



# California State Foster Parent Association, Inc.

Representing all California Resource Families

*“To Touch A Life Forever”*

**1ST QUARTER 2018 NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2018**

## **1st Quarter Board Meeting/Training**

The California State Foster Parent Association’s first quarter board meeting and training was held at the Sacramento Hilton January 12-14. Friday’s meeting started with the swearing in of two new 2018 Executive Board members; Shelly Best, Treasurer and Shirley Bobbitt, Central Valley Region Vice President. Kay Crockell, the new Secretary, was out with the flu, so she will be sworn in at the next quarterly meeting.

In the afternoon, Kim Wrigley, Program Implementation Bureau Chief, California Department of Social Services and Marissa Sanchez, CDSS Policy Manager/Licensing presented information regarding the new RFA process and the LOC (Level of Care) rates. AB404 passed and is effective as of 1/1/18. The main points of AB404 are (1) Portability—approved resource families can transfer their approval from a FFA (Foster Family Agency) to another FFA and from a FFA to county and vice versa. (2) Inactive Status—this allows a resource family to go on “inactive status” for up to a year without having to do an annual update. This is helpful for those who need to take a break from fostering children for whatever reason. (3) Respite Care Eligibility— Existing licensed foster homes are eligible to convert to a resource family if they have provided respite for a child in foster care during 2017—not necessarily having had an actual placement. There have been revisions made to the Written Directives to assist with expediting the RFA process including shifting some requirements to be completed post approval such as CPR and 1st Aid and TB screening (which may be just a questionnaire to determine if the applicant is at risk for TB). Additionally, rather than requiring a health screening, they are working on a self health questionnaire for applicants to complete. Other changes include changing the name of the psychosocial evaluation of RF applicants to Family Evaluation. Also, the number of face to face interviews has been reduced from 3 to 2, and other members of the family (spouses) may complete their interviews via Skype and/or Facetime. The RFA team is partnering with foster parent college to make training more accessible. Go to [www.fosterparentcollege.com](http://www.fosterparentcollege.com) for more information and to register. If you have any questions regarding the new

RFA, you can send an email to [RFA@dss.ca.gov](mailto:RFA@dss.ca.gov). You can also sign up to receive CCR (Continuum of Care) newsletters at [ccr@dss.ca.gov](mailto:ccr@dss.ca.gov).

At Saturday’s meeting, goals of 2018 for the CSFPA were discussed. Below are areas explored:

1. Be more inclusive in our representation and reach out to all resource families. The possibility of re-naming/branding the CSFPA was explored.
2. Establish a hotline or direct connection for resource families to obtain information regarding changes to the RFA process and CCR implementation.
2. Establish a legislative liaison who can be informed and inform the association of legal initiatives that effect the lives of resource families and the children they care for.

During our meeting, Deborah Bain from the District Attorney’s office came in and provided a wealth of information about the California Victim Compensation Program. She informed us that every child in foster care should be eligible for funding up to \$ 40,000 for anything related to being a victim of a crime (which child abuse and/or neglect are) such as therapy not covered by any other resource (insurance, etc.). For more information, go to their website: <http://victims.ca.gov/victims>.

The CSFPA 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly meeting will be held April 27 and 28 in Sacramento. Please plan on attending, take advantage of the training, and be a voice for caregivers in California. All CSFPA members are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. Bring any ideas/questions you may have, and we’ll do our best to assist you. Contact Kay Crockell at [Crockellkay@yahoo.com](mailto:Crockellkay@yahoo.com) for more information.



## Legislative & Policy Update

*Jenn Rexroad, Legislation Chair*

The 2nd Annual Caregiver Day at the Capitol was co-hosted by the Alliance of Children's Rights and California Alliance of Caregivers on January 30 in Sacramento. Over 60 foster and kinship caregivers attended 63 meetings with legislators and staff. It was a full day of training, teamwork, meetings, and a closing reception with special guest Senator Holly Mitchell. Caregivers came from 30 out of 40 Senate districts - there was widespread participation among caregivers!

Participants focused on some of the current issues affecting resource families - including the long delays of approving new families and relatives in many counties. Many counties are desperately waiting for new families to meet the placement demand, and many relatives are

going up to 12 months or more without funding.

