



MESSAGE FROM THE CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE CONNECTION **PRESIDENT**

By James Thomas, President, Silicon Valley member
 On October 28, 2023, we had the pleasure of having our new CWC-EDD Liaison Cesar Valladares attend the Board of Directors meeting. He serves as the Deputy Chief of the Central Coastal Region in the Los Angeles/Coastal Workforce Services Branch. Everyone was excited to share innovative ideas and concepts. We are preparing to introduce CWC events planned for the future.
 Our next Annual Educational Conference will

be on May 3, 2024. Everyone should start making plans now to attend this spectacular event. We have started obtaining motivational speakers for leadership and skills building. This is an outstanding opportunity to network as well. This event also highlights our awards program. CWC will provide an educational program experience that will benefit everyone in attendance.
 The Executive Board, Chapters and District Directors are preparing new and exciting events. We want



PRESIDENT JAMES THOMAS
 our members to have the best educational advantages to succeed in obtaining their goal(s). We want to give each member the chance to invest in yourself. We provide members with the opportunity
 CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 2**
Advantages of Adult Education
- Page 3**
Retiree Corner
- Page 3**
Legislative Update
- Page 3**
Website Changes
- Page 4**
Inventing Your Life
- Page 4**
District II News
- Page 5-8**
Around the State: District & Chapter News
- Page 9**
Membership Form

CWC Conference Scheduled Early Registration Discounts Available

By Raymond Cabrera, District 4 Director, 2024 Conference Chair
 Did you miss the 2023 May conference this year? Did you read about it on the *Cal-Liope* or on our CWC website?
 Well, if you missed it, you missed one of our best conferences since before the pandemic. The place was packed. We had 101 attendees, and the positive reviews were in even before the conference was over. For more details on the May conference, see our website: www.californiaworkforceconnection.org.
 Did you miss it because of the cost of attending? Here again we have addressed that issue, and made registration a reasonable price with the EAD (Early Appreciation Discount). We did it without losing any

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2024 EARLY BIRD CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
 ALL MEMBERS: \$35
 NON-MEMBERS: \$75
 (AWARD LUNCHEON IS PART OF REGISTRATION)
 REGISTRATION IS NON-REFUNDABLE
 AFTER APRIL 7, 2024
 MEMBER: \$70 • RETIREES: \$55 • PERMANENT INTERMITTENT: \$55 • YEOP: \$40 • NON-MEMBER: \$85
 REGISTRATION IS NON-REFUNDABLE
 PRIZE DRAWINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE END OF THE DIRECTORATE PANEL. MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.
CWC STATE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE & AWARDS LUNCHEON
 Friday, May 3, 2024
 Ontario Airport Hotel
 700 N. Haven Ave.
 Ontario, CA
 FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE CWC WEBSITE: WWW.CALIFORNIAWORKFORCECONNECTION.ORG


CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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Our association is dedicated to bringing education, opportunity, and innovation to all individuals with a common interest in workforce development

Why is Adult Education Important?

By Dinah White, Education Chair, Los Angeles Chapter member

Adult education or continuing education is any form of learning aimed at educating adults. Due to an increase in remote jobs in the workplace and the dawn of technology, the ways in which we work, communicate, and learn have changed forever. If we are to prosper in this changing environment, we need to find ways to keep our skills up to date.

We can achieve personal career goals, gain confidence

within the workplace, level up our skills, play up our strengths, and even start a new passion. Adult education can help us advance our world views on issues surrounding our lives. It helps us be ahead of the curve. Someone like me, who started a career in one field, now has the opportunity for a change and may find how to achieve that new goal through adult learning.

Adult Education is also essential for moving up in your current role and retraining. It provides the ability to retrain

quickly and efficiently so that every worker can benefit from the constant changes brought on by the advances in technology. And best of all, it keeps our mind active! As a member of California Workforce Connection, you can attend their training presentations statewide or use the website members' only portal for current workforce development topics videos to enhance your knowledge and awareness.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM PAGE 1

to share their expertise, knowledge, and skills with others.

CWC organizational goals encompass; skill enhancement, knowledge, and self-investment. We are interested in developing future leaders and promoting educational development programs. Investing in your self allows you to increase leadership skills, improve self-awareness and a path to upward mobility. We are continually seeking forward thinkers, inventive minds, innovative personalities, and unlimited visionaries. We believe in you!

