

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF CHILD WELFARE & ATTENDANCE

CASCWA CONNECTION

SOUTHERN SECTION

"Quarterly Publication for Our Members and Friends"



CASCWA

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Volume III, Issue 1

February, 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Frank Boehler, President, So. Section

I am so pleased to know that our first edition of the CASCWA Connection has finally reached our members. Within every organization, there are key individuals and as they change their positions, sometimes what appears to be easy becomes a little more challenging. Thus, it has been with our CASCWA Connection. A special "thank you" to Barbara Causee, Mark Michels and Jerry Hime for being instrumental with this great edition of our CASCWA Connection.

Wow! It's hard to believe that we are half way through the 1999-00 school year. As I look back on the past few months, CASCWA accomplishments have been many. I wish to thank all of you who attended Southern Section's Legal Forum on February 4th, 2000, in Lakewood, California. Phil Kauble and Jerry Hime brought before our membership John Harrold, Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County. Mr. Harrold spoke to our membership and made an excellent presentation on the topic of "Search, Seizure and Related Topics."

Mr. Harrold's presentation was the most recent in a series of Legal Forums that have been brought to our membership over the past several years. I wish to also thank Betty Folsom for the outstanding Forum entitled, "Kids With Guns Protocol." which was held on November 5, 1999, in Riverside. The highlight of the forum focused on the collaborative effort of numerous agencies in setting a standard to consistently deal with "kids with guns."

This forum proved how inter-agency collaboration can make a difference. Our hats are off to Betty and her fellow presenters.

I sincerely hope each of you have had an opportunity to pull up our CASCWA website at www.cascwa.org where you can find ongoing CASCWA information throughout the state. This website is quite an accomplishment and there is one key individual who is responsible for all the good things you see. His name is Tom Mangione. He is a CASCWA member and works for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Although Tom is the type of individual who prefers to remain silent and in the background, I want the entire membership to know that we consider him to be a "giant" in his field and an incredible webmaster to our organization.

As your President, I am pleased to report that the plans for the April 26, 27 and 28th conference in Palm Springs are outstanding. Please expect conference information to be mailed to your house at the end of February. If you have particular questions, please E-mail me at frankb@orangeusd.k12.ca.us. My staff will make certain that you receive all conference information.

I am especially pleased to inform you that our key note speaker for the event will be Marleen Wong, Director, Mental Health Services, District Crisis Teams, Suicide Prevention, Early Mental Health Initiatives, for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Ms. Wong is a dynamic speaker and will be focusing on the roles of Child Welfare & Attendance as she addresses our organization with

(Continued)

(President's Message Continued)

the topic of "Mental Health, To Work, To Love, To Learn."

I am also pleased to report that through the efforts of Karen Saunders, Christine Aranda-Smith, former CASCWA President, member of Education Secretary Gary Hart's Office, will be addressing our organization and updating us on key issues pertaining to Child Welfare & Attendance. **Included in this edition of the CASCWA Connection is information pertaining to the upcoming conference and several of the programs that have been planned.** This conference promises to be outstanding and it is the one conference of the year that we hope that all of you can attend.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to compliment our State President, Mr. Phil Kauble, for the outstanding leadership he has given to the Southern Section, Bay Section, Delta Section and San Joaquin Section. Mr. Kauble and Dr. Rich Morrison are to be commended for the outstanding publication entitled, "CASCWA 2000." This document is recognized throughout the State of California and is truly a document targeting the issues of today.

As you can see, CASCWA is truly an organization based upon the strength of its membership and members of its Executive Board. I thank you for being a member and look forward to seeing you in Palm Springs.

