



NEW: PATHS For You

California NEW: PATHS

Professionals Associated Through Human Services

Volume 7 Issue 3 Fall 2007 2007 Conference Registration and Nominations

DISCOVER YOUR OWN GOLD! in Sacramento, January 23 – 25, 2008

By Diane Krebs



The January Conference is just around the corner! Make your plans to attend the Sacramento training event at the Double Tree Hotel. We are working hard on making this a very rewarding time for each one of you. Some of the things we are planning are:

CONFERENCE DISCOUNT

If you attended the 2007 conference in Bakersfield, you may be eligible to a discount on your 2008 conference registration. See the registration form for more details.

PROFESSIONALISM

Break Outs and Workshops – We will be offering several workshops to help you in your personal and professional life.

First Timers' Orientation – A must if you have not attended a NEW: PATHS conference before. You'll appreciate it.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies – Great speakers, introductions, important information about the conference and what you have to look forward to at the next conference.

Networking – Meet new friends, talk to people from other counties who are in the same field as you. Bring your business cards.

Representatives from State & Federal Agencies – Representatives from the State of California and the U.S. Government will participate in panel discussions and will be available during the conference to network with you.

ACTIVITIES

On-Time Prizes – Like to win prizes? Arrive on time to our group sessions, and you will receive tickets to win.

President's Reception – All are invited to a reception on Wednesday evening so you can meet and visit with our State president, board members, and presenters.

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Luncheon – Lunch is provided on Wednesday during the conference. It's a great time to visit around the table, eat a wonderful meal, and win more prizes.

Sacramento Valley Reception – The Sacramento Valley chapter of NEW: PATHS will be hosting the Thursday night out at the Double Tree Hotel. This will be a fun event with food, games, entertainment, and dancing. (See page 3)

More information will be sent out in our next newsletter.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the California State Chapter of NEW: PATHS is to foster and promote integrity and professionalism in the field of human services.



President's Message:

by Debbie Simpkins

July is time for summer fun, camping trips, vacations, beach parties and backyard BBQs. In the midst of all that, your board managed to break away and gather in San Diego at the Crown Plaza for our July Quarterly

Board meeting. Since the Crown Plaza is the site of our 2009 State Training conference, this meeting gave us the opportunity to check out the site further, hear from the San Diego Visitor's Bureau as well as work on the 2008 State conference.

It always amazes me (yes, even after 9 years), that with only a few meetings, we are able to organize and put on our annual training conference each year. This year is no different...after only two meetings, plans are humming along on "Discover Your Own Gold in Sacramento", our State Conference set for January 23-25, 2008 in Sacramento. Our Conference and Program Chairs gave us an update on their respective areas. All I will say right now is that you need to be watching our website and December newsletter for more clues on what to expect at this conference....you won't want to miss it.

This past Spring National announced to their members that NEW: PATHS had been awarded a grant from the Administration of Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, to collect information for a best practice handbook that would be helpful to our front line workers. According to Pam Harrison, National NEW: PATHS President, "NEW: PATHS was selected for this task because our members possess exceptional insight about federal programs and work directly with employment agencies to move participants from



"I am proud to announce that two of our California members have been selected to be a part of this important Focus Group"

welfare to work & increase the percentage of families and children living in permanent safe environments". The National Board was looking for interested members to be a part of a 15 member Focus Group to work on this project. I am proud to announce that two of our California members have been selected to be a part of this important Focus Group: Daniel Cerna, from Sacramento and Tiffany David, formerly from Bakersfield now living in Idaho. We are honored to have members selected from our state and if you have an opportunity to talk with them, either at work, or at our State conference, congratulate them on their selection.

I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer! It was good to see some of you in Detroit at the NEW: PATHS National conference but most importantly, I hope to see you all in Sacramento, the seat of our State government, to partake in the challenging, enlightening and energizing workshops along with helping us all celebrate our 19th annual training conference.

Farewell to Another Long Term Member by Debbie Simpkins

In our last newsletter, I mentioned that the State board had three long term board members who chose not to rerun for re-election. With this newsletter, I would like to honor and reflect back on the contributions of our second member.

Donalda Salsbury Biscaris from Kern County. I want to thank Donalda (also known to some as Donna) for her years of service, not only to this board but most importantly, to you....our members.