Another issue that participants gave their voice to was "Level of Care." Foster parents explained the need for an accurate assessment tool to determine the appropriate level of care for a child. Without trained staff, and written policy and protocols, families and children with greater needs are at risk of falling through the cracks.

Caregivers received overwhelmingly positive feedback from legislators, who were very excited to hear ground-level feedback. Many are interested in keeping in touch and learning more about ways that they can support children in foster care and the families that care for them.

Thank you to all who attended. Your voice matters.

## Annual Membership Renewals Are Due

It's that time of year to renew your Chapter Memberships. The following items should be submitted:

1. Chapter Roster Form
2. Annual renewal fee and all member dues (please see our website for fee/dues amounts)
3. Copies of Bylaws and Operating Procedures if your Chapter has their own, and, if not already submitted
4. Membership List with all members, addresses and email addresses
5. For President and 2 Vice Presidents—copies of license and letter of good standing from licensing agency
6. 4th Quarter Financial reports: Copies of bank statements and Financial statements
7. Annual Financial reports: Approved 2018 budget
8. Any changes to Bylaws, Operating Procedures, Equipment, or Inventory

Our membership Chair, Mary Haghenbeck, is recovering from surgery, so please submit all paperwork to:

Carol Ihlenburg, 272 Devon Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903. If you have questions, email [CSFPAnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CSFPAnewsletter@gmail.com).



Join Us

## Updated By-Laws and Operating Procedure Changes

*Robert Currey, By-Laws Chair*

The current CSFPA bylaws can be found on our website. They were last updated in 2015. At the quarterly board meeting, some minor changes were made to the Operating Procedures, Part II in order to be consistent and in agreement with the Bylaws which reduces the listed duties of the 2nd Vice President for Chapters and the ability to obtain a possible waiver from the CSFPA Executive Board if necessary. The Operating Procedures are also available on our website should you need to refer to them. If you have any questions, contact me at [bobcurrey@comcast.net](mailto:bobcurrey@comcast.net).

# Here's What's Happening Around the State....



## Northern Region

Nadine Fleek, Northern Region VP

The Northern Region is working on planning three regional meetings—in Del Norte, Humboldt and Butte counties.

The Karuk Tribe's Victim Services Program has been established which assists Tribal Members and Descendant Members of The Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou County, Orleans and Weitchpec, California. This program helps victims of crime overcome trauma, due to victimization and find a place of healing.

If you have any questions regarding the happenings in the Northern Region, please contact me at (530) 937-3246.

## North Coastal Region

Sheri Justice-Cook, Northcoastal Region VP

A North Coastal Region meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2018 in Benicia. We will be hosting Margaret Coyne, Advocids Executive Director, who will answer questions our members have regarding the legal rights of foster parents/resource families. For those attending, please send any questions or concerns you have, so they can be included on the agenda. I am hoping to receive some completed Campership applications for the children in your home that would like to attend camp this summer. We would also like to know how far your counties have come in the RFA process. I am looking forward to seeing representatives from the North Coastal Region March 3rd. If you have any questions, please contact me at (707) 747-5329.

## Central Region

Carrie Myles, Central Region VP

Hello Families. Happy 2018 to all. We have another busy year ahead. The Central Region will be the host, with the assistance of our local counties and the support of CDSS, of the 42nd CSFPA Conference this year the first week of November which will be held in Sacramento. I look forward to your chapters participation and support. Thank you to Chapter 22 and 70 for committing your support. Chapters 35 and 57 please contact me as I have been unable to reach you. I so appreciate Chapter 13 your overwhelming support at the first quarterly meeting. You provided an amazing turnout and contribution to the meeting. I welcome all Chapters member's ideas and suggestions for great speakers for the upcoming CSFPA Conference. Please email (Carrieml53@gmail.com) or call 916 423 2840.

## Valley Region

Shirley Bobbitt, Valley Region VP

Fresno County: Six Resource Parents represented our county at Caregiver Day at the State Capitol on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The invitation to attend was well received, and we look forward to future visits with our lawmakers. Your Voice, Your Choice, Matters! Lady Bikers of California is hosting a fundraiser during their annual Female Ride Day for our Local Association on May 4-6, 2018. Event tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lady-bikers-of-california-ifrd-ca-foster-parent-assoc-2018-tickets-42330079407>. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Terri Hendricks at [Ladybikersofcaliforniaslady@gmail.com](mailto:Ladybikersofcaliforniaslady@gmail.com).

