



CSEA

CHAPTER

620



AFL-CIO  
Region: 59  
Area: I

# CONEJO VALLEY CHAPTER VOICE

November, 2023



## NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The bargaining team has multiple dates on the calendar to continue negotiating for our members.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Make the most of your membership by taking advantage of your exclusive benefits and discounts!

[CLICK HERE](#)

## NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday - November 30th, 2023

5:15 PM

TOHS LIBRARY

At our chapter meeting, you'll have the opportunity to:



Discuss issues that matter to you



Receive up-to-date information on how your union is working for you



## JOIN CSEA

CSEA members are part of a team and extended family of nearly a quarter million classified employees. Working together, we have a proven record of success that spans nearly 100 years. The only thing we are missing is you.

[JOIN NOW](#)



Attached to this newsletter is the accidental death certificate. If you are a CSEA dues paying member, your family can collect.



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**CHAPTER**  
**620**  
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BEAR ESSENTIAL

## CHAPTER 620 OFFICERS

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Conejo Valley Chapter Voice  
Editor: John Henrikson



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Thanksgiving!

It's hard to believe that this year has gone by so fast. A lot has happened in the past few months, so we wanted to give you some quick updates. First off, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and your contributions to our District. Secondly, to be more transparent, we will start sending out a newsletter around the middle of the month and will be holding Chapter meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month to keep you better informed. (The Chapter meetings aren't a new thing, but I just wanted to throw it out there.)

There are plenty of things to discuss but we will save most of them for the meetings, which only lasts 1 hour. The main questions we are receiving are about negotiations. We do have dates on the calendar for the end of this month to discuss pay raises. As most of you have probably heard, UACT has already settled, and we will be discussing this in more detail at our next meeting and sharing a better update after our negotiations meeting.

A lot of members have reached out to me concerning some appearances that I have made at some School Board Meetings and the "herbicides" inquiries.

This is what I know. Ventura County is investigating the use and practices of herbicides and pesticides in our District. It was reported to CSEA that certain chemicals were being used that were not being posted on the District Website. After CSEA did our diligence and looked into the matter, we sent a letter to the District asking for information. After almost 2 weeks and having little to no response from the District, the issue was given to the Ventura County Agricultural Department. The investigation is ongoing and is not complete. This is what I can say that is factual. The District has been using a product that contains glyphosate (same active ingredient used in Roundup). The first purchase order that appears is from August 2022. At least 35 units (2.5 gallons) have been purchased. This product is called Prosecutor and is NOT listed on the District website. If you want to do the math, that 85 plus gallons is mixed at a ratio of 2 ounces per gallon. This amount is not a simple oversight. The only other notable fact about this product is that according to the invoices it is anywhere between \$160 to \$200 less expensive than the other product that they use and list on their website. That's quite a savings.

We will wait to hear from the County about their official findings, but our goals are always the same. You are entitled to work in a safe and healthy environment and receive fair compensation for your work.

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Brian Farrell  
President, CSEA Chapter 620



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**CHAPTER**  
**620**  
**ESSENTIAL**



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS RE: OVERPAYMENTS

Generally, California law states that an accidental overpayment creates a debt, and the employee owes the money back. However, employers are not allowed to deduct the "debt" from your paycheck unless: 1) you agree to the deduction, OR 2) the employer obtains a court order to collect the money owed. This legal requirement can be found in Education Code Section 44024.5. In 2022, there was a change in the law that allowed employers like CVUSD to deduct wage overpayments from employee paychecks without employee agreement and without a court order. This change was troubling to CSEA because it could lead to unfair results when the employer and employee disagreed about whether there had been an overpayment or about the amount owed. In 2023, CSEA's Governmental Relations department was instrumental in amending Education Code 44024.5 to protect your paycheck from the district's payroll errors. Now, employers like CVUSD must once again obtain either employee agreement or a court order to collect money owed as a result of an overpayment. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact the CSEA Labor Relations Representative for assistance.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS RE: UNDERPAYMENTS

California law states that once the a school district determines that an error has led to a classified employee being underpaid, the district MUST provide the employee with a statement of the correction and a supplemental payment within five (5) working days. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact the CSEA Labor Relations Representative for assistance.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

### Understanding Your CalPERS:

11/27/23 5:30- 7pm

### Quick Tips on CalPERS Service Credit - Learn how to purchase it!

12/18/23 12-1 pm

### Know Your Rights Training - CVFO

2/7/24 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Be sure you register for the webinar you want to attend by going to [CSEA.com](https://www.csea.com) - Events - and then Register.

**FREE**  
**WEBINAR**

Help Us  
Reach Our Goal!



## SEE'S CANDIES YUMRAISER CSEA ASSISTANCE FUND

As we gear up for another holiday season of gift giving, the California School Employees Association and Retiree Council 5000 continue to raise funds with everyone's favorite chocolate. Help support the [CSEA Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund](#) and fellow union brothers and sisters in need by purchasing See's Candies through our Yumraiser fundraiser!

This holiday season, you can purchase See's Candies by uses this link -

See's Candies  
Click Here!



and a portion of your purchase will be donated to the [CSEA Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund](#). Put your spending dollars to work this season and give more than the gift of chocolate. Give the gift of relief to someone going through what may be the roughest patch of their life and know that your purchase makes a huge difference.

Shop between Wednesday, November 1, 2023, and Monday, December 11, 2023, to receive your gifts by Friday, December 22nd. Depending on distance, shipments may vary 6-10 business days from date ordered.



## MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS ACADEMIES 2023!

**We are pleased to announce that CSEA will be offering two in-person Maintenance & Operations Academies this Winter! One in Northern CA and the other in Southern CA.**

This season's M&O Academies will provide professional development opportunities to earn **First Aid CPR and Forklift training certifications.**

Both events consist of a full day of training. Attendees must attend the entire day for course completion. **Registration is \$50** and is open to all CSEA members in good standing, however, preferential registration will be offered to those in Maintenance & Operations classifications. Those who complete the training will receive a certification for each course within 3-5 business day of completion. See details below.

**There are only 50 spaces available for each M&O Academy!**  
[Register for M&O North now!](#)

**M&O North- December 2, 2023 - To register, [Click here!](#)**

\*Deadline to register for the North is November 24th, 2023 at 11:59pm\*

**Time: 8am-6pm**

**Location: CSEA Headquarters**

2045 Lundy Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95131

**M&O South- January 13, 2024 - Registration will open on November 27th for this Academy**

**Time: 8am - 6pm**

**Location: Fullerton Community College**

321 E. Chapman Ave.  
Fullerton, CA 92832

**Reimbursement Subsidy**

CSEA offers a [Member Reimbursement Subsidy](#) to assist with costs such as Registration fees and hotel fees to attend Association sponsored training. Please note the application deadlines listed for each event.

**North- December 17th 2023**

**South- January 28th 2024**

**Reserve your space now for the North and check back to register to attend the South!**

Once you register for your training, you will receive a confirmation email and a reminder email the day before the training.

California School Employees Association



# CERTIFICATE



## *CSEA Members: We've Got You Covered*

**FREE—AUTOMATIC COVERAGE—NO NEED TO APPLY**

**\$5,000\* Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy**

*Keep this notice with your important papers  
and call CSEA Member Benefits at (866) 487-2732  
in case of accidental death or dismemberment.*



*\*Terms and conditions subject to change*

November 2020

# On and off the job, CSEA is here for you



**EDUCATION  
FUNDING**



**ENTERTAINMENT  
DISCOUNTS**



**LEGAL  
REFERRAL**

## Member only benefits

- **Scholarships and Grants**
  - For you and your dependents
- **Entertainment Discounts**
  - Amusement Park Discounts
  - Restaurants • Movies
- **Insurance Programs**
  - Supplemental • Dental • Vision
  - Auto & Home Insurance
- **Financial and Legal Services**
  - Free Legal Referral
  - Credit Unions • CSEA Union Plus Credit Card
  - Budget & Debt Management
- **Retirement**
  - CalPERS Pension & Social Security Advocacy
  - Medicare Health Plan Counseling
- **Auto**
  - Auto Buying • Auto & Home Insurance
- **Everyday Benefits & Discounts**
  - AT&T Wireless Signature Program
  - Farm Fresh to You • Schools Solar • Teleflora
- **AND MORE...**

Visit us at  
***csea.com***

or call

**Member Benefits  
at (866) 487-2732**

