

MESSAGE FROM THE CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE CONNECTION **PRESIDENT**

*By James Thomas, President,
Silicon Valley member*

Our next Annual Educational Conference will be on May 3, 2024. The conference will have motivational speakers, outstanding networking opportunities, and an outstanding awards program.

We are starting the new year off with educational programs, upward mobility, and individual development training. Our Executive Board, Local Chapters and District Directors are actively scheduling and planning

training programs. CWC takes exceptional pride in offering our membership the best educational programs tailored for success. Invest in yourself by sharing your expertise, knowledge, and skills.

CWC goals for the new year will encompass the sharing of knowledge, skill building, and self-development. We focus on investing in our leaders and promoting exceptional educational programs. Investing in yourself creates a better opportunity towards upward mobility, increased leadership development



PRESIDENT JAMES THOMAS

skills, and improved self-awareness. We are continually seeking forward thinkers, inventive minds, innovative personalities, and unlimited visionaries. CWC will always believe in you!

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**Join CWC
The Professional
Association
For Workforce
Professionals**

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What Outstanding Work!

*By Raymond Cabrera
District 4 Director
2024 Conference Chair*

Have you attended a California Workforce Connection (CWC) State Educational Conference lately? Have you used the reason that conference registrations cost too much? Have you used the excuse that the location is too far from home, or even that the program is too passé? **Well, I have news for you. I can convert your way of thinking, just hear me out!**

If you have been a CWC member before December 31, 2023, and you send in your registration before April 7, 2024, the conference will only cost you \$35. That is a 50% reduction from last year. If you have desired to go but you live too far away and need to fly, check out the opportunities to fly into the Ontario Airport which is only minutes away from the host hotel – The Ontario Airport Hotel.

The conference team has worked hard to create an informative and educational experience that will set your socks on fire. You will have an opportunity to network with your Directorate on a panel discussion and question session, introduced by our Employment Development Department CWC Liaison/ Workforce Services Branch Deputy Chief Cesar Valladares. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and get instant answers from the people in the know.

I haven't even mentioned anything about a motivational speaker. We have one that spoke two years ago, and received great reviews. We are trying to get him back. More information in an upcoming flyer, you will not be disappointed.

As you know we also have an Awards Luncheon

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If You Want to Get Ahead In Your Career, Networking Is Still Important!

*By B.J. Sims
Website Administrator
and Marketing Chair*

We have just spent two years dealing with the fallout from the pandemic. Most of us have been working remotely and meeting colleagues via the internet. Networking has been difficult for most of us. Finding and meeting people has been more challenging, but networking is still an important part of your career development.

Networking can help all parties by sharing information, ideas, opinions, and support between those with

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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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*By Annette Wiley,
Membership Chair,
East Bay Chapter*

Our annual membership drive began December 1, 2023. Anyone can join as a CWC member which is a win-win for everyone. CWC wins by recruiting Employment Development Department (EDD) employees, EDD supervisors, other state employees, partners, EDD Student/Youth Assistants, and Retirees. The members win with CWC empowering them for success with mentoring, coaching, training, self-development, skill

building, and networking. We also provide leadership opportunities, upward mobility enhancing tools, and knowledge gained from seasoned state workers along with retired state workers. Members have access to available resources CWC has to offer.

Keep in mind our recruitment period is for continued growth of the organization, gaining members with current ideas, and keeping us running successfully. We are excited to welcome our new members.

Are you retiring?

LET CWC KNOW!

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

Did you recruit a member?

LET CWC KNOW!

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

2024 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

FROM PAGE 1

honoring those nominated for their work performances that recognizes outstanding service or achievement beyond normal expectations, headed by Arlene Bautista, CWC Second Vice-President. Pictures will be taken with your Deputy

Directors, and printed on our website for posterity.

Rethink about coming. We are eagerly waiting to welcome you where you will experience enjoyable time spent learning while having some fun

NETWORKING IS IMPORTANT

FROM PAGE 1

common interests, industry, career focus, and goals. Meeting a wide variety of people allows you to learn about new developments which lead to an exchange of ideas and meeting people at all professional levels. Networking can boost your professional confidence and increase your visibility along with promoting your social well-being.