CWC membership should take advantage of the Karl E. Bybee Educational Grant. If you are interested, you should check out the eligibility criteria. If you have been a CWC member in good standing for one year, and recently completed training from an accredited training facility within a fiscal year, you can apply for reimbursement for some of the cost or all your costs up to \$750 in a fiscal year.

We hope our members read and enjoy the *Cal-Liope* Newsletter for activities and events from the Executive

Board, District Directors, Chapter Presidents, and members. Some of the information provided is the President's Message, CWC Website, Retiree Message, Legislative Updates, Local Chapter activities, and training opportunities from throughout the state.

The website gives current information on upcoming events, Zoom presentations, new program developments, Chapter calendars, and District events. Visiting the website will keep you informed of events throughout the state.

EARLY REGISTRATION FROM PAGE 1

of the value of the educational presentations. We are installing a Directorate Panel, keeping the menu for the Awards Banquet exceptional, and having prize drawings at the end of the conference (*You must be present to win*).

The only prerequisites are #1, you must be a member of CWC or become a member by December 31, 2023, to be eligible for an EAD, and #2, you must register for

the conference by April 6th, 2024. (*Registration is non-refundable and membership will be verified*).

Would you register for the conference if it didn't cost so much? With the EAD, you get to pay half of what it cost for the last conference while keeping up with the CWC standards.

Let's raise our ideals, and make this the best-ever CWC Educational Conference

Are you retiring?

LET CWC KNOW!

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

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

Did you just recruit a new member to CWC?

LET CWC KNOW!

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

RETIREE CORNER

By Nanette Bowman, Orange Empire Member

This is the seventh of a ten part series on research that shows you can help preserve your health and mobility as you age by adopting or continuing healthy habits and lifestyle choices. Read on to learn about common misconceptions related to aging and older adults. (Source: <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health>)

Now that I am older, I will have to give up driving.

As the U.S. population ages, the number of licensed older adults on the road will continue to increase. The [Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA) recorded a record-high 221.7 million licensed drivers in the U.S. in 2016, including 41.7 million – or almost one in five – who are 65 years or older. Natural changes can occur with age that may affect a person's ability to drive, like having slower response speed, diminished vision or hearing, and reduced strength or mobility. The question of when it is time to limit or stop driving should not be about age, rather, it should be about one's ability to drive safely. These [questions](#) may help you determine if you or a loved one needs to limit or stop driving. [Talk with your doctor](#) if you have any concerns about your health and driving. Learn more about [driving safety and older adults](#).

My joyful achievement this summer was to grow tomatoes. To my surprise, the plant grew and is producing. What a pleasure to bite into a fresh home-grown vegetable! An ongoing project in my house is getting rid of "stuff". Have you heard that "less is more"? The senior center rummage sale and assistance leagues are my favorite benefactors. Remember to save receipts and a list for your tax return deductions. You are so welcome to send me ideas for articles or share what you are up to – you know my email: cwcsecretary2023@gmail.com.

Stay well and stay in touch.



NANETTE BOWMAN



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Mary Jane Vanloon,
Legislative Chair,
East Bay Chapter

SB 799, *Portantino*.

Unemployment insurance:
trade disputes: eligibility for
benefits.

Existing law provides for the payment of unemployment compensation benefits and extended benefits to eligible individuals who meet specified requirements. Under existing law, unemployment benefits are paid from the Unemployment Fund, which is continuously appropriated for these purposes. Existing law makes an employee ineligible for benefits if the employee left work because of a trade dispute and specifies that the employee remains ineligible for the duration of the trade dispute. Existing case law holds that employees, who left work due to a lockout by the employer, even if it was in anticipation of

a trade dispute, are eligible for benefits.

This bill would restore eligibility after the first two weeks for an employee who left work because of a trade dispute. The bill would codify specified case law that holds that employees, who left work due to a lockout by the employer, even if it was in anticipation of a trade dispute, are eligible for benefits. The bill would specify that the bill's provisions do not diminish eligibility for benefits of individuals deprived of work due to an employer lockout or similar action, as specified. Because this bill would expand the categories of people eligible to receive benefits from a continuously appropriated fund, it would make an appropriation.

SECTION 1. Section 1262 of the Unemployment Insurance Code is amended to read:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Changes Made to CWC Website

By BJ Sims, Website Administrator,
Silicon Valley Chapter member

Changes on the website:

- You will see a new Search function on the upper right of the Home page.
- Type in a key word(s), enter, and a list will pop up. Click on the item you are interested in, and you will be taken to the page or item. Remember items only listed on the Members Only Portal will not be accessible unless you sign in as a member.
- A new page updating information for the local chapters about the Patricia M. Thornton Education Fund is available on the

Members Only Portal.

- Tip – using specific keywords can narrow your search options.
- The Website will have occasional pop-ups on the home page to alert viewers of special events or news announcements.
- All of the pages have been updated with a consistent format

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 to 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 www.california-workforceconnection.org for

help to get you connected to what's happening!

- The **About Us** page supplies an overview about our organization and who are currently on the Board.
- **News & Events** has flyers and information posted for local chapters to let members know about upcoming meetings, training, and activities.
- **Join Now** has a fillable pdf membership form to download, complete, and return.

If you have a flyer or activity to post, please send it to the Website Administrator at bjtsims@gmail.com.

“Finding Personal Joy”

By Rob Claudio, Orange Empire

I believe my first recollections about finding personal joy came from reading a number of stories in the news which all had some type of negative connotation about them. It is not hard to read a headline, breaking news or other similar highlighted topic on social media that would immediately take you down a rabbit hole of downward spiral conversations.

For me, it is too easy to follow those and when you do, you don't feel like you have forwarded any action. It all ends up making us feel like there is a heavier weight on our shoulders and one can even lose some sleep at night if you keep running some of these topics over and over in your head. What I have attempted to do over the recent years of my adult life, is to put some concentrated effort on finding the joyous moments that exist in varied amounts through-out a given day.

It is quite interesting when you begin to put some effort into specifically looking for these gems and as time goes on, they come with a larger frequency and in greater amounts.

One can begin their day by meditating, saying an affirmation, praying or deliberately speaking to yourself about what you would like to accomplish, as it relates to finding purposeful moments.

Being intentional about what you wish to seek, can open a door that can bring with it a swift enveloping wind which can embrace you with a warm hug and make you realize that there is much to be grateful for.

My mom finds many of these moments in her precious garden which is adorned by the many types of different roses that paint her front and back yards with vibrant colors taken out of a beaming rainbow. Whenever I visit her, I take time to walk around and admire up close the beauty that exists there, while taking with me a wonderful aroma that can be stored in my memory's inventory for any future date.

In addition, my mom has also taken to providing a sanctuary for the many

different birds who visit her backyard on a regular basis.

My Siamese cat Diego made a trip with me recently and much different from the view outside of my windows at home, his eyes danced back and forth as he saw doves, pigeons, crows, hummingbirds, and some other bird species that I could not recognize populating her backyard.

I laughed just watching him as he took all of this in from the ledge of a dining room window, while the birds jumped in and out of different bird baths, ate from bird feeders and congregated amongst each other in this large aviary yard. Other folks may find joy in cooking, baking, or finding happy moments in their kitchen. Perhaps you may get this fulfillment from various forms of nature; the desert, an ocean, lake, mountains, or other bodies of water that you find this type of jubilation. Doing so can add a more purposeful balance to your life which can end up bringing more smiles to your face.

I personally think if you have too many wrinkles due to excessive smiling or laughter, it is worth wearing those like badges of honor for the world to see. My point in all of this is that you can seek any moment of joy by being intentional. In closing, think about all those things that can be this conduit in providing you with resolute cheer.

Seek out the moments of personal joy which can transcend your day, week, month, or year.

Remember that you can orchestrate this for yourself and your loved ones around you. All you have to do is put some conscious effort and then await to see what may arrive in those special instances that can be transformative in providing you a higher level of fulfillment.

*“When you do things from your soul,
you feel a river moving in you, a joy.”*

– Rumi

Remember to follow the blog at:
inventingyourlife.blogspot.com



ROB CLAUDIO

DISTRICT II

SAN JOSE VETERANS DAY PARADE 2023

By Fred Ruibal, District II Director,
Silicon Valley Chapter

District II CWC participated in San Jose's Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, November 11. We have been



FRED RUIBAL

participating in this time-honored tradition for 20 plus years now. It was a very nice fall day, with just a hint of chill in the shade. But for the most part bright and somewhat warm. The route takes place in downtown San Jose, starting by where the San Jose Sharks play on Santa Clara and down along Market St. We then finish at San Carlos St. If you are familiar with the area, you will have a visual of the setting. The parade is dubbed one of the largest Veteran's Day parades in the country. We always

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM PAGE 3

1262. (a) An individual is not eligible for unemployment compensation benefits, and these benefits shall not be payable, if the individual left work because of a trade dispute, other than a lockout in the establishment where the individual was employed. For purposes of this subdivision, 'lockout' has the same meaning as defined in Section 1132.8 of the Labor Code.

