



December 2019

CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER VOICE

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION-CHAPTER 620

Chapter 620 Officer Roster

President

Jo-Ann Flowers

jflowers.csea620@gmail.com

First Vice President

Jennifer Coates

jcoates.csea620@gmail.com

Second Vice President

Debbie Hanna

dhanna.csea@gmail.com

Secretary

Harriet Osinski

hosinski.csea@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jeanne Orth

jorth.csea@gmail.com

Communications Officer

John Henrikson

jhenrikson.csea@gmail.com

Chapter Webmaster

Elan Menkin

Union Stewards

Debbie Hanna

Chief Union Stewart

dhanna.csea@gmail.com

Jeanne Orth

jorth.csea@gmail.com

Jani Close

jclose@conejousd.org

Jo-Ann Flowers

jflowers.csea620@gmail.com

Labor Relations Rep.

Chris Crump

ccrump@csea.com

Conejo Valley Chapter Voice

Editor: John Henrikson

Correspondence may be sent to:

CSEA Chapter 620

c/o CVUSD

750 Mitchell NP



Union Resurgence

Approval of unions highest in 50 years

If you're a CSEA member, consider yourself fortunate. A recent survey found that nearly half of Americans who do not currently belong to a union would join one if they could. That's about 58 million workers who wish they could have what you've already got—a union like CSEA.



The 2018 study by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute for Work and Employment Research showed a dramatic increase in people's desire to belong to a union. The last two times this question was asked on national surveys in 1977 and 1995, only about one-third of workers wanted to join a union.

A separate Gallup poll taken in August found that approval of unions has risen to the highest it's been in 50 years. The poll also found that 86 percent of U.S. adults living in a household with a union member approve of unions. CSEA numbers are even higher. In CSEA-represented school districts, community colleges and county offices of education, nearly nine out of every 10 classified employees are CSEA members.

(Continued on page 4)



LEARN MORE



"I'm in to make a Difference.
It wasn't until I became
involved that I realized the
impact CSEA has on my life
as a classified employee."

Nicole Barner, Child Dev. Account Technician

Centralia Chapter 136

IMPORTANT DATES

CSEA Chapter Meeting

3rd Thursday of the Month

DISTRICT BOARD ROOM

@ 5:15 pm

December 19, 2019

January 16, 2020

February 21, 2020

CVUSD Board Meeting

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month

D.O. Board Room @ 6:00 pm

December 17, 2019

January 7, 2020

January 21, 2020

Personnel Commission Meeting

District Office @ 5:00pm

2nd or 3rd Wednesday of each Month

Please refer to CVUSD website for
future dates.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT----

Hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving Break, and now we can countdown until Winter Break.

At our last Chapter meeting, we had a representative from Schools First Credit Union stop by and share the different accounts that they have to offer absolutely FREE of charges/fees with high interest returns.



We also had our nominations for the E-Board positions that were OPEN beginning January 2020 through December 2020. Since there was only "1" person nominated for each OPEN position, no vote was needed by the membership. I'd like to congratulate the following new and/or returning Board members, and look forward to a positive and productive 2020:

Jo-Ann Flowers	President
Brian Farrell	1st Vice President (new)
Debbie Hanna	2nd Vice President
Jeanne Orth	Treasurer
Harriet Osinski	Secretary (returning)
John Henrikson	Communications/CPRO (returning)

Our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19th at 5:15 pm in the District Board Room located at the District Office on Janss Road. Please bring an unwrapped toy for the Spirit of Love Toy Drive. First time attendees will receive a gift. Hear and learn about what is happening at the difference school sites and at the district office, and how to prevent unforeseeable situations. If you are suddenly asked to attend a one on one meeting, and you feel that you need to have a union representative present, please reach out to one of our Union Stewards, so that you are not the only one hearing what your supervisor might be saying to you. Our Union Stewards are: Debbie Hanna-Chief Union Steward, Jeanne Orth-Union Steward, Jani Close-Union Steward, and myself. If anyone is interested in attending classes to become a Union Steward, please reach out to one of us, and we can let you know where the trainings are being held. The more Stewards we have per classification the better for our members.

