



California State Foster Parent Association, Inc.

“To Touch A Life Forever”

1ST QUARTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 14, 2016

1st Quarter Board Meeting

Joyce Hammerich, CSFPA Secretary

The California State Foster Parent Association held its first quarterly meeting for 2016 in Pleasanton January 8th and 9th. Barbara Loza-Muriera, CSEC Coordinator for DCFS in Alameda, presented a training on CSEC (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children). During the Friday session, officers were introduced and sworn in. The 2016 Committee Chairs were ratified and the nominating committee was established.

Below is the CSFPA 2016 Executive Board

Patricia Negus, President
Nadine Fleek, Vice President
Velma Moore, Past President
Joyce Hammerich, Secretary
Bob Currey, Treasurer
Nadine Fleek, Northern Region VP
Sheri Justice Cook, North Coastal VP
Open, Central Region VP
Mary Lud Baldwin, Valley Region VP
Jocelyn Hill, Southern Region VP

The 2016 Committee Chairs are as follows:

Mary Hagenbeck, Membership/Parliamentarian
Bob Currey, By-Laws and Endowment Fund
Nadine Fleek, Juvenile Justice
Shelly Best, Budget and Finance

Hilda Navarro, Latino Representative
Tina Hughes and Patricia Welsh, Minority Reps
Cynthia Johnston, Insurance
Lillian Cook, Education and ILP Rep
Olivia Green, Sunshine
Carol Ihlenburg, Newsletter
Terry Haines, Nomination
Sandra Aguirre, Awards/Scholarships
Gwen McWilliams, Kinship/Adoption & Guardianship
Eddie Turner, Sergeant of Arms
Lavon Kent, Native American Representative
Carrie Myles, Legislation
Pam Sokol, Allegation and Grievances
Nadine Fleek and Tina Hughes, 2016 CSFPA Conference

Campership packets and Chapter Awards and Scholarship applications will be handed out at the next quarterly meeting.

During the Saturday session, two goals for 2016 were established:

1. Increase visibility at local, state, and national levels.
2. Advocate for needs of youth in out of home placement and their caregivers.

Greeting From the President

Patricia Negus

With 2016 underway, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Spring and thank you for being such a vital part of the lives of the children you bring into your homes and care for. I am looking forward to another successful year as your CSFPA President. We welcome new board members and Committee Chairs and are excited about representing foster parents and the children in your care through legal representation and advocacy, support and hosting our annual CSFPA Training Conference.

Introducing new CSFPA Secretary, Joyce Hammerich

Joyce Hammerich, CSFPA Secretary

My name is Joyce Hammerich, and I was appointed Secretary for CSFPA for 2016. My husband, Jim, and I have been emergency foster parents in Sonoma County for over 13 years. Currently, I am President of the Redwood Empire Foster Parent Association. I am looking forward to serving the State association this year.



Obituary for Kaye Storey

KATHRYN S. STOREY years and another thirteen years for the EPA.

Kathryn Starr Storey, born February 26, 1934, in Rough & Ready, PA. went peacefully to be with her Lord on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at the age of 82 in her home in Paso Robles, CA. She was the daughter of A. Naomi Erdman Starr & Charles O. Starr from Klingerstown, Pa. Her early years were spent on a farm in Rough & Ready. She graduated from Hegins Township Class of 1952. She then moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked for the FBI for seventeen

She is survived by her husband Leroy (Lee) Storey to whom she was married for thirty-five and a half years. Survived also by her sister Eleanor Reed & husband James A. Reed of Gratz, Pa, two brothers Ralph & wife Fusae Starr of Valley View and Charlie Starr of Middletown, PA Also she had 24 nieces and nephews & 37 great nieces & nephews. In addition she was step-parent to Rachel Wells of Missoula, MT & husband Arvis Wells who gave her three grand children and three great grandchildren.

She and Lee were married June 14, 1980, in Rough & Ready, PA. They lived in Arlington, VA until she retired. They pastored a church in Winchester, VA for six years and then moved to Paso Robles, CA. They became foster parents in 1990 and cared for 98 children over a period of twenty years, most of whom were under five years of age.

A Celebration of Life is being held at Paso Robles Bible Church on Saturday, March 19, 11:00 a.m. at 2206 Golden Hill Rd. She will then be transported to Rough & Ready, PA for a Celebration of Life service there.

Bills Aim to Protect Foster Youth From Psychiatric Drugs

Karen de Sa, San Jose Mercury News

Doctors could lose their medical licenses if they overprescribe psychiatric medications to California's foster youth under a new Senate bill that for the first time targets the source of the often-questionable drugs being used to sedate troubled kids in the country's largest child welfare system. Another bill would sanction government agencies that fail to offer nondrug therapy alternatives to help foster youth recover from their traumatic childhoods. The new legislation expands on a series of laws passed last year to restrict the excessive use of psychotropic drugs. The laws that take effect this year focus on the courts, social workers, caregivers, public health nurses and group homes that care for foster kids. The new bills, sponsored by the Oakland-based National Center for Youth Law, would broaden the tracking of prescriptions and step up scrutiny of those who write them. The legislation is expected to face strong opposition from physicians who want free rein to prescribe as they see fit. Under Senate Bill 1174, physicians who "frequently prescribe outside recognized safety parameters for children" would be investigated by the state Attorney General's office and could face challenges to their medical licenses in extreme cases when they failed to change their ways. Doctors associated with questionable patterns such as medicating very young children, or prescribing dangerous drug combinations, would be identified through regular reports shared between the Department of Health Care Services and the California Medical Board. Sen. Jim Beall, D-San Jose, introduced Senate Bill 1291 to address that. The bill would require county mental health plans to gather data and submit annual plans detailing how they serve foster youth for everything from crisis care to ongoing counseling. Under the bill, the state could step in if counties fall short.

CSFPA Membership

Mary Haghbenck

We are off to a good start for 2016 with 24 Chapters having submitted their memberships. All paperwork must be received in order to ratify Chapters. If you have not received your charter, please contact me. Now is the time to join the California State Foster Parent Association. We have new board members and, new things are in the works for you. Please send membership information to me at: Mary Haghbenck 4377 Wesley Way, El Sobrante, CA 94803.

News from/to the Southern California Region

Jocelyn Hill, Southern Region VP

My name is Jocelyn Hill. Some may know me as the former CSFPA Secretary and last year's conference Chairperson. For those of you that didn't hear, last January I was officially sworn in as the new Southern Regional Vice President for 2016.

As your CSFPA Regional Vice President, my job is to be in contact and available to all the Chapters in the Southern Region which includes San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Orange and LA counties. The State Association's goal is to unite all associations and work for the improvement, support and offer information to help all Caregivers throughout the State of California. In the past, you may not have had much contact with your VP. My goal is to change that—with your help. I will be visiting with you personally and will be in contact with you so that I know when the best time for this will be or when you receive this letter I

welcome your response so we can get started working together. There were many positive responses for our "Communication and Support Can You Hear Me Now" conference which I chaired. I would like to keep that theme up for my time as Southern Region Vice President. I am interested in any of your issues, concerns and progresses you have, and I would like to keep you informed of what's going on at the State level; Bills being passed or up for Legislation and updates on any changes that you may be unaware of concerning the children we care for. I would also like to encourage your involvement as well by joining us by attending our Quarterlies or sending one of your members to represent your Chapter. We have started a "Chapter Lottery" where two VP's are chosen to arrange for a Chapter President and accompanying person from that same chapter to attend our Quarterly meeting in Sacramento Free.

I was chosen for this April's Quarterly to offer this to one of my Chapter Presidents.

Please let me know if this is of interest to you as soon as possible. I will be in contact with you about this as well as our Campership Scholarship. If you are chosen your flight/travel and room will be refunded back to you at the Quarterly. The date for the Quarterly is April 22-23. You may want to arrive on the 21st because the meeting starts at 10AM Friday the 22nd. Breakfast will also be included. The location will be at the Staybridge Suites Sacramento Airport Natomas 140 Promenade Cir, Sacramento, CA 95834
Phone:(916) 575-7907

I look forward to meeting and working with you very soon and if possible at our Quarterly, I would like to start this year off strong. I know life is busy and hard to fit it all in, I am a Foster/Adopt home myself and very involved in two Associations. Thank you for all you do.

New California Fostercare Ombudsman Appointed

Karen de Sa, San Jose Mercury News

As a foster child overmedicated with psychiatric drugs, Rochelle Trochtenberg endured the trauma of life growing up in California's child welfare system. Now, she will draw on that deeply personal experience as California's foster care ombudsperson. Trochtenberg, 33, is the first former foster youth to hold the office representing 62,600 abused and neglected children here. "It's a pleasure when you're able to appoint the right person to the role at just the right time, and Rochelle is that," said Will Lightbourne, director of the California Department of Social Services. Trochtenberg has worked on foster care, juvenile justice, homelessness, LGBT rights and mental health issues for Humboldt County. She also holds a key leadership post on the statewide group working to reduce psychotropic drug use and has served alongside judicial and political leaders on the state's Child Welfare Council. How to contact the California Foster Care Ombuds(wo)man's office: Call 877-846-1602; Email: fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov. Website: www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov.

Northern Region Update

Nadine Fleek, Northern Region VP

The Care Givers conference was held in Humboldt County on March 10th and 11th. Some of the topics were Gangs, Explosive Children, Continuum of Care Reform, Dealing with stress, Working together with birth parents, Working together with adoptive parents, Attachment, Day in the life of a foster parent, Social worker and Bio parent and LBGTQ. Humboldt County also hosted a dinner on Thursday, and a regional meeting was held during that time.

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NEWSLETTER



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Our main focus is to address issues of foster parents, guardianship and adoptive parents, as well as kinship placements which now includes over 55% of all children in out-of-home placements in California.

2nd Quarter Training and Meeting 40th Annual CSFPA Training Conference

The CSFPA 2nd Quarter Meeting will be held April 21-23, 2016 at The Staybridge Suites in Sacramento. If you would like to attend, and need to make room reservations, you must do so by March 21 to receive the CSFPA reduced rate. If you would like additional information, you can contact Bob Currey at 916-966-0394 or bobcurrey@comcast.net. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We are in the process of securing a location for the 40th Annual CSFPA Training Conference in the North Bay Area to be held in October. Stay tuned for details.



MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH!

If you prefer to receive your newsletter via email, please send an email to Carol Ihlenburg, Newsletter Chair at CSFPANewsletter@gmail.com.
If you have an item you'd like considered for inclusion in the newsletter, please submit to the same email.