

Cal-Liope

Join CWC
The Professional
Association
For Workforce
Professionals

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Membership Form

MESSAGE FROM THE CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE CONNECTION PRESIDENT

By Dr. James Thomas, President, Silicon Valley member

I am excited to introduce our EDD Liaison Ruby Rojas, Employment Development Administrator. I gave her a warm CWC family greeting. Ruby has been instrumental in solving problems/issues right out the gate. Our Annual Educational Conference will be on May 2, 2025, so **Save That Date!**

CWC has kicked off the year with a dynamic focus on leadership development, offering engaging activities and top-tier educational training. We are fully committed to equipping our leaders with programs that not only inspire but also provide essential tools for upward mobility and career growth. When our leaders actively contribute and share their expertise, they strengthen our collective knowledge and drive us all forward.

We see every challenge as a

valuable learning experience, upward mobility potential, and always a leadership steppingstone towards excellence. Your commitment to this journey exemplifies what true leadership development looks like. Lead boldly from where you are, knowing that CWC believes in you and your potential. Let us continue making this year one of growth, innovation, and impact!

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*



PRESIDENT DR. JAMES THOMAS

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.

Welcome CWC Liasion: Ruby Rojas!

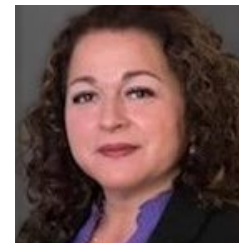
By Dr. James Thomas, President, Silicon Valley member

CWC members, it is my pleasure to introduce our CWC Liaison Ruby Rojas.

...

My name is Ruby Rojas, I am one of the Employment Development Administrators in the Northern Region. I have been with EDD Disability Insurance Branch for over 20 years. I started working for the state right after graduating from Sacramento State University with a major in Business Administration.

My first job was a Program Technician answering the Spanish queue in a call center. Then promoted to DIPR, DIPM I, DIPM II, and EDA. During my leadership journey I have become aware of my impact as a leader. I want to use my role to inspire, motive, and build a culture that engages employees through alignment, positivity, and progress. I love to read and have participated in book clubs for leadership development. My favorite author so far is Patrick Lencioni and his book, "The Ideal Team Player". So



RUBY ROJAS

much of what is learned in the leadership classes can be applied at work and at home as well. I strongly believe "It's not finance, not strategy, not technology. It's teamwork that remains the ultimate competitive advantage."



CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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VERLETTA "VAL" MOELLER

Second Vice President
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District IV Director
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**Our association
is dedicated to
bringing education,
opportunity, and
innovation to all
individuals with a
common interest
in workforce
development**

LET'S START 2025 ON A POSITIVE NOTE!

Be Part of the CWC Community: Membership Drive Launching Soon!

By Annette Wiley,
CWC Membership Chair

As we welcome the new year, I could not be more excited to kick off the year with an electrifying Membership Drive Campaign! Get ready to dive into the details – our flyer is on its way, and trust me, you will not want to miss it!

Membership drives are the beating heart of any thriving organization. They are not just about signing up members; they are about weaving together a tapestry of people who share a common vision, passion, and purpose. Every new member is a spark that fuels our collective energy, driving us forward with strength, unity, and boundless potential.

Your membership is not just a transaction, it

*The year ahead
is brimming with
possibility, and we
want YOU with us
every step of the way.
Stay tuned for all the
details and get ready
to embark on this
incredible journey.
Let us make this
year unforgettable –
together!*

is a powerful investment in something greater. It sustains our mission, propels us into new possibilities, and keeps our vision alive. But the real

magic happens when we come together, shoulder to shoulder, sharing ideas, collaborating, and transforming our aspirations into reality.

When we grow our membership, we amplify everything we stand for – our voice grows louder, our reach extends further, and our ability to create change becomes unstoppable. It is about more than numbers; it is about building a movement, inspiring action, and shaping the future.