(b) The ineligibility of an individual to receive benefits pursuant to subdivision (a) shall expire after the first two weeks of the trade dispute.

(c) This section shall not diminish the eligibility of individuals who were deprived of work as a result of an employer lockout or similar action under the principles set out in *Coast Packing Co. v. California Unemployment Ins. Appeals Bd.* (1966) 64 Cal.2d 76.

Stay informed about Legislative changes.

DISTRICT NEWS FROM PAGE 4

get a good crowd that comes out to honor those that have served in one of our country's armed services. Many of the spectators are veterans themselves. All branches seem to be represented as is evident by their hats, sweatshirts, flags, etc. Whether they were off in a faraway land at war or always at the ready in during peace time, we salute our veterans and thank them for their commitment to service. It should be noted that many of our CWC brothers and sisters also heeded the call to duty and continue to serve in their capacities as civil servants. CWC District will always continue to honor our veterans on this day and throughout the year.



EAST BAY CHAPTER

MY FIRST BOARD MEETING AS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

By Annette Wiley, Membership Chair, East Bay Chapter

The CWC President Dr. Thomas was the first to greet me, followed by a warm welcome from the entire board. Everyone makes you feel special because we are all family.

Dr. Thomas facilitated the group. Everyone was very respectful to each other when it came to answering questions or expressing an opinion. Everyone used the chat room or raised the hand icon to be recognized. All questions and comments generated by the group were clarified so that everyone fully understood. The meeting was well organized. First was the roll call, then Officer Reports, District Director Reports, Local Chapter Reports, Standing Committee Reports, Old Business, New Business, and the meeting was over. I was so comfortable that giving my report seemed easy.

Overall, I observed a diverse group of individuals with diverse backgrounds that make up CWC. They worked well together. The group is close knit, provides support, growth, and professional development. I think that every CWC member should attend a gratifying and rewarding experience.



LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

THE END OF AN ICON IN LOS ANGELES

By Fernando Roldan, Los Angeles Chapter Member

On September 11, 2023, we in the disability community have lost a great leader in Lillibeth Navarro. Lillibeth was executive director of Communities Actively Living Independent and Free (CALIF)

"Disabled or not, we are all called to work. We are called to contribute to the creative process of renewing the face of the earth with the toil of our hands, the fruits of our thinking and the imprint of our spirit. And even for those who contribute with their inexplicable pain and suffering so perennial in the human condition, we know how to recycle and renew and put these to use for the universe's higher purpose. Therefore, for all of humanity - this momentum has come from that deeply ingrained respect for work and the expectation to do it. With work, we the disabled can boldly go to where everyone else has gone before!" said Lillibeth Navarro at a recent Department of Rehabilitation celebration.

Lillibeth was born with severe disabilities from the onset of polio as a baby on November 2, 1955, in the Philippines. She made her indelible mark as a spiritual mentor, advocate, activist, speaker, writer, peer counselor, local and state commissioner both in the Philippines and the United States. In the Philippines she led a youth group of the Focolare Movement. She spoke before crowds of hundreds during the annual Mariapolis gatherings and in her hometown, she started the Bahay Buhay Project, a collaborative center for the disabled between the Rotary Clubs and the Ministry of Social Services and Development...

Through the Rotary International, Lillibeth Navarro got a Fellowship to study Print Journalism in the United States. Through her resourcefulness and industry, Lillibeth completed her Bachelor of Arts in Print Journalism and her Masters of Arts in Public Relations at the University of Southern California. She met the Disability Rights Movement in Los Angeles and established a reputation as a powerful speaker, an excellent community builder and organizer. She became recognized as a pioneer of the Disability Rights Movement when she helped to lead the Southern California effort to push for access to public transportation and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Lillibeth Navarro was considered a positive force in the United States Labor movement, particularly in their campaign in the late 90's for the homecare workers' rights to fair wages and benefits. CALIF, serving 50 Los Angeles zip codes, grew and added several programs like the Assistive Technology Recycling Program and its for-profit counterpart Positive Wheels. She opened a Computer Communications Center, a Disability SWAT Team and Nursing Home Transition Program. In 2020, she initiated and got CALIF approved to set up the Emerging Aging and Disability Resource Connection for Los Angeles, serving the Central LA area. CALIF marshaled the distribution of food boxes and personal protective equipment (PPE) for disabled and elderly consumers and they are about to start several counseling groups for those now with depression and those feeling suicidal.

