforce development fields.

**TIP 7** Make sure all fields in the application are complete and the form is signed.

**TIP 8** Attach all documentation such as:

- Training provider's description of the course, class, certification exam, or training.
- Documentation from the training entity that the course was satisfactorily completed.
- Proof of payment that you paid for the class, training, certification, or program.
- Make sure your contact information is current and you can be reached if the Bybee Board needs additional information.

**TIP 9** Respond to any follow-up inquiries from the Board promptly. Remember they are working to respond to you within a specific timeframe. If you delay in providing the information you may not be approved.

**TIP 10** The Bybee trustees can approve grant requests up to \$750 or two grants per member, per fiscal year, whichever is less.

Good Luck in your educational endeavors!

## WHAT IS NEW ON THE WEBSITE FROM PAGE 1

2021 Award winners are now posted.

- "Join Now" has fillable pdf membership forms to download.
- "Bybee" Grant's updated application and Tips are available on the Education page.
- "Members Only" pages have resources such as the By-laws, Operating Procedures, and the Local Chapter Handbook with forms, archived flyers, and reports. The Board Page has the meeting agendas and minutes for reference.

- If you are a current member and want access to the Members Only Portal, complete the **Contact Us** form with your personal email to request a password. Once you receive your temporary password you can change it by using the forgot password feature to reset it to a customized password.

If you have a flyer or activity to post, please send it to the Website Administrator at: [bjtsims@gmail.com](mailto:bjtsims@gmail.com).

### Are you retiring? LET CWC KNOW!

Send that information to CWC to provide you with the retiree rate for CWC

**CONTACT US**

### Did you just get a promotion to management? LET CWC KNOW!

Send your information to CWC to provide you with the manager rate for CWC

**CONTACT US**

### Did you just recruit a new member to CWC from the almost 4,000 new hires in Unemployment Insurance? LET CWC KNOW!

Get that membership application mailed in and help your new friend get their Members Only Login on the CWC website

**CONTACT US**

## RETIREE MESSAGE

By Nanette Bowman, Orange Empire Chapter

Thank you to our 2022-2023 President James Thomas for trusting me to serve another term as Retiree Chair and as CWC State Chapter Secretary. I will also continue as Secretary/Treasurer of District IV and the Past Presidents Association.

It is a pleasure to work with such dedicated Board members. These assignments are an encouragement to keep up with modern technology and develop skills. What a pleasure when all systems are working! Some old tools that were so helpful are now passé with wonderful replacements, such as floppy disks and CDs that must be destroyed with a hammer or run over with your car. I am still using flash drives because I am not sure what is in 'the cloud.' Thankfully, the new generation is there as a safety net when we need help. I cannot wait to see what happens next.

As always, I encourage retirees to get involved with your local chapters. Contact me if you are not sure who your officers are. You are so welcome to send me ideas for articles or share what you are up to – you know my email: [nanettebowman@cox.net](mailto:nanettebowman@cox.net).

Stay well and stay in touch.



NANETTE BOWMAN



RETIREES JOY KIRKPATRICK AND NAN BOWMAN CATCH UP AT THE CONFERENCE IN MAY.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### HIGHLIGHTS OF GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S STATE BUDGET

By Dinah White, State Legislative Chair and LA Chapter Education Chair

Governor Gavin Newsom signed a \$308 billion state budget that provides direct tax refunds for 23 million Californians to help address rising costs, tackle the state's most pressing needs, build our reserves, and invest in California's future. It is hard out there and we know it. So, California is giving \$9.5 billion back to 23 million Californians from up to \$1,050, as soon as October!

Here are the other top things you need to know about the budget. This budget includes a \$14.8 BILLION transportation infrastructure investment. That means money for rail and transit projects, climate adaptation projects, walking and bicycling projects, highways and streets, our ports, and more. We are also investing to speed up our transition to zero-emission vehicles.

We are now the FIRST and ONLY state in the nation that offers universal access to health care coverage, regardless of your immigration status. And, if you want insulin, California will be producing its own insulin to make it less expensive and more affordable for everyone.

