



CCWA CHICANO CORRECTIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION
JOURNAL

PROVIDING INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND LEADERSHIP FOR MEMBERS.

"WE ARE FAMILY ~ SOMOS FAMILIA"

WWW.CCWA.NET | WINTER 2021

MOVING FORWARD WITH PERSEVERANCE AND DIVERSITY

A GUIDING LIGHT FOR TOMORROW

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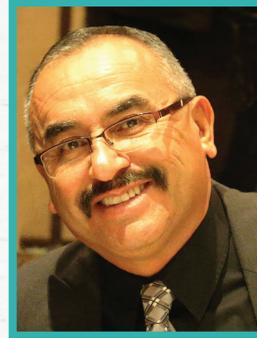




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FAREWELL, YET NOT GOOD BYE!

Evelyn Garcia, President



As I near the end of my term as Association President of Chicano Correctional Workers Association, I would like to begin by saying thank you to all our CCWA members and CDCR institution staff for the continued support you have given us during our fundraisers and institutional events. It is through this support, we can award scholarships and donations to worthy community causes and those in need.

During this pandemic, the past one and a half years has been a difficult hurdle for the entire world, and we have had to endure a life we thought could only happen in the movies. For so many of us, it has changed our lives forever. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to extend our condolences to all those who have lost loved ones and friends during this COVID-19 pandemic. Our strong resilience will help us to continue to forge through these difficult times.

The theme of our 2021 Journal is Moving Forward with Perseverance and Diversity. The definition of perseverance is persistence in doing something despite the difficulty or delay. This is exactly what we as a nation have been doing. Relying on our faith in God and our inner strength to get us through the changes we have all faced.

The organization has continued to meet via Zoom to conduct business, when we were unable to meet in person due to the restrictions imposed on our state. We are thankful to all the Wardens that allowed their CCWA Chapters to continue with efforts to assist and lend support to fallen officers, staff and for families suffering from illness or death. "We Are Family ~ Somos Familia" our motto is evident as these chapters pulled together to help those in need.

As an organization, I am pleased to announce that we have established a 501(c)3 foundation, California Correctional Workers Charitable Foundation. We are looking forward to all that can be achieved with this foundation as we continue to help the families of fallen officers, along with charitable endeavors.

Since we had to postpone our 2021 Training Conference this year, we are in the planning stages for our next Training Conference to be held November 2022, hosted by the Southern Region. Please look for the details regarding this training conference on our CCWA website and reach out to your perspective chapters.

I would like to congratulate the new Executive Board and wish them much success on their term. I look forward to all the new and exciting projects they will accomplish and together we will continue to support all CCWA members.

In closing, I will remain on the Executive Board as Past President and will always be available to lend support to our Board of Directors and CCWA members. May God continue to bless and keep you all safe and healthy.

Best Wishes and with Appreciation,

Evelyn Garcia

Evelyn Garcia
Association President



MOVING FORWARD WITH PERSEVERANCE AND DIVERSITY

A GUIDING LIGHT FOR TOMORROW



NICHOLAS GONZALES
COR-II (SATF/SP) CHAPTER PRESIDENT



I began my career with CDCR in 2015 as a Correctional Supervising Cook at Avenal State Prison. In 2016, I transferred to Southern California, briefly working at CIW in Records and then CIM in various areas such as Nursing, Medical Records and Mental Health. In 2019, I promoted and returned to my roots in the Central Valley as an OSSII in Mental Health at SATF.

I was introduced to CCWA in my childhood, as my father, retired CCII P.C. Gonzales was a long time CCWA member and Treasurer for COR-I Chapter. I was officially recruited in 2019 and quickly became the interim Chapter President and shortly thereafter, became the official Chapter President. I have been very grateful for the opportunities I have had in my short time in the department and feel very blessed with the CDCR family I have made along the way. I look forward to serving our CCWA members, their families as well as our local institution and community. I want to increase trainings, promote a unity within all ranks of the department and keep CCWA going for many more years. "We Are Family ~ Somos Familia", and let us never forget... Yes We Can, "Si Se Puede"!

"SI SE PUEDE! – OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES"

March 2020 - This "new" version of the Spanish Flu spread rapidly over the United States and the rest of the world. They called it "COVID-19". Several people began to telework, several kids were sent home from school. It was a time of uncertainty. Months passed and times got tough. Businesses closed, several lost jobs, homes, and loved ones. Needless to say, 2020 was a very difficult year for many around the world. We learned about ourselves, about the loss of loved ones, the fear of not knowing what was to come. A simple hug became nonexistent.

Today, 2021 - We have overcome many of the obstacles we faced in 2020; facing them together. We learned in times of doubt and sadness, "Yes We Can" or "Si Se Puede" the words the powerful Dolores Huerta taught us many years ago. In September 2021, the State of California will close its doors at the Duel Vocational Institution (DVI). This will be the 2nd state prison in California to have ever closed. In 2003, the first was the Women's Prison in Stockton. Looking ahead as employees of CDCR, we must remember we can overcome any obstacles life will throw our way, and we can do it together! Year 2022, will be a bigger and better year for many and I am looking forward to being safely united.