One of the times Lillibeth was involved with CWC was when I was the Specialized Services Chair in 2005. I invited her and she did attend the Educational Conferences in Sacramento.

Farewell to my mentor and sister.

AUREVOIR MADAM

By Fernando Roldan, Los Angeles Chapter Member

On July 24, 2023, we lost a true EDD worker in Françoise Elizabeth Anderson. She was born in Paris, France on November 11, 1936, came to the United States where she lived most of her life in Glendale, California. Here she met her love of her life and husband Tom Anderson. Françoise began working with EDD in 1974, first in Alhambra, then transferred to the Glendale EDD office at the Verdugo Job Center where she remained with EDD until her retirement in 1998, according to the Anderson family. Most of her life and time, she volunteered as a parishioner and singer with Holy Family Catholic Church where she has served her community. Why is this important to all of us at EDD? We need to remember her contributions towards the department were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

CHAPTER NEWS FROM PAGE 5

an example of why EDD, especially in Glendale, has made the department more important and resourceful towards customers who are seeking employment and needing unemployment insurance benefits. When people pass from this world, we as EDD staff should never want to forget why our offices look good. Francoise in her time with EDD helped many customers to achieve their goals, making her level of customer service impeccable. Let us honor and never forget people like Francoise Anderson because it is through her example of excellent customer service that made EDD great. It is not farewell we say to her. It is "see you soon!"



LOS COMPADRES CHAPTER



INVESTING IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: EVENT ATTRACTS OVER 100 ATTENDEES TO CAREER MASTERY WORKSHOPS

By Angel Urbina, Los Compadres Chapter President

In a remarkable display of commitment to professional development, the recent workshops on "Mastering the State Promotional Application Process" and "Mastering the State Interview Process" collectively attracted over 100 attendees. The educational workshops, hosted by Los Compadres Chapter, part of District III, featured current leaders from the Disability Insurance Branch (DIB) who generously volunteered their time to share valuable insights.

Among the notable panelists were Jamie Lee, DIB EDDNext Manager, Asish Nand, DIB EDDNext Deputy Chief, and Jesse Mejia, Employment Development Administrator for the Customer Service Centers and Paid Family Leave. All three panelists provided their expertise to the discussion on applications, statements of qualifications, and provided invaluable insights into mastering state interviews. Their willingness to share knowledge contributed significantly to the success of both educational workshops.

The engagement and lively conversations throughout the sessions reflected the genuine interest of the attendees. Participants actively interacted with the panelists, fostering an atmosphere of shared learning and collaboration. The positive feedback received

after the workshops highlighted the value participants found in the expert advice and practical tips shared.

"We are thrilled with the overwhelming attendance and the level of engagement from our dedicated members," said Melinda Campos, 1st Vice President of Los Compadres Chapter. "The positive feedback reaffirms our commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for professional growth."

Attendees praised the interactive nature of the workshops, noting the real-world applicability of the insights shared by the panelists. As Jacqueline Carendas expressed, "It was more than I expected. I really believe this type of workshop can change somebody's li[f]e for [the] better". Ray Yuvienico said: "I thought that the recent workshop about mastery of the state interview was great. Definitely helped me in the most recent interview as all the notes and advice given by the panel was so fresh."

The success of these workshops underscores the importance of creating spaces for continuous learning and skill development within the California Workforce Connection community. Plans for future workshops are already underway, promising more opportunities for members to enhance their professional skills and build valuable connections.

As board members of Los Compadres Chapter expressed, "We are grateful to our panelists, presenters, attendees, and everyone who contributed to making these workshops a resounding success. This is just the beginning of our commitment to fostering professional excellence within our California Workforce Connection community."



PUERTO DEL SOL CHAPTER

BEACH PICNIC EXTRAVAGANZA!