Starting the network process is up to you. You must take the initiative to

seek people out and not wait for them to come to you. You can join a professional organization and take advantage of events, training, and activities to take your first steps. Identify what you do well or what you are most confident doing, so you can share your expertise and knowledge. Be curious about what other people do, ask people about their interests. Remember, to make a friend, you need to be a friend.

So, if you want to network,

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FROM PAGE 1

CWC membership should take advantage of the Karl E. Bybee Educational Grant. The grant has eligibility criteria for members who are interested. If you have been a CWC member in good standing for 1 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 event from the Executive Board, District Directors, Chapter Presidents, and members. Some of the information provided is the President Message, CWC Website, Retirement Message, Legislative Update, Personal Message, Activities 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.

consider joining CWC and attending the Annual Educational Conference May 3, 2024, at the Ontario Airport Hotel. You will have the opportunity to listen to EDD leaders, meet other EDD Branch staff to learn about what they do, and expand your knowledge.

Hoping you will take this opportunity to network with California Workforce Connection check out the website for information at: www.californiaworkforceconnection.org

CWC State Award Nominations Sought

By Arlene Bautista,
State Second Vice President,
East Bay Chapter President

The California Workforce Connection (CWC) State Chapter Annual Awards Program provides an opportunity for EDD management and staff to nominate staff, peers, workforce partners, employers and community organizations for outstanding efforts, innovation, and service in workforce development. Recognize those who go above and beyond the norm by nominating an amazing manager or staff member for a CWC State Chapter award this year! Awards recognize both members and non-members for their hard work and dedication to excellence. Anyone can write a nomination! All award nomination entries must be postmarked or emailed by March 1, 2024.

CATEGORIES

Award of Distinction – Eligibility: Member or Non-member – individual and group – Recognizes outstanding contributions to the CA Chapter or to workforce development programs. The recipient(s) must be from the private sector or a non-governmental, non-profit organization and not employed by a workforce development entity.

Meritorious Award – Eligibility: Member – individual and group – Recognizes outstanding service or achievement beyond normal expectations or job requirements that benefit CA Chapter and the workforce development field. Nominees must have demonstrated individual initiative and creativity outside of their job responsibilities.

Services to Veterans Award – Eligibility: Member or Non-member – individual and group – Recognizes those who have done the most to assist veterans and promote interest in their rights in the workplace. In addition, it recognizes an outstanding, innovative program or awareness and promotion of veterans' interests and rights in the workforce.

Retiree Award – Eligibility: Member – individual – Recognizes a retiree who has shown continued outstanding commitment to the association's objectives following retirement. Nominees should have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in advancing CA Chapter objectives, e.g. leadership on a board, committee or initiative group (not restricted to CA Chapter); participation in educational, membership, communication, fund-raising or legislative activities; mentoring chapter leaders and/ or participation that advances the member's local community.

Employee Performance Award (EDD & Partner) – Eligibility: Member – individual and group – Recognizes an individual or group who has gone above and beyond their assigned duties to provide outstanding service to the public through excellent performance. The Nominee must have demonstrated exceptional achievements that contributed to the smooth performance of operations through positive attitude, accuracy, representing the agency with the public, handling workload under unusual conditions, adaptability, initiative and dependability.

Customer Service – Eligibility: Member or Non-Member – individual and group – Recognizes exceptional service to customers served throughout the workforce system including, but not limited to work with job seekers, UI claimants, businesses, schools, and vocational rehabilitation, people with disabilities, former felons, youths, welfare recipients and job training participants.

Fostering Partnership Award – Eligibility: Member or Non-Member – individual and group – Recognizes an individual or group who has demonstrated diligent efforts to partner with the EDD and/ or CA Chapter while collaboratively delivering valuable and innovative services to meet the evolving needs of members, employers, workers, and job seekers. Partner organizations such as the Department of Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Act Partners, the Small Business Administration, Employment Advisory Councils, Chambers of Commerce, governmental agencies, etc. all play an important role in the workforce system and employment security, so the CA Chapter would like to acknowledge them accordingly.