Fresno County Department of Services in association with the Resource Family Support Unit recently offered a 3 hour training seminar in which they thoroughly covered the Level of Care Protocol which has taken effect.

Shout Out Reminder – MARCH is Social Worker Appreciation Month – don't forget to let them know that their work is appreciated! We are all professionals working in the best interest of the children we serve!

San Luis Obispo County FPA: Our Association is working on exciting new things, such as, Welcome bags for each new Resource Family Home. This allows us to be connected and supportive of our new resources and introduces our association to them. We have also been focusing on outreach to our Relative Caregivers. We are having diaper drives and are providing meals at every class & training opportunity. -Alissa Parks President, SLO County

## Campership Scholarships 2018—Apply Now

IT'S TIME FOR CAMP!! Believe it or not, summer is just around the corner. The California State Foster Parent Association is happy to announce we are taking applications for 2018 Summer Camp scholarships. As a member of CSFPA, any child in your home (foster, adoptive, biological) is eligible to apply. Four (4) scholarships per region will be awarded for up to \$500.00 per child. You can access the Campership Scholarship Application on the CSFPA web site, CSFPAonline.org or print out page 5 of this newsletter. Please email the application to Joyce Hammerich, [ham\\_mom@yahoo.com](mailto:ham_mom@yahoo.com). If you have questions you can email Joyce or call 707 321-6221. The last day applications will be accepted will be April 15, 2018.



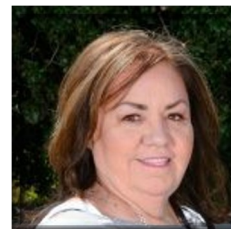
## Meet Your Executive Board Members

### President: Patricia Negus

I have been a foster parent for 40 years. My husband and I have provided care for over 500 children ranging from babies to teenagers. When our oldest daughter was in junior high, a classmate/friend of hers was going to be placed into a group home, because he wouldn't go to school or listen to his mother. My daughter asked us if we would let him live with us. This was the beginning of our life as foster parents.

I have been a member of the CSFPA for 40 years. I filled many different offices including Southern Regional Vice President, Publicity Chair, Hospitality, and many others before becoming President. My husband and I have 6 children—4 biological

and 2 adopted children in addition to providing guardianship to many other children. We have many grandchildren (18 from our 6 children) and many more from our foster children. We have regular contact and communication with many of our foster kids and their kids. We have 4 great grandchildren with number 5 on the way in March. We consider every child we foster OUR child.



We have always opened our home to any child that needed a home. We have had different types of homes (teenage pregnant adolescents, shelter care, foster care). We have always stepped up and opened our home to whatever was needed.

### Vice President: Nadine Fleek



I am one of nine children. I am number eight and my sister, Pauline, is number nine. We are the last of the siblings. I had a teenage brother who brought home other teenage boys who were having problems. My parents asked them to call home and get permission to stay. They would be there for one night or perhaps a full school year. There was no reimbursement involved in those days. My oldest sibling, Mary, was like a second mother. She had a son seven months older than me and a daughter the same age as Pauline. When sex

questions came up, I was told to talk to Mary. Mary took care of embarrassing questions to etiquette.

I could brag about all the awards that I have received but the thing that is most important to me is the trust and privilege given to us when we received a license to care for other people's children.

My husband and I have been married 57 years and have five children between us, six grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. The foster children are too many to count and are forever our extended family.







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California State Foster Parent Association  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
272 Devon Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903



***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.***

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## 2nd Quarter Training and Meeting 42nd Annual CSFPA Training Conference

The CSFPA 2nd Quarterly Meeting will be held April 27th and 28th at the Hilton Hotel in Sacramento. All members are encouraged and welcome to attend. There is also a training offered on the 27th. Please contact Kay Crockell,

CSFPA Secretary for more information at [crockellkay@yahoo.com](mailto:crockellkay@yahoo.com).

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We are waiting for the final date for this year's CSFPA Training and Conference to be held in October at the Hilton Hotel in Sacramento. Stay tuned. You won't want to miss it!



All newsletters are now being distributed via email. You can also access them online at our website ([www.csfpaoonline.org](http://www.csfpaoonline.org)). If you prefer to receive a paper copy, please contact Carol Ihlenburg, Newsletter Chair at [CSFPAnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CSFPAnewsletter@gmail.com).