By Maritza Marroquin-Sanders, 1st Vice President, Puerto Del Sol Chapter

Gather 'round as we recount the rib-tickling shenanigans and sweet delights of the recent PDS chapter summer beach picnic held at dazzling Mission Bay in San Diego, California on October 21, 2023. Picture this: the sun high in the sky, the waves doing their wavy thing, and a bunch of PDS enthusiasts ready to turn De Anza Cove into the laughter hub of the universe.

Now, let's talk about Veronica Martel, Phil Dwyer and Alex Araujo, the maestros behind this whole picnic symphony. Back in 2004, they donned picnic hats, grabbed a checkered blanket, and founded the first-ever PDS picnic. Here we are twenty years later celebrating with more zeal than a squirrel discovering a hidden stash of acorns.

With help from former PDS president, George Haith, and CWC Treasurer Phil Dwyer, we welcomed four new members to our PDS chapter. They must have heard about the legendary picnics and couldn't resist joining the fun. Welcome to PDS! You've just stepped into a world of laughter, camaraderie, and a touch of sunscreen.

Now, let's talk about retirements and appreciation. We prepared a candy poem in appreciation of former Treasurer Rosario Franco. Rosario's service to CWC and PDS has created ripples of impact. We also congratulated George Haith and Patricia Coladonato, the dynamic duo of retirements.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CHAPTER NEWS FROM PAGE 2

Here's one for George:
"George, thank you for going the EXTRA mile for Puerto Del Sol and CWC. Your leadership is worth more than anything in the entire MILKY WAY. Thank you for being a SWEETART and LIFESAVER to so many. Congratulations on a spectacular retirement! We know it will be full of GOOD & PLENTY. Hugs and KISSES."



FROM LEFT: PHIL DWYER AND VERONICA MARTEL
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL DWYER

But that's not all – our summer beach picnic wasn't just about poetic candies. We had a dessert table that could rival Willy Wonka's factory. If you didn't leave with a sugar high, you weren't doing it right. And let's not forget our Treasurer Lynn Lam's consulting magic in picnic catering, there was an incredible bounty of food. PDS president Solomon Barks was spotted busting out the spatula and spices for delicious bbq burgers and hot dogs. In case you didn't hear about the salsa-making contest, the mango green chile salsa took the crown. Move over, dance floors; salsa just became the hottest thing at De Anza Cove.

In the midst of all the hilarity, synergistic connections blossomed like sunflowers in spring. Our Board Secretary Alexa Navarro, Education Chair Jennifer Lucy and former Education Chair Rebecca Eusey mingled with members and guests, and laughter was thrown around like confetti. It was like a networking event, but with more sand and fewer power suits.

Before we wrap up this rollercoaster of giggles, here's your friendly T-shirt reminder. Because nothing says "I am part of the coolest professional development organization ever" like sporting a CWC tee. Oh, and in case you missed it amidst the candy poems, BBQ fever and salsa magic, a gentle nudge to join PDS and a subtle reminder to check the CWC website link. We've got more adventures planned than a cat has lives.

So, until the next event, dear PDS enthusiasts, keep the sunscreen handy, the laughter flowing, and the salsa dancing.

<https://www.californiaworkforceconnection.org/category/local>

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

By Jennifer Lucy, PDS Chapter Education Chair

September 23, 2023, marked the 39th annual International Coastal Cleanup Day hosted by I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD), throughout San Diego county. The morning was beautiful with clear skies and ocean breezes creating a very enjoyable environment for the task at hand. The Puerto Del Sol (PDS) Chapter volunteered for the second year, along with hundreds of San Diegans at the Coastal Cleanup Day kickoff site at the YMCA Camp Surf in Imperial Beach.

Chapter Treasurer, Lynn Lam, represented California Workforce Connection's community-minded efforts and was quoted on the news [San Diego Coastal Clean-up Day event | cbs8.com](https://www.cbs8.com). "We need to keep the environment clean. It's not just for our generation, but for the next generation too."

The PDS members who volunteered at the Imperial Beach site included Lynn Lam and daughter Tina, past president George Haith, new member Ken Underwood, Jennifer Lucy and husband Matt, Patricia Coladonato, Christina Moores, her daughter Thelia Soboro and her father Richard Monteverde.

The site in Imperial Beach was selected to bring awareness and support in reducing cross-border ocean pollution. "I am so grateful for the positive impact that I Love A Clean San Diego and residents made today in Imperial Beach," said City of Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre.

