

INTERCOM

JUNE 2009

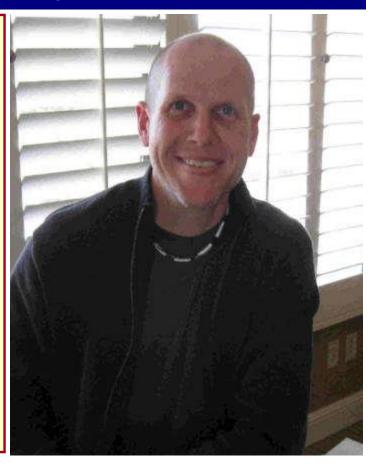
Official Publication of the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare & Attendance

Information on CASCWA's
Southern Section's Fall
Conference - Palm Springs
September 30, October 1 & 2

CASCWA INTERVIEWS
DR. DENNIS WIECHMANN,
CWA, SANGER UNIFIED, PAST
STATE AND SECTION
PRESIDENT

New Officers and Section Presidents' Messages

Texas Technology to Combat Truancy - GPS



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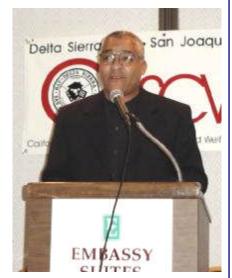
STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JOE TAYLOR

Sacramento County Office of Education

As the 2009-10 State President of CASCWA, I am looking forward to another exciting year and big challenges for our organization.

I want to thank everyone who was able to attend our "2009 State Conference" in beautiful Lake Tahoe. The conference was a great success and everyone enjoyed top notch speakers, informative workshops and of course the networking with colleagues from around the state.

I want to give a very special thanks to Tad Kitada and his staff at the Placer County Office Conference a great success!



staff at the Placer County Office of Education for making our 2009 State

I have several priorities for this upcoming year beginning with leading CASCWA through the harsh realities of the economic crisis we are facing statewide. The news here in Sacramento for education is not a pretty picture and things will continue to get worse. For those of us in CWA, "Student Support" and "School Safety" budget cuts will continue. Critical services for the students we serve will continue to take a hit. We have to take the lead to do everything necessary to keep these services for the students we work with. We will continue to share our expertise on a statewide basis and network with other educational organizations to lobby for support of our programs and our students. We have to find ways to keep our programs going in these difficult times.

I am looking forward to working with my fellow state board members and I want to welcome our new "Section Presidents" to the board. They include: Sherman Garnett, Southern Section; Hector Molina, Delta Sierra Section; Alan Del Simone, Bay Section; and James Tate, San Joaquin Section. We have a great challenge ahead, but with all of this expertise on a statewide level, I know we can be successful.

Project Preservation started at this year's state conference to give recognition to some of the outstanding leaders who have served in the organization over the years. I plan to continue with the recognition of many of our great CASCWA legends. Each Section over the course of the year will be honoring their former state leaders and the recognition will continue at the 2010 State Conference in Fresno. I hope everyone gets a chance to help honor our past leaders at a Section event and be inspired by their words of wisdom.

CASCWA has gone through tough times before with budget cuts and economic downturns and one of the reason it has continued to exist, since 1936, is because of the vision and hard work of its past leaders. I have been inspired by some of these icons and look forward to the challenges and the future of CASCWA.

CASCWA STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2008 - 2009

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Immediate Past State President

SHERMAN GARNETT

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CASCWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

CASCWA is an organization comprised of school and community professionals who are dedicated to improving school climate, safety, and increasing school attendance. We create a network of professional support, mentors and educators and we influence relevant legislation and advocate for the needs of students, families and schools.

BAY SECTION PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Alan DelSimone West Contra Costa U.S.D., Retired <u>adelsimone@wccusd.net</u>

Greetings from Bay Section! First, kudos to Delta-Sierra Section for their outstanding conference at Lake Tahoe. The program, entertainment, ambience, and raffle prizes were all first rate. Once again the bar has been set very high for upcoming state conferences. Bay Section ended this school year's activities with a well-attended luncheon on May 15, 2009, at the Martinelli Center in Livermore. After a brief discussion on CWA survival strategies during times of fiscal crisis and brainstorming on the 2011 State Conference, the rest of the day was spent in recognition and celebration. In the spirit of "Project Preservation," Bob Campbell was recognized for his long, distinguished career in CWA work in San Jose and with Bay Section. Deputy D.A. from Santa Clara County, Lois Baer, was recognized for her outstanding contributions in the field of truancy prevention and to CASCWA. Janet McMurray was recognized for her Bay Outstanding Service Award, Jan Passama for winning the distinguished Lee Lundberg Award, and Frank Valadez as outgoing Bay President for his service and leadership over nearly two years. The best part,



as always, was recognizing our two student scholarship winners for 2008-09. Our officers were installed for the new year which included the addition of Bill Whitton, Newark Unified, as Vice-President. Bay Section Executive Board will meet in late June to jump-start the new year and begin to work on our goals of increasing membership, improving communication, bringing new members into leadership roles, and planning for the 2011 State Conference. Best wishes to all our colleagues!

DELTA-SIERRA SECTION PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Hector Molina Woodland Joint Unified School District - 435 Sixth St, - Woodland, CA 95695 530-681-0279 - hector.molina@wjusd.org

As Delta Sierra Section President, I would like all of you to know that I am very excited and honored to serve as President for our Section. We had a very successful 2009 CASCWA State Conference in Lake Tahoe. We received many positive comments from the evaluations we received, which is helping us plan for our 2010 Delta Sierra Section Conference in Lake Tahoe in late Spring. Delta Sierra Section would also like to introduce our new President Elect (Tera Diggs) and Treasurer (Marisa Wilson) both of whom come to us from Natomas Unified School District. Tera and Marisa are looking forward to fulfilling their new roles as board members.



Delta Sierra Section will be sponsoring two Fall training sessions: (1) "September: Homeless and Foster Youth" and (2) 'October: SARB Handbook (Shasta County.)" We will be sending out SAVE THE DATE information via e-mail during the summer months. We are very excited about providing training workshops for our Delta Sierra County Offices of Education and school districts. We hope that other sections members attend our Fall workshops, as well.

I would like to wish you all a great summer vacation. You have all earned it because of the hard work and dedication you have put forth to help our students and families throughout the year.