Additionally, we are making major investments to address California's homeless crisis by getting people into housing & shelter. We have \$2.2 billion for encampment resolutions around the state and new bridge housing to support people going through CARE Court – tens of thousands of people with a safe roof over their head and the mental health and substance use help many desperately need.

And it is no longer K-12, it is Pre-K to 16. We are investing a truly historic \$170 billion to continue our transformation of education in California. From our master plan for early learning to free community college, education has never been more accessible in our state. New this year, we have \$7.9 billion to help with learning recovery, more investments in higher

education, an additional \$2 billion for affordable student housing (on top of last year's \$2 billion), and \$3.5 billion that schools can use on arts, music, and more.

*This budget includes:*

- \$14.8 billion transportation infrastructure investment;
- Universal access to health care coverage regardless of immigration status
- Investments to address California's homeless crisis
- \$170 billion to continue the transformation in education
- Investment in behavioral health
- Investing in a gun buyback program, a permanent Smash & Grab Enforcement Unit and support of the National Guard's drug interdiction efforts

root causes of crime and getting guns and drugs off our streets. The state is launching the largest gun buyback program in the nation, funding a permanent Smash and Grab Enforcement Unit to fight retail theft, and investing \$30 million to support the National Guard's drug interdiction efforts, targeting transnational criminal organizations.

After these last few years, everyone knows we are experiencing a mental health crisis and California is taking it seriously. We are investing big in behavioral health for adults and our kids. This year, there's new urgent funding for wellness support programs, funding for youth suicide reporting and prevention, and more. While Californians should always feel safe whether that is at home, at the park, or at work, California is tackling the



## “Finding True Joy”

By Rob Claudio

I recently went for a walk up the hill from where I live, which got off to a rocky start because I had an excuse of not having enough time for it. However, once I got going my head cleared up, and then enjoyed the beautiful natural landscapes around me while reminiscing about where I was when I heard an old song playing on my music application. As I was headed back down, I could see a man walking closer to me and as he passed by me, I said good morning and he smiled as he walked on. The man looked a bit tired and was carrying a large black plastic bag which I figured had his belongings in it. I then paused a bit and looked back as I watched him continue walking up that hill and I wished that he had a blessed day.

As I continued my way home, I contemplated how I was reluctant to go on this walk and it was all for my own better health. Unlike the person who walked by me and appeared to be walking out of necessity. It is a moment like this that always makes me count all my blessings, no matter how small I think they may be. All of us can easily forget how much we must be thankful for and all it takes is a quick look around our own surroundings to realize that other people would love to have our life.

I also thought about the devastation occurring in Ukraine and how the people are being forced out of their homes and country, while travesties are being committed around them. When I saw a picture of Poland and the train stations awaiting refugees with several donated strollers placed there for babies who may need them, it also warmed my heart to think that in the most difficult times there are people who continue to do good things for others.

I know that the news of the world can be tough to absorb, especially when the focus is on what is going wrong, however, I hope that you fine-tune your personal filter to what may be going right around you. It is the only way that we can make some balanced sense of what our lives are filled with. Also, we

must remember the great heart-warming examples such as those people in Poland and to do good for others, even if it may seem like a small effort.

Many of us know of folks in or around our inner circle that could use some help in one way or another. Think about how you could be a blessing to others and remove yourself as the focal point, even if for just one day. You will see how quickly that shifting of focus can brighten up your perspective and almost immediately bring to mind how much good that is already part of your life. Note that small efforts can add up quickly and the result at the end of a short period, can paint a different picture of what truly is valuable in your life. Hence, when making a list of your to-do things for the day or as you are planning for the weekend ahead, add in there one thing that you could do to help someone else.

Perhaps you can randomly pay for someone’s cup of coffee at your favorite beverage place, pick up a tab at a drive-through for the person behind you or donate a small amount of money to a favorite charity/cause. You can also donate some of your time to something you find meaning in, as it all is so worth it! As much fun as planned festive events may bring you, I guarantee that your heart will feel much fuller along with a greater sense of joy when you begin to take inventory of all the things that you could do to make others a priority. I wish you much success in your efforts to brighten up someone else’s day and I trust that your greater sense of joy will be growing exponentially as a result.