International Coastal Cleanup Day is not a new event, nor is I Love A Clean San Diego a new organization. Originally named the San Diego War Against Litter Committee (WALC), it began as early as 1954. The anti-litter campaign slogan 'I Love A Clean San Diego' became its calling card in 1980. By the end of that decade the ILACSD and the San Diego Ecology Center merged to form one non-profit organization dedicated to sustainable, zero waste solutions for our local communities.

Through environmental education, conservation, recycling, and beautification programs, ILACSD serves 100,000 students, families, and businesses. Hosting over 900 workshops and facilitating 600 community cleanups, the organization is responsible for clearing nearly half a million pounds of pollution from the region annually.

Volunteers across the region restored, beautified, and preserved the condition of over 100 local parks, canyons, creeks, and beaches. By the afternoon, 85% of sites reported collection totals of over 76,800 pounds of litter and debris was diverted from San Diego communities. Our efforts were combined with volunteers in 150 countries across the globe. Comprehensive data can be found at the Ocean Conservancy's website [Trash Free Seas: International Coastal Cleanup® - Ocean Conservancy](https://www.oceanconservancy.org/).

More than five thousand volunteers across the county removed litter and microplastics from the beaches, parks, trails, and lagoons we have the privilege of enjoying in beautiful San Diego, thus protecting our ocean from further pollution.

It's so easy to make a difference in your community. Sharing the experience of making a positive global and local impact with family and friends was personally very rewarding. Please visit the ILACSD website for invaluable information and opportunities such as educational programs, workshops, and teacher resources, and upcoming events. Their blog has tons of great tips and articles to help everyone in their quest to reduce waste, be more sustainably minded and create a cleaner, safer environment to thrive in. [About | I Love A Clean San Diego \(cleansd.org\)](https://www.ilacsd.org/).

DON'T STOP THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW

By Maritza Marroquin-Sanders, 1st Vice-President, Puerto Del Sol Chapter

The California Workforce Connection Puerto Del Sol (PDS) Chapter joined the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Balboa Park, in San Diego, California on October 15, 2023, for its 30th Anniversary walk.

Folks arrived with the rising sun as it warmly splashed across

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CHAPTER NEWS FROM PAGE 7

grassy fields already bustling with people at resource booths, snack stations, and a pink cable car which doubled as an open-air bus. The excitement was electric as men, women, and children donned pink hats and pom poms, t-shirts with team names, sweatshirts, and jackets with boas. Pets joined in as well with bedazzled pink collars. Spectacularly, it was a pink affair to remember.

Fleetwood Mac's "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow" played over loudspeakers paging participants towards a gigantic twenty-five foot inflatable arch marking the starting line of the non-competitive three and a half mile walk. The walk offered multiple stops with hydration stations and "pit stops" for photo opportunities with enchanting, costumed mascots and supporters.

Participants were invited to enjoy refreshments after the walk, as well as humorous group photo opportunities at both a festive inflatable pink chair and also at [Jerry's Photo Booth](#). Participants also had a chance to enjoy dance lessons with [SD Westie-West Coast Swing](#). PDS members had a chance to network with many generous event sponsors, including Telemundo. Community resource booths offered fun giveaways including tote bags, stickers, socks, lotion, and water bottles.

Thanks to Jennifer Lucy, former Board Secretary, for organizing the CWC Puerto Del Sol Walkers team. We raised \$194 for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer® (MSABC) campaign which is the "nation's largest and most impactful breast cancer movement providing a supportive community for courageous breast cancer survivors and metastatic breast cancer thrivers, including caregivers, and families alike." [MSABC Campaign](#)

To learn more about the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer check out cancer.org, or call 1-800-227-2345 for cancer information, resources and support 24/7, 365 days per year.

SILICON VALLEY CHAPTER LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

By *Shumlonda Nathaniel, 2nd Vice President, Silicon Valley Chapter*

I would first like to thank everyone for attending the Leadership in Action online webinar. A special thanks to the California Workforce Connection (CWC) for allowing me the opportunity to represent as the spokesperson. Acknowledgement goes to the EDD University (EDDU), Dr. Thomas, Dadisi, Dinah, Jenny, Jordan, and Karen. There was a great deal of groundwork time that went into the preparation for an online webinar.