2023 NOMINATION SUBMISSION COMPONENTS

The nomination must be typed, double-spaced, 11 or 12 size fonts, on 8½ x 11-inch paper.

Standard Nomination Form: This form must be the first page of every written nomination.

Narrative: This concise, precise and descriptive

narrative must focus on the details/ examples of the actual accomplishment and include any necessary background information that explains why the accomplishment was exceptional to the association or agency. Give information based on the criteria listed on the judging sheet (found on the website in the Local Chapter Handbook), as this will assist the judges in properly and efficiently scoring the nominations.

Documentation: The narrative must be supported only by documentation that relates directly to the accomplishment activities on which the nomination is based. The documentation may be articles, endorsements, recommendations, testimonials, or original and/ or digital photographs with a brief description of what each photograph is intended to show.

If you need help writing an award nomination, look at awards on the CWC website. For those award categories where a non-member could win, the nomination must be written by a member. For those awards that are only given to CA Chapter Members, CA Chapter membership is required in both the year during which the activity occurred (2023) and the year in which the nomination was submitted (2024).

Award nominations should be emailed to Arlene Bautista, caworkforcecbc@gmail.com except for the following categories:

- Retiree: Nanette Bowman, Retiree Chair: cwcsecretary2023@gmail.com
- Toll Trust: Verletta (VAL) Moeller, Past Presidents Assn Chair: retiree2k07@aol.com

"Milestones"

By Rob Claudio, Orange Empire

After the beginning of a New Year, many folks think about the future and attempt to plan what they would like to accomplish in the ensuing time period. I think about this to an extent, however, I like to take a look back to see what was achieved previously for an even greater perspective. By looking at the last 5 and 10 years, I can almost guarantee that personal growth and wisdom has been part of your accompaniment. Part of the inspiration for this column was a news story that captured my attention about six sisters from Brooklyn, NY, who had to overcome many barriers from the beginning of their lives. Their family struggled financially and they were homeless at times. Although they sometimes slept in a car, they all spoke about the fact that they still did their homework and ensured that their education continued to be a priority. Not knowing where you will be sleeping and having the common necessities we take for granted of sleeping in a warm bed and having food on the table, can easily enable us to forget that others yearn for these comforts. For these sisters, despite their circumstances, they were able to overcome all of their adversity and all of them had the exact same lifelong dream of becoming nurses. When the news story caught up to them in present day, all of them already had achieved a masters in nursing degree and they were all finishing specialty programs and training, as they were seeking to achieve their next milestone of entering the world of healthcare. This is what prompted me to begin to think about the different types of breakthroughs that we all achieve over the course of time and we sometimes forget what achievements all of us have had. Just like these six incredible sisters who are the prime example to all of us of not being defined by your circumstances or your past, while keeping your dreams alive and ultimately being able to achieve them.

I suggest the walk back in time just for a brief moment to contemplate what once may have been dreams, as you look around where you are today and take stock of those things that you have been able to bring to fruition. For a different perspective, I would also suggest asking some folks in your trusted inner circle to provide you with some feedback of what they believe are some of your successes. I preface this by saying that this exercise is not to be self-centered by any means, just to listen to what others have observed about some of the feats that you have been able to attain, without any bias. When I thought about this, I found that I had minimized some of my own accomplishments as I didn't think I added the particular importance that was actually associated with them. Ultimately, it is nice to take a deep breath after having revisited some facets of your life knowing that as much as has transpired in prior years, there is still have much to look forward to. As we progress into the ensuing year ahead, be mindful of all that you have been able to realize as you plan for new goals and objectives that may add value to you and those closest around you. Think big and bold as there is no such thing as impossible. For reference, remember the story of the six nurse sisters as you seek to enter into your next phase of a well lived life. Having overcome a difficult beginning to your life, can be the pathway to a different second half of living. When you are able to bask in the milestones that have become a roadmap to what you have achieved thus far, one can still look forward to a great and fulfilling next chapter ahead.

"I look at victory as milestones on a very long highway."

– Joan Benoit

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



ROB CLAUDIO

Remembering Michael E. Waller

Michael Emerson Waller was born on July 25, 1941, in Cambridge Maryland, to Phillip Goldsborough Waller, and Sallie Lou Ayscue. He passed on January 8, 2024, at the age of 82 while on a vacation trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. He sustained a fall on the last day of his vacation and was hospitalized in a Puerto Vallarta Hospital.

Michael graduated from Cambridge High School in 1959. He served in the US Army Security Agency from 1959 to 1965, including an assignment in South Korea. He separated from active duty with an Honorable discharge in August 1965, as Specialist 5th Class.

Michael attended the University of Kansas (Phi Kappa Fraternity), San Jose University, and Sacramento City College. After leaving the military, Michael worked in accounting, computer programming, and library services. He flipped houses and did resort management for a while.

Michael ended his career with the State of California Employment Development Department, (EDD) as a Senior Accounting Officer in 2007.

He was a member of or actively supported many organizations during his lifetime – The Republican Party then, The Democratic Party, the Russian River Chamber of Commerce, ACLU, American Legion, Toastmasters International, California Library Association, California State Employees Association, Santa Barbara and Mendocino Botanical, the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, the Palm Springs Art Museum, and the California Workforce Connection (CWC) of which he was a member for over 40 years.

But he didn't say anything about Facebook tributes.

He will be cremated and his ashes will be spread around the world.

At his request there will be no memorial service or parties.

DISTRICT II NEW YEAR 2024

By Fred Ruibal, District II Director,
Silicon Valley Chapter

District II CWC ended 2023 with their annual Holiday Awards presentation, which took place at Georgio's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria in Milpitas. Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen family situation that required out-of-state travel, I was not able to attend. But District II nonetheless was carried on and a few little birds were able to report that it was a great success! A more detailed picture of the event is yet to come.

As we start the new year with 2024, I just want to say that District II is ready for a fresh start and looking forward to new possibilities and experiences. Our District is constantly seeking new and fresh ideas to better serve our members in their career pursuits and growth. We will be starting January with our annual District II Meeting and Bowl-a-Thon. It's an event I personally look forward to all year round. I am not the greatest bowler, but I always have a good time and enjoy the competition and camaraderie that comes along with it. Please stay tuned for the details of this event in the coming editions!

I would like to end this post by saying that as a district, we will continue to encourage and support our members through district activities and events. As well as to support our sister districts in their endeavors. We are constantly looking for input and welcome feedback and comments to keep things fresh and exciting, so to speak! As the district director my lines of communication are always open! I am looking ahead to what this year brings and as to offer! Happy New Year!

DISTRICT II AWARDS CELEBRATION

By George Kazuo Kawamata, East Bay Chapter

On December 9, CWC's District II held its Holiday Luncheon at Georgios Restaurant in Milpitas. CWC was able to benefit from Speaker John Lang who facilitated an outstanding economic presentation – Looking Forward 2024 Economy and Workforce. Mr. Lang is an Economic Vitality Manager in the city of Mountain View. His presentation showed a positive outlook on California's future development. He presented graphs and charts focused on the current economy of California along with ways California will potentially adapt to new future technologies. Mr. Lang provided examples of coffee shops with beautiful lounges where people can get their electric cars serviced and charged. The presentation also included electric fly cars, robotic catering services, and other inspiring technological advancements on California's horizon. Silicon Valley chapter member BJ Sims presented John Lang with an appreciation award for his endless devotion to keeping CWC informed, updated, and aware of our changing economy.

CWC President Dr. James Thomas presented an award to Shunlonda Nathaniel for her outstanding efforts to promote the values of CWC. Lastly, East Bay Chapter President Arlene Bautista presented an Outstanding Retiree Award to Ben Takesh'ta



FRED RUIBAL

honoring his lifelong dedication and friendship to CWC. The holiday luncheon was a fun way to close out 2023, as we all move forward to the new events of 2024.



SILICON VALLEY CHAPTER A GIFT FROM THE HEART

By Dr. James Thomas, Silicon Valley Chapter

The Silicon Valley Chapter opened our hearts and gave toys to children for Christmas. We provided the gifts to the Fire Department in Fremont. I had opportunity to play Santa once again! I hit the stores and headed straight to the toy section. I found myself singing Christmas carols loud and out of tone, but my heart was happy. I was running down one aisle and up the other aisle. I wanted to find that perfect toy that would bring a smile to the children's faces and the feeling of Christmas in their hearts. I would have liked to have bought every toy in the store, but my sleigh could not carry them. I walked out singing Rudolph the red nose reindeer.

I pulled up to the Fire Station and a firefighter greeted me with a smile. We both like happy children unwrapping gifts under the Christmas tree. We unloaded the car with our smiles continuing to grow as we were taking the gifts out of the car. They are always thankful for the toys that would make the children's Christmas come true.

Christmas is the time for giving, sharing, helping others, and spreading love. I want this tradition to never end.



HAPPY RETIREMENT ALOHA RETIREMENT PARTY FOR CWC STATE TREASURER PHIL DWYER

By Val Moeller

On Saturday January 13, Sher Longworth hosted a retirement party for State CWC Treasurer Phil Dwyer who retired effective December 30, after 32 years with the State of California Employment Development Department (EDD).

Over 60 people attended the celebration including active and retired members from the Disability, Unemployment, Tax, and Workforce Services branches. One of the attendees, Alex Araujo, from Unemployment Insurance also retired effective December 30. The attendees were treated to a beautiful sunny San Diego winter day and a scenic view of



PHIL DWYER: I'M RETIRED!

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AROUND THE STATE FROM PAGE 5

the new Snapdragon stadium and Mission Valley.

All were treated to a tropical feast, starting off with a fruit selection including pineapple, mango, guava, kiwi, and dragon fruit. The main course included teriyaki chicken and beef, rice, tropical cole slaw and sliders. The ending, if anyone had an appetite left included a cake (from Costco, of course), homemade cannolis (scrumptious), Italian cookies, and brownies.

Phil started his career with EDD as a Disability Insurance Program Representative on March 4, 1991. He worked in the Determinations, Appeals, Workers' Compensation, and Training Unit (as an On-the-Job trainer). He left the Department for two years to work as a Disability Evaluation Analyst for the Department of Social Services adjudicating long term disability claims.

On August 1, 2000, Phil returned to EDD as a DI Program Manager I and supervised each of the different units in the field office. He was then promoted to assistant manager and then ended his career as the office manager for the Disability Insurance Field Office in San Diego (212).

Phil has been a member of our organization for over 20 years. He served as an officer in different capacities of his local chapter Puerto Del Sol. He has been the CWC State Chapter Treasurer since July 1, 2006, which is almost 18 years.

Phil was the winner of the Toll Trust Award that is presented by the Past Presidents Association (PPA) in 2014. This award was established to recognize a member whose activities and accomplishments

most contribute to the advancement of CWC activities. The award is the highest award that a member can receive. Congratulations to Phil for his commitment to CWC! Enjoy your retirement! ALOHA!



DI EMPLOYEES ENJOY PHIL'S PARTY.



PHIL WITH VAL AND FIRST SUPERVISOR



CWC STATE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE & LUNCHEON

"NAVIGATING AND MEETING CHALLENGES FOR TOMORROW"

Embark on a transformative journey at our Annual Educational Conference. Join us for a day of inspiring keynote speeches, an interactive Directorate Panel with Q&A, and celebrate excellence at our awards ceremony and luncheon.

Seize the opportunity to network, enhance your skills, and stay ahead of industry trends. Elevate your professional path and shape the future of workforce excellence.

REGISTER NOW

EVENTBRITE ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK

MAY 03, 2024

ONTARIO AIRPORT HOTEL
700 N. HAVEN AVE., ONTARIO, CA
91764

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

EARLY REGISTRATION PRICES: • MEMBER: \$35 • NON-MEMBER: \$75 • RETIREE: \$35 • PI: \$35 • YEOP: \$35

AFTER APRIL 7, 2024: • MEMBER: \$75 • NON-MEMBER: \$85 • RETIREE: \$55 • PI: \$55 • YEOP: \$40
REGISTRATIONS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.



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California
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For more information visit:

www.californiaworkforceconnection.org

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.