*“Spread kindness, caring, and compassion and create your own paradise.*

*Infuse it with joy and you’ve created heaven on earth.”*

– Amy Leigh Mercree

Remember to follow the blog at:  
[inventingyourlife.blogspot.com](http://inventingyourlife.blogspot.com)



ROB CLAUDIO

## DISTRICT III

### DISTRICT III SUPPORT COMPTON LIVES MATTER'S JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION IN COMPTON

By Dinah White, Past LA Chapter President

Celebrations were held throughout Los Angeles County, June 17-18, 2022, to mark Juneteenth, the federal holiday commemorating the date of the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Activities included musical performances, speaker’s series, wellness activities, resource fairs, artist experiences, hands-on children’s activities, and more.

Compton Lives Matter (State Award of Distinction winner) on June 18, organized a Juneteenth Celebration Festival & Resource Fair, which aimed to raise awareness of the historical impact of Juneteenth, connect residents to vital community services, and create a necessary space for celebrating the joy and redefining what freedom means today with empowering discussions, performances, and activities. The event was co-sponsored by Deidre Duhart, District 1 Compton Councilwoman. The entire Council was in attendance including Andre Spicer, District 2, Jonathan Bowers, District 3, and Lillie Darden, District 4. Additionally, Emma Sharif, Mayor, provided encouraging remarks about the uplifting event and resident participation is such a noteworthy event.

The event, at Sibrie Park in Compton, featured musical performances, artwork, kid’s activities, food trucks, speakers, and community resource presentations. California Workforce Connection (CWC) incoming LA Chapter President, Tyrone Carroll Jr was the Master of Ceremony. Members of CWC District III volunteered to assist at this joyful occasion including District III Director, Dadisi Elliott, LA Chapter President, Dinah White, and LA

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DISTRICT III NEWS FROM PAGE 4

Chapter Member, Alma Diaz by distributing free school supplies and uniforms.

District III also supported the event with a monetary donation from its chapters. In addition, members also handed out raffles' prizes throughout the event including microwaves, skillets, crock pots, toys, cosmetics, and linens.

President Joe Biden signed legislation that made the celebration a federal holiday in June 2021. Several states officially adopted the holiday over the past few months, including Connecticut, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington. A bill introduced in California passed the Assembly and moved to the Senate in July.



## LOS ANGELES CHAPTER VETERAN AFFAIRS LIFE INSURANCE

*By Dana Burks, LA Chapter Veterans Chair*

Veteran Affairs (VA) life insurance can offer financial security for Veterans, service members, and their spouses and dependent children. There are six VA life insurance options, two of which are geared toward current service members (Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Family Service Members' group life Insurance (FSGLI)) and four others: Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI), Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI), and Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI).

Different programs cover Veterans (VGLI), service members (SGLI), and family members (FSGLI). One may also be able to get short-term financial coverage through TSGLI to help one recover from a traumatic (severe) injury. And if one is disabled because of an injury or illness caused – or made worse – by one's active service, one may be able to get coverage through S-DVI to continue one's life insurance beyond 2 years after one leaves the military. If one has a severe service-connected disability, one may get mortgage protection insurance for a home that has been adapted to meet one's needs through VMLI.

For more information, please visit the VA insurance options and eligibility page on the Veteran Affairs website.

## VETERAN SERVICES UPDATE & APPRECIATION BREAKFAST: "A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"

*By Vanessa Alfaro, LA Chapter Member*

The Veteran Services Update & Appreciation Breakfast was held on Thursday, May 26, 2022, from 9 am to 12 pm at the Long Beach Workforce Services office. The event was held in the Rosi Pedersen Conference Room, where approximately 30-40 Veteran Staff and guests were invited to attend and celebrate a Day of Remembrance to honor United States Veterans in recognition of our upcoming state holiday, Memorial Day.