The experience emphasized what leadership in action represented for this incredible online webinar. I am not a speaker, and the webinar allowed me the opportunity for a different leadership experience. Everyone is a leader; step out of your comfort zone and Lead from where you Stand. My multi-tasking



PDS IS MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK
FROM LEFT: CHRISTINE AND SOLOMON BARKS

skills were helpful when dealing with emails, EDDU practice (dry runs), meetings, and Zoom calls. Leadership in Action is about not talking about it but being about it.

The team was amazing and emphasized using the five key behaviors concepts of what successful leaders entail. Being compassionate - expressing not being an experienced speaker, the team provided support and encouragement. Everyone listened expressing my concerns about the online webinar; the group provided support with no judgment, which built trust. Then came the positive working relationship – the team provided the necessary resources for me to be successful. Capitalizing on leadership opportunities – everyone shared their expertise and knowledge. WOW, it was inspiring, wanting to see me succeed. Positive motivation is a part of networking- building relationships, sharing ideas, effective communication, and sharing resources. I was proud to be part of a dynamic team.

INSPIRED

By *Dr. James Thomas, Silicon Valley Chapter*

The Silicon Valley Chapter was excited for this year's Veterans Day Parade. All participants were dressed in uniforms, vehicles shining, and the bands tuning up. As we were decorating the van, I noticed a young man standing along dressed for the parade.

I politely approached him to see what organization he was representing. His name was Nathan McCully representing Ship 300 Spartans. He was expecting 15 people to be there, but he was the only one to show up. His dedication, motivation, and willingness to continue was inspiring. The Greek 300 Spartan soldiers that stayed behind were to hold off the Persian army as long as possible.

Nathan stood tall, alone, while proudly representing Ship 300 Spartans.



FROM LEFT: DR JAMES THOMAS AND NATHAN MCCULLY

California Workforce Connection

CWC State Chapter AWARDS

Celebrate Excellence

Submit Your Nominations NOW

Award nominations must be postmarked by

MARCH 1, 2024

SPREAD THE WORD, LET EXCELLENCE ECHO, AND NOMINATE TODAY! BE A PART OF SHAPING A WORKPLACE CULTURE THAT THRIVES ON ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF ITS MEMBERS.

Join us on May 3, 2024 for the CWC Annual Education Conference in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the year.

Membership Application

New Update Renewal Cancellation

Date:

Mail application and payments to: **CWC Membership Coordinator**, P.O. Box 7858, Oxnard, CA 93031
or email application to cwcworkforceconnection@gmail.com (mail payment, if applicable)

*Full Name:	First	Last		
*Local Chapter:	Select chapter you want to join	Telephone:		
*Personal email:				
*Address:				
*Employer:		*Location:		
*Job Title:		ARU#		*Bargaining Unit #:

*Type of Member	Annual Dues	*Payment Option
<input type="radio"/> Employment Development Department (EDD) Employee (Bargaining Unit 1 or 4)**	\$48.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$4.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN:
<input type="radio"/> EDD Supervisor/Exempt Employee**+	\$0.00	*SSN:
<input type="radio"/> Other State Employee (Non-EDD)** <i>Refer to your Bargaining Unit Contract for possible reimbursement</i>	\$98.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$8.17) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN:
<input type="radio"/> Partner (Non-EDD)	\$98.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check
<input type="radio"/> EDD Student/Youth Assistant**	\$36.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$3.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN:
<input type="radio"/> Retiree	\$36.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check

I recognize that the processing of this form/payment may take 1-3 months. If I have selected the **Automatic Deduction** option, I hereby authorize the State Controller's Office (SCO) to automatically deduct from my salary each month the amount listed above and transmit, as designated, an amount for membership dues to the CWC; I understand that processing may take 2-3 pay periods. If I have selected the **cash or check** option, I hereby agree to be sent annual dues renewal invoices (**make check payable to: CWC**). I agree to provide my full social security number, which will be kept confidential. I certify that I am now a member of the CWC and allow the organization to establish, change, and/or cancel my deduction, as applicable. I understand that this authorization will remain in effect until I submit a written request to the CWC Membership Coordinator to terminate my membership and cancel any deduction, as appropriate. I also understand that the CWC organization does not issue refunds for unused dues or the months taken for processing.

*Signature: _____ *Date: _____

Name of Recruiter (if applicable): _____

* Required

** If you do not wish to provide your Social Security Number (SSN), then you must pay the full membership dues for that type of member by cash or check.

+ For this membership type, if you do not wish to supply the SSN, then the amount due is \$98.00.