Please share any concerns, comments, or suggestions with anyone currently on the E-Board.

Have a safe and relaxing Winter Break, and Happy Holidays!

Jo-Ann

Jo-Ann Flowers
CSEA Chapter 620
President



Conejo Valley Chapter 620 Meetings

Join us on December 19, 2019 for PIZZA!

Conejo Valley Chapter 620 will be serving PIZZA for members in attendance. Just a little holiday give back to say thanks!

Bring new, unwrapped toys to our next chapter meeting. We will donate to our local fire department for children in need.

1st time chapter members that attend will receive a FREE gift! So if you haven't attended a chapter meeting yet, now is the time!

We will also be accepting donation for the Dorothy Bjork Assistant Fund, which provides financial relief to members in need. Any amount helps and your generosity is appreciated.

Chapter meetings are held every 3rd Thursday of the month in the district board room.

1402 E Janss Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Negotiation's Committee 2019-2020

Jo-Ann Flowers
Jennifer Coates
Joe McHugh
Brian Farrell
Jani Close
Linda White

UPDATE: We will be going to the table Monday, Dec. 9th for the 1st Time for 2019-2020 school year. We will be discussing the Professional Growth Article of our contract. Stay tuned for an update at our December's Chapter meeting.



FAREWELL AND CONGRATULATIONS, JENNIFER COATES

Chapter 620 wishes to congratulate Jennifer Coates on her retirement later this month. For just over 22 years, Jennifer has served as a systems analyst in the technology department, and in that role, has offered helpful assistance with a personal touch to so many of us across the district.



Your chapter e-Board is especially thankful for Jennifer's contributions to CSEA. For five years, Jennifer has tirelessly served as an e-board member, holding the positions of treasurer, 1st vice president and 2nd vice president. Her term as 1st vice president will end December 31st. Jennifer has also advocated for chapter members by lending a strong voice to our negotiations team, and been a great asset to our Labor and Communications committee and MUP (Membership Unity Program) committee. Her knowledge and input in all of these areas has been invaluable to the workings of our local chapter.

On a personal note, I asked Jennifer if there was a parting thought she wanted to share. She said it was her sincere hope that all chapter members (and potential members) would realize they have a voice to be heard, and encourages them to use that voice in service to others. We thank Jennifer for sharing her voice with us, and for all of her contributions to CSEA. Best wishes, Jennifer!

Jeanne Orth
CSEA Chapter 620
Treasurer



Union Resurgence

(Cont'd from page 1)

"I used to work somewhere without a union and our bosses took advantage of us," said Melissa Gutierrez, homeless education liaison and member of San Diego COE Chapter 568. "When I joined CSEA, it was eye-opening to see the power of our unity, and how we used it to stand up for each other. How could I not be active and engaged for something that helps us?"

CSEA members say "I'm In" to fight for better pay raises, pension security, health insurance, sick leave and other important benefits our families rely on. The union makes us stronger, so we get the respect we deserve and can focus on the parts of our job that really matters.

Working for improvement

"I wholeheartedly believe that everyone who works hard should be able to improve their life, and CSEA helps to do that," said Lily Casas, outreach specialist and member of College of the Desert Chapter 407. "It is important for younger members to get involved because the issues that CSEA fights for are issues that affect everyone, young or seasoned members, full-time or part-time."

Casas joined CSEA seven years ago, and quickly found out the value of union representation. After working for three years as an outreach specialist, she was promoted. Then, she was told she didn't pass probation and would be terminated. CSEA intervened and made sure she was able to return to her previous position, which she was entitled to do under the Ed Code. After that, Casas got active in her union.

"I became involved to make sure no one else had to endure what I did," she said.