This is your moment to join a cause that is bigger than all of us – a cause that thrives on passion, purpose, and the belief that together, we can accomplish extraordinary things. By joining, you are not just supporting an organization; you are becoming part of a legacy, a community, and a vision for a brighter future.

RETIREE CORNER

By Nanette Bowman,
Orange Empire Member

Happy Holidays!
What happened to 2024? Not that I'm trying to rush to Happy New Year, but I actually have all my Christmas decorations displayed. One must take advantage when the handyman is available to do the heavy lifting. Some of these "treasures" will be left in a box to donate to next year's rummage sale. My "helpful" tip for planning ahead is to review your retirement plan.

Did you know that CalPERS has four virtual retirement webinars that you

can access at your own? Sign up for an instructor-led class that's offered virtually or in person at a location near you. The website is www.mycalpers.ca.gov. Topics are "Completing your Disability Retirement Application, Planning your Retirement – For members within 10 years of retirement, Your CalPERS and You – for members who are new or midway through their career, and Your Retirement Application and Beyond – For members ready to apply for retirement.

You can also check out your current retirement



NANETTE BOWMAN

information on the website including health insurance options. Savingsplus information is available at <https://www.savingsplusnow.com/rsc-web-preauth/index.html>.

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.



Informational One Page AB 398 Summary

By Mary Jane Van Loon Legislative
Chair, East Bay Chapter

This article provides an action plan to bridge the unemployed by providing them necessary training and jobs quality while stabilizing the impact it might have on the climate and economy.

“The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) submits to the Legislature “Putting California on the High Road: A Jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030,” a report developed pursuant to Assembly Bill 398 (E. Garcia, Chapter 135, Statutes of 2017). The report offers a vision for integrating high road economic and workforce development strategies into major climate policies and programs. It focuses on issues of job quality and economic equity in assessing the impacts of climate measures on employment and training and emphasizes strategies to ensure disadvantaged communities and workers realize the economic gains generated by work to stabilize the climate.

Furthermore, the report aligns with California’s Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan, which emphasizes job quality, equity, and climate resilience as pillars of a high road vision for the economy and workforce.

The report begins with a foreword, executive summary, and introduction (Chapter 1). Thereafter the report is organized in the following manner:

- Chapter 2 presents labor market demand-side strategies to help shape climate change mitigation measures in ways that support or result in high-quality jobs and careers.
- Chapter 3 describes labor

market supply-side strategies to increase access to good jobs in key industries and occupations via high-quality training and career pathways.

- Chapter 4 outlines a just transition policy framework for regional planning to attend to potential job loss as California progresses toward a carbon-neutral economy.

- Chapter 5 introduces California’s Climate Change Scoping Plan sectors, and the singular approach to workforce analysis of each one in the subsequent chapters.

- Chapters 6-11 discuss issues of job growth and loss, job quality and access, as well as training infrastructure and just transition in each Scoping Plan sector, with examples of successful high-road interventions and recommendations to address areas of concern.

- Appendix A explains the research methodology and provides detailed labor market information.

- Appendix B summarizes the discussion topics and perspectives shared during public consultations with the entities named in statute and other constituencies.

The CWDB commissioned the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education to prepare the report, and then reviewed drafts, provided edits, and consulted with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as per statute. The report and its posting online comply with all applicable requirements for document and website accessibility.

The strategies conducted by the labor market to assist the disadvantaged communities to increase access to job quality, training, and guidance to enhance growth and decrease job loss that negatively impact the climate and economy.

INVENTING YOUR LIFE

“Unconventional Listening”

By Rob Claudio, Orange Empire

This past weekend, I went to see the animated film “The Wild Robot” and found it to be a worthy film for many reasons. First and foremost, it was very entertaining and lived up to the great reviews I had



ROB CLAUDIO

read prior to seeing it. I always look for the message a film delivers, as well as the overall package when watching movies. I won’t go into the many details that are worth experiencing, but one aspect stood out as the film concluded. At a glance, a futuristic robot becoming an unconventional parent figure to an orphaned goose seemed like a very unlikely story, but it unfolded beautifully.