Donalda has worked in the Social Services field for over 21 years at which time she has worked as an EW (9 years), a supervisor (3 years), a District Manager and currently as an Assistant Program Director for the Delano District Office.

Donalda joined NEW in 1992 and was first elected to the State board in 1996, serving over 10 years on various committees and events, eventually becoming known as the By-Laws Queen (I think she had them memorized). On many occasions we turned to her to clarify a policy or to just keep us focused and 'in line' with our goals and purpose. In addition to that, Donalda served the board as our Secretary for approximately 9 years, setting the standards high for all of us that follow her. While juggling those responsibilities, Donalda also managed to find time to co-chair our 1st Bakersfield conference and then be Program chair (co-chair) for three other conferences. AND, in her spare time, she has been elected TWICE to the National NEW: PATHS Board of Directors, a position she currently holds.

For enjoyment, Donalda has many loves, the foremost being her wonderful husband, Adam. Her children are their two Great Danes, their numerous cats, and their gold fish in their Koi Pond. For fun, they love taking the 'boys' (her great danes) to the beach, she loves reading, golf and yes, even skydiving.

Being a member of NEW: PATHS brings you many NEW friends and sometimes if you are lucky, someone who is like a member of your family. We will all miss Donalda for her great spirit, strengths, knowledge and solid beliefs in the organization and her desire to serve all NEW: PATHS members. But she really isn't gone, our loss (State) is National's gain...it is time to share a good thing.

Farewell Donalda, see you in Detroit!

Newsletter Staff

Editor Jennifer Sipe
Proof Reading Debbie Simpkins and Diane Krebs



**Bruce Wagstaff
Director,
Sacramento County
Department of
Human Assistance**

Bruce Wagstaff became the director of the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance in May 2005 after working in the human assistance and

social services fields for more than 30 years.

Responsible for a staff of 2,200 employees and a budget of approximately \$700M, he oversees the county's public assistance programs that include CalWORKS, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, and General Assistance. Other programs under his direction are the Senior Nutrition Services program, Meals on Wheels, senior volunteer services, programs to address homelessness, and veterans services. "DHA is always striving to be a strong partner in the community. We look forward to working with all of our stakeholders in addressing the needs of our clients," states Bruce.

As Deputy Director in the California Department of Social Services from 1995 to 2005, Bruce had the lead responsibility for the statewide development and administration of several social services programs including CalWORKS, Food Stamps, Child Care, Refugee Services, Child Welfare, Foster Care, and Adoptions. He also held various other positions within the department.

He also managed the state's response to many federal mandates and state initiatives, including the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Programs, and oversaw the implementation of numerous state legislative directives.

Bruce has a history of working with NEW, beginning when he was with the Department of Social Services. "I think it's very important for staff to have the opportunity to network with others throughout the state and country, and to have the opportunity to learn about new approaches to issues they run into,"

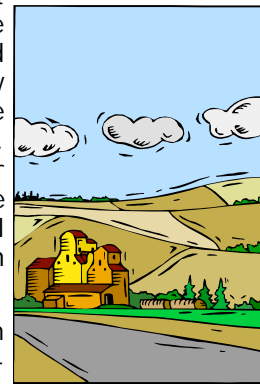
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it's very important for staff to have the opportunity to network with others throughout the state and country, and to have the opportunity to learn about new approaches to issues they run into," he says. Bruce continues, "NEW: PATHS has always been very helpful in proactively tackling new policy issues and initiatives and has been a tremendous support for our hardworking staff."

"We are looking forward to Sacramento hosting the next statewide conference and sponsoring the Thursday night event. I am glad that we could be the location for what I'm sure will be a great event," adds Bruce.

**But... It's a Farm Bill and I Work
in Human Services** by Laura Shultz

As an eligibility worker, I knew that regulations and policies were developed at the Federal, State and County levels. What I did not know is that the "Farm Bill" is where the Food Stamp Regulations originate. Yes, these programs and their regulations are imbedded in the Farm Bill. The current Farm Bill (2002) is set to expire in September of 2007.



Once you waded through the farm subsidies, the Reforming And Modernizing, The Marketing Assistance Loan Program For Program Commodities, the various funding proposals and all of the other various agriculture issues, you will find the proposals for the Title IV Nutrition Program – Food Stamps. Yes, the Food Stamp program policies are addressed in the Farm Bill.

The 2007 Farm Bill is still in the Legislative process, the following issues are just a few of the goals in enhancing the programs that are incorporated in the Food Stamp Program (FSP):

- Streamlining & Modernizing Proposals
- Improving Program Integrity
- Improving Health through Nutrition Education
- Working Poor and Elderly.

The Farm Bill also includes legislation regarding the following programs. The Emergency Food Assistance Program, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and Promoting Healthful Diets in Schools. So, even though you are not a farmer or involved in the agriculture industry, the Farm Bill has a major impact on the development of programs that you administer and to those that need help feeding themselves and their families.

For more information regarding the 2007 Farm Bill you can go to the United States Department of Agriculture (www.usda.gov), American Public Human Services Association (www.aphsa.org), American Association of Food Stamp Directors (www.foodstampaphsa.org), or you can do a "Google" search for the 2007 Farm Bill.

SACRAMENTO HOSTS NIGHT OUT

by Diane Krebs

Get ready for a "Wild West" time on Thursday night during the conference sponsored by Sacramento County. This is a time to just have fun. The Sacramento Valley NEW: PATHS chapter, consisting of members from Sacramento and Yolo Counties, are planning an evening of food, music, dancing and games. Dust off your 10-gallon hat, put on your Western duds, and come prepared to line dance and "whoop it up!" We'll have a DJ, some local entertainment, and a BBQ dinner. See you there, pardner!





Double Your Pleasure, Double Your Fun

by Debbie Spears

At the Bakersfield State Training conference this past year the Board introduced a new twist to the membership gift certificate giveaway. We donated two membership certificates to the lucky winner chosen. The idea was for the winner to renew their own membership and give the second one to a nonmember so they could join in on the fun. Since it was such a great hit at the 2007 conference, we will be bringing it back for the January 2008 Annual State Training Conference being held at the DoubleTree Inn in Sacramento. Don't miss this opportunity to Discover Your Own Gold in Sacramento!

Fundraising by Patsy Meraz

Not only is this my first year on the State Board, but it is also my first year to be a member of the fundraising committee, chaired by Bill Knight. Other members involved with fundraising are Phil Fincher and Sarah Ross.



At our April meeting in Rohnert Park we decided to purchase several new items that we will be selling at the January 2008 NEW: PATHS Conference in Sacramento. The items consist of colored pencils, a hilarious goofy laughing pen, (great gifts for co-workers or workers in your unit), mood cups, and a few other fun items.

We are always looking for ideas or items to sell so if you know of a vendor who has a great product that our members would enjoy, please email this information to Sarah Ross at rosss@co.kern.ca.us by November 2007.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Sacramento in January.



Do you have a great product? Would you like to expand your customer base, and at bargain rates? We have space for you, in our newsletter reaching hundreds of NEW: PATHS members and their families throughout California. For more information, please contact any of the newsletter staff. Space is available for \$5.00 per column inch.

Who Will Attend Next Year's Summer Institute?

by Sydney Crable

The Professional Development Committee's goal is to interact with educational institutions keeping members informed of educational opportunities and to arrange for professional development not only for our members but also for the State Board of Directors.



For the past several years, we offered to send 2 people, compliments of UC Davis, to the Summer Institutes. These institutes are held each year at the UC Davis Extension campus in Davis, CA. We are offering the opportunity once again for the months of July and August 2008. This is an opportunity for you to develop professionally. Workshops are held daily during the week you are there. They start at 8:30 AM until noon and again from 1 PM until 4:30 PM. The last session is held that Friday morning and the program ends following lunch that day.

The available institutes you can choose from are: Eligibility Worker, Eligibility Supervisor, Clerical, Adult Services, and Employment Services and Welfare to Work. As you can see, they cover the Eligibility Professional.

The State Board does not pay for anything. You must receive approval to attend from your supervisor/manager. You will then coordinate the travel and time with them. UC Davis provides your meals and lodging as part of the package they offer.

So you ask yourself, what do I need to do? It's simple, you have to have been a member of NEW: PATHS for one year to be considered. You will need to write a 100 word essay on "What NEW: PATHS Means to Me". Anything over 100 words will be discarded. Go to the Board of Directors tab after you read about the different committees, and you can send your essay via our website, www.calnew.com, to any member of the Professional Development Committee. The essay is due by November 1. The winners will be announced at the Conference in Sacramento. You will not need to be present. We are looking forward to reading many essays. See you at the Conference.

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Nomination Form

Resume for Nomination to the California State Chapter of NEW: PATHS Board Of Directors

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____ Work Telephone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Agency Name: _____

Agency Address: _____

Current Position/Title: _____

Current Job Description: _____

Date Joined NEW: PATHS: _____

NEW: PATHS Involvement: (What kind of participation? Conferences attended? Chapter Involvement?)

Your Vision for NEW: PATHS

What can you contribute as a State Board member? _____

Form continues on the next page

Statement for inclusion on the ballot (100 word maximum; longer statement will be reduced to the first 100 words verbatim)

Please provide two references who have knowledge of your NEW: PATHS involvement
(Cannot be a current State Board member)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____ Work Telephone: (____) _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____ Work Telephone: (____) _____

Send this resume, *postmarked by January 18, 2008, to:
California NEW: PATHS
P. O. Box 276966
Sacramento, CA 95827

For more information on the responsibilities and activities of the California State Board or on completing this resume call or email any member of the Board. Information on the back page.

Nomination/Credentials Committee Members:
Sarah Ross (chair) Dee Blankenship, Diane Krebs, Kathy Watkins

***If submitted at the conference, due by January 25, 2008 at 10 am.**

Nominations by Sarah Ross

Calling all NEW: PATHS members. It's nomination time again. We are hoping that there are more committed individuals wanting and willing to share their talents and skills. You must be a current member for one year prior to January 31st of the election year. You cannot have a current Board member sign your nomination as a reference. If elected by your peers, the term of office is three years.

The Board meets four times a year, which requires travel throughout California. We share rooms with other Board members. You would be responsible for your own transportation, lodging and meals, unless your County pays for the costs. These expenses are tax deductible.

We pride ourselves on our "TEAM" work philosophy. We have several committees you can select to serve on and volunteer for assignments as needs arise. We work hard all year, but see the fruits of our labor at Conference time. We invite you to complete the nomination form and make sure it is postmarked by January 20, 2008. If you plan on attending the conference, you can submit your nomination forms in person at the Conference in Sacramento up until 10 AM on January 25, 2008.

Serving on the Board is fun, but it does come with responsibility. So, if you don't mind a little work while you are having a good time, we encourage you to fill out the form.

See you in Sacramento.



Chapter Chatter is now 'What's New With You'

by: Sarah Ross

We have changed our web site to better serve you. Chapter Chatter is now 'What's New with You?'. You now will be able to submit news information about your local chapter. Tell us what is going on. Who are your officers? What new members have joined? What activities and events have happened? Have any of your members been promoted or retired? Let us know. We want to know What's New with You?

Don't have a chapter? Not a problem, check out our web page. Listed under Liaisons is a California State Board member assigned to your county. Contact them and they will make sure your information gets on the web. Please use this new area of our website, we re-designed it just for you. It's your forum to let other chapters around California and the United States know what NEW: PATHS is doing in your area.

Check out what's new with the San Joaquin Chapter. They are celebrating their 20th year as a chapter; President Donna Cobb has posted information about all the events surrounding their Platinum Anniversary. Congratulations, San Joaquin County Chapter, on your commitment to Human Services, and the Eligibility Profession.



National NEW: PATHS Membership Application

email address: new@nationalnew.org
Website: http://www.nationalnew.org

Your Name _____
Your Email Address _____
Billing Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____
Agency Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Work Phone _____
Job Title _____

Membership Type (Circle one) Individual Associate

Rate (Circle one) 1 yr - \$35 3 yrs - \$90 5 yrs - \$140

Please make check payable to: NEW: PATHS, PO BOX 371, PAW CREEK, NC 28130-0371

California —NEW: PATHS

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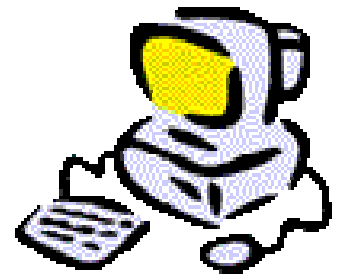
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California NEW: PATHS
Annual Training Conference
January 23-25, 2008