Frank Boehler

We Regret to Inform You

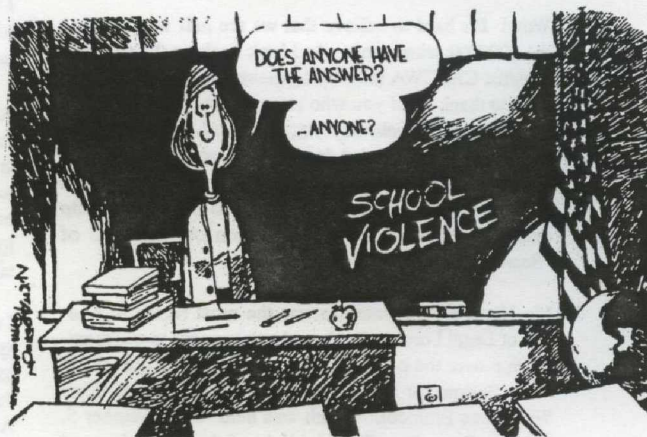
In her lifetime, she made a difference to so many young people. Her work will go on forever! Helen McEwen passed away on December 26, 1999. She was a Pupil Services and Attendance Counselor for many years with Los Angeles Unified School District and the LAUSD Representative to the Southern California Executive Board of CASCWA. Helen was an active member of CASCWA and received both the Southern Section and the State Outstanding Service Awards.

Her memorial took place in Carlsbad on December 30, 1999, where PSA and CASCWA members spoke on her accomplishments.

She was active in the North Coast Alliance for the Mentally Ill, city politics and the Brother Benno Homeless Project. Her daughter, Martha McEwen, her son-in-law Don Oberthur and grandchildren Anna and Aleena of Sebastopol, California, survive Helen. The family suggest that anyone wishing to make donations can make them in Helen's name to:

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, NAMI
P.O. Box 2235
Carlsbad, Ca 92018
OR
Brother Benno
P.O. Box 261
Oceanside, CA 92054

**FOR ANSWERS--
Come to the CASCWA
State Conference,
April 26-28, 2000**



Registration information enclosed!!

FACILITATING THE INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER AND EXPULSION APPEAL PROCESS

Submitted by Sherman R. Garnett, Coordinator, Child Welfare and Attendance, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

During November, 1998, San Bernardino County Assistant Superintendent Julian Weaver and I were summoned to the Office of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Barry Puliam.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways/methods to reduce the number of Interdistrict transfer and expulsion appeals filed with the County office. Having just accepted the position as Coordinator of Child Welfare and Attendance one-week earlier and having the supervision of my position placed under a different assistant superintendent than my predecessor, I was unaware of the concern raised by the Superintendent.

Superintendent Puliam explained to us that an inordinate amount of time was being spent by the County Board hearing appeals that could have been resolved without a hearing. Additionally, local school district personnel were spending valuable personnel hours and funds providing materials to the County Board such as hearing transcripts and other necessary documents. He requested that we research the issue and present a plan to the San Bernardino County Board of Education the following month relative to his concerns.

After researching all interdistrict transfer and expulsion appeal cases filed with the County Board for the previous three years, the following issues surfaced:

1. Many Interdistrict transfer appeals could have been resolved without the benefit of an appeal hearing.
2. Many expulsion appeals could have been resolved without the benefit of an appeal hearing.
3. There were several cases of no-shows by the appellants for expulsion appeals.
4. Upon filing of an Interdistrict transfer or expulsion appeal, there was no interim process prior to the actual Board hearing.

Working with this information, Assistant Superintendent Weaver and I organized a committee to address the issues. As a result of the successful committee collaboration, I presented to the County Board for approval the following plan:

- A. **Development of user-friendly handbooks** for Interdistrict transfer and expulsion appeals. The handbooks are based upon current education code outlining the process and responsibilities of parents and districts. The handbooks are automatically distributed to parents upon initial inquiry of an interdistrict transfer appeal or expulsion appeal.
- B. **Assignment of a Facilitator** to file Interdistrict trans

fer and expulsion appeals. Upon formal filing of either appeal, a facilitator is assigned to the case by the Coordinator of Child Welfare and Attendance. The purpose of the facilitator is to notify the district of the appeal filing, assist the parent in securing necessary documents to provide to the Board during the interim process and serve as an active listener, have weekly contact with the parent in regards to questions regarding the process, etc., while remaining neutral.