The Delta-Sierra Section is looking forward to a great 2009-10 school year.

SAN JOAQUIN SECTION PRESIDENT'S REPORT - JAMES TATE Clovis Unified School District jamestate@clovis.k12.ca.us

Greetings! I am overjoyed that I have been asked to serve as the San Joaquin Section President as we launch into the 2009/2010 school year. I will endeavor to keep the unity of this organization and to continue the excellent work by our past and present members.

As you are aware, the San Joaquin Section is hosting our State CASCWA Conference in Fresno, May 5-7, 2010, at the beautiful Raddison Hotel. We are looking forward to reacquainting ourselves with our fellow members as the SJ Section leaders have already met to commence planning for this outstanding event.

CASCWA members all agree that we must uphold the banner to do what is right for kids in every community. We pledge to perpetuate the hard work that is demanded by our districts for the welfare of our students. Although some may slip through the cracks in a dismal budget ou

the welfare of our students. Although some may slip through the cracks in a dismal budget outlook, we are not distressed; we are fully persuaded that if one is successful, we all take part in that success. May you all enjoy good health as we renew our vigor to commit to our students and communities.



SOUTHERN SECTION PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SHERMAN GARNETT

Coordinator, Child Welfare & Attendance-San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (909) 386-2903 _sherman _garnett@sbcss.k12.ca.us

Dear CASCWA members:

I am excited, humbled and honored to serve as the CASCWA Southern Section President for the 2009-2010 school year. As I write this column, Southern Section members and I are eagerly putting together the final touches for our Annual Fall Conference entitled, "The ABC's of Failure: Absenteeism, Bullying, Climate." The fall conference will be held Sept 30, Oct 1 and 2, 2009, in the beautiful city of Palm Springs, California at Hotel Zoso.

Utilizing our State Superintendent's theme of closing the diversity gap, this conference is a perfect opportunity to collect, collaborate and evaluate your school district's programs to ensure student success for all. With the current budget crunch and the need to increase school attendance, this conference is a must. WE NEED YOU THERE. See You in Palm Springs.



CASCWA INTERVIEWS DR. DENNIS WIECHMANN SANGER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

dwiechmann@sbcglobal.net



One of the greatest personalities and outstanding leaders in "CASCWA's History" is Dr. Dennis Wiechmann. Dennis is a child advocate and is truly committed to CASCWA and the standards of our great professional organization. Dennis continues to be active at the "State" and "San Joaquin Section" levels. The Intercom is excited to receive the following interview from Dr. Dennis Wiechmann:

You are a past CASCWA Section and State President. What has been the impact of CASCWA in your career and professional involvement?

The leadership roles that I have taken in CASCWA have afforded me the opportunity to meet and learn from some of the most capable administrators in the State of California.

The relationships that I have established and the ability to pick up the phone and seek the advice of "the experts" is priceless. I have always viewed myself as a sponge. I learn stuff from everyone that I come into contact with. The knowledge that I have gained from these relationships has allowed me to become a conduit of information for my district and a referral option for other agencies including the Educational Options Unit of the California Department of Education. Every conference that I attend, every "ask the experts" question that I read or answer, every conversation I have with CASCWA members has given me learning opportunities.

You have a background in school psychology, similar to Gaylen Wright. How did your career evolve to the level of respect and recognition that you have attained today?

I have always just focused on being a child advocate. If there is something that I can do to help a student(s), then I will do it. I take this approach with every aspect of my life (personal and professional). While I never really think about what my reputation is or the recognitions that I have received, I would say they are secondary to continuing to support the at-risk students that I work with. I hope that my reputation is one of an educator who is honest, means what he says, and does the right thing, even when it is the difficult course of action. When people think about me, I would hope that their first thoughts are of me as a father, a coach for my boys, and a good family member!!!!!

During "Project Preservation," your interview focused on the importance of the San Joaquin and State Scholarships. Please give our members a brief history of "CASCWA's Scholarships" and specifically the action taken by the San Joaquin Section.

The Anthony Burcia Success Award was originally funded by Joe Brucia in memory of his late son who had struggled as a teenager, then turned himself around. This scholarship and the idea of supporting students who have turned it around go to the essence of what we do in education, and go to the heart of what I believe. Many



of the students that we work with have plans and dreams, but do not qualify for the typical scholarships and have limited financial resources. This creates a significant barrier to their continued education after high school, and ultimately breaking the cycle for their children. Our scholarship awards, which have grown to 6,000 dollars per year) was one way to recognize and support Valley students who have turned it around and are on the right track. The highlight of my year is attending the annual scholarship luncheon, meeting the award winners, and listening to their stories. I am excited just writing about it.

There are several CASCWA giants in the San Joaquin Section. Who are a few of the individuals that have influenced you most in the San Joaquin Section and what have you learned from them?

I would say that Bob Pankratz and Joe Brucia are the two biggest influences from our section. Each has a unique perspective and I have picked up different qualities from each of them. When I think about how I want my professional and personal life to evolve, I just look at what they have done and how they have approached life. If I can stay close to the path that they have walked, then I know in the end I will have done the right things. Yes, I know that I have a long way to go, but I think I am on the right path.

ADA is critical to the funding of school districts throughout California. It is amazing that some of the cuts that are going on in California Schools impact the staffs that work to generate ADA and to keep ADA as high as possible. Please provide our members with your thoughts on the present budget crisis and what actions you would like to see school districts focus on to improve ADA and student success.

First, districts need to make sure they are focusing on addressing/improving their school environments and making sure that they are supporting all of their students, especially the ones who are struggling. If students feels like they "belong" to the school, that the teachers "care" about them, have "high expectations" for them, and that they can "meaningfully participate" in the school, then they are going to do everything in their power to come to school every day. How many kids miss school when there is going to be a class party?

Second, districts need to have a quality SARB process in operation. This will help address any chronic cases of school absences. This process needs to be aggressive. Parents/students should receive a "First SARB" letter after the third unexcused absence or tardy greater than thirty minutes. The "second SARB" letter and school site SARB meeting should come shortly thereafter. If and when the contract is broken, then the case should immediately be referred to the "SARB Board."

Sanger Unified has aggressively addressed attendance issues from both perspectives and has seen an increase in district attendance every year since the 2005-2006 school year. Currently, the district's attendance rate, including the high school and alternative schools, is 96.13%. This increase has



resulted in students attending over 38,000 more school days per year. Over the past four years, this equates to over 150,000 school days of attendance. From a learning perspective this is huge. It is also one of the reasons why Sanger Unified has been one of the few districts to exit PI status! If students attend school, they can benefit from instruction. Just as a note, we are not an affluent district, we are a Title I district 15 miles east of Fresno.

San Joaquin is known for outstanding "CASCWA State Conferences." You are currently planning the state conference for 2010. What can our members expect from next year's conference and what will be the focus that San Joaquin Section will be delivering to educators throughout California?

Yup, we love having the state conference. The 2009-2010 conference will be exceptional, as all state conferences are. We already have the date and registration flyers out and will continue to send them to as many individuals and schools as we can. We are working on identifying speakers and topics as we speak. The legal firms are already lined up and ready to present on current topics. Additionally, we will be tapping the experts in our field to present. This is the 75th Annual Conference and it will be outstanding. We are going to make the legends in CASCWA, like "Joe Brucia," proud.

You have a beautiful family and your son's are active in sports. How do you manage your time with all of the demands placed on your schedule?



I guess it is all about priorities, focus in life, and balance. I have made professional choices that have allowed me to participate with my family. Specifically, I have not sought any promotions or job My current position allows me to coach my boys, be a good overall father, and family member. If I were to change jobs it would be for self-interest or to boost my ego, and that is the wrong thing to do. This is a time that I will never be able to get back and I do not want to miss out on that experience. I have plenty of time left to worry about work or promotions.

What advice would you give to new educators entering the field of child welfare and attendance for the first time?

Get active in your local section, then get active with the state. This is the best way to "pick-other's brains" and get better at what you do. I would also tell them to focus on the positive aspects of the students and families they work with and support. If they can do that, the families and students will appreciate what they do, even when they have to make difficult decisions. I would also encourage them to become a "resiliency" expert.

Thank you Dennis for an excellent interview!

DELTA-SIERRA RECRUITS NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Delta Sierra Section would like to introduce our new President Elect (Tera Diggs) and Treasurer (Marisa Wilson) both of whom come to us from Natomas Unified School District. Tera and Marisa are looking forward to fulfilling their new roles as board members.



Tera Diggs, MSW, PPSC Supervisor Prevention & Intervention

WELCOME ABOARD!

Marisa Wilson Attendance Technician



San Joaquin's Workshop a Mixture of Professional Development & Inspiration

By Dennis Wiechmann Ed.D; Sanger Unified School District



The San Joaquin section hosted its annual Spring Workshop on May 22, 2009. This workshop provided both professional development and inspiration for those who attended. The topic selected for this year's workshop focused on legal issues related to bullying and bullying prevention programs. David Moreno, from the Legal Firm of Lazono Smith, covered the legal aspects of bullying, providing the attendee's with the most recent educational code changes and court case reviews. This was followed by a presentation from Tom Byars, from the Tulare County Office of Education. Mr. Byars focused on intervention and prevention programs that are proven to reduce bullying at schools and ultimately improve school climates and academic achievement. This provided a great "one-two" punch of information for our attendees.

The second part of the workshop was our scholarship luncheon, in which we honored 6 students from around the valley



who have "turned it around" with the **Anthony Brucia Success Award**, which includes a 650 dollar award!! This success award was started by Joe Brucia and his wife in memory of their son who had struggled in his life, but had turned it around and was on the right track before a climbing accident took his life.

This is our best event of the year. Listening to Dr. Write tell the stories of how these students have overcome huge obstacles and continued to persevere is an inspiration for all who attend. This year, we were also joined by our State Scholarship winner and we had the pleasure of presenting Jessica Metzler with a 1000 dollar check to continue her education at Fresno State. I am still not sure she believed it was happening!!

The **Anthony Brucia Success Award** and the state scholarship truly reminds us why we do what we do, and that any student, no matter the odds, can turn it around.

The San Joaquin section has given out 24,000 dollars in awards over the past 4 years. All of the funds that will be generated from the State Conference, being held in Fresno, California, May 5-7, 2009 will be dedicated to continuing to provide a significant amount of financial support for our scholarship winners. You can help support our goal of giving another 24,000 dollars over the next 4 years by attending the State Conference or donating funds to the *Anthony Brucia Success Award* account.



For more information please contact Dennis Wiechmann at 559-351-1408 (dwiechmann@sbcglobal.net).

"CASCWA San Joaquin's 2009 Scholarship Awards"



John Christinsen, James Tate, Omar, Marlena, Rory, Cynthia, Hanna, OSirhis, Hailey, Jessica, Joe Brucia, & Galen Wright

State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Announces 2009 Model SARB Award Winners for Dropout Prevention

SACRAMENTO — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced eight school districts have been designated as Model of Dropout Prevention by the State School Attendance Review Board (State SARB).

"Implementing programs to ensure regular school attendance and high school graduation is particularly challenging when school budgets are drastically reduced," O'Connell said. "These school districts are to be commended for their commitment to ensuring that students with attendance or behavior problems receive assistance and stay in school. Their collaborative efforts with the community bring back students on the margins of our educational system and guide them toward more successful futures."

Eight school districts in California were selected for their exemplary school attendance review board (SARB) programs: Conejo Valley Unified School District, Colton Joint Unified School District, Hesperia Unified School District, Kern High School District, Palm Springs Unified School District, San Bernardino City Unified School District, Victor Valley Union High School District, and Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District.

A list of the eight districts and SARB chairpersons who can act as mentors for other SARBs in the state is attached. Many of this year's model SARBs were assisted by last year's model SARBs which were recognized by the State Superintendent at the Queen Mary in Long Beach.

"These districts have focused on removing barriers to the learning and achievement of students most in need," O'Connell said. "Attending school and graduating from high school are critically important. These districts have formed successful partnerships with parents and members of the community at large, including law enforcement, social services, mental health, and various youth services agencies to diagnose school attendance problems and get students back in school."

The SARB process for dropout prevention was created by the state Legislature in 1974 to develop new ways of coordinating school, community, and home efforts to deal with persistent student attendance or behavior problems that can lead to dropping out of school.

In addition to establishing county and local SARBs, the Legislature created the State SARB, a diverse advisory panel of experts, to make annual recommendations to the State Superintendent regarding the needs and services provided to high-risk youth. Members of the State SARB evaluated school district applications for excellence in specific content areas, including SARB chairperson leadership, interventions prior to SARB referral, collaboration, inventory of resources for high-risk youth, goals and objectives, program design and content, measuring and reporting outcomes, and interpersonal communication.

Districts recognized for their model dropout prevention program retain their title through the 2010-11 school year to serve as a mentor for other SARBs seeking to improve their program. This year the model SARBs were recognized on April 22 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in South Lake Tahoe.

For more information on the SARB process for dropout reduction, please visit the California Department of Education Web site at School Attendance Review Boards - Attendance Improvement.

2009 Model SARB's are recognized at the CASCWA State Conference in Lake Tahoe

CASCWA wishes to thank David Kopperud, C.D.E. and the members of California's State SARB for this important program and presentation.

(A special "Thank You" to Maria Bravo for saving the day by taking the following pictures. CASCWA is indebted to you!)

The Model SARB Recognition Program identifies and recognizes outstanding results-based school attendance improvement programs at the district or county level and creates a resource list of quality programs for dropout reduction. These model programs provide direct services to high-risk youth with persistent school attendance or school behavior problems or they provide consultant services and coordinate services within a county. The CDE encourages SARBs that meet the eligibility criteria to submit an application to the Model SARB Recognition Program. It is too late for this year, but it is not too early to get started for next year!

The self-nomination application for the Model SARB Recognition Program for 2009-10 will soon be available on the CDE Web site at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/sb. A sample application and criteria for selection is also on the CDE website.

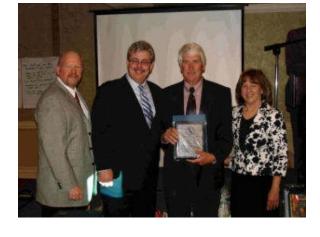
Conejo Valley Unified School District, Linda L. Calvin, Ph.D., SARB Chairperson, Thousand Oaks, 805-497-9511, Superintendent/Designee: Janet A. Cosaro.





Colton Joint Unified School District, Amanda Corridan, SARB Chairperson, Colton, 909-580-6521, Superintendent/Designee: James Down.

Hesperia Unified School District, Kenneth L. Larson, SARB Chairperson, Hesperia, 760-244-4411, ext 7256.





Palm Springs Unified School District, Michael C.W. Wong, SARB Chairperson, Palm Springs, 760-416-6036.

Kern High School District, Christopher A. Persons, SARB Chairperson, Bakersfield, 661-827-3177, Superintendent/Designee: Donald E. Carter (Photo not shown.)

San Bernardino City Unified School District, Susann Hazen, SARB Chairperson, San Bernardino, 909-880-6614, Superintendent/Designee: Ray Culberson.





Victor Valley Union High School District, Patricia R. Johnson, SARB Chairperson, Victorville, 760-955-3200, ext. 10292, Superintendent/Designee: Herb Calderon.

Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District, Mike Likins, SARB Chairperson, Yucaipa, 909-797-0174, ext. 131, Superintendent/Designee: Sherry Kendrick.



SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union Support Model State SARB Recognition Program



CASCWA wishes to send a large "Thank You" to SchoolsFirst F.C.U., formerly the Orange County Teacher's Federal Credit Union. SchoolsFirst F.C.U. sponsored the 2009 "Model SARB Recognition Program Awards."

Educators throughout Southern California consider SchoolsFirst to be a first class organization and a friend to all educators. Their website at http://www.schoolsfirstfcu.org/ states: "SchoolsFirst FCU has been serving the Orange County educational community since 1934. The credit union has an asset size of nearly \$8 billion and serves more than 380,000 Members. Our strong asset base and size of Membership allow us to offer diverse services and provide stability to meet our Members' financial needs."

CASCWA extends our gratitude to SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and those individuals who have gone out of their way over decades to support educational programs throughout California.

The new "State SARB Handbook" was distributed for the first time at the 2009 CASCWA State Conference in Lake Tahoe. It is currently being finalized. Additional copies of the SARB Handbook that were distributed to conference attendees are available below.":

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools ORDER FORM

State SARB Handbook April 2009 Edition with CD version

Book content includes:

- Foundation of the SARB Process
- Prevention Work
- Early Identification
- Interventions
- SARB Process
- Mediation Programs
- Enforcement of Compulsory Education Laws
- Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

*** PURCHASE ORDERS ACCEPTED***

2009 State SARB HANDBOOK ORDER FORM

Name	
Agency	Phone ()
Address	Zip
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SBCSS	
Mail to: San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools 601 North E Street San Bernardino, CA 92410 Attn: Sherman Garnett	Quantity x Cost per book \$ 6.00 Quantity x Tax per book \$.47 Shipping * 1 - 6 books \$ 3.00 7 - 12 books \$ 6.00 12 - 18 books \$ 9.00
For further information please call Sherman Garnett @ Phone: (909) 386-2903 Fax: (909 386-2940	*No shipping charge for public schools and school districts located within San Bernardino County.

Dear Educators,

My name is Dennis Wiechmann Ed.D, Conference Chair for the San Joaquin Section of the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance (CASCWA). I wanted to take a moment to introduce you to our organization, and personally invite you to our annual state conference that will be held in Fresno, California, May 5-7, 2010.

CASCWA is a state organization that strives to help professionals who are dedicated to improving school climate, safety, and increasing school attendance. We create a network of professional support, mentors, and educators. We influence relevant legislation and advocate for the needs of students, families, and schools.

Over the past several decades, CASCWA has established an outstanding reputation in the education and law enforcement community for hosting informative and meaningful conferences. Every year I hear from attendees that the CASCWA conference is the best conference that they attended all year. The success of our conference can also be seen in the 80% participant return rate. Once you come to a CASCWA conference, you will continue to come back.

This year's conference continues building on the 75-year legacy that has already been established. The current lineup of presenters and classes are outstanding. All of our presenters are experts in the field of education, educational law, law enforcement related to school, and working with at-risk students.

Due to the economic difficulties many district are facing, we have structured the fees for the conference to be as low as possible while still maintaining a quality conference. This will be the most cost effective conference offered for state educators and law enforcement personnel this year! Additionally, the way the sessions have been structured and selected you can use restricted money, such as Title I, Tupe, AB113, Special Education, Medical, School Improvement Funds, and any grants related to safety, attendance, and student academic improvement.

If you work with at-risk students or supervise staff who work with at-risk students then this conference is a must. A registration form and conference flyer has been attached for your convenience. Space is limited so please register early. If you have any questions regarding this conference please email me at dwiechmann@sbcglobal.net.

Sincerely,

Dennis Wiechmann Ed.D Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance Sanger Unified School District CASCWA San Joaquin Conference Chair



STATE CONFERENCE

May 5-7, 2010

PSYCHOLOGIST ϕ CHILD WELFARE AND ATTENDANCE ϕ SOCIAL WORKERS ϕ SPECIAL EDUCATION ϕ HEARING OFFICERS ϕ REGULAR EDUCATION ϕ

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Fresno, California (559) 268-1000

This is the most cost effective conference in the State!

California's top educators, educational specialists, law enforcement personnel, and educational legal teams will share their expertise in a wide range of topics including, increasing attendance and ADA revenue, drug identification and interventions, special education and regular education discipline issues, alternative education programs, SARB, closing the achievement gap, meeting new NCLB guidelines, and much more. If you have a question you will get an answer from the experts.

THIS CONFERENCE IS KNOWN TO BE BENEFICIAL FOR ANY PERSON WHO WORKS WITH CHILDREN. ALL ATTENDEES ACQUIRE NEW AND USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

2009-10 CASCWA STATE CWA CONFERENCE

Priority Registration Form Wednesday, May 5 - Friday, May 7, 2010 **Radisson Hotel**

2233 Ventura Street Fresno CA 93721

NAME:	BUSINESS PHONE:		
ADDRESS:	HOME PHONE:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP	
SCHOOL DISTRICT	OR AGENCY:		
EMAIL:			
	TRATION INCLUDES THURDSAY LUNCHEON & FRI	DAY BREA	KFAST
Pre Conference Academy Registration (Wednesday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm: Lunch on your own: (Please Select One) Drug Identification/Gang Intervention: Section Hosted Academy CWA 101: State Hosted Academy			AMOUNT
 Conference Registration (Thursday & Friday) Includes 2009-2010 CASCWA membership, Intercom subscription, President's reception, and San Joaquin Section reception. 			
3. COMBO PAK	- Pre Conference & Conference (1 & 2) BEST DEAL	\$225	
	- Group Discount: Districts sending 5 or more attendees. orms must be sent together. BEST GROUP DEAL	\$200	
	istration for Retired or Life Time Members	\$50	
6. Conference Register renewal (Thursd	gistration for NON-MEMBERS – excluding membership day & Friday)	\$230	
(Does not include One Day Registr	rence Registration: Allows one person to attend all sessions e membership) ration – Thursday (includes lunch) ration – Friday (includes breakfast)	\$125 \$100	
8. Total Amount Du	ue		

I would like to request a vegetarian lunch on Thursday Registration fee must accompany this form. Purchase Orders will be accepted for registration.

No refunds, or purchase orders after April 26, 2010.

Make checks payable to: **CASCWA**

Mail to: Sanger Unified School District Attention: Dennis Wiechmann

1905 7th Street Sanger CA 93657

(559)-875-0709 - Fax (559)-875-6379

Early Bird Special

Register by January 26, 2010 and receive a \$20.00 discount (combo pak 3 only)

Fresno Radison Hotel - Conference Headquarters/Hotel Reservations

If you plan to stay overnight call (559) 268-1000 or FAX to (559) 441-2952. Room rates are \$119.00 for single or double occupancy (plus tax, parking is free).

Make your room reservations early. Rates will not be guaranteed after April 7, 2010.

TEXAS TECHNOLOGY

Below you will find a story that was printed recently in the Houston Chronicle about the AIM Program and how it successfully getting kids back in the classroom and positively changing their attitudes. If you have any questions, please contact Miller Sylvan at 949-278-7762, msylvan@aimforattendance.com, www.AIMforattendance.com.



High-tech sleuth helps reduce truancy By RENÉE C. LEE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

May 25, 2009, 7:52PM Billy Smith II

New Caney High school student Clarissa Curry, 17, has to carry this GPS device with her at all times. She's in the truancy program for defying a court order to go to school.

Seventeen-year-old Clarissa Curry, a New Caney High School student, is a repeat-offender truant which, in Judge James Metts' court, likely would

have landed her in jail. But the judge found a high-tech alternative. Instead of spending a three-day weekend in the Montgomery County Jail, Curry must spend six weeks carrying around a handheld device the size of a cell phone that tracks her every move.

Several times every day the New Caney High School sophomore is required to log her whereabouts by pushing a button on the Global Positioning System and cellular device, which transmits her location to a computer every two to five minutes. If she's not where she should be, she'll get a call from a counselor to get back on the right path.

The device is part of a program called AIM, or Attendance Improvement Management. Metts, justice of the peace in Montgomery County Precinct 4, is piloting the program to curb truancy in his precinct. He ordered Curry and nine other students to enroll in the program in April. Truancy is a consistent problem every school year, but this year Metts said he has seen more repeat offenders and wants to help change their behavior.

"They can either be an asset or liability to their community," Metts said. "I would rather see them graduate from high school and be productive citizens." New Caney High school student Clarissa Curry, 17, has to carry this GPS device with her at all times. She's in the truancy program for defying a court order to go to Metts said he turned to AIM because it teaches students responsibility, provides one-on-one mentoring and appears to work. Developed four years ago at the request of a Dallas County truancy court, AIM has seen a 98 percent attendance rate among its students, said Travis Knox, chief executive of AIM, the Dallas company that manages the program.

Harris County interested: AIM began expanding to other parts of the state in January. It is now in six cities, 26 middle schools and high schools and five courts, Knox said. Metts is the only judge in the Houston region using the program, Knox said. The program has caught the attention of the truancy section of the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Michael Moore, the county's chief truancy prosecutor, said he is considering the program to augment the section's Stay in School program. Dealing with truancy is often less about getting a body in school and more about addressing underlying issues that cause students to miss school, say court and school officials. Many students have family issues, are homeless or have drug problems. Knox said a key feature of AIM is the "human contact" students get from the program's coaches who call during the week to provide support and guidance.

The personal relationships established in AIM are helping turn around Curry and four other New Caney school district students who had habitual attendance problems, said Morris Fuselier III, the district's associate superintendent for administrative services. Since April 25, only one student has missed a school day and that was for a doctor's appointment, Fuselier said. "They've been punished before with court-ordered programs and threatened with juvenile detention and they did not respond the way they have with this program," he said.

Jail time a possibility: The punishment for truancy can vary depending on the judge, but state law enables them to put 17- and 18-year-old students in jail for up to 72 hours for violating a court order to go to school. Similar monitoring programs are being used around the country, including one by a Midland judge that requires students to wear an electronic bracelet to monitor students.

The programs appear to have gained some momentum over the past five years, said Terry Cash, assistant director of The National Dropout Prevention Center. Pressure to meet requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act has forced schools to find innovative ways to keep students in school, and some see the monitoring programs as one way to target at-risk students, Cash said.

So far, the results are mixed. Short term, the programs have some positive impact, but their long-term effectiveness is unknown because data is lacking, he said. Curry ended up in AIM because she defied a court order to go to school. She said the routine she must follow every day as part of the program is becoming second nature. She pushes the button on her device when she wakes up, five more times throughout the day and again when her 9 p.m. curfew rolls around. At curfew, she also must call a call center and read a code number. Her voice and location are then verified by the computer. To ensure Curry is going to class, her teachers must sign a daily attendance sheet. Curry said she likes talking to her coach, who calls four times a week to check on her progress. "It's not that bad," she said. "It teaches me a lot of responsibility and that there are consequences for your actions."

Her mother, Melanie LaBluff, said she and her husband own two businesses that keep them busy and sometimes they don't ask their three children about school. She said she did not know Clarissa was repeatedly skipping her English class until she was cited for failure to attend school this year. She said Clarissa is not a troubled student and that AIM has taught her repetitive behavior and responsibility. "I'm thankful she's getting the help that will push her," LaBluff said. renee.lee@chron.com



The pweor of the hmuan mnid



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Amzanig huh?

Hector Molina's 50 Gang Risk Factors

Many CASCWA members who attended the Lake Tahoe State Conference were treated to an outstanding workshop by Hector Molina on "Gangs and Gang Strategies for Educators." Below you will find one of his handouts!

Risk Factors for G	Sang Membership
Comm	nunity
 Social disorganization, including poverty and residential mobility Organized lower-class communities Underclass communities Presence of gangs in the neighborhood Availability of drugs in the neighborhood Availability of firearms 	- Barriers to and lack of social and economic opportunities - Lack of social capital - Cultural norms supporting gang behavior - Feeling unsafe in the neighborhood; high crime - Conflict with social control institutions
Fan	nily
 Family disorganization, including broken homes, and parental drug/alcohol abuse Troubled families, including incest, family violence, and drug addiction Family members in a gang Lack of adult male role models 	- Lack of parental role models - Low socioeconomic status - Extreme economic deprivation, family management problems parents with violent attitudes - Sibling antisocial behavior
Sch	ool
 Academic failure Low educational aspirations, especially among females Negative labeling by teachers Trouble at school Few teacher role models 	- Educational frustration - Low commitment to school, low school attachment, high levels of antisocial behavior in school - Low achievement test scores, and identification as being learning disabled
Peer (Group
- High commitment to delinquent peers - Low commitment to positive peers - Street socialization - Gang members in class	- Friends who use drugs or who are gang members - Friends who are drug distributors - Interaction with delinquent peers
Indiv	idual
 Prior delinquency Deviant attitudes Street smartness; toughness Defiant and individualistic character Fatalistic view of the world Aggression Proclivity of excitement and trouble Locura (acting in a daring, courageous, and especially crazy fashion in the face of adversity) Higher levels of normlessness in the context of family, peer group, and school 	- Social disabilities - Illegal gun ownership - Early or precocious sexual activity, especially among females - Alcohol and drug use - Drug trafficking - Desire for group rewards such as status, identity, self-esteem companionship, and protection - Problem behaviors, hyperactivity, externalizing behaviors, drinking, lack of refusal skills - Victimization

STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF JACK O'CONNELL COMMENTS ON SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

SACRAMENTO — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell commented on the failure of the propositions in today's special election.

"Californians soundly rejected five out of the six statewide propositions on today's ballot. As a result, California's budget economic shortfall is deeper by billions of dollars. In anticipation of this outcome, Governor Schwarzenegger presented a May Budget revision that closes the shortfall with breathtaking cuts to all public services, including education. His plan calls for \$1.4 billion in cuts to schools this year and \$3.3 billion the next. "This, however, is a starting point for budget negotiations.

We must find a budget solution that protects our top priority: our students, who are the future of our state. "If we don't, without question, the impact of these cuts will be immediate. Class sizes will increase. Fewer of the 27,886 teachers who received pink slips will be retained, and many districts will strongly consider using a second window for issuing even more layoff notices to teachers. The ratio of students to school counselors, school nurses, and librarians will widen further. Art, music, and career technical education programs will be slashed to a bare-bones minimum, if they even survive. "Cuts of this magnitude would seriously threaten to stop the rise in student achievement we've seen over the last seven years, and they will undoubtedly hinder the work we've been doing to close California's persistent achievement gap.

"I realize there are tough decisions ahead for the Governor and the Legislature, but students cannot be the scapegoat for California's fiscal mess. Education is the key to our state's long-term fiscal health. Given the economic crisis we face and the gridlock we continually face in Sacramento, we must consider new ideas and be open to new ways of thinking. I have called for a majority vote budget, which will end budget standoffs and increase accountability for budget decisions. I also support SCA 6 by Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), which will make it easier for local communities to pass parcel taxes for local schools. I urge policymakers to consider these and any other ideas and proposals put on the table so that out of crisis we can make needed changes to our broken budgeting system. The future of our students and of California now hangs in the balance."

Part Francisco

I'm pleased to see the Legislature finally put its differences aside and took action to end this protracted stalemate. While this budget is not ideal to any extent the uncertainty and instability for schools created by the lack of an agreement is over.

This budget will reduce the current year Proposition 98 funding level by \$7.4 billion, which includes about \$2 billion in reductions to program and revenue limit funding, as well as \$4.6 billion in deferrals and the re-designation of funds. While the state budget agreement resolves the massive state shortfall, we must recognize that part of the solution essentially transfers our state cash flow problem to local schools and districts, and these cuts will impact our students.

The budget agreement also provides additional flexibility to transfer funding between about 40 programs which may assist school districts in continuing to provide the educational services their students need. I hope that district leaders will use this flexibility effectively to manage local educational needs while maintaining a focus on raising student achievement and closing the achievement gap. I am glad that the budget agreement did not include the very successful class size reduction program in the list of categoricals subject to flexibility. Keeping class sizes low benefits students in the critical early grades when they are learning to read and establish a foundation in understanding mathematics.

Other vital programs, including child nutrition, special education, economic impact aid, our apprenticeship programs, and partnership academies also were not included in the new flexibility. These programs serve some of our neediest children and it is appropriate to preserve their effectiveness.

During the next few days, my staff will continue its review of the language in the proposed ballot measure affecting the Proposition 98 maintenance factor, which is intended to provide the \$9 billion in repayments owed to public education. The painful budget process at our state and local school district level calls out for reform of California's dysfunctional budgeting process. It is time for a sincere and frank conversation about reform. Central to this conversation is the idea of throwing out the two-thirds vote requirement to pass a budget and simply using a majority vote. Nearly every state in the nation and Congress, as well as counties, and cities use majority votes to pass their budgets. California should follow suit.

I understand that the minority party may feel that this would make them irrelevant to the process but, if anything, it would hold their majority party colleagues even more accountable. Most importantly, a simple majority vote would protect our schools and districts from the instability they are forced to endure anytime the Legislature cannot reach a budget compromise.

It is time to bring about substantive changes to the way we do business in Sacramento – we owe the people of California this much.



THE ABC'S OF SCHOOL FAILURE: ABSENTEEISM, BULLYING, CLIMATE

A Look at the Impact of Truancy & Bullying on School Climate

SOUTHERN SECTION'S ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

TENTATIVE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

12:00 P.M. Registration

2:00 P.M. Introductions and opening remarks

2:30 P.M. Bullying and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Intervention Program



CASCWA, Southern Section, welcomes NEA as a conference partner with a special presentation of their training program "Bullying and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Intervention." The program will address the problems and possible solutions. Conference attendees will

receive specific information that will conform to the requirements of California Government Code 12950.1 which requires education supervisory personnel receive sexual harassment training once every two years. A certificate of participation in the training will be provided to each attendee.

4:30 P.M. Session follow-up and round table activity.

5:00 P.M. CASCWA activity and networking Thursday, October 1, 2009



7:00 A.M. Continental Breakfast

8:30 A.M. Opening/Introductions/Key Remarks

9:30 A.M to 10:45 A.M. Breakout Session (A)

11:00 A.M to 12:15 P.M. Breakout Session (B)

12:15 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. Lunch

1:45 P.M to 3:00 P.M. Breakout Session (C)

3:15 P.M to 4:30 P.M. Breakout Session (D)

5:00 P.M. Poolside Reception

(Palm Springs Street Fair)

Friday, October 2, 2009

7:00 A.M. Continental Breakfast

8:30 A.M to 9:45 A.M. Breakout Session (E)

10:00 A.M to 11:15 A.M. Breakout Session (F)

11:15 A.M. to 11:45 Break

11:45 A.M to 1:00 P.M. Breakout Session (G)

1:00 P.M Closing Activities

Conference Topics

- Increasing ADA.. Increasing Revenue
- 2009 State Award Winning Model SARB Programs
 - Conejo Valley USD
 - Colton Joint USD
 - Hesperia USD
 - Kern High School District
 - o Palm Springs USD
 - San Bernardino City USD
 - Victor Valley Union High SD
 - Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint USD
 - Truancy Reduction Program
 - Information-New State SARB Handbook
 - Combating Truancy with Technology
 - Safe School Ambassadors
 - Changing Destructive Behavior
 - Gangs in our schools
 - Anti-Defamation League
 - Strategic Futuring
 - Reducing the "Code of Silence"
 - School Innovations and Advocacy
 - California Mandates
 - Combating Violence
 - Cyberspace Bullying
 - Bullying/Sexual Harassment
 - Selected Codes/Regulations
 - Peer Leadership
 - Safety, Order and Discipline
 - More topics to be announced

FOR MORE CONFERENCE OR CASCWA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO: WWW.CASCWA.ORG

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Hime at (714) 390-2679 or gjhime@earthlink.net



Hotel Reservations: (760) 325-9676 or go to: http://www.hotelzoso.com/; deadline for conference rate September 7, 2009.

SOUTHERN

SECTION THE ABC'S OF SCHOOL FAILURE: ABSENTEEISM, BULLYING, CLIMATE

A Look at the Impact of Truancy & Bullying on School Climate

SOUTHERN SECTION'S ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Registration Form

September 30, October 1, & 2, 2009

Name and Title:			Telephone:
District/Agency:			FAX:
Address	City	Zip Code	E-mail Address
Mintra Contract Contr		Afternoon, Septeml\$150 Conference, Tl\$200 Total Conferen	hursday and Friday, October 1 & 2, 2009
			rttendee(s)\$ amount enclosed kfasts (2), lunch (1) & receptions (2).
_	Please chec	k here if you will be reque	sting a vegetarian lunch.

Make checks payable to: CASCWA. Purchase Orders will be accepted for registration. Registration fee or P.O. Confirmation is to accompany this form. No refunds or purchase orders after September 23, 2009. Walk-ins will be accepted. Please complete the information above and mail to CASCWA Southern Section, P.O. Box 4222, Orange, CA 92863-4222. If you have any questions, please call Jerry Hime at (714) 390-2679 or email Jerry at: gjhime@earthlink.net.

Palm Spring's Hotel Zoso will be hosting this year's conference. The hotel is located in the heart of downtown and within walking distance of all local attractions. Complimentary hotel shuttle service is available from the Palm Springs Airport every half hour from 7:30 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. CASCWA hotel room rate is \$99.00 (Remember to ask for CASCWA conference rate.) Please call 1.760.325.9676 for reservations or go to: http://www.hotelzoso.com/

FOR MORE CONFERENCE OR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO: WWW.CASCWA.ORG

Bay Section - Pictures of "2009 End of Year Luncheon"



Bay Section's Luncheon







Lois Baer swearing in 09-10 officers



Bay's 2009-10 Executive Board



Alan DelSimone, longstanding CASCWA member becomes the 2009-10 Bay Section President. Please take the time to read Alan's president's message in this edition of the Intercom.



Frank Valadez honors Lois Baer



Frank Valadez honors Bob Campbell



Cathy McConnell - Bay Section's Shining Light



Frank Valadez is recognized for his leadership Bay Section's as President 2008-09. Great job, Frank!

Robert Campbell and Lois Baer Honored at Bay Section Awards Luncheon

Two long time friends of CASCWA Bay Section were honored for their demonstrated commitment to the welfare of youth and to CASCWA.

ROBERT CAMPBELL - Child Welfare and Attendance

Bob Campbell first joined CASCWA in 1956, just having graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a Master in Social Welfare, previously having earned three Bachelor degrees in three years at the University of Minnesota and having served four years in the Marine Corps. His first professional position was at San Jose Unified School District as a CWA.

Times were very different then, both in CASCWA and at work. Bob recalls attending his first CASCWA State Conference in Fresno in 1956 and later Co-Chaired a State Conference with Bob Campbell (Honest!!), a Robert C. Campbell. They joked that if something went wrong they could always blame "the other" Bob Campbell. Bob mentioned that CASCWA seemed much larger then and it was usual for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to be the keynote speaker at all the State Conferences. He noted that after Proposition 13 passed, many school districts cut their CWA positions and the ranks of CASCWA were reduced.

Bob remained at San Jose Unified for 38 years, carrying a caseload of 500 students per year. His accounts are plentiful and instructional, from working with the usual truants to breaking up serious gang fights, cases of stabbings and murder and establishing a respectful, working relationship with a Mexican Mafia boss. He was so respected by Juvenile Probation and the San Jose Police that to this day, still has the keys to Juvenile Hall and the San Jose Police Department.

Bob shared his wisdom during a recent interview:

- Give service to receive service.
- "You are our kid and I will see that you are treated fairly, but you have to treat us fairly, also."
- Dealing with tough situations is easier in the child's home than at school.
- The more accommodating we could be for troubled youth, the more accommodating we could be for all youth in the schools.

LOIS BAER - Deputy District Attorney, County of Santa Clara

Lois Baer has been a mainstay with CASCWA for the last nine years. As head of the truancy division of the District Attorney's Office, she has developed truancy procedures which have been described as models in the State SARB Handbook and regarded as exemplary throughout the state. Lois has presented at numerous CASCWA State and Section Conferences, ACSA State Conferences, National Truancy Conferences, serves on the State SARB and provides training to district attorneys in Santa Clara County and other counties throughout the state.

Reluctant to join CASCWA because she was under the misimpression that it was an organization only for educators, she finally joined and has never turned back. She has been one of our most productive members, always willing to step up to the plate to share her years of legal knowledge about truancy, legal interventions, SARB and Mediation and the prosecution process. Her presentations on truancy at the CASCWA State Conferences have been among the best we have provided.

She is recognized as an expert in her field. In her own county, she has set the standard for all school districts and provides on-going training and support in a forum which she created called the Truancy Abatement Collaborative. The TAC, like CASCWA, draws a variety of professionals, from social workers to police officers, probation officers and school personnel, all with the same focus – to improve the lives of at risk youth.

Lois has been a remarkable resource to CASCWA. Bay Section recognizes not only her unselfish commitment to the organization but the many lives of kids she has positively impacted by keeping them in school.

On behalf of all of the persons whom have benefited from your work - professionals, students and parents alike, Bay Section thanks you.

Thank you Bob! Thank you Lois!

School Innovations & Advocacy continues to be a major supporter of CASCWA and our State Conferences. This year will be no exception.

This past year School Innovations & Advocacy assisted CASCWA with the updated revisions to the CASCWA Webpage at www.cascwa.org. They brought in professionals in website design to re-design the site and



bring greater structure to the website. SIA will continue to professionally assist CASCWA in the coming year and will continue to be a major sponsor.

The topics of legislation, mandated cost and state requirements will continue to loom large for school districts throughout California, especially in regards to the major budgetary issues that face all district and county offices. SIA is the largest organization of its kind in California and we continue to look for their assistance and wisdom in the field of Child Welfare and Attendance.

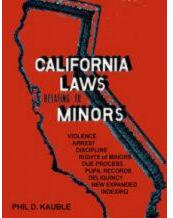
Please take the time to visit: http://www.sia-us.com/

California Laws Relating to Minors Continues to set the standard for California's CWAs

"CALIFORNIA LAWS RELATING TO MINORS"

California Laws Relating to Minors has set the standard for publications in the field of CWA for the past thirty-eight years. As you are aware the publication has been made user

friendly and placed on a CD.



You now have the ability to not only have an immediate reference, but you can cut and paste specific codes particular to Child Welfare and Attendance immediately into your documents.

The **CD** contains over **900 pages** of up-to-date information that is used daily by our CASCWA members, school administrators, police, probation and social services.

The CD has the ability to do "Word Search" and bring you directly to specific codes referenced in the latest edition. This is a must in our field. The next page includes an order form for your use. Mr. Kauble is donating a

portion of the publication sales directly to CASCWA which will use the funds for scholarship purposes. We thank Phil for his generosity! Also, our CASCWA website, www.cascwa.org, has placed on the main page a direct link to Legal Books Distributing Company's main website page. You will go to the main page and click on the section in the right. This will take you to a page that contains several excellent publications. Scroll down and you will find the information on how to order the current California Laws Relating to Minors. http://www.discovery-press.com/



Annual Membership Request Form (12 Calendar Months)

CASCWA Membership Descriptions:

Section Affiliation

- Active: Individuals actively participating in Child Welfare and Attendance or related work.
- Retired: Individuals who have belonged to the association
- Student: Individuals enrolled as students in a college program working towards a Pupil Personnel Services Credential with CWA emphasis.
- Honorary Life: Nominations are made by the sections for ratification by the Executive Board of the Association

Section	Allillau	UII		
Bay	Delta	San Joaquin	Southern	
Membe	rship Re	equest		
New Member _	Renewal	l		
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First Name				
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