CHAPTER EVENTS BY REGION

NORTHERN REGION CHAPTERS

FOLSOM/SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

The Folsom/Sacramento (FOL/SAC) Chapter has been busy with a myriad of events. In August, they conducted their yearly traditional Bus Trip to Reno Hot August Nights. The bus trip is a memorable event for all attending and proceeds from the event are utilized for scholarships. The chapter raised \$775.37. In addition, scholarship fundraisers netted \$3,066.69. In 2021, FOL/SAC Chapter collaborated with CCWA Sacramento Headquarters' (COCF) Chapter President Estelina Lopez, Parole Agent III to reestablish a new board. Both chapters work in unison to conduct monthly meetings and enjoy the comraderie, as well as brainstorming future endeavors to assist its members and the community.



Our chapter volunteers at the 2021 Annual Mather Air Show. Over \$600 in donations were made and the chapter also received a portion of the monies earned from all participating booths at the air show. The members enjoyed the crowd, airshow, and of course representing CCWA in the community.

The Northern Region Chapters held a Training and Family Day event for CDCR Staff and their families to establish unity within our CCWA family. Training included interview strategies for Parole Agent, Correctional Counselor I, Office Assistant and special assignment classifications. A special thank you to our local K-9 staff for participating in the training and providing a demonstration. Northern Region Correctional Sergeant Gene Chamberlin and his K-9 Jett, as well as Correctional Officer Shane Albrecht and his K-9 Kane.

SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS (COCF) CHAPTER

After being dormant, the Headquarters Sacramento (COCF) Chapter has a new board, with Estelina Lopez at the helm. They have collaborated with Folsom/Sacramento Chapter in monthly chapter meetings and assisted with the Northern Region Training Conference held in October 2021. The chapter has been fundraising to assist fallen officers and others in need. They are currently conducting a scholarship fundraiser.

CENTRAL REGION CHAPTERS

AVENAL CHAPTER

The Avenal Chapter has been busy with fundraisers to assist the community, fallen staff, and youth. During their monthly meetings a gift card drawing was provided as an incentive for members to participate. The chapter has donated \$300 to Riverdale School for cleats; donated \$500 to Lemoore High School, and nine scholarships were awarded to high school graduates. In addition, fourteen new members have been recruited.

CORCORAN-I CHAPTER MADDOX CERVANTES GALLEGOS

In September 2021, COR-I Chapter partnered with Corcoran Car Dealer Richards Chevrolet to raise monies for our community fund and one of our chapter member's family member, seven year old Maddox Cervantes Gallegos. Maddox has been diagnosed with Stage IV High Risk Neuroblastoma. Maddox continues to recover and to improve his health as he awaits his next planned procedure.



The fundraising event was an opportunity for members to come together for a great cause. We enjoyed each others company and raised over \$900. Our efforts, teamwork and camaraderie yielded resources to help those in need in our community.

LILLIANNA GARCIA

By making the Woman's Mexican Junior National Team, Hanford High School Senior Lillianna "Lilly" Garcia has taken the next step on her journey to being an Olympic hopeful. Lilly has been playing softball since she was 7 years old. In June 2021, COR-I Chapter helped sponsor her travels to an invitational in Mexico where Lilly was pitcher in the Copa De Mexico. She has since been in numerous tryouts and recently has been placed on the roster for the Woman's Mexican Junior National Team.

Lilly has recognized a strong connection to her heritage, an appreciation of not only herself, but of her entire family's Mexican heritage. Lilly will be in action at the World Softball Games in Columbia beginning November 27th through December 3, 2021, Then on to the Pan American Games in Peru on December 5, 2021. Lilly's father has Mexican citizenship, which has allowed her to be rostered with the Mexican National Team. This presents Lilly with an Olympic opportunity through The Mexican National Teams Olympic Feeder Program. Lilly has strong intentions to participate in the Olympics and has also committed to attend CSU Fullerton after graduation.

We encourage you to consider supporting this positive experience by donating to VENMO@Anjelica-GuzmanGarcia. Proceeds will be used for travel expenses. We look forward to seeing the progression of Lilianna's success.



MUNIZ FAMILY

On October 15, 2021, a celebration of life event was held for our fallen brother, Sergeant M. Muniz. An all-volunteer COR-I staff assembled to fund, cook, and serve a meal to all three watches. Food plates of BBQ chicken or smoked tri-tip sandwiches, beans, chips and a drink were provided. Donations were taken to help the Muniz Family with the bridge to recovery. The COR-I Chapter has made a donation to the family of Sergeant Muniz.