- C. **In-service local school district personnel** of the County schools office's role and County Board policy related to Interdistrict transfer appeals and expulsion appeals.
- D. **Update current suspension, expulsion and due process handbook.**

The County School Board unanimously accepted our recommendations. During the next two months, my office vigorously trained local district personnel, staff and facilitators. As a result of this process, the following has occurred:

1. The numbers of Interdistrict transfer appeals heard by the County Board have been reduced 75% in one year.
2. The numbers of expulsions heard by the County Board have been reduced 48% in one year.

Parents and school districts have expressed overwhelming satisfaction in the usage and effectiveness of a facilitator during the interim process.

SAMPLE PROCESS

Listed below is a sample process used by the San Bernardino County Office of Education in the area of Interdistrict transfer appeals and expulsion appeals:

- A. Office receives phone call or letter stating an intent/inquiry to the appeal process.
- B. Parent is sent, via U.S. mail, a packet of information, which includes an appeal handbook and appeal form.
- C. Coordinator, Child Welfare and Attendance assigns the case to a facilitator.
- D. Facilitator meets/contacts appellant. Explains process. Assists with delivery of materials to County Board. Additionally, Facilitator notifies school district of parent's appeal.
- E. Facilitator reviews case with Coordinator, Child Welfare and Attendance.
- F. Facilitator observes appeal hearing.

The Interdistrict transfer and expulsion appeal process continues to serve a vital role to school districts and parents. My office is currently reviewing and updating manuals created to further assist all. If you desire a copy of either handbook, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

(909) 387-0269

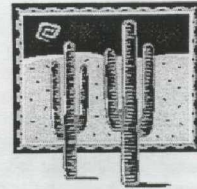
CASCWA STATE CONFERENCE

California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance
www.cascwa.org

“SCHOOLS WITHOUT FEAR”



PALM SPRINGS, CA



APRIL 26, 27, & 28, 2000

Conference topics include:

- Pros and Cons of Stipulated Expulsions
- Student Assistant Model
- Bomb Threats (*Featuring: Boomer, the Explosives Detecting Dog*)
- “Jack and Jill, Why Do They Kill”
- SB1626
- John Gilroy—CDE
- APEX
- Christine Aranda Smith from Secretary of Education Gary Hart’s Office
- SARB101
- Handling Difficult Situations
- LAPD—Violence Risk Assessment
- CAL-Works
- Joe Brucia’s Web Tour
- 2000 Legislative Update

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Marleen Wong, Director

Los Angeles Unified School District’s Mental Health Services, Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention

CASCWA STATE CONFERENCE
California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

"SCHOOLS WITHOUT FEAR"

PALM SPRINGS, CA
APRIL 26, 27, & 28, 2000

MARQUIS HOTEL, Palm Springs Conference Resort
150 South Indian Drive • Palm Springs, CA 92262 • 800-223-1050

CASCWA urges you to make your room reservations by March 31, 2000. Space is limited. The room rate for the conference is \$120 during the weekdays. Make certain to mention CASCWA when registering.

To register, please complete the following registration information. Make a copy and keep for your records. Send this form and your check (please, no purchase orders) made payable to CASCWA to:

Mr. Gerald Hime • CASCWA State Treasurer
PO Box 4223 • Huntington Beach, CA 92605 • 562-922-6234

Name: _____ Position/Title: _____

School/District/Agency: _____ Primary Telephone: () _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ FAX: () _____

Vegetarian Lunch

My "CASCWA Section Area" is: Bay Delta San Joaquin Southern

- | | CONFERENCE COST |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am currently a member of CASCWA. | \$150.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a "Retired" or an "Honorary Life" CASCWA Member. | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am not currently an active member of CASCWA. | \$170.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing an additional \$35.00 per ticket to attend "The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies" on Thursday evening.
Check payable to CASCWA. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in playing in a CASCWA golfing activity on Friday afternoon (separate cost TBD). | |

Conference Cost includes: Complimentary 2000-2001 CASCWA membership, all conference activities, conference materials, breakfast two days, lunch on Thursday, and the "President's Reception." In the event of any questions, please call Frank Boehler at (714) 628-4060 or e-mail at frankb@orangeusd.k12.ca.us.