Phi Tran, network system specialist and member of Ocean View Chapter 375, believes that getting active in CSEA is important for anyone who cares about workers' rights.

"Workers have sacrificed their jobs, reputations and even their own lives, so that we could have fair wages, good working conditions, and even things that seem as simple as sick leave and vacation," said Tran. "Unless we continue to fight for these rights, they will disappear."

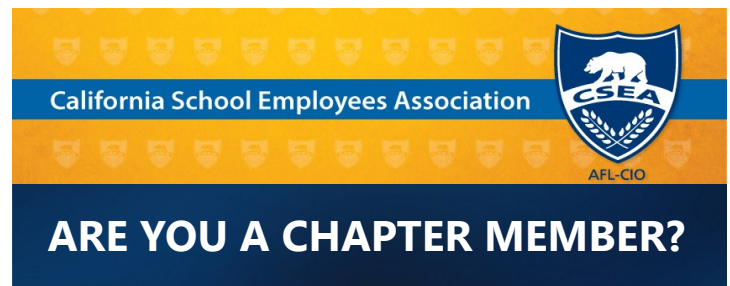
Anti-union groups fighting a losing battle

More than a year after the 2018 Janus vs. AFSCME Supreme Court decision, groups such as the Freedom Foundation are finding that their campaign to push workers into dropping their union membership is failing. These billionaire-backed special-interest groups want to roll back

worker protections, civil liberties and the right to collectively bargain for pay and benefits—but workers and union members are standing their ground. A year after Janus, CSEA has increased its representation to more than a quarter million classified employees.

In the private sector, corporate outsourcing, anti-collective bargaining laws and a rising gig economy have fueled a steady decline in union membership over the past few decades, but that could change. Approval of unions is the highest it's been since the 1960s, and it's especially high among young workers. The Pew Research Center found that nearly seven in 10 workers under 30 have a favorable opinion of unions.

"I've worked at places without unions and I've seen how bad workers get treated," said Ana Montanez-Rogers, a bus driver and member of Muroc Chapter 340. "In CSEA, we can fight for fairness and make a difference."



CVUSD EMPLOYEES

You are not automatically associated with CSEA Chapter 620. You must fill out an application to become a member of the union and by doing so, automatically become a Chapter member.

Values of Membership

- Enforce Fair contracts/Fair Wages
- Increases - without CSEA, the district can control wages
- Handles grievances
- Legal representation
- Training opportunities
- Assistance when in need
- Voting Rights - Every member has a voice

Please use link below for the application.

[New Member Application Form](#)

You can send your application via interoffice mail to: CSEA Mailbox, 750 Mitchell Road

Membership Benefits

See Benefits with links below:

Membership Benefits

CSEA Member Benefits DISCOUNTS

December 2019 - Prices Subject To Change

*Where print at home links are not noted below, please call 1-866-487-2732 to place an order over the phone with a live representative.
Log in to your CSEA account for print at home tickets. Don't have an account? Create one in 3 easy steps at www.csea.com/createaccount

Attraction	City	CSEA Price	Regular Price	Comments
T H E M E P A R K S				
California's Great America	Santa Clara	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets		
California's Great America Winterfest	Santa Clara	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets Seasonal		
Disneyland	Statewide	Members can purchase discounted Two to Five day - 1 Park Per Day or Park Hopper tickets. Go to www.csea.com/fun or call (855) GET-AWAY		
Gilroy Gardens	Gilroy	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets		
Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets		
Knott's Merry Farm	Buena Park	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets Seasonal		
Legoland - 2 Day	Carlsbad	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets		
Legoland Hopper - 2 Day	Carlsbad	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets		
Magic Mountain	Valencia	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets		
Magic Mountain, Holiday in the Park	Valencia	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets Seasonal		
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom	Vallejo	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets		
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Holiday in the Park	Vallejo	Visit www.csea.com/fun to purchase discounted tickets Seasonal		

Please note that the CSEA Online Store is not currently compatible with Internet Explorer. Please use a compatible browser to purchase tickets, such as Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari.



Purchase your tickets TODAY!

Take advantage of the early Black Friday sale on Disneyland tickets through our benefit provider, Get Away Today. Purchase Adult Tickets at Kid's Prices on three, four, or five-day, One Park Per day or Park Hopper Tickets for travel through December 31, 2020. This is a **limited time offer** only. **Call Get Away Today directly** and ask about their vacation packages and their layaway plans at (855) GET-AWAY (438-2929) or go to www.csea.com/winter to purchase your tickets online.

Knott's Merry Farm

Taking place **November 22 through January 5**, enjoy holiday events such as musicals, snow shows, Christmas carolers and more!
Include Brick-or-Treat on your ticket purchase for only \$20 at check out.

SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration

Come celebrate Christmas from **November 23 through January 5**. The Christmas celebration is included with park admission.

Universal Studios Hollywood

Embark on a memorable holiday experience here from **November 28 to December 29**. Festivities are included with general admission to the park.

California's Great America WinterFest

California's Great America becomes a winter wonderland and holiday festival. Come skate in front of the carousel, view spectacular live holiday shows, and see Santa's workshop and Mrs. Claus' kitchen. Winterfest is open on select dates from **November 29 to December 31**.

Looking to have more fun this season?

Don't miss out and keep spirits bright this season with snow flurries, ice skating, shows, spectacular lights and holiday fare! Experience the most magical time of the year at your favorite theme park or zoo. See all of your CSEA discounted ticket options at www.csea.com/fun.

From all of us at CSEA, may the season be festive and the laughter be contagious. Happy Holidays!

HELPFUL TIPS FOR ACCESSING YOUR CSEA MEMBER BENEFITS ONLINE:

For information about all your consumer benefits as a CSEA member, visit www.csea.com/benefits. A user account is required to access CSEA Member Benefits. Create a user account in three easy steps at www.csea.com/createaccount. You will need your member ID number to create an account or to reset your Username and/or Password. Your ID number is: 8789. Please do not use Internet Explorer as a browser. Our website is not compatible with Internet Explorer. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox work best with our website. For additional questions or assistance, call CSEA Member Benefits at (866) 487-2732.



Medical Seminar

The District has invited Shop 4 Health Insurance Solutions, Inc. to provide a no-cost seminar on Medicare Parts A, B, C and D for employees and retirees.

Presenter, Christabelle Narula, will explain when you need to sign up for Medicare, coverage choices, and how it all works.

This is an informational seminar, not a sales seminar.

If you are 1-2 years away from turning 65 years old this seminar will help you understand what you need to know about Medicare.

When: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Where: CVUSD Board Room
1402 E Janss Road, Thousand Oaks

RSVP NOT REQUIRED

Contact Liz Grigsby, Benefits Specialist,
498-4557 ext. 7411 or by email at

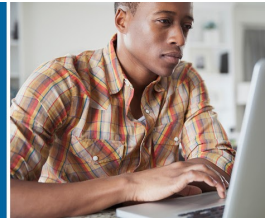
Going to school? CSEA can help!

\$1,000 Member Career Grants are awarded to members going to school on a part- or full-time basis. Don't delay, apply today! Find out more at www.csea.com/education. Login to the website to complete the online application. The application and required supporting documentation are due **October 31, 2019**.

Up to \$250 Member Reimbursement Subsidy Grants are awarded to members pursuing an opportunity that connects them to the union, the community, and/or to students, including attending the annual *CSEA Paraeducator Conference*. ***Applications are accepted year-round.***

\$500 to \$4,000 Union Plus Scholarships are awarded to CSEA members, and their dependents each year. ***Applications are due January 31st each year.*** ***For eligibility requirements, applications, and information about all CSEA's scholarships and grant programs, go to www.csea.com/education***

Designate your lump-sum beneficiary today through my|CalPERS



Designate your lump-sum beneficiary today!

Without a current designation, it may take more time for CalPERS to determine your legal beneficiary, and your benefits may not be paid to the person you would have originally designated.

It's easy and takes minutes to update

Follow these steps to add or update your lump-sum beneficiary designation using my|CalPERS.

1. Visit my|CalPERS
2. Select **Participant** and log in using your username and password
3. Select the **Retirement** tab and the **Beneficiaries** subtab
4. Select **Add or Change Your Beneficiaries** and follow the prompts

You will need the following information about your beneficiary(ies) to complete the process:

- Social Security Number
- Birthdate
- Address

Questions?

Visit our [Beneficiary Designation](#) web page or call the CalPERS Customer Contact Center at **888 CalPERS** (or 888-225-7377).

For security reasons, only CalPERS members are allowed to access their my|CalPERS accounts online.



CSEA Free College Program



Dear Members,

We are excited to announce the **CSEA Low-Cost Bachelor's Degree Program** in partnership with Central State University (CSU).

You and your family members can already earn an Associate degree online with zero out-of-pocket costs through the **CSEA Free College Program**. And now you and your family members have the opportunity to complete a Bachelor's degree online with low out-of-pocket costs.

Who is eligible?

- Active and Retired CSEA Members
- Spouses, domestic partners, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other family members of CSEA active and retired members.

Note: Family members do NOT need to be dependents of or living with the CSEA member to be eligible.

Additional Program Information:

- All applicants must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), apply any grants to their account, and then will have access to an additional "CSEA Student Success Grant (CSSG).
- The most a student will have in annual out-of-pocket costs is \$4,500 inclusive of tuition, fees, and e-books.
- Students who have not yet earned an Associate degree will complete that first through the CSEA Free College Program. There are no out-of-pocket costs for this program.
- Eligible credits are transferable into the program and can also transfer out to other schools.
- Advising and tutoring are available to support students.
- Enroll anytime. Classes start every eight weeks. Next class start date is August 19.

What can you study?

Bachelor's Degrees in:

- Education
- Business Administration
- Additional degree programs coming soon!

For more information and to get started, go to www.csea.com/education.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR ACCESSING YOUR CSEA MEMBER BENEFITS ONLINE:

For information about all your consumer benefits as a CSEA member, visit www.csea.com/benefits. A user account is required to access CSEA Member Benefits. Create a user account in three easy steps at www.csea.com/createaccount. You will need your member ID number to create an account or to reset your Username and/or Password. Your ID number is: 8789. Please do not use Internet Explorer as a browser. Our website is not compatible with Internet Explorer. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox work best with our website. For additional questions or assistance, call CSEA Member Benefits at (866) 487-2732.

Conejo Chapter 620 Membership Information

Management understands strength. The more members in our chapter, the more influence we have to improve our contract and working conditions. CSEA's greatest asset is **you**.

How to determine if you are a Chapter member. Look at the diagram below. It will show a deduction for CSEA Chapter 620 Dues for \$3.

DEDUCTIONS	CURRENT
<div>* [blurred]</div> <div>* [blurred]</div> <div>* [blurred]</div> <div>* [blurred]</div> <div>Dues → equal to 1.5% of salary</div> <div>CSEA Ch 620 Dues → 3.00</div> <div>[blurred]</div> <div>[blurred]</div> <div>[blurred]</div>	<div>[blurred]</div> <div>[blurred]</div> <div>[blurred]</div> <div>[blurred]</div> <div>[blurred]</div> <div>3.00</div> <div>[blurred]</div>

If you are NOT a Chapter Member, we welcome you to join. Click link below, fill out the form and send it interoffice to CSEA Mailbox.

[CSEA Chapter 620 Membership Application](#)

**Click on the link below [Reasons to Become a Member](#).

<http://www.csea.com/web/About-Us/Join-CSEA>

BECOME A MEMBER
JOIN CSEA 