CORCORAN-II (CSATF/SP) CHAPTER

COR-II Chapter has had an extraordinarily strong year despite COVID-19. Our chapter kicked off 2021 with a Tahoe Joe's Dinner Fundraiser for pick-up only, due to COVID restrictions. A profit of \$800.00 was designated for our 2021 Scholarships. In May 2021, Scholarship Application Forms and this year's essay of "Tell me about a time you failed and what you learned from it" were available to applicants. Three recipients were chosen and received a scholarship of \$450 to further their education. Recipients were Karissa Rodriguez, Maisy Morales and Ross Bookout. On September 16th, the chapter was able to hold their 1st Food Sale on grounds since the beginning of COVID. The Chapter sold Hot Dogs/Polish Dogs as well as cookies that were made by Special Needs students from El Diamante High School in Visalia. The event was a hit, and SATF staff enjoyed the delicious food. Total Profit of \$1,000 from this sale has been designated towards 2022 Scholarship Fund. In October 2021, we began the Blue Patch Sale in honor of Men's Cancer. Proceeds will be donated to a Cancer Research Center in California. The chapter has been instrumental in assisting our staff in need and showing support for families mourning the loss of loved ones. Our chapter looks forward to 2022 with continued support of our members, staff and the community.





COMMEMORATING CCWA MEMBER THERESA CISNEROS

On October 22, 2021, Chapter President Nicholas Gonzales, Vice President Raul Morales, and Sergeant at Arms Hortencia Ruiz presented a Certificate of Acknowledgment and a gift in the form of a wooden Badge, to commemorate her Official Appointment as Warden of California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran. Our chapter appreciates Warden Theresa Cisneros’ membership and support throughout the years and is immensely proud of her accomplishments. We look forward to collaborating with Warden Cisneros in future activities and fundraisers. She has over 24 years of experience in the Field of Corrections. In 1997, she began her career as a Correctional Officer and has held assignments as Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer, Correctional Counselor I, Correctional Counselor II, Correctional Lieutenant, Correctional Captain, Associate Warden, and Chief Deputy Warden prior to being appointed Warden in 2020. She grew up in a small town in the Central Valley and was raised by a strong mother, who passed on her hard work ethics and dedication. Congratulations Warden Cisneros! Somos Familia!



DELANO-I CHAPTER

The Delano Chapter is diligently working to bring North Kern State Prison and Kern Valley State Prison CCWA members together. This has been a challenge due to COVID restrictions. Virginia Coronel, Chapter President has been canvassing for a member from Kern Valley to assist in chapter endeavors. If you would like to assist, please contact her at

North Kern State Prison. In addition, CCWA Appreciation Bags were distributed to members of both institutions. In August, at North Kern State Prison we raffled a stainless steel 5-burner propane gas grill and a \$100 Visa gift card. In October, a four-member golf team was sponsored to participate in the Warden’s 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament held at North Kern Golf Course.

MADERA CHAPTER

The Madera Chapter of CCWA was started in 1996 and has 190 members. Its membership is made up of employees from Valley State Prison (VSP) and Central California Women’s Facility (CCWF), located in Madera County. The first Chapter President John Valle was successful in recruiting new members for the chapter. The current President is Moses Martinez, Correctional Sergeant at VSP.

The chapter plays a big part at both prisons by donating and participating in events such as BBQs, raffles, and holiday luncheons at the institutions for employees. One of its more memorable recent events was their participation in the fundraiser for the Memorial Wall for Fallen Employees of VSP. The chapter has created the “Sunshine Club”. It is a donation made to an employee from both prisons who have been out of work, due to health concerns. The donation is presented during the holiday season to bring some sunshine to the employee.



Since its inception, the Madera Chapter has and continues to donate to the local community with such events as scholarships, community holiday dinners, shoe drive, local sponsorships and supporting teachers in the community with school supplies and backpacks for students. The chapter has also assisted the communities affected by the wildfires with monetary donations.

Monies are raised through fundraisers such as raffles, BBQs and golf tournaments to assist the community. The biggest scholarship fundraiser is the Annual Crab Feed. This fundraiser allows the chapter to provide scholarships to six different high schools.



WASCO CHAPTER DINNER FOR BRISTOL HOSPICE KIDS CAMP

In August 2021, the Wasco Chapter Board provided a BBQ Hamburger Dinner for Bristol Hospice Kids Camp. The annual 2-night camp is dedicated to children who have recently lost a loved one. On-site counseling, games and activities are provided for them.

The chapter was invited to come out and prepare a meal for the campers.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

The chapter was provided a booth for the Wasco State Prison Annual Warden’s Golf Tournament held May 2021. Food and drinks were provided for a donation to our Scholarship Foundation.

SOUTHERN REGION CHAPTERS

BLYTHE-I CHAPTER

Now with the restrictions from COVID-19 being lifted, the chapter has had a staff appreciation and recruitment day in August where we gave Agua Frescas to all CVSP staff and recruited new members. We have donated \$100.00 in gift certificates for the Blythe Cancer Walk to be held in November.

We just completed our first Food Scholarship Fundraiser on October 20, 2021, since the pandemic. The Loaded Bake Potato with a drink is always a big hit with CVSP staff. We are beginning to organize our scholarship committee and continuing with upcoming fundraisers.



CALIPATRIA CHAPTER

The CCWA Calipatria Chapter is hosting its first Annual Family Festival on November 5, 2021, to be held in Brawley, California. The chapter has collaborated with IV Cornhole to make this event possible. The proceeds from this event will go to the Annual Scholarship Award Winners. There will be live music, food, drinks, and raffle.

NORCO CHAPTER

CCWA Norco Chapter prides itself on giving back to the community. The Colton Major Division All-Star Team reached out for assistance with the purchase of uniforms for the Youth Organization. Norco did not hesitate. In current times, due to the pandemic many organizations are feeling the financial hardship. However, CCWA wanted to ensure the youth have a positive outlet. Youth sports provide a unique opportunity to build relationships and learn how to collaborate with individuals from all walks of life. It has been proven that participation in youth sports





improves academic performance, builds confidence and helps children develop communication skills. Through sponsorships, youth sport organizations have the ability to keep costs down for those families who are not able to afford them, and ensure organizations survive the financial hardships. This is why CCWA Norco Chapter will continue to sponsor youth sport organizations and ensure that in today's world, children from all backgrounds have the opportunity to participate.

The chapter partnered with CCPOA and held a food sale in which \$10,000 was raised for Officers Herrera and Boyd. Rest in peace our fallen brothers.



SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Noreen Soto is a fairly new member to CCWA, but not new to the organization and history. Growing up she was at meetings with her parents who were heavily involved with CCWA in the mid to late 90's at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD). In April 2006, she began her career at RJD as an Office Assistant. In 2008, she was promoted to Office Technician, and in April 2010 to Correctional Case Records Analyst. During these years, CCWA staff would ask her to make flyers and she gladly assisted. After learning different office tasks, she finally decided to take the next step to thrive in her career in the department and transitioned over to Correctional Officer. In May 2018, she reported to Richard A. McGee Correctional Training Center, and in August, she reported to RJD. After working numerous posts, she familiarized herself with policies to improve her work. When the opportunity arose for letters of interest for "Training for Trainers," she saw the opportunity to gain as much expertise in her career to prosper with departmental policies and help with long term goals of teaching after retirement.

Prior to the pandemic, a lot changed at RJD, staff transferred and CCWA was left idle. When COVID-19 hit, morale at RJD was at a low. The San Diego Chapter lost its way as a positive model in a negative environment during a time when familia was needed the most. In April 2021, as the positive COVID cases began to decline, Noreen began to inquire who was involved with CCWA San Diego Chapter and one day she got an answer. As she made contact with the members, she was told they've been waiting for someone to take the reins. There was no movement, no meetings, no one willing to step forward and she got the first meeting scheduled with the help of fellow CCWA members. As she branched out, other members began to step forward and assist.

The annual softball tournament was missed in 2020 due to COVID and CCWA was not going to miss another year of family gatherings and memories. In August 2021, the softball tournament was held and it was a success. RJD staff were constantly commenting on how much the event was needed and questioning when the next event would be. Many memories were made, partnerships were made stronger, families gathered together and the morale that was once at a low, was a shining light that day. It was a reminder to the staff at RJD, "Somos Familia".





IN MEMORIAM

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARY LOUISE DURAN "THE GOLDEN ROSE"



October 22, 1950 - March 9, 2021



My name is Evelyn Garcia. I am the Chicano Correctional Workers Association (CCWA) President for the State of California and I have to say that it is all Mary's fault. Mary has been a CCWA member since 1988, after hearing about the organization from her Uncle John Zarate, who was a CCWA founding father.

Mary and I worked together at California Institution for Men, and that's where our friendship began. Mary took me under her wing and became my mentor and wonderful friend. I have so many special memories of her both professionally and personally. When we were office partners, we used to say we were spouses at work because we spent so much time together. When she got me involved in CCWA, we attended many events hosted by the organization. We spent hours talking about our personal lives and family. We confided in each other and cried with each other and never worried about it going anywhere else. We had so much in common, yet we were different. God knew what he was doing when he connected us at work and with CCWA.

zone and I remember so many times hearing her say, "You got this girl". I remember her words of wisdom when she would say things like "No agas cosas malas que parescan buenas y no agas cosas buenas que parescan malas. When Mary was saving money to buy the house on Carolyn Ave she would often tell me, "Is that something you want or something you really need?" So, trust me, before I would buy something her words would ring out in my head, so needless to say, she saved me from spending lots of money.

Mary was a woman of strength, vision and courage. You had to be if you were a single mother and business owner as she was.

"Is that something you want or something you really need?"

Mary was a loving and devoted mother and grandmother. You know us grandmothers, we love talking about our grandchildren. She was so very proud of her children and grandchildren and was always so excited when she would tell me "Guess what? I'm going to be a grandmother again." Family has always been so important to Mary and you didn't have to be a blood relative to know and feel her love for you. That same love and devotion she gave to her immediate family, she also gave to her CDCR and CCWA family. She would always say "SOMOS FAMILIA" We are Family.

Mary was passionate about education and I think that's one of the reasons she loved CCWA so much. It gave us the opportunity to help others with training for upward mobility. As many of you know Mary was a strong advocate against racial inequality and injustice. She believed the more educated you were, the better and stronger you could become the voice for change.

Mary contacted me on February 8th before going into surgery to tell me good bye, to take care of my parents and to say she loved me. I remember telling her "NO NO Mary don't say that. It's not good bye. It's I'll see you later".

Mary was the kind of friend that would work beside you and work hard to achieve the goal. She would lift and encourage you when you needed it and then be that shoulder for you to cry on as well. She would also be there to kick you in the butt if you needed that too, but she kicked you with love. (I'm sure there are a few of you that know exactly what I mean). She would challenge you to get out of your comfort

Whenever I think about Mary I will smile often, think positively, give thanks, laugh loudly, love others and dream BIG. The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra. Mary you are that little extra. I will see you later amiga. We love you.



IN MEMORIAM

HELEN SANCHEZ AVENAL CHAPTER



Avenal State Prison was notified of the passing of Helen Sanchez, who passed away on Thursday, August 26, 2021. Helen is survived by her two granddaughters. Her friends shared that she was a hard working CCWA member for over 20 years and cared greatly about her family and community. She was a loving grandmother and great-grandmother and will be greatly missed.

Helen began her career with Avenal State Prison on November 5, 1990, as an Office Assistant in Records. Throughout her career she has worked in various areas within ASP as Custody Support.



RETIREMENT

GUSTAVO "GUS" AGUIRRE AVENAL CHAPTER



Gustavo "Gus" Aguirre worked for the California Department of Corrections for 28 years. In 1993 he started as a Correctional Officer until 2006, in which he promoted to Correctional Counselor I until his retirement in June of 2021.

Gus was a member of CCWA serving as Parliamentarian and Vice President for Avenal's Chapter. He participated and coordinated several CCWA Fundraising events at Avenal State Prison.

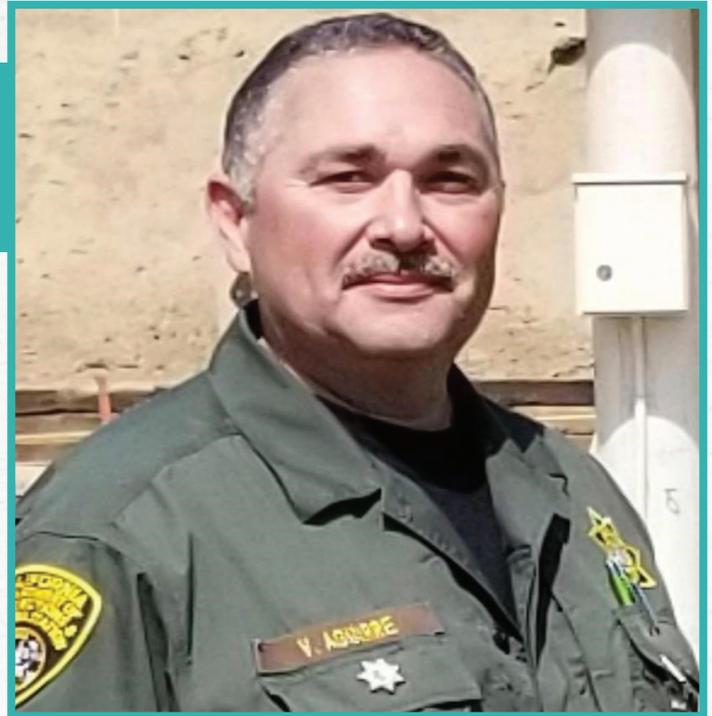
After his retirement, Gus contacted several Board Members wanting to know if he could still be an Active Member. His request was approved. Gus is now an "Active Retired Member" of CCWA and wants to continue to play an active role in any fundraising events held by CCWA and to remain connected to his ASP Family.





...RETIREMENT CONTINUED

**VICTOR AGUIRRE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION (CDCR)**



“I AM RETIRED”

My name is Victor Aguirre. I was born and raised in Madera. Before I started with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). I worked for Georgia Pacific for ten years. I became interested in CDCR when a friend told me he applied and was going to the academy. So, I decided to give it a shot. Needless to say on November 2, 1996, I began my career at Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW). I retired on December 30, 2020, for a total of twenty-four years. Throughout my career, I have worked many different positions. I have worked in a housing unit, Board of Prison Hearings, Administrative Segregation, Substance Abuse Program (SAP), Control and many others.

The most important thing to me when working in a housing unit was having a great partner and watching each other’s back. I was blessed throughout my career to have hard working great partners. Working in the housing units with female inmates was a challenge. I never knew what the day would be like walking in for my shift. During the time I spent working with the female inmate population, I was one of the first officers selected to cross train with the SAP from the University of San Diego. This training allowed me to understand the role of the substance abuse counselors and help bridge the gap between custody and SAP counselors. I was able to assist the counselors with report writing and handling difficult inmates. This experience allowed me to see the dark side and effects drugs and alcohol have on society.

An interesting part of my career was as a Board of Prison Hearings Officer, providing security during lifer hearings. I had the opportunity to listen to the parole hearings of inmates who had life sentences and with the families of the victims. The room often became intense. I worked a total of 17 years with the women and 7 years with the men.

Some of the memories I have during my career were when I met and escorted Dr. Phil. I was the only Officer to be filmed during his time at the prison. I also met John Walsh of America’s Most Wanted. Mr. Walsh was so supportive of the employees of the prison that he brought catering trucks to staff during his time there.

As we transitioned to a men’s prison, I found it easier to work with the male population. I was also able to assist with the Youth Offender Program in helping young inmates adjust to serving their time and to understand the rehabilitation process. Throughout the years who could forget all the great potlucks? Half the year, I gained weight and the other half I tried to lose weight.

I joined CCWA as soon as I arrived at VSPW. I served as President of the chapter three different times and was on the chapter board throughout my career. The reason I was attracted to CCWA was because they were a positive force in the prison helping staff in need, raising money to help the community and providing training for upward mobility. With the hard work of the membership, we would have numerous fundraisers throughout the year. We raised thousands of dollars to help the community and the prison employees in need. Working in a negative environment, CCWA was always displaying a positive influence to the employees.



During my time as a member of CCWA, I would sit on the scholarship committee, selecting and presenting scholarships to well-deserved high school seniors. I had the pleasure of presenting scholarships to the high school students of Madera, Chowchilla, Le Grand, Firebaugh and Fresno. This made me feel good knowing the chapter is doing something to help the community and the next generation.

I remember one time the chapter was approached by the Madera Little League Baseball Committee. They requested assistance with purchasing a new scoreboard for the fields. So, as the President at that time, we raised the money and purchased a new one. This was special to me because three generations of my family played on those fields. Also, I had the opportunity to play Santa Claus and hand out gifts purchased by the chapter during our annual community holiday dinner. The joy and the look in the eyes of the children was priceless. I also helped set up the "Sun Shine" Club that during the

holidays would donate money to staff members who were out long term for medical reasons. We would pick two recipients from both Valley State prison and California Correctional Women's Facility.

I was fortunate to meet some of our founding members and listened to their crazy stories and the challenges/struggles in creating CCWA. One of the many things that still amazes me, is the diversity of the membership we have statewide. I am retired now and plan to stay active with CCWA as an associate member. I want to end this by saying I will always be thankful to CCWA for all the friends and memories I have made throughout my career. I wish CCWA continued success and to everyone still working..... Stay Safe!

Victor Aguirre

ALFRED FIGUEROA BLYTHE-I CHAPTER



Alfred Figueroa reported to the Academy on September 11, 1999. He reported to High Desert State Prison on October 23, 1999. He transferred to CVSP as a Correctional Officer on March 6, 2000. He remained at CVSP until his retirement on June 29, 2020.

Alfred's father was very involved in the endeavors of the farm workers union and Alfred learned his love of his Hispanic heritage from both of his parents.

He joined CCWA and became very involved in the Chapter and their functions. He was Chapter Vice-President and in 2019, became Chapter President until he retired. He was a dedicated board member and employee who gave of his time and was always willing to help others professionally and personally. He is greatly missed by the chapter and the institution. We thank him and congratulate him on his retirement and wish him much success on his future endeavors.





MEET A MEMBER



ESTELINA LOPEZ HEADQUARTERS SACRAMENTO (COCF) CHAPTER

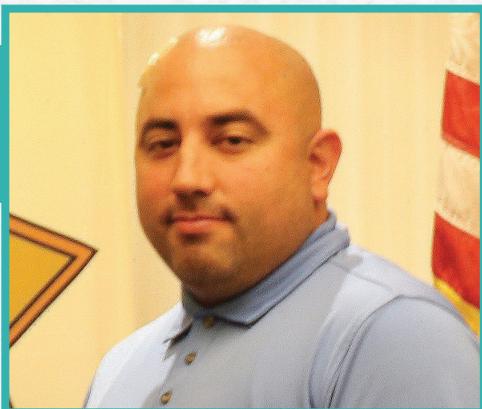


I was raised in the California Central Valley town of Le Grand, a small town with a population of 1760 residents and is primarily a farm-working community. Le Grand is comprised primarily of humble and low-income families who work in the fields. From an early age, I was taught the importance of education and hard work. Upon graduating from the local high school, I moved to Sacramento and attended California State

University, Sacramento. In 2004, I earned my Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

I began my career in law enforcement in 2003 as a Probation Aide with the Sacramento County Probation Department. In 2004, I accepted a position with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as a Correctional Officer at Mule Creek State Prison. In 2009, I promoted to Correctional Counselor I with the California Out of State Correctional Facilities. The following year I lateraled to Parole Agent with the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), Sacramento Metro I Parole Unit. In 2013, due to Assembly Bill 109 reducing staff positions, I returned back to Mule Creek State Prison as a Correctional Counselor I. In 2015, I returned to DAPO as a Parole Agent I, where I worked for the Sacramento Natomas Parole Unit and subsequently helped activate the Criminal Intelligence Unit. In 2016, I promoted to Correctional Counselor II in the Division of Adult Institutions - General Population Males Mission. In 2018, I accepted a Parole Agent II Specialist position with the Fidelity and Outcomes Unit. In 2019, I promoted to a Parole Agent III at DAPO Division Headquarters - Reentry Coordination Program, where I currently oversee Ventura Training Center, Lifer Re-entry Unit, and placement and services for resentenced offenders/ex-honorees/and medical reprieves.

CCWA's mission and motto of "Somos Familia" is what captured my interest. I have always been proud of my roots in Le Grand. After learning about CCWA's history and mission statement, I knew CCWA is the organization that I wanted to join to give back to my community. I serve as the CCWA Sacramento HQ Chapter President. My goals are to be able to provide support to underprivileged families, provide scholarships to future leaders, and mentor and encourage others to follow and pursue their career goals.



ORLANDO GOMEZ STOCKTON CHAPTER



I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Orlando Gomez. I am 33 years old and I have worked in Corrections for 8 years. I helped start the CCWA Stockton Chapter about a year ago. When we established the Stockton Chapter, I held the Treasurer's position on the board. I am now the Stockton Chapter President. A year before starting the CCWA Stockton Chapter, my mom passed away suddenly

from a massive heart attack. I found myself lost. I did not know what to do. The world was not the same without my mom in it and it just seemed unfair. About a year after her passing, I decided I would start pushing myself



and move forward the best I could. I started to think how I would be able to honor my mother's life. What best way to do it than to follow in her footsteps. Since I could remember, back in the days when I was in elementary school my mom joined the school district in the city that we lived in. She helped and touched a lot of peoples' lives in many ways. She would go out of her way to make sure everyone around her was well taken care of. The beautiful thing about all of this, is I grew up in this environment, and now I wanted to do the same, help people around me and touch their lives.

While thinking of this, I went to work started my normal routine, filled out my paperwork and logged into my computer and checked my email. I opened an email from Correctional Lieutenant Ulisses Garcia, , writing about the CCWA organization and he was looking for people to join and become members to start a CCWA Stockton Chapter. I took it upon myself to research the organization. It clicked right away when I saw CCWA had been established for nearly 50 years, and all the people that have been helped and the lives they have touched, not only in Corrections, but in the community. I thought to myself, just what are the odds that I was looking for a way to help people around me. I am a big believer things happen for a reason, just what I needed at the right time.

Today, our board members have worked hard to expand the CCWA Stockton Chapter. We are doing just what I set out to do, help people and touch lives around us. We have held multiple fundraisers over the years since being established, raising over \$12,000 to help our Correctional Officers and our surrounding community. Times have been difficult with the COVID pandemic, especially inside Corrections. In the past three years, we have lost three Correctional Officers and three free staff due to COVID complications. The chapter has helped raise funds for funeral costs for these families. We also had an officer that was having a hard time with cancer and another family whose child was diagnosed with cancer. We helped raise funds for this officer's unexpected costs.

Future events are planned such as a tamale sale for the holidays, a taco sale to help with an officer who was affected by COVID and a fundraiser to give scholarships to the next graduating class. The CCWA Stockton Chapter is growing every day and helping more and more people as we go.

MIKE PINA FOLSOM/SACRAMENTO CHAPTER



A little about myself and family. My father, (Portuguese and American Indian), myself and sister were born and raised in Santa Rosa, CA and my brother was born in San Diego. My mother (Mexican), was born in El Centro, CA. Both parents worked in agriculture in their early years. I am proud of my ethnic diversity, much like our CCWA membership. There is strength in numbers, which are some of the reasons why CCWA has a long history since the early 1970's.

I learned at an early age the value of a strong work ethic from my parents. The responsibility that you have for your work colleagues and family. I served in two branches of the Military: Active Duty Navy-Submarines, in New London, CT and Air Force Reserves, Mather AFB-Sacramento, CA.

Upon my Honorable Discharge from the Navy, I worked various jobs in banking, hospitality, serving in the Air Force Reserves, all while attending school and raising my family. One day, an off duty Correctional Officer walked into the Bank of America, where I was working, and deposited his check, which was way more than what I earned. He told me how to apply with Corrections and approximately one year later, I began my career, circa 1987.



I spent my entire career at CSP-Sacramento after a short stint at Folsom State Prison. After the institution split into CSP-Sacramento, I had the opportunity of working various areas within the institution, which made it a unique place to work. I also represented my colleagues as Treasurer for CCPOA. I retired after 25 years of service.

I was introduced to CCWA from a long-time member, Oscar Bejarano. I really liked their motto of "We Are Family ~ Somos Familia". He further conveyed CCWA helps others and enhances one's career in CDCR with training conferences, educational scholarships, fundraising events, and assisting our youth and community. I was intrigued by all of these endeavors.

I had the privilege and honor to meet and invite several dignitaries as guest speakers to our Training Conference in 2013 and 2017. I have had the opportunity to participate in "A Walk to Remember" in Elk Grove, CA for a fallen soldier (Bryan Hall), killed in the line of duty in Iraq. Proceeds donated were dispersed to a Memorial Scholarship Fund and an educational fund for his 5 year old daughter.

For the past 6 years, I have volunteered at the California Capital Airshow at Mather Air Force Base with our CCWA Folsom/Sacramento Chapter. I have also been involved in numerous charitable causes which I enjoy tremendously. I currently and proudly serve in the role of Parliamentarian for the State Association and have served as Vice President for the local Folsom/Sacramento Chapter.

Furthermore, I am grateful that CCWA has existed for almost 50 years as an organization! I give credit to Our Heavenly Father for the pathway my experiences have taken me over the years. All have helped me achieve good results from my past to my status today as Union President of The Arena Security Officers Association at Golden One Arena, Sacramento, CA and as Elder of my Church at Redeemed Community Church, Sacramento, CA.

It is my hope and prayer that CCWA continues to be a big and constructive part in your life, and continue to support membership at your professional worksite and your respective communities for many years to come.



**CCWA
PRESENTS
TRAINING CONFERENCE**

2022



**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW
WWW.CCWA.NET**

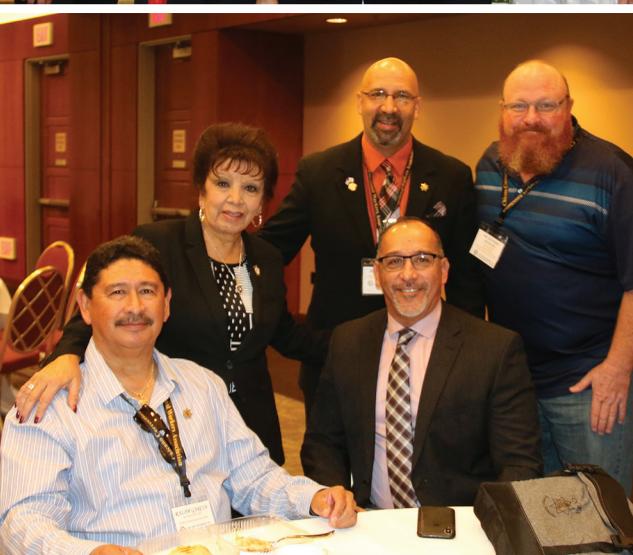




TRAINING CONFERENCE 2019 RECAP

As you remember, with keynote speakers CDCR Secretary Ralph M. Diaz and CDCR Director Connie Gipson, the CCWA 2019 Training Conference "Be the Movement to Make Positive Change" was a tremendous success. With onsite classroom training sessions like Upward Mobility-You Can Do Anything, Best Career Path is Investing in Yourself, Marriage and Corrections, Financial Planning for Getting Out of Debt and Investing In Your Future, Gangs, PTSD and Wellness Symptoms & How to Cope and the K-9 Unit Demonstrations which were enjoyed by all those in attendance.

We were looking forward to our 2021 Training Conference which was postponed due to COVID-19. So, we have high expectations for delivering to you our 2022 Training Conference in November 2022 to be hosted by the Southern Region. More details to follow. Enjoy these pictures and we look forward to seeing you at the next conference.





DREAM MAKERS PROGRAM

In 2019, the Chicano Correctional Workers Association (CCWA) wanted to create a program to assist children with life threatening illnesses from across the state. In keeping with the tradition of CCWA in giving back to the community, the program became a reality, and the "Dream Makers Program" was born. The Dream Makers Program is a non-profit program operating solely on donations and fundraising events.



The Dream Makers Program was created and designed to assist families of children with life threatening illness to help make the child's dream(s) come true. In the same year, Dream Makers Program received many requests for assistance and was able to assist five families from different parts of the state in making their child's dream a reality. Dream Makers Program was able to send the child and their families to such places as the San Diego Zoo and Marine World, camping trip, and Disneyland to name a few. In 2020, as you know COVID-19 hit everyone and the Dream Makers Program was put on hold.

The Dream Makers Program is open to anyone in the State of California who may need some assistance with making their child's dream come true. If you know someone who might need assistance or would like more information on how to apply for the program or to donate to the Dream Makers Program, please reach out to your chapter's board or visit the CCWA Website.

**To learn more about this program, please call our office at:
(559) 734-CCWA (2292) | foundation.coordinator@ccwa.net**

(Dream Makers Program makes Isabella Montoya's wish come true)