However, among the many issues they tackled was when the robot tells the small goose, in a poignant moment, that it had to learn to listen without the traditional sense of hearing and to listen with a heart. Never mind that robots do not have traditional human body parts, as that can be a story in and of itself. This is why I decided to explore the topic of unconventional listening, as I began to think of the many ways, we, as human beings, exercise these skills. For me, and perhaps many of you, we may call some of the ways we listen without our ear’s intuition, an inner voice, or listening with your heart, as shown in the film. We have all had instances when we were trying to understand someone communicating with us and felt a twinge inside, causing us to focus on something deeper.

When we listen with more than just our ears, it is amazing what type of message we can receive as a result. I am sure that many individuals have a greater talent or gift for this capability that comes naturally to them. As adults, and especially older ones, I think that experience teaches us to utilize other mechanisms to better inform ourselves of certain situations. I also find that to enable myself to receive a deeper message, I need to ensure that I am quiet and still. I try to eliminate any noise or distractions that can take my attention away from something I am concentrating on. People who meditate, pray, or do yoga have likely mastered this type of skill to tune into something deeper. What I hope this topic does for all of you is make you pause and think about how you listen for information and understanding, ensuring that you are fully utilizing all your senses to comprehend beyond the use of your ears.

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CWC State Award Nominations: It's Not Too Early To Submit A Nomination

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

It is not too early to submit nominations for The California Workforce Connection (CWC) State Chapter Annual Awards Program. Even though the Awards are not presented until the CWC State Conference in May 2024, nominations can be submitted now. This ensures the staff are recognized for accomplishments done throughout the administrative year and are not forgotten. There will also be ample time for the Awards Committee to review the nominations and request clarifications if necessary.

Ordinarily, the deadline for Award Nominations is March 1st. This year the deadline has already been extended to Saturday, March 15, 2025. However, it would be a great idea to submit them earlier than that.



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 (2024) and the year in which the nomination was submitted (2025).

INVENTING YOUR LIFE FROM PAGE 3

As I think about conflicts that exist in our world today, I can only imagine how many of them could have potentially been avoided by attempting to understand why someone may have a different view. If they could only listen with more than just their ears, we might avoid some of the situations our world finds itself in today. I hope that you continue to explore how having an unconventional approach to absorbing and processing information can lead you to a higher level of

understanding, as we navigate our way through our life's journey with a higher comprehension of each other as human beings.

*"You'll never find
peace of mind until you
listen to your heart"*

– George Michael

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

CALIFORNIA
WORKFORCE
CONNECTION

AROUND
THE STATE

DISTRICT II NEWS

By Fred Ruibal,
Silicon Valley Chapter

District II of CWC participated in San Jose's Veteran's Day Parade this past Monday, November 11. The district members, East Bay and Silicon Valley, have participated in this event for the 10 plus years. This day started out rainy as mother nature decided to give us a good dousing!



FRED RUIBAL

Traditionally the district participates with two "floats," cars adorned with the colors of red, white, and blue! We also have members who lead the floats down the parade route, proudly showing off our organizational banner to the cheers and waves of bystanders.

But because of the rain, we thought that we would all have to do ride in the cars, but mother nature showed us mercy and allowed the rain to stop and give us a little bit of sunshine that pierced through the clouds.

All in all, the parade was a huge success, which it usually is. There was not as many people that came out as other years, but I am pretty sure it was because of the rain. And for those that braved the elements to honor the brave, we also salute you. Remember, Veteran's Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day. Memorial Day honors those you lost their lives defending our country. Veteran's Day honors all vets who have and continue to defend our country.



SAN JOSE VETERANS DAY PARADE 2024



DISTRICT NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

DISTRICT IV NEWS



California Workforce Connection
EDUCATION ★ INNOVATION ★ OPPORTUNITY

DISTRICT IV Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, December 7, 2024
10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.
Polly's Pies Restaurant



2025 N. Tustin
Orange, CA 92865
RSVP by Nov. 27, 2024
Nanette Bowman, Secretary
714-269-0612;
cwcsecretary2023@gmail.com

EAST BAY CHAPTER

NEW LOCAL OFFICERS

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

The East Bay Local Chapter has two new executive officers! Joining the East Bay President, Arlene Bautista, is George Kawamata- First Vice President, and Tanya Shiloh, Second Vice President.

George works at the Employment Development Department (EDD) Unemployment Insurance (UI) Oakland office and had recently served as the CWC State Legislative Chair. Despite his busy schedule, he quickly accepted the position of First VP when asked.

Tanya also works at the UI Oakland office. Her high energy and serious commitment to being the Second VP is encouraging. She has been with CWC for a few years and is anxious to experience the CWC benefits.

The East Bay Chapter would like to recognize the many years of contribution of the prior First VP, Vickie Slack. Vickie has supported and assisted the East Bay Chapter and District II. She was there for our many presentations and trainings, and at work, she made sure staff were aware of CWC. We deeply appreciate Vickie for her support!

Members of CWC District II (which includes East Bay and Silicon Valley Chapters) will get to meet the new officers at a "Meet the New Officers" meeting on September 23, 2024.

2024 THE VETERANS DAY PARADE

By Arlene Bautista, East Bay Local Chapter President, CA Chapter 2nd Vice President

Each year, the CWC District II participates in the annual Veterans Day Parade, which is the largest parade on the west coast. This special event honors those who have served or are currently serving our country.

This year, the morning began with torrential rain. But by noon, the 106th annual parade hit the streets despite the rain. Many, including our "walkers," James Thomas, CWC State Chapter President, and Fred Ruibal, CWC District II Director and Local Chapter President of Silicon Valley, donned on rain ponchos and braved the cold weather while holding on to our CWC sign and waving to the attendees. Even though the numbers of attendees were small, there were still many families proudly waving back at us. The route took approximately 20 minutes and by the end of the parade, the sun was shining brightly.

Special kudos to BJ and Tom Sims for providing snacks, towels, ponchos, and American flags for the day's adventure. Each year, Tom is responsible for arranging our participation in this event.



INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

29TH VALLEY-WIDE EMPLOYMENT EXPO

By Violeta Velazquez, 2nd VP, Inland Empire Chapter

On September 19, 2024, I had the privilege of attending the 29th Valley-Wide Employment Expo in Indio, California.

This annual event brought together nearly 90 employers and approximately 1,500 job seekers, providing a valuable space for individuals to connect directly with hiring organizations and explore new career opportunities. Our Indio office team, led by Office Manager Javier Rojas, played an essential role in the success of the event, handling key planning, organizing, and setup tasks.

During the expo, they hosted a booth to share information about the employment services we offer, ensuring attendees were aware of the resources available to support their career journeys. Workforce Services Branch (WSB) Deputy Director, Javier Romero, who served as a guest speaker, expressed admiration



FRONT: LANCE SAYAVONG, BRADFORD SMITH, MIDDLE ROW: MARISA TIJERINA, VIOLETA VELAZQUEZ, JAVIER ROMERO, RUBEN MENDOZA, JAVIER ROJAS. BACK: CLARK STAEHLE.

CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

MORE CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

for the Indio team's dedication to the local community, saying, "At the expo, I had the pleasure of meeting WSB team members from our Indio office, who demonstrate qualities we can all learn from across the branch. It was clear they are deeply connected to their community, including local employers, educators, and community-based organizations (CBO). While their collaborations reflect the unique needs of their area, all our offices have untapped collaborations waiting to be created or strengthened."

The event also featured workshops that offered attendees hands-on support in resume building and interview preparation. Events like these remind us of the power of community partnerships in building a stronger, more connected workforce.

WARM MEALS AND SMILES TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

By John Szeibert, Inland Empire Chapter President

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, members of the IE CWC Chapter, joined by friends, volunteered to prepare lunch at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda, Ca. The house, which features 54 guest rooms, serves as temporary accommodation for families using the Loma Linda University Children's Medical Center.

Led by former IE CWC President, Peter Gallerani, the team arrived promptly at 10:00 a.m., ready to make a difference. As a group of 13 volunteers, we received our instructions from Peter on preparing the afternoon meal. Dividing into smaller groups, we utilized four mini kitchens to prepare a delightful spread that included chicken alfredo, ham sliders, salad, and cookies. As we worked together in the kitchens, we took the opportunity to get to know one another better. Stories and memories of previous CWC events were shared, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie. Juan Garcia from the Unemployment Insurance Command Center (UICC) reminisced about past events where they volunteered to paint homes, while for many, like Justine from UI, this was their first time volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House.

The preparation went smoothly, and the lunch was a success. Volunteers connected with the residents in various ways, whether through friendly conversations, touring the facility, or simply relaxing in the beautiful day room. The sense of community was palpable, and goodbyes came all too quickly. The day was a

tremendous success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. It was a beautiful day filled with kindness, support, and a shared goal of making a positive impact on the lives of the families at the Ronald McDonald House.



ORANGE EMPIRE CHAPTER

NEW LOCAL OFFICERS

By Nanette Bowman, Orange Empire Member

After a quiet summer, the Orange Empire hit the ground running this quarter. October 29 we hosted an in-person hour and a half workshop for retirement planning with speakers from CalPERS and Savings Plus. The chapter is supporting two community service events, NAMI Walks and Spark of Love Toy Drive. Flyers are on the CWC website.

On February 21, 2025, our first awards dinner since 2019 will take place at the Embassy Suites in Anaheim. Orange Empire Chapter membership campaign offers \$50 to members signing up three new members for our chapter beginning August 1, 2024 and ending May 1, 2025. Winners must be members of Orange Empire and new member must join Orange Empire. Transfers don't count.

Our monthly Board meetings are held on Zoom making it convenient for anyone who wishes to attend. Announcement flyers and the Orange Peel News are always posted on the CWC website as well as a current calendar. We welcome all chapter members to participate in our events. Contact me for more information: cwcsecretary2023@gmail.com or 714-269-0612.



FRONT ROW: ROSA RODRIGUEZ, JUSTINE ERIN, NICOLE PALOMINO, MARGARET MARTIN, JOHN SZEIBERT, JOANIE AND PETER GALLERANI (FORMER IE CWC CHAPTER PRESIDENT), JILLIAN HERNANDEZ. BACK ROW: JUAN GARCIA, ATIF KHAN, CLAUDIO, SOFIA, AND JESSICA ESCOBEDO



California
Workforce
Connection

EDUCATION • INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY

Orange Empire Chapter Awards Dinner & General Membership Meeting Friday, February 21, 2025

Embassy Suites

3100 E. Frontera St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 657-439-0060

5:30-6:00 pm Networking & welcome

6:00-7:30 pm Buffet Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm Presentation of Awards

8:00-8:15pm Closing Remarks



Comp Orange Empire Chapter Member

\$30 Other Chapter Member • \$60 Non-Member

Email registration form to nanetteybowman@gmail.com

Payments accepted via Zelle to 714-269-0612 or

By check payable to CWC Orange Empire Chapter and sent to Nanette Bowman, 2006 Port Albans Circle, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Questions call or text Nanette Bowman at 714-269-0612

RESERVATION IS REQUIRED – CUT OFF DATE: Friday, February 7, 2025

NAME _____

JOB TITLE _____

OFFICE _____ PHONE _____

GUEST NAME _____

GUEST NAME _____

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.