The main program included opening remarks by Alicia Patman, Pledge of Allegiance by Dimetrios Vandiegriff, Benediction by Joseph Velasco, Welcome by Salvador Barajas (Pacific Gateway Site Manager), Speaker Dinah White, Keynote



Speaker and former Division Chief, Michael Dolphin, and Veteran Services Update by Dadisi Elliot, Veteran Services Support Specialist from the LA/Coastal Workforce Services Division. The committee that hosted this event included Dinah White and PrinceJames ReedWilliams, along with assistance from staff in the Long Beach and Compton offices.

Special appreciation and thanks were awarded to the Veterans that make up the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER), and to all the military service members, their families, advocates, supporters, and friends. A special award presentation was given to Verletta "Val" Moller for her tireless support of veterans including volunteering at numerous "Honor A Hero, Hire A Vet, Job & Resource Fairs". Unfortunately, Val was not in attendance but later received her plaque at the Compton Workforce Services office.

California State Assemblymember, Mike A. Gipson, Representing District 64 which includes our Region 2 provided certificates of appreciation for our Veteran Staff in recognition of their military service.

The event was a heartfelt moment honoring the sacrifices of our veterans and their service to our country.



## ORANGE EMPIRE CHAPTER

*By Nanette Bowman, Orange Empire Member*

Orange Empire Chapter is a sponsor of the St. Jude Walk/Run fundraiser on September 24, 2022. Please help us reach our goal to raise more than \$500. Susana Gonzalez set up our team page. The link is: <http://fundraising.stjude.org/goto/CWCOrangeEmpireChapter>.

Our monthly Board meetings are held on Zoom making it convenient for anyone who wishes to attend. Announcement flyers are always posted on the CWC website as well as a current calendar. We look forward to a highly productive year for 2022-2023.



## PUERTO DEL SOL CHAPTER LOCAL PUERTO DEL SOL CWC CHAPTER BRINGS BACK ITS ANNUAL PICNIC

*By Alexa Navarro, Puerto Del Sol Secretary*

San Diego County's local Puerto Del Sol California Workforce Connection (CWC) chapter held its annual summer picnic for the first time in a couple of years on June 11. The annual summer

MORE CHAPTER NEWS ON PAGE 6





PUERTO DEL SOL MEMBERS WITH THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

CHAPTER NEWS FROM PAGE 6 picnic, which has been a staple event for the chapter for many years, was put on indefinite hold when the COVID-19 pandemic first made a wave both nationally and internationally in 2020, and workplaces transitioned to a virtual working environment. Now, more than two years into the pandemic, the Puerto Del Sol chapter was eager to host an in-person event to reconnect members and to create a bonding opportunity for San Diego County employees to partake in team-building activities, especially as many have been isolated due to a prolonged period of working remotely since the inception of the pandemic.



CHILDREN WERE PROVIDED WITH VARIOUS ACTIVITY OPTIONS

The picnic was held at San Diego's Admiral Baker RV and Picnic Park, a Navy park open to the public and filled with playgrounds, basketball courts, gazebos, picnic tables, golf courses, and other amenities for guests to enjoy. With approximately 60 individuals in attendance, comprised of Puerto Del Sol members and their respective family and friends, the picnic was an ideal opportunity for attendees to catch up with coworkers and fellow members they had not seen in person in over a year, enjoy the activities (which was comprised of volleyball and horseshoe), and consume the many food and beverages available while a couple of Puerto Del Sol members barbecued on a charcoal grill.

Although for numerous years in a row the annual picnic was held at a beach, the change in scenery with the park location this time around was welcomed with open arms by those in attendance, as many commented on the ideal location due to the ample amount of shade, activities, and the idyllic scenery of greenery and trees. Overall, the Puerto Del Sol Chapter found the picnic to be a success and a new beginning for the chapter as it not only reconnected members through an inclusive in-person event after over two years of exclusively virtual contact, but the event also resulted in the enrollment of a few individuals who were eager to join the local chapter after firsthand experiencing the positive relationships and networking opportunities that being a part of the CWC can foster among California employees.

As 2022, continues to roll on, and with a new Puerto Del Sol board recently sworn in for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the chapter hopes to bring back an increased number of in-person events that will create a sense of comradery among its members and allow for those who continue to telework or work in a hybrid model to return to a sense of normalcy.



## SILICON VALLEY CHAPTER

### THE BOWLING BATTLE

By Jana Garcia, Silicon Valley Chapter

I want to share my very first article for the *Cal-Liope* about the Bowling Battle between the East Bay Chapter and the Silicon Valley Chapter at the Annual District II Bowl-a-thon. I have never written anything more than a letter or email. I am new to the California Workforce Connection family. I worked for EDD way back in 1979 and continued my career with Santa Clara County. I have been with my husband Ed Garcia to CWC meetings, luncheons, and I am proud to be the newest member.



Anyway, this is supposed to be about my experience at the annual Bowl-a-thon. After two years of the event being on hold because of the crazy pandemic, it is back! I did not know what to expect but I had a wonderful time. I was welcomed with open arms by James, Fred, Arlene, BJ, and Tom. After a short meeting and surprisingly good pizza, it was time for the bowling to begin. Well, not all of us between the bad backs and arthritis, only James and Fred entered the bowling battlefield. They were pretty decent bowlers and being equally good kept it exciting for the on lookers. After three very close games, Fred playing for the East Bay Chapter and James playing for the Silicon Valley Chapter, Fred emerged as the winner! He received the big trophy, but James received the trophies for highest score, most strikes, and the most gutter balls! I found the friendly competition very impressive! Of course, all of us "Watchers" got trophies as well! Overall, I would highly recommend that everyone attend next year's Bowl-a-thon. A wonderful time was had by all! I am happy to be a small part of this organization that does so much good for the community with donations and scholarships.





Membership Application

New Update Renewal Date:

Mail form (and payment) to: CWC, Membership Coordinator, PO Box 7858, Oxnard, CA 93031

Name: Last name First Name: MI

Local Chapter: Telephone Number:

Home email:

Address: Number and Street Address City State Zip Code

Employer: City

Job Title: ARU: Bargaining Unit: (If applicable) (If applicable)

Type of Member & Association Annual Dues Amount

Partner/Non-State Employee: \$98.00 Cash/Check payable to CWC: I hereby agree to be sent an annual invoice for renewal of dues.

Retiree: \$36.00 Cash/Check payable to CWC I hereby agree to be sent an annual invoice for renewal of dues.

EDD State Supervisor/Exempt Employee: \$0.00

I agree to provide my full social security number, which will be kept confidential. SSN #

EDD State Employee Bargaining Unit 1 or 4: \$48.00

I agree to provide my full social security number, which will be kept confidential. SSN #

Automatic Deduction: By checking this box, I hereby authorize the State Controller's Office (SCO) to automatically deduct \$4.00 from my salary each month and transmit, as designated, an amount for membership dues to the CWC. I certify that I am now a member of the CWC and allow the organization to establish, change and/or cancel my deduction. This authorization will remain in effect until I submit a written request to the SCO to cancel this deduction and termination of membership will cancel all deductions made under this authorization. I understand that processing may take 2-3 pay periods.

-OR- Cash/Check Payment payable to CWC: I hereby agree to be sent an annual invoice for renewal of dues.

Other State Employee (Non-EDD): \$98.00 - Refer to your Bargaining Unit Contract for possible reimbursement.

I agree to provide my full social security number, which will be kept confidential. SSN #

Automatic Deduction: By checking this box, I hereby authorize the State Controller's Office (SCO) to automatically deduct \$8.17 from my salary each month and transmit, as designated, an amount for membership dues to the CWC. I certify that I am now a member of the CWC and allow the organization to establish, change and/or cancel my deduction. This authorization will remain in effect until I submit a written request to the SCO to cancel this deduction and termination of membership will cancel all deductions made under this authorization. I understand that processing may take 2-3 pay periods.

-OR- Cash/Check Payment payable to CWC: I hereby agree to be sent an annual invoice for renewal of dues.

I understand that the processing of this form/payment may take 1-3 months and that the California Workforce Connection (CWC) organization does not issue refunds.

Member Signature: Date:

Recruiter's Name: Local Chapter: