

CALIFORNIA WELFARE FRAUD INVESTIGATORS *INTERCOM*

Representing Professional Fraud Fighters

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 2

P.O. BOX 1738, PLACERVILLE, CA 95667

JULY 2011

Benefits of Membership

- Increased professionalism
- Standardized minimal training standards
- UCOWF Membership
- One voice in Sacramento
- POST accredited training
- Legislative lobbying for anti-fraud laws
- Newsletter

PRESIDENT

Don Fisch
Placer County
916-784-6181
dfisch@placer.ca.gov

VICE PRESIDENT

Guy Christian
Tulare County
559-624-1054
gchristian@co.tulare.ca.us

SECRETARY

Karl Philipps
Solano County
707-421-6446
kjphillips@solanocounty.com

TREASURER

Larry Arany
Riverside County
951-358-34820
larany@riversidedpss.org

INTERCOM EDITOR

Jean Yurkovic
530-957-4153

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The California Welfare Fraud
Investigators Association
and
The United Council on
Welfare Fraud
invite you to their

41st

Annual Training Conference
October 4th, 5th and 6th, 2011

Crown Plaza Resort 12021 Harbour Blvd, Garden Grove CA

Course Topics

- Public Assistance Fraud 101
- IHSS Fraud
- Street Drug Awareness / Safety
- EBT Fraud
- Fraud Trends
- Interview and Interrogation
- Utilizing social Networks
- DA Track: Ethics; Fraud; Prelim/Hearings/Trial
- Cultural Aspects of Investigations
- Officer Safety
- Search Warrants
- Tribal TANF

DA Class Track (8 Hours MCLE Credit)



MCLE Credits

POST Certified
Training

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Registration
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Vendor Booths

Register by September 1, 2011 for discount.
To register for the conference, visit the CWFIA website:
<http://www.cwfia.org/>

**GUY CHRISTIAN
CWFIA VICE PRESIDENT
TULARE COUNTY**

SACRAMENTO, 95814

I recently reviewed the CWFIA bylaws. At the very beginning of the Bylaws is the following statement:

"The CWFIA was incorporated in the State of California as a non-profit corporation on June 1, 1972. The Articles of Incorporation define the specific and primary purposes of the CWFIA as a professional association dedicated to the initiation, sponsorship, promotion and implementation of plans, policies, and activities that will tend to further the prosperity and development of welfare fraud investigations."

That pretty much encompasses a very large area of responsibility as well as opportunity. Some would say it gives the Association an "open door" to get involved with just about anything we want to. Others might believe it holds us to a position of only addressing issues which directly involve Welfare Fraud Investigations. I happen to believe that CWFIA is more than just a once a year conference where we go to learn how to investigate welfare fraud, meet our friends and have a great banquet.

The first six months of this year have proven to be busy for CWFIA. Board meetings, conference planning and lets not forget POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

On March 22, 2011 President Fisch was contacted by California Assemblyman Henry Perea's office. Assemblyman Perea is the author of Assembly Bill 493 and requested that CWFIA review and consider supporting the bill. The CWFIA Board of Directors was provided information relating to the bill and asked to vote on whether to support the legislation. Later that afternoon a majority of the Board voted to support the bill and President Fisch notified Assemblyman Perea's office.

AB 493 is really a bill designed to codify Executive Order S-90-10 issued by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. It mandates that CalWORKs recipients cannot use their EBT cards to withdraw benefits at specified gambling establishments, adult entertainment establishments, certain liquor stores, bail bonds businesses, bingo halls, cannabis shops, cruise ships, gun/ammunition stores, night clubs, salons, taverns, psychic readers, race tracks, smoking shops, spa and massage salons and tattoo/piercing shops. The bill also prohibits the purchase of tobacco and alcohol just as the SNAP program does. I

realize that most of us believe this shouldn't need to be spelled out to people; we would just assume people would use their benefits for what they were intended. Go figure!

Also supporting AB 493; California Professional Firefighters (CPF), California Statewide Law Enforcement Association, California Taxpayers Association, and Fresno Barrios Unidos.

CWFIA was asked to provide someone to testify at the legislative hearing. In support of the bill, I presented testimony as to why CWFIA was supporting AB 493. These are a few of the points I addressed in my testimony.

As Welfare Fraud Investigators, we are in a unique position to see the good as well as the bad in the program. Fortunately, we see a program which most often helps people, but, as we all know there are always those who will abuse the program. The headlines last year citing the use of benefits in casinos and on cruise ships did little to create taxpayer confidence in the program.

AB 493 prohibits the purchase of alcohol and tobacco products from the "cash" program. I find it ironic that California does not currently restrict the purchase of these two substances from the cash assistance program. Not to mention, the State of California regularly runs advertisements as to the dangers and health risks of both products. Of course if either of these products does create a health issue for an individual on assistance, we can always take care of the medical costs with their Medi-Cal card. I also pointed out the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program already prohibits the purchase of both of these products. The issue is not just about money spent today on these items or about future costs for medical care, it's about the quality of life for adults and children.

AB 493 will not stop someone who is determined from withdrawing cash and using it for an unapproved activity. There will always be someone who will work around the system. A recipient who goes to an ATM and withdraws cash or a clerk in a store who just doesn't care about the rules will always be with us. To some, it's just a way of life. Using the card to purchase items or services for which it was not intended or trading the SNAP benefits for cash hurts everyone.

Continued from page 2 - Sacramento

AB 493 is just one more tool in the box to make the program a little better than it was before. This bill sets rules which let recipients and taxpayers alike know the program addresses issues head on. It's a way to help keep benefits going to those who really need them, and make it just a little more difficult to beat the system.

The testimony in opposition to AB 493 came from two groups. The Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP) believes that this bill undermines the goals of CalWORKs and the EBT system to integrate welfare recipients into the world of work and personal responsibility and that it promotes negative stereotypes of low-income people.

The County Welfare Directors (CWD) believes the bill will have little or no impact on alcohol and tobacco use as recipients will simply find another way to purchase these products. CWD adds that while it sounds logical to ban these items given that they are not essential to one's well-being, starting down this path raises questions about what would be banned next and where the list will end.

Others cited the argument in the bills fact sheet that there is no evidence that CalWORKs recipients are misusing the funds for alcoholic beverages, tobacco, gambling, or lavish vacations. They add that blocking cash access in casinos limits access because many low-income workers are employed at casinos and that in some areas of the state the casinos may be the closest ATM.

During the oppositions testimony it was stated we cannot tell a recipient how to spend their money. The Assistance Program tries to teach people to make good decisions and learn personal responsibility. This bill will prevent a recipient from having the opportunity to make correct choices by passing a law which restricts their right to even make a choice.

While I understand what the opposition is saying, I can't disagree more. The reality is, the money a recipient receives isn't their money, it's "taxpayer" money, and it needs to be used for its intended purpose. In today's political environment if we are not good stewards of "taxpayer dollars", taxpayers will start demanding change.

Today AB 493 is currently moving through the legislature and I have high hopes it will pass and become law.

IHSS Fraud Investigation funding also became an issue.

In May and June 2011 there were mixed signals slipping out of Sacramento regarding funding for the IHSS Fraud Program. The California District Attorney's Association contacted CWFIA and asked us to join the fight for continued funding of the IHSS Fraud Program. The Assembly Human Services Committee had removed the funding from the budget.

After reviewing information and conducting research CWFIA authored a letter on June 22, 2011 to members of the legislature requesting that the funding be reconsidered and placed back into the budget.

After Governor Brown signed the budget, information started to become available about what was really in the fine print. As we all know the fine print in the budget is not always easy to understand. After several questions regarding the status of the funding, I e-mailed Lori Starnes, Chief of the State Fraud Bureau, and asked if she could get clarification of the funding. Chief Starnes spent four or five days of her time doing all those things a Chief does to get answers. She was persistent in finding answers for us and kept me informed with e-mail at some rather late hours. In a late afternoon phone call she gave me the details.

The bottom line. The IHSS fraud funding was included in the budget, but, as they say "the devil is in the details." The funding is tied to the newly designed and named "trigger measures." As it stands there will be no funds released until January 2012 and then only if the state revenues reach their projected target. Counties with a "Fraud Plan" will be able to request reimbursement if they continue to investigate IHSS fraud. But, once again only if the state revenues reach the projected target. The question will be how many counties will be willing or able to fund IHSS units without a guarantee of reimbursement; a question which no one can answer at this time. It appears the legislature's commitment to "Fraud and Abuse" of taxpayer's dollars was a little weak on the IHSS front.

AB 828 (Swanson) also became an issue in June 2011. Swanson's bill would change regulations so that a person convicted of a drug felony shall be eligible for aid under the Food Stamp (CalFRESH) Program, and would eliminate the current eligibility requirements for convicted drug felons.

Mark Bigelow and Robert Waugh from Sacramento County provided research and stats to Don and I. We put our heads together and began creating a letter to

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oppose AB 828. On June 23, 2011 CWFIA formally opposed AB 828 with a letter of opposition forwarded to the Legislature.

On June 27, 2011 on a 8-0 vote, the Senate Appropriations Committee sent the bill to the "Suspense File." This bill will hopefully die a quiet death; I just wish it would never return, but I think we all know that sooner or later it will return.

The letters sent to the Legislature regarding both the IHSS funding issue and AB 828 will be posted on the CWFIA website for review under the Documents link.

If you would like to volunteer for the CWFIA Legislative Committee contact Karl Phillipps at:

kjphillipps@solanocounty.com. Karl is constantly reviewing legislation and would be happy to have a few extra eyes.

Think Conference.

**DARIN BATTY
ZONE I DIRECTOR
MADERA COUNTY**

Hello Everyone! My name is Darin Batty and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been an Investigator for the Madera County District Attorney's Office for 13 years and I have 23 years of law enforcement experience.

During my time with the District Attorney's Office I have been assigned to the Welfare Fraud Unit. I am also a P.O.S.T. certified firearms instructor as well as an arrest and control instructor. In my candidate's statement, I mentioned that I would like to promote small group discussions within Zone I regarding issues that affect us in this changing environment as it relates to fraud.

I would also like to organize and facilitate regular regional/zone meetings to discuss current fraud trends.

I would like to thank you for your support and I look forward to helping this organization and it's members in anyway I can. I can be contacted at my office at (559) 661-5160 or (559) 479-0846 at anytime.

Thank you,
Darin Batty

**MELISSA LEE
ZONE III DIRECTOR
STANISLAUS COUNTY**

Bill Ryan is the new Chief Investigator for Stanislaus County C.S.A. Bill came to C.S.A. from the Modesto Police Department. He recently retired as a Lieutenant with 25 years of law enforcement experience.

Bill's assignments included Investigations Assistant Division Commander, Administrative Services Commander, Traffic Commander and Watch Commander. He also served as the Property and Evidence Supervisor, Traffic Supervisor, School Police Officer and has 10 years of SWAT experience.

His community affiliations include the Kiwanis Club of

North Modesto. Bill is married and has 3 children. He enjoys camping and motorcycling.

Stanislaus County is very excited to have Bill and all of his experience. He will be a great asset to our organization. Welcome to Stanislaus County and to Zone III.

William Ryan
Chief Investigator
Stanislaus County C.S.A.
(209) 558-2880
Email: RyanW@stancounty.com

**LARRY ARANY
CWFIA TREASURER
RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

UPDATE: Seven Convicted in Riverside County for Stage II Child Care Fraud

On July 7, 2011, a former Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) child care liaison was sentenced to 5 years in state prison for her part in a half million dollar child care fraud. On May 9, 2011, her father was sentenced to three years state prison for his role in this conspiracy.

As reported in the March 2011 Intercom, two former Riverside County Office of Education child care liaisons, and five other suspects charged with Stage II Child Care fraud were arrested or surrendered to authorities in December 2010 following a joint investigation by Riverside County Department of Public Social Services and the Riverside County District Attorney's Office investigators.

The former RCOE child care liaison is alleged to have fraudulently diverted Stage II Child Care funds to four family members as well as diverting funds for her personal use, including paying for day care for her own son. In addition to her father, the former employee's mother and two other relatives were charged in connection to this fraud. Two have been sentenced to 120 days in the Sheriff's Labor Program, and one is awaiting sentencing.

The scheme, which began in 2001 and didn't end until 2009, when the investigation began, involved opening recently closed child care cases, changing the child care provider to a relative of the RCOE child care liaison, and frequently, adding fake children to the cases. One relative, her father, received more than \$314,000 for child care services he did not provide.

The second former child care liaison, who was involved in a separate internal fraud scheme, has also been sentenced to county jail, with time to be served on week-ends.

The seventh defendant's fraud was discovered during the investigation of the two former child care liaisons. Her fraud was not related to the internal fraud, but was rather a failure to report all household income. She is awaiting sentencing.

The defendants in the above cases were convicted of one or more of the following charges: WIC 10980 Welfare Fraud, PC 424(A)(1) Misappropriation of Funds, PC 487 (A) Grand Theft, PC182(A)(1) Conspiracy to Defraud, and PC 504 Embezzlement. The following enhancements were also found true for the two defendants sentenced to state prison: PC12022.6(a)(2), Taking Property greater than \$200,000, and PC1203.045 (A), No Probation, Theft Greater than \$100,000. In addition, the child care liaison had an enhancement of PC 186.11(A)(2), Multiple Felonies, more than \$500,000, and her father an enhancement of PC186.11(A)(1), White Collar Crime greater than \$100,000.

Lead investigator for the 16 month investigation was Benjamin Carrillo, Welfare Fraud Investigator, Riverside County DPSS. Inv. Carrillo was assisted by five other DPSS welfare fraud investigators and one Riverside County DA investigator. Attorneys in the DA's office also supported the investigative team. Riverside County Office of Education staff assisted in the investigation.

**CHRIS PETRUSH
MEDI-CAL DIRECTOR AT LARGE
California Department of Health Care Services**

I thought I'd share some information regarding a past In-Home Supportive Care (IHSS) case. In 2008, fraud investigators arrested 12 people and filed charges against 21 others in Los Angeles County.

One of the suspects was behind the wheel of a \$40,000 Cadillac Escalade and claimed to be disabled and in need of 24 hour care. She also claimed she was poor. In a surveillance video, this suspect pulls up to a beauty supply store that she owned. Investigators also say that she and two partners purchased a house together. They were accused of fraudulently receiving \$417,000. In all,

investigators said the 12 arrested are accused of defrauding taxpayers out of more than \$2 million in public assistance (IHSS) funds. According to the District Attorney, these suspects used fake identification and received benefits under each alias. Another suspect was named as a "quadruple-dipper." She acted as a care provider for herself, several times. Her husband was in the United States with a false passport; both were charged. They were alleged to have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars gambling at local casinos. One provider was wanted on an arrest warrant for murder and another provider had a prior conviction for robbery.

**ZONE III
SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

**IHSS Fraud News Release
Former Social Worker Pleads Guilty to IHSS Fraud**

Unfortunately, welfare fraud isn't limited to applicants and recipients of benefits as with the recent conviction of a former Social Worker for Sacramento County. After an investigation with coordinating efforts from the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA) Criminal Investigators, IHSS Program staff and the District Attorney's Office IHSS Task Force, the defendant was sentenced to five years in state prison and ordered to pay \$278,777 in restitution after pleading guilty to Grand Theft.

ble for fraudulent payments of approximately \$277,000. Per a news release issued by the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance and Department of Health and Human Services February 28, 2011, "During her employment as an IHSS social worker, the defendant altered the records of 41 IHSS recipients to steal money from the program and assigned false hours of care to 13 care providers. Falsified timesheets for the providers were submitted to IHSS for payment for work that was never done."

The defendant had been a Social Worker for the department working for the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program from 2006-2008 at which time she was responsi-

Original news release written by Laura McCasland.

**ZONE III
REGIONAL MEETING INVITATION**

**CWFIA Zone III
Regional Meeting**

**Thursday, August 11th, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Solano County
Health and Social Services
2101 Courage Drive
Fairfield, CA**

Please send suggested agenda items to:

**Melissa Lee @
LEEM@stancounty.com**

**Lunch will be provided, \$10 per person, exact change please!
RSVP FOR LUNCH by Aug. 5th to Meg Nealon at MNealon@solanocounty.com**

**JOHN MARTIRE
ZONE IV DIRECTOR
MENDOCINO COUNTY**

In June, Zone IV hosted another very successful zone/regional meeting in beautiful downtown Maxwell. We had 24 folks turn out including several new or recently transferred Investigators. It is encouraging to see participation and I strongly recommend to you if you are not already doing so, participate in your local meetings. The roundtable discussions are well worth your time!

I am very happy to announce that after 14 years of proud and dedicated service to Mendocino County, Investigator II - Jim Grant has retired. As our senior Investigator, Jim handled some of our most complex and challenging

cases. His expertise, knowledge, tenacity, and humor will be greatly missed. I would like to wish Jim the very best retirement has to offer and say thank you for a job well done.

Finally, I want to welcome all the newly elected Board members and congratulations to all the folks re-elected. These are exciting times in the Public Assistance arena and I look forward to working with each one of you.

Until next time, be safe!

**JEREMY DUVAL
ZONE IV DIRECTOR
SHASTA COUNTY**

Mother/Daughter IHSS Fraud Team

I recently heard the saying **fraud is where you find it**. In Shasta County we have a very good working relationship with In Home Supportive Services. One of the best tools we have received for IHSS fraud investigations was the hospital stay report. The report supplied us with numerous investigations that we most likely would not have discovered without it. What still surprises me is the number of people who put in for pay when the recipient is not even in the home.

To date, one of our more memorable IHSS fraud cases was a simple hospital stay. The case was not that large, but was enough to charge the co-defendants with a felony. The provider in this case received \$1550 that she was not entitled to receive. The provider submitted a total of four timesheets when the recipient, her mother, was in the hospital. Obviously, this made it difficult for her to provide **In Home** Supportive Services to her mother, but it did not stop her from submitting the time cards with the hours. It also did not stop the recipient from signing the timecards for the same period of time.

Investigator Forrester was assigned the case and started the investigation. Both co-defendants tried to plead ignorance, however during the investigation, documents were located that showed the provider and the recipient were aware that they could not be paid for time when the recipient was in the hospital. The recipient ultimately pled guilty and the charges were dropped on her mother who was in poor health, although it was obvious both of them were equally culpable for the crime.

This was pretty much a run of the mill hospital stay case until we found out that the provider was on the IHSS Advisory Committee. I did not even realize there was such a thing until this case was referred to our office for investigation. For those of you that don't know, the IHSS Advisory Committee is comprised of a number of members (depending on your county) that have diverse backgrounds to include experience as personal care recipients, personal care providers and community leaders. The Committee's responsibility is to advise the Board of Supervisors, the Public Authority, Department of Health and Human Services, and other involved agencies about IHSS and make recommendations to improve services.

The provider in this case was the Chair of the Shasta County IHSS Advisory Committee. The recipient was also on the committee and had previously chaired the committee. Both parties should have been well aware that they could not submit time cards while the recipient was in the hospital.

The case was set for trial and the defendants were adamant about fighting it. Although the case was initially set for trial, the investigation revealed IHSS case workers who specifically remembered telling the recipient and the provider they could not put in for time while the recipient was in the hospital. We also discovered another witness, on the IHSS Advisory Committee, who remembered specifically discussing that this was not allowed. The provider did not want to leave the advisory committee but as a result of the conviction, one of the terms was that she could no longer serve on the committee.

California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association 2011 Conference Schedule Monday: Early Bird Registration 3pm - 7pm		
Tuesday 10/04/2011	Wednesday 10/05/2011	Thursday 10/06/2011
8:00 - 10:00	8:00 - 10:00	8:00 - 10:00
OPENING CEREMONIES & GENERAL SESSION	EBT Fraud	Cultural Aspects of Investigation
	Fraud Trends	Search Warrants
	Interview & Interrogation I	Tribal TANF
	Utilizing Social Networks	Utilizing Social Networks
DA Track: Ethics		
10:00 - 12:00	10:00 - 12:00	10:00 - 12:00
Public Assistance Fraud 101	IHSS Fraud	Cultural Aspects of Investigation
IHSS Fraud	Fraud Trends	Search Warrants
Street Drug Awareness/ Safety	Interview & Interrogation II	Tribal TANF
	Utilizing Social Networks	Utilizing Social Networks
DA Track: Public Assist. Fraud		
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch	12:00 - 1:00 Lunch	12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 to 3:00	1:00 to 3:00	1:00 to 3:00
Public Assistance Fraud 101	Cultural Aspects of Investigation	Interview & Interrogation I Officer Safety
IHSS Fraud	Street Drug Awareness/ Safety	
Street Drug Awareness/ Safety	EBT Fraud	Utilizing Social Networks
	Utilizing Social Networks	
DA Track: Evidence/Reports		
3:00 - 5:00	3:00 - 5:00	3:00 - 5:00
Public Assistance Fraud 101	Officer Safety	Interview and Interrogation II
EBT Fraud	Search Warrants	Officer Safety
Fraud Trends	Tribal TANF	Utilizing Social Networks**
	Utilizing Social Networks	
DA Track: Prelim/Hearings/Trial		
5:00 - 6:00	6:30 - 9:30	** Utilizing Social Networks is a hands-on class with limited seating. It is repeated 8 times on W/Th to accommodate as many as possible.
CWFIA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	CWFIA BANQUET	

2011 Conference Registration

California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association &
The United Council on Welfare Fraud

Conference Name: 41st Annual CWFIA Training Conference
Co-hosted with UCOWF

P. O. Box 1738
Placerville, California 95667
Phone: (530) 957-4153
Fax: (530) 672-3108



Conference Dates: October 4, 5, & 6, 2011

Conference Location: Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort
12021 Harbor Boulevard
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Reservations: (1-866-442-7375)

www.cwfia.org

Attendee Information (Complete your information, choice of payment, and send via U.S. Mail, Fax, or E-mail; jyurkovic@cwfia.org)

First Name: Middle Initial: Last Name:

Title/Position: County:

Agency: Preferred Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Office Telephone: Fax #: E-mail:

REGISTRATION FEES:

- CWFIA Member Early Bird **if paid on or BEFORE September 1, 2011** (Includes banquet).....\$250.00
- CWFIA Member **if paid AFTER September 1, 2011** (Includes banquet).....\$275.00
- Non-Member (Includes banquet).....\$325.00
- Daily (charge is **PER DAY** and banquet is **NOT** included) CWFIA Member and Non-Member.....\$120.00

Indicate date(s) for your Daily registration:

Please check if you desire a VEGETARIAN MEAL Extra banquet tickets \$50.00 = \$

MEMBERSHIP for July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012 (Please complete the Membership Application also)

- Active Membership.....\$30.00
- Associate Membership.....\$15.00

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check: Make check payable to CWFIA and mail to P.O. Box 1738, Placerville, CA 95667

Credit Card Mastercard Visa DiscoverCard ** Card Number:

Expiration Date: / **In complying with credit card security requirements, and to complete this transaction, you must contact Jean Yurkovic at (530)957-4153 or jyurkovic@cwfia.org with the 3-digit security code on the back of the card**

Cardholders Name: Date:

Signature: (If mailed or faxed) **OR**

Will pay full amount \$ upon arrival at the conference.

Please mail receipt to:

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT TO: CWFIA, P.O. Box 1738, Placerville, CA 95667

NOTE: There will be a cancellation fee of \$50.00 for all cancellations

Pre-conference registration forms must be received by CWFIA no later than September 15, 2011

(CWFIA Tax ID #23-7230828)



CROWNE PLAZA ANAHEIM HOTEL INFORMATION

To make online reservations, below is the link for the personalized CWFIA reservations page at the Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_gi_new&groupID=3417071

If you prefer to call for your reservation, dial 1-888-233-9527 for Passkey Reservations

Mention Group Name: CWFIA Annual Training Conference when making your reservations to ensure you receive the conference room rate of \$123 + 15.5% tax + \$12 resort fee for a total of \$154.07 per night.

If you are pending the approval to attend the conference, it's highly recommended you call and make your room reservations as soon as possible and prior to the cutoff date.

REMEMBER:

You must register for your hotel room by September 9, 2011

C.W.F.I.A. MEMBERSHIP Application/Renewal/Address Change

California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association

P. O. Box 1738
Placerville, California 95667
Phone : (530) 957-4153
Fax : (530) 672-3108



www.cwfia.org

Personal Information *(Complete your information, choice of payment, and send via U.S. Mail, Fax, or E-mail; jyurkovic@cwfia.org)*

First Name: Middle Initial: Last Name:

Title/Position: County:

Agency: Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Office Phone: Fax #: Office E-mail:

Preferred Mailing Address: City: State: Zip:

New Application Renewal Application Address Change

MEMBERSHIP for July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Active Membership \$30 per year Associate Membership \$15 per year

Agency Membership - must include completed form for each member paid for by agency

Indicate your desired 6-12 character password for access to the CWFIA web site
(Do not complete if you have submitted a password previously and have access)

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check: Make check payable to CWFIA and mail to P.O. Box 1738, Placerville, CA 95667

Credit Card Mastercard Visa DiscoverCard

** Card Number: Expiration Date: /

Cardholders Name: Date:

Authorized Signature: (If mailed or faxed)

** In complying with credit card security requirements, and to complete this transaction, you must contact Jean Yurkovic at (530)957-4153 or jyurkovic@cwfia.org with your 3-digit security code located on the back of the credit card **

Please mail receipt to:

Keep us informed of your correct contact information so you continue to receive the **INTERCOM** and other CWFIA correspondence.
(CWFIA Tax ID #23-7230828)

2011 CWFIA ELECTION RESULTS
KARL PHILLIPPS
CWFIA SECRETARY
SOLANO COUNTY

It is that time of year again. CWFIA had an association wide election this year because all of the officers were up for election; as well as several of the zone directors, plus two changes to the Bylaws. This year's election was more active than I have seen in the past. This is my fourth year as Secretary, and thus tasked with administering the election process. This year we had more contested positions than we have had in past years, and several of the races were close. So close, in fact, that we had to have a run-off vote for Zone I. 43 ballots were sent out to Zone I members. 20 ballots were returned (almost half), and it was a dead tie with 10 votes going to each nominee. We sent out run-off ballots to the Zone I members, and this time 21 were returned with the winner receiving 12 of the 21 votes cast. Other races were within a couple of votes. Based on the election results, here is your current board. An "*" after the name means this person was elected this year. They may have been an incumbent, or a challenger. I want to thank everyone that ran for office this year, and those that were courageous enough to withdraw themselves from running when they knew they were too tied up with other commitments to be able to do the position justice. I also want to give my congratulations to the board members of this year.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Don Fisch *	Placer County
Vice President	Guy Christian *	Tulare County
Treasurer	Larry Arany *	Riverside County
Secretary	Karl Phillipps *	Solano County
Immediate Past President	Ralph Alvarado	Contra Costa County

ZONE DIRECTORS

Zone I	Denise Caudillo	Merced County
Zone I	Darin Batty *	Madera County
Zone II	Maribel Nava	Orange County
Zone II	Kristina Zaragoza *	Riverside County
Zone III	Melissa Lee	Stanislaus County
Zone III	Carol Velez *	San Mateo County
Zone IV	John Martire	Mendocino County
Zone IV	Jeremy Duval	Shasta County
Zone V	Clara Ferral	Los Angeles County
Zone V	Valeska Frailing-Escobar	Los Angeles County
Director at Large	Randy Fedak	Santa Cruz County
Director at Large (MediCal)	Chris Petrush *	State of CA - DHCS
Director at Large (Tribal TANF)	Pending	

BYLAWS
(changes effective 7/1/2011)

Bylaws change to allow addition of Director at Large position for Tribal TANF, passed 72 – 4.

Bylaws change to allow Life members to hold Officer board positions passed 63-15.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES
KARL PHILLIPPS
CWFIA SECRETARY
SOLANO COUNTY

A lot has happened in the state this last quarter. We have passed a budget, which as usual, happened with a lot of bickering. The state has also passed some interesting legislation, and seen some go by the wayside. If you are interested in looking up any specific bills identified here, you can see anything you could want to analyze about any of them by going to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>, and follow the directions. You can search them by Bill number (Assembly or Senate Bills), or you can search them by author in case you want to see what type of legislation a specific senator or assemblyman is putting forward. As usual, I am providing updates on bills that directly affect the way we do our business. In order to save some space, I will be deleting from review, any bill that was held in the last Intercom update and has not had any action since then. I have contacted staffers on most of these bills to provide input and have had wording changed in some.

AB 6 (Fuentes) - This bill would: (1) repeal the provisions requiring applicants for CalWORKs and CalFresh Programs to submit to fingerprint imaging under SFIS. (2) This bill would repeal the requirements relating to quarterly reporting and prospective determination grant amounts, and would instead impose similar requirements for a semi-annual reporting period, operative July 1, 2012, to be implemented no later than January 1, 2013, except as prescribed. The bill would also require the department to establish an income reporting threshold for CalWORKs recipients as specified. (3) This bill would, to the extent permitted by federal law, require CDSS, in conjunction with the State Department of Community Services and Development, to design, implement and maintain a utility assistance initiative, under which CDSS would be required to grant applicants and recipients of CalFresh benefits a nominal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) benefit, as specified. (4) This bill would provide that the continuous appropriation required for this would not be made for purposes of implementing this bill. The bill has passed the Assembly floor vote 47-29 on June 1, and has passed in the Senate Human Services Committee 4-0, and is at the Appropriations Committee as of June 29th.

AB 26 (Donnelly) - This bill would prohibit public officials and agencies from adopting a policy that limits or restricts the enforcement of federal immigration laws or that restricts the sharing of a person's immigration status, as specified. The bill would allow any person to bring an action against an entity to enforce these provisions. There is significantly more to this bill and it is worth looking up. This bill was pulled from committee without further action on 5-26-2011.

AB 78 (Mendoza) - This bill would, notwithstanding existing provisions of law relating to elections, call an election for the purpose of placing before the voters of the state an advisory question asking whether the President and the Congress of the United States shall create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who have worked in this country for at least 5 years, have no felony convictions, have learned to speak English, and have paid all taxes for which they are responsible. The bill would require the Secretary of State to communicate the results of this election to the President and consolidate this election with the statewide direct primary election of June 5, 2012. This bill was submitted to the Judiciary Committee on February 10, 2011. Withdrawn by author prior to first hearing.

AB 308 (Amniano) - This bill would declare the legislative intent that law enforcement officials adopt and implement the policies and procedures regulating eyewitness lineup identifications that are recommended by the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice in order to ensure that eyewitness identification procedures in California minimize the chance of misidentification of a suspect. This bill would require the Department of Justice and the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, on or before July 1, 2012, to develop guidelines in consultation with local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and other legal experts, as specified, in order to ensure the reliability of eyewitness identifications, as specified. Assembly floor vote passed 45-30. Passed Senate Public Safety Committee 5-2, on July 6. Now at Appropriations Committee.

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AB 402 (Skinner) - This bill would authorize a school district or a county superintendent to incorporate into the School Lunch Program application packet specified notifications related to the CalFresh program, including a notification that if a pupil qualifies for free school lunches, he or she also may qualify for the CalFresh program. This bill would permit a request for the applicant's consent for the pupil to participate in the CalFresh program, if eligible, and to have information on the School Lunch Program application shared with the local agency that determines eligibility under the CalFresh program, as specified. Passed Assembly Floor vote 51-24. Passed to Senate Human Services Committee, now at Senate Floor.

AB 493 (Perea) - This bill would require the EBT system to prevent use of EBT cards by recipients to access cash benefits outside of California, except to the extent prohibited by federal law. The bill would specify that it would not be construed to prohibit the use of an EBT card to access CalFresh benefits, as authorized by federal law. Passed Assembly Floor vote 59-10. Referred to Senate Human Services Committee, hearing postponed by committee on June 28th.

AB 596 (Carter) - The bill would require the State Department of Education to collaborate with welfare rights and legal services advocates to develop and adopt regulations and other policy statements to provide CalWORKs recipients of child care the same level of due process and procedural protections as are afforded to public assistance recipients, as specified. Passed first two committee votes, but was pulled by author 5-11-11.

AB 730 (Grove) - This bill would require a recipient of CalWORKs aid to undergo drug testing on a periodic basis, as a condition of continued eligibility. The bill would specify those substances for which drug testing would be conducted. The bill would require a recipient who fails a periodic drug test to successfully complete a one year drug treatment program. The bill would discontinue the individual's aid under the CalWORKs program upon failure of the individual to participate in testing or to successfully complete the required drug treatment program. The bill would require the department to seek any federal approvals necessary for the implementation of the bill. Because counties administer the CalWORKs program, by increasing county duties, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Committee hearing cancelled by author.

AB 808 (Skinner) - This bill would require the county welfare department to mail a transitional CalFresh benefits recipient a periodic reporting form at the same time that the final month of transitional benefits are issued. The bill would require the department to revise the form to ask the recipient whether continued benefits are desired after the transitional benefits terminate, and to direct the recipient to complete the reporting form, as specified. The completed reporting form would be considered an application for continued CalFresh benefits. By imposing additional requirements on counties in administering the program, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Passed Assembly Floor 75-0. Sent to Senate Human Services Committee. Hearing postponed by the committee on 6-9-11.

AB 828 (Swanson) - This bill would, instead, provide that a person convicted of a drug felony shall be eligible for aid under the Food Stamp Program, and would eliminate the requirement for them to verify participation in drug treatment programs. Bill as passed on the Assembly Floor with vote of 46-30. Passed Senate Human Services Committee with a vote of 4-3. Now at Senate Appropriations Committee. Placed on Appropriations Suspense file June 27th.

AB 949 (Gorell) - This bill, when an applicant or recipient commits specified offenses in connection with applying for or receiving CalWORKs benefits, would require that the fine applicable under existing law be doubled, and would require the additional amount collected as required by the bill be paid to the county treasurer in the county in which the judgment is entered. The bill would require the county treasurer to deposit half of the amount received pursuant to the bill into the county general fund and the other half into the appropriate account for the benefit of the county district attorney's office or the county's Special Investigative Unit (SIU), established for the purpose of investigating welfare fraud. Failed Assembly Human Services Committee vote 2-4. Removed.

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AB 959 (Jones) - This bill would revise time periods applicable to rescinding a discontinuance notice for CalWORKs benefits, to allow a recipient, before the last day of the calendar month following the discontinuance, to submit a complete quarterly report, and to allow a county to determine the existence of good cause for the failure to submit a complete report. The bill would authorize the county to restore the recipient's benefits if he or she submits a complete report within that designated time, as specified. This bill also would revise the definition of good cause for purposes of these provisions. Passed Assembly Floor vote 75-0. Now at Senate Human Services Committee. At Senate Appropriations Committee as of July 5th.

AB 1140 (Donnelly) - This bill would revise the requirements for providing aid under the CalWORKs program by replacing the existing time limits on receipt of aid with a 6-month limit, operative 90 days after the effective date of the bill. This bill would extend the provisions for ineligibility for county assistance to a child who is ineligible for CalWORKs aid due to the 6-month time limit required by the bill, or due to the imposition of a sanction or penalty, as specified. This bill would make various conforming changes and would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to conform other CalWORKs program provisions to a 6-month time limit on aid. This bill may be heard in committee on March 20th, 2011. Hearing cancelled at the request of the author.

AB 1182 (R. Hernandez) - This bill would delete existing requirements for assessing the value of a motor vehicle for purposes of CalWORKs program eligibility. The bill would exclude the value of a licensed motor vehicle from consideration when determining or redetermining CalWORKs eligibility. Passed the Assembly 55-17. Now at Senate Appropriations. Placed in suspense June 27th.

SB 43 (Liu) - This bill would require a county that elects to participate in the FSET program to screen CalFresh work registrants to determine whether they will participate in, or be deferred from, the FSET program, and would describe the criteria for deferral. The bill would authorize a CalFresh work registrant who is deferred from mandatory participation in FSET to request to enroll in the program as a voluntary participant. The bill would require a county that participates in the FSET program to screen work registrants to determine whether they will participate in, or be deferred from, the FSET program, and would authorize a deferred work registrant to request to enroll in the FSET program as a voluntary participant. The bill would defer an individual from mandatory placement in the FSET program under designated circumstances. This bill, commencing October 1, 2012, would require a county that elects to participate in the FSET program to allow work registrants who are mandatorily placed in the program to meet the work requirements of the mandatory placement through self-initiated workfare, as defined. This bill would require a county that elects to participate in the FSET program to demonstrate in its FSET plan how it is effectively using FSET funds, as specified, but would not be construed to require a county to offer a particular component as part of its FSET plan. The bill would impose specified requirements on these counties with respect to the use of FSET and other federal funds and the implementation of FSET and other workfare programs. Passed Senate Floor vote 39-0, now to Assembly Appropriations Committee for second reading.

SB 417 (Dutton) - This bill would require the EBT system to be designed to prevent use of EBT cards by recipients for the purchase of alcohol or tobacco products. The bill would require that its provisions not be construed to prohibit the use of an EBT card to access SNAP benefits, but as authorized by federal law. Failed in Human Services Committee.

There are several other bills coming up that you may want to look at that have to do with Public Employees Retirement Calculations and changes to the calculation periods. Some of them are as follows: AB 89 (Hill), AB 329 (Dickinson), SB 27 (Simitian), SB 115 (Strickland), SB 322 (Negret/McCleod). They all could be important to your future, but for the sake of space, I am only referring you to them here.