LILLIE V. WILSON SOUTHERN SECTION SCHOLARSHIPS

Southern Section annually awards scholarships to high schools students who have overcome adversity in order to graduate. Child Welfare and Attendance personnel who have assisted them nominate these students. In June, 1999, eleven (11) scholarships were awarded, totaling \$2,200.00.

At CASCWA's annual state conference in San Francisco it was announced that these scholarships would be awarded in the name of Lillie V. Wilson. Lillie retired on July 1, 1999, as a consultant with the Los Angeles County Office of Education. She is past president of CASCWA and has conducted workshops statewide on attendance and welfare issues.

Donations are being accepted in Lillie's honor and may be sent to the:

Lillie V. Wilson Scholarship Fund
C/O Dale Parent, Treasurer
CASCWA Southern Section
Chula Vista Elementary School District
84 E. J. Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910

The following is an excerpt from a previous scholarship recipient who is currently attending Grambling State University: *"I am writing to share with you my progress in obtaining my degree . . . it was different being away from home and having to adjust to new surroundings. . . I don't know if it's just the southern hospitality, but each teacher seems to be really interested in the success of every student. . . When you're in class every student is focused on the same purpose—a degree . . . I just want to thank you again for all of your support and believing in me and wanting to see me succeed."*

This year's scholarships will be awarded in June, 2000. Please share the enclosed application form with the appropriate CWA staff in your county or district. To nominate a scholarship candidate, the CWA professional must be a current member of CASCWA with dues paid for the 1999-2000 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact our scholarship committee chairpersons, Karen Saunders at (213) 763-2852 or Mark Michels at (213) 625-4166.



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF CHILD WELFARE AND ATTENDANCE

SOUTHERN SECTION
LILLIE V. WILSON SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION

CRITERIA: *Scholarships will be granted to students who are leaving high school to continue their education. Scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded to students who have benefited from intervention by a Child Welfare and Attendance professional.*

NAME: _____

DISTRICT: _____

SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

CASCWA MEMBER MAKING THE NOMINATION: _____

DISTRICT: _____ **PHONE:** _____

DESCRIBE briefly the student's involvement with Child Welfare and Attendance:

ATTACH a one page typed statement by the student describing future educational plans and how he/she would benefit from the **CASCWA Southern Section Lillie V. Wilson Scholarship.**

SEND APPLICATION TO: Karen Saunders, PSA
315 E. 21ST Street, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90011

DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 3, 2000 **SELECTION:** Friday, May 12, 2000

PRESENTATION:
Recipient(s) will be invited to the June Southern Section Meeting on June 2, 2000.

KNIVES: ARE THE LAWS CONFUSING?

By Frank Boehler, Orange Unified School District, Director, Office of Child Welfare and Attendance

It is 3:00 PM in the afternoon. You are about to meet with a family of a student who has brought a pocket knife to school. You have read the written documentation and you have discussed the situation with the school site administrators. You take a minute to review California Education Code 48915. This code basically states that the Principal or Superintendent shall recommend an expulsion of a pupil who has possession of **any knife**, explosive or any other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the pupil.

At that point in time, you know that this student has admitted to being in possession of a knife and you believe that the matter is not being disputed in any manner, shape or form.

You carefully turn over the document packet and focus your eyes on the page that shows a xerox copy of the knife. The xerox shows a knife sitting next to a ruler on the page. It is at this moment that you realize you are dealing with a small "Swiss Army" knife that has a blade length of 1 1/2" and a handle length of 2 1/4". It is not a very large knife.

You hear a knock on the door and in walks the family and their attorney. Based on previous conversations of this kind, you realize that the majority of attorneys are knowledgeable of due process, trails of evidence, and procedures. However, past experiences have shown that many attorneys have not had a great deal of experience dealing with education codes and school district hearings.

Within a few minutes, the attorney points out to you that in Section 48915 (g) there is a definition of a knife. The definition says, "...knife means any dirk, dagger, or other weapon with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing, a weapon with a blade longer than 3 1/2", a folding knife with a blade that locks into place, or a razor with an unguarded blade."

At this point in time, you scratch your head and listen to what is coming next. The attorney then shares with you Penal Code 626.10. This Penal Code refers to dirks, daggers and knives and makes reference to a violation for possessing a knife with a blade of 2 1/2" or longer in length. Once again,

the attorney points out that his client's knife is a small "Swiss Army" knife.

To compound this matter, the attorney makes reference to Penal Code 653 (k) which makes reference to a switch blade knife which designates a misdemeanor offense for any knife with a blade longer than 2". The attorney looks across the table and has one more simple question, "Isn't it true that since this knife is not a locking blade and is less than 2 1/2", the district isn't even completing a State of California Crime and Violence Report?"

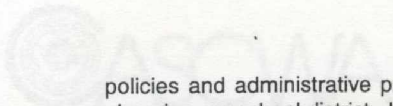
You look across the table and realize that once again you are placed in a position of having to explain to the attorney and his clients the range of laws pertaining to knives. You start with the law that states, "a knife of any kind" and work your way to "a knife with a 3 1/2" long blade".

You would prefer to be dealing with a dirk, bayonet, locking blade knife, or maybe even a machete for the purpose of your meeting, but you realize once again that you are dealing with a small "Swiss Army" knife.

In the middle of this meeting, the conversation gets very quiet and you have an opportunity to speak your mind, represent your school district, and to take appropriate measures.

You look across the table and you proceed to tell the family about the worst incident involving a knife that you have experienced. You remember the day that two friends were goofing around in a band class. One of the friends opens up a small "Swiss Army" knife and walks up to his friend from behind. He then gently pokes his friend in the middle of the back from behind with the open blade. He is doing this in a joking manner. However, his friend jumps and spins around and the knife cuts into him the length of his arm and into his hand. The accident resulted in over 100 stitches, two operations to repair ligaments, and trauma to the families involved.

You think back to that day when you vowed you would do everything you could to keep your schools safe. You tell the parents and the attorney that knives do represent a danger. They are considered a dangerous object under Education Code 48900 (b) and that any student carrying a knife must be considered a potential threat. They have no business being in our school. You then take the time to share with the attorney and the family all of the codes that have been discussed. You reflect upon your school board



Mark
Your
Calendar

policies and administrative procedures that are in place in your school district. It is your responsibility to enforce the consequences of the student's violation as outlined in the disciplinary guidelines.

For the majority of the districts, passive possession of a knife could result in either an "Expulsion" from the school district or a "Suspended Expulsion" with terms and conditions determined by the school district and approved by the board of education. Of course, the evidence supporting the finding of the facts will have to prove either (1) that other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct, or (2) that due to the nature of the violation, the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the pupil or others.

You inform the family and the attorney of the hearing process. You work with the family for an appropriate placement and begin the process of developing a rehabilitation plan. Everyone shakes hands, they understand what's going on, and there is a true sense of reality that everyone is working for the best interest of the student and, hopefully, to promote school safety. The family and the attorney leave and you draft the letter notifying the family of the date, time, and place for the expulsion hearing.

You sit in your office and once again ponder, why? Why is it that these laws need to be so confusing? Why is it that you need a ruler to call a knife a knife? You carefully reflect upon the pending hearing and the child who has been in your office. You know that within a few days or weeks this process will be repeated with a new family, a new attorney, and a different school.

**SOUTHERN SECTION
CONFERENCE--
November, 2000**

FALL PLANNING

The upcoming state conference is shaping up to be an exciting and informative event. And even as the planning continues, the initial planning has begun for the Southern Section Fall Conference to be held in November 2000.

Previous state and section conferences have traditionally been held in Palm Springs, CA.

However, in order to meet the needs of the members, your input is requested for determining the location of the November conference.

Please take a moment to indicate your preference and return this form to Jerry Hime, P.O. Box 4223, Huntington Beach, CA 90605.

You may also respond by telephone (562-922-6234); FAX (562-922-6781), or e-mail: hime_jerry@lacoedu

CALLING ALL RETIREES

Fern Zahren Williams, past president of So. Section CASCWA has volunteered to serve as chairperson of the revitalized Retirement Committee.

If you are a retired member of CASCWA or have any news/information to share about other retirees, please contact Fern at:

**Fern Zahren
6082 Eaglecrest Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Telephone: (714) 536-8700
FAX: (714) 960-5908**

- Palm Springs
- San Diego
- Ontario
- Long Beach

Please respond by March 1, 2000, so we may begin securing a meeting site.



DUMBBING DOWN OUR KIDS

Charles Sykes is the author of Dumbing Down Our Kids. He offered high school and college graduates a list of 11 things they did not learn in school.

In his book, he talks about how the feel good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and set them up for failure in the real world.

Here is a list of the 11 things:

Rule 1

Life is not fair; get used to it.

Rule 2

The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3

You will NOT make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4

If you think your teacher is tough, wait until you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.

Rule 5

Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping; they called it opportunity.

Rule 6

If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes. Learn from them.

Rule 7

Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes, and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your room.

Rule 8

Your school may have done away with winners and losers but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades; they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This, of course, doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9

Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off, and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10

Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11

Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one!





California Association of Supervisors
of Child Welfare and Attendance
Annual Membership Application Form

First Name _____ Last Name _____ School Year _____ Today's Date _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ County _____ () _____ Home Phone Number _____
Name of School or Place of Employment _____ School & District _____ County _____ () _____ Business Phone Number _____
Personal e-mail address: _____ () _____ Fax Phone Number _____
Section Affiliation (Please Check One): Bay Delta San Joaquin Southern Section

Send Application Form to:	Annual Dues (Please Make Checks Payable to CASCWA. <i>Purchase Orders Cannot Be Accepted.</i> Please Check One Box):
Dale Parent Chula Vista Elementary School District 84 East "J" Street Chula Vista, California 91910	<input type="checkbox"/> Active - \$30.00 (Voting Membership) <input type="checkbox"/> Associate - \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional - \$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Retired - \$10.00

CASCWA Membership Information

CASCWA wishes to update important membership information. In addition, today's technology of E-mailing and Faxing provides us an opportunity to communicate in a personal manner and with greater efficiency. If you have an E-mail address or if you have a Fax machine, please complete the following and either Fax it to: Frank Bohler at (714) 628-4061 or e-mail the information to: frankb@orangeusd.k12.ca.us.

Name: _____ Position: _____

District/Business: _____

I have been a member of CASCWA since (year of original membership): _____

I am retired: ____ Yes ____ No

Phone Numbers: Home: () _____ Business: () _____ Fax: () _____

My E-mail address is: _____

(If applicable) I have held the following positions in CASCWA and have received the following CASCWA awards:

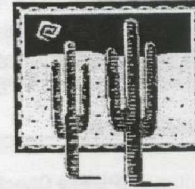
(If it is time to renew your membership, you may wish to do so using the application form below.
Membership renewals should be sent to Dale Parent at the address indicated.)

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF
CHILD WELFARE AND ATTENDANCE

"SCHOOLS WITHOUT FEAR"



PALM SPRINGS, CA



APRIL 26, 27, & 28, 2000



TO: