

# Association of California School Administrators



Jose Aldaco - 2022-2023 President, ACSA Region 7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Region's educational leaders continue to be *ignited, energized, and united* through our charters' continuous professional learning opportunities. Each charter has offered valuable learning opportunities via various venues, in-person, and virtual. Some opportunities were focused on self-care, student diversity, classroom management, classroom articulation, and staff retention just to name a few. These accomplishments have been met due to the commitment of our charters to energize our phenomenal leaders.

It was evident by the abundance of attendees at the Region's Annual Classified Educational Leaders (CEL) Dinner that we are eager for one another's connection. This year's event broke an all time record of 777 attendees. It was an honor to recognize our Region's Confidential Employee of the Year, Velma Silva, from Sylvan Union SD and our Classified Leader of the Year and State ACSA's Classified Leader of the Year, Angela Zeoli, from Modesto City Schools. This venue gave us an opportunity to celebrate them locally. Angela headed to San Diego to ACSA's Leadership Summit where a reception and awards dinner awaited her.

Region 7's Every Student Succeeding (ESS) winner, Blake Schroeder, accompanied by her grandmother, Leanna, joined Region cabinet

members at the ACSA Leadership Summit. Blake and her grandmother enjoyed the once in a lifetime event as it was Blake's first time flying in an airplane, visiting San Diego, staying at a luxurious hotel (as she described it), and having dinner at the Cheesecake Factory. Blake just knew about being honored at the ESS reception, but once in the grand hall and knowing how many participants were there to celebrate 21 ESS recipients, she was memorized by the event. She also learned of being the recipient of another scholarship and being among 21 other ESS winners who shared similar challenges. After so many struggles, Blake started an LGBTQ+ club, is a member of the Girls Empowerment Team, and mentors others. She plans to pursue a fashion design career and continue to advocate for LGBTQ rights. She will visit a future GMA meeting to share her ESS experience with our Region's charters.



## Region 7's 2023 Awards Program

The 2023 ACSA Awards Program is now open for nominations. Please visit [www.asca.org/awards](http://www.asca.org/awards) or our website <https://regions.acsa.org/7/about/awards> to submit a nomination for our ACSA Region 7 awards. Those winners will be recognized at our annual Spring Conference. The Region 7 Awards Committee will be selecting award winners from all the Administrator of the Year categories, the Robert E. Kelly Award, Valuing Diversity Award, and the Partners in Educational Excellence Award.

Nominations for Region 7 School Boards or School Board Trustees are done through our Region website at <https://regions.acsa.org/7/about/awards>. Those winners will also be recognized at our annual spring conference. Nominations are due January 19th at 11:59 p.m.

"The Association of California School Administrators is the driving force for an equitable, world-class education system, and the development and support of inspired educational leaders who meet the diverse needs of all California students."

Be sure to visit our website (<http://regions.acsa.org/7/>) and stay up-to-date on Region 7 and Charter events as well as committee and council reports and more!

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# REGION 7 CHARTER REPORTS

## Retired (RAC) Charter

by Barbara McCleskey  
RAC Charter President

Greeting from “RAC” (Retired Administrators Charter). Thank you to all former officers for getting our Charter off to a great start. Our new officers for this year are as follows: President - Barbara McCleskey; Vice President - Barbara Magpusao; Past President - Cindy Murray; Vice President Legislative Action - Bob Lee; Vice President Programs - Jerry Panella; Vice President Membership - Virginia Berry; Treasurer - Barbara McCleskey; Secretary - Dede Baker; Director of Conference Committee and Awards - Cindy Murray; and our famous Region 7 Executive Director/Consultant Mary Ann Sanders.

We started the year off with a Social on August 27 having a pot luck at the Sanders home in Twain Harte and attending the play “Sh-Boom. On September 21 we met at Martha and Bob Gausman’s house in Livermore and attended a wine tasting at Darcie Kent Winery with a pot luck lunch. We are looking forward to our next event which will take place at the Sanders home in Twain Harte with a pot luck lunch being served and followed by a Matinee of Elf at Sierra Rep in Sonora. All Retired Administrators are invited to attend.

Our Board met on August 30th to finalize the agenda for the September 6th meeting which was held at Spring Creek Golf and Country Club with Sandy Howell from HICAP speaking on “Medicare Health & Options.” Our speaker for our October 4th meeting was Colleen F. Van Egmond from the Law Offices of Arata, Swingle, Van Egmond & Heitlinger. Her topic was Estate Planning and Wills. We left the meeting with a great handout on do’s and don’ts. I am sure many of us are reviewing our trusts at this time.

We are happy to report that RAC submitted its PDP plan to the Region and has received a check for \$350.00. This money will be used to provide raffle items at each meeting and provide the speaker with a \$25.00 Starbucks gift card as well as pay for their lunch. A subcommittee has been formed to review the by-laws in the upcoming future.

Following is our schedule for our upcoming meetings. You do not have to be a RAC member to attend so if there is a subject that is of interest to you - just let me (Barbara McCleskey) know by texting me at 209-483-1808. Each individual pays for their own meal. We try to make it as simple as can be because you know that “us retired people” are busy.

We have things to do and places to go!!!! Business is conducted after the speaker’s presentation. All meetings start at 11:30 a.m.

## RAC cont.

**December 6, 2022** - Spring Creek Golf and Country Club – Lidia Parman, Golden Placement Services, Senior Housing - “Elderly Care.”

**February 7, 2023** - Oakdale Golf and Country Club - Mark Kuhn, Hillview Funeral Chapel, “Funeral Planning.”

**March 7, 2023** - Burley’s California Bistro, Modesto CA – Tim Zearley, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, Modesto City Schools - “ School Safety in the Aftermath of the Uvalde Shooting.”

**April 4, 2023** - Burley’s California Bistro, Modesto CA - Julie Betschart, Deputy Superintendent, Stanislaus County Office of Education - “California Budget for Education.”

**May 2, 2023** - Oakdale Golf and Country Club – Jessica Rooper, Healthy Relationships Program Manager and Lupita Hernandez, HARRT Education – “Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault.”

**May 5 – 7, 2023** – Region 7 Spring Conference

**June 6, 2023** - Oakdale Golf and Country Club – Craig Memmo – Author of Children’s Book and sixth grade teacher at Tuolumne Elementary speaking on his book “Difference The Rainbow Zebra – An African Tale of Diversity.”

## Mother Lode Charter

by Karen Vail  
Mother Lode Charter President

The mighty Mother Lode Charter is up and running. We met at Olive Crush Farms in Valley Springs in September and had a great turnout. It was delightful to see everyone and welcome in our new members. We had lively discussions as always and enjoyed a lovely afternoon reconnecting and getting to know the new members. As always, a big thank you to Mary Ann Sanders for making the trek up the hill. Our future events for the year are still under discussion and we know we will need to get creative when considering live events, as the cost of venues has risen dramatically in our area. The Mother Lode Fall PDP was held on November 19th. Our guest speaker was Gloria Garcia from California Rural Legal Assistance addressing the topic of LBGTQ+ Needs and Rights. We look forward to hearing information on how to support our students. Our Winter Social will be at Olive Crush Farms on December 9 at 4:30. All are welcome to join us. We were lucky enough to have our first GMA of the year in beautiful Calaveras County at the Copper Valley Golf Club. We appreciate all the Region 7 members who made the drive for a great evening together.



## Stanislaus Charter

by Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr.  
Stanislaus Charter President

Greetings from Stanislaus Charter! The Stanislaus Charter membership is holding steady with approximately 456 members as of the end of October. Our annual Charter Kick-Off was made available to Stanislaus County on August 24th. The Kick-Off provided over 300 ACSA members and ACSA-eligible members the opportunity to collaborate in an in-person event. Our charter has held three Professional Learning Breakfast meetings thus far. Our breakfast meetings have averaged 80 participants virtually through Zoom. We would like to thank Iván Carrillo (State ACSA), Andrew Marotta (school principal, author, and motivational speaker), and Dr. Andrea Wilson from Modesto Junior College for serving as our guest speakers. Our next Professional Learning Breakfast Meeting will take place virtually, through Zoom, on December 7th.

## Tuolumne Charter

by Michael Merrill  
Tuolumne Charter President

The Tuolumne Charter of ACSA is excited about a very productive year. We held our annual Administrative Assistants' Dinner on Thursday, October 13th, at the Sonora Opera House. This was a great event that allowed all of our school districts to come together and recognize the outstanding people that support our students, staff, and our communities.

TCACSA had their first PDP event on November 3rd with Dore Bietz, our Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services Coordinator who talked to us about our school safety plans and making sure that we are coordinating with our local law enforcement and emergency services agencies in the event of an actual emergency. Tuolumne County schools are making this a priority to look at all safety plans and schedule drills so that emergency service agencies can be on call to support us, give guidance and train themselves for actual needs.

Many thanks to our wonderful ACSA team for planning the Mini Conference at Enochs High School on October 6th. The venue was spectacular. Thank you to the Enochs staff for hosting. I enjoyed the various sessions and thank our resident experts for sharing their knowledge with us.

This year has started off well. People seem to be in a better space and as I keep saying to people around me, I enjoy seeing everyone smiling and continuing to do what we do best...serve students. Tuolumne Charter is looking forward to the rest of our year's events. Before we know it, the holidays will be here. Wishing you all a great year.

## Why ACSA?

“There is a saying, “If you’re the smartest person in your circle, you need a new circle.” There is another saying that states, “If you want to become something, find someone that does it, and ask them how they did it.” These two expressions reflect why I choose to be an ACSA member. I want to surround myself with like-minded, driven, and committed professionals that expect the highest level of professionalism and development for themselves. These individuals choose to have a lifestyle that incorporates personal and professional development through professional networks and collaborations. Having ACSA as my professional circle, allows me to surround myself with educated educational professionals. This affords me the opportunities to rely on and learn from the skills and attributes of others that exceeds my own.

Spending time in this circle also allows me time to communicate and collaborate with leaders that hold positions that I aspire to attain. Mentorship and mentoring is a way of life for ACSA members. The benefit within ACSA is that you can have several mentors that specialize in different educational programs and or services. These mentors and mentees have varying years of service and occupational and cultural backgrounds that provides strength through diversity. Their shared perspectives is a benefit that increases the leadership mindset and abilities of both individuals as they both learn and grow within the organization.

Furthermore, ACSA provides professional development opportunities to learn and lead that stimulate, equip, and empower educational leaders. ACSA stimulates administrator's efficacy, sparks their curiosity, and increases motivation in the leading, managing, teaching, and learning processes. Balancing the aforementioned processes helps educational leaders to be better equipped to make required adjustments to meet the needs of all stakeholders to positively impact achievements for all. Lastly, ACSA empowers its members through its professional development opportunities centered around a “Community of Practice,” Within this community, members are positively influenced, receive personal and professional fulfillment, and make long lasting social and emotional connections that leads to self-actualization. This is why I choose ACSA!”



**Gregory Hicks**  
Assistant Principal  
Elliott Alternative  
Education Center

## STATE ACSA 2022 AWARD WINNERS

### State ACSA Superintendent/Principal of the Year



Wynette Hilton is a Superintendent by title and by action. She is known by all staff and students at all three campuses in the district. She is always available to listen or help at a moment's notice. She deeply cares about her students and staff. No matter how busy she is she listens, supports, and offers support to promote student learning and student safety. Wynette realized the importance of supporting her students' mental health, especially during and after distance learning. She found the budget was able to hire an additional counselor to help serve the needs of the elementary school, while the Crisis Counselor worked with high school students. Finding qualified applicants and hiring has been a challenge. She has used out of the box thinking in finding the right people and working with their credentials to fill important vacancies. Both high schools in the district had WASC review years and Wynette was an integral part of the process. She continued to support the high school's action plan by approving and implementing NWEA MAP scores for assessment data and approving professional development through WestEd for infusing rigor through UDL. During distance learning, she quickly realized iPads were not adequate and ordered chrome books for all students. In addition, she was able to acquire hotspots that could be used on multiple networks. Congratulations to Wynette Hilton, State ACSA's Superintendent/Principal of the Year. She was recently honored at the Leadership Summit in November.

### State ACSA Classified Manager of the Year



As the Director of Purchasing, Angela Zeoli is directly responsible for the oversight of equipping all school sites with the equipment and supplies necessary for all students to be successful. Her department, with a staff of five, is responsible for supplies for 34 school sites and 30 ancillary departments. With her strong relationships with vendors, she has enabled the district to meet challenging deadlines and ensure the least impact to the classroom. She is thorough and consistent in her application regulations and involves district counsel if needed. Her ethics are above reproach, and she is personally committed to being a good steward of the funds awarded to Modesto City Schools. Angela enjoys making site visits and customizing standards to meet the needs of each individual school site. During the preparation to return students from school closures, one of the many tasks assigned to Angela was ensuring appropriate social distancing of classroom equipment and procuring desk shields for the students. Angela is always thinking outside of the box and implementing improvements within her area of responsibility. Recently, she implemented a new public surplus process that has allowed Modesto City Schools to dispose of outdated technology equipment, which has generated revenue to put back into new technology purchases and programs for students. Congratulations to Angela Zeoli, State ACSA's Classified Leader of the Year. Angela was honored at the Leadership Summit on November 4th in San Diego.

### *Meet Your Student Services & Special Education Council Representative*

**Who:** Dr. Stacy Wheat

**Job:** Executive Director, Tuolumne County SELPA

Dr. Stacy Wheat is the Executive Director, SELPA for Tuolumne County. She supports parents, students, and staff to work together to make certain that the appropriate services are provided on an individualized basis for every child with a disability. Stacy has been in education for 18 years. Stacy chose this profession because she was encouraged by her daughter's fifth grade teacher to pursue teaching as a career after helping in her child's classroom.

Stacy's hobbies include camping, riding her electric bike, roller skating, and exploring new places. In her spare time, she loves to be with family and friends doing whatever the day brings. She graduated from the University of California, Irvine, with a BA in Criminology, Law, and Society; California State University, Fullerton, with a MA in Educational Leadership; and University of Southern California with an Ed.D. in Organizational Change and Leadership.

**Something of Interest:** When Stacy was in first grade, she was on the TV show Truth or Consequences with host Bob Barker and won \$100 in prizes. (I'm sure I just dated myself).



## TRANSITIONS

- **Heather Sherburn** retired from the Assistant Superintendent position in Lammersville Unified after serving for 33.5 years in education. **Heather Sharp** is the new Assistant Superintendent of Lammersville Unified School District.
- **Tabatha Ann Maxie** is the new principal of Banta Elementary School. Maxie was the former Assistant Principal of the STEAM Academy in River Islands.
- **Debbie Richey** is the new Principal of Bethany Elementary in the Lammersville Unified SD. Debbie was previously Coordinator – Instruction, Assessment & Technology in Lammersville.
- **Jason Strickland** is the new Principal at Jefferson School in the Jefferson School District. He was the former Vice Principal at Sebastian Questra Elementary School in the Lammersville Unified School District.
- **Bill Redford** moved from Mountain Oaks Administrator to Director of Continuous Improvement and Leadership Development at Calaveras County Office of Education.
- **Jared Hungerford** moved from Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Calaveras County Office of Education to Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services.
- **Scott Nanik** is the new Superintendent of Bret Harte Union High School District. **Karen Vail** moved from Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services at Calaveras County Office of Education to Calaveras County Superintendent of Schools.
- **Barbara Magpusao** retired as Principal of Jackson Elementary.
- **Jose Aldaco** is the new Superintendent of Waterford Unified School District. He replaced **Don Davis** who retired in June.
- **Araceli Zamora** was named Business Manager at the Waterford Unified School District. She was formerly Program/Grant Manager at Riverbank Unified School District.
- **Toney Henry**, Director of Compliance and Accountability at Sylvan Union School District, is now Director III, Special Programs & Accountability at the Waterford Unified School District.
- **Deborah Rowe** was named the new Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, at Sylvan Union School District. She was with the Stanislaus County Office of Education as Director II, CTE and Executive Director, VOLT Institute.
- **Steven Merchant**, former Principal at Sam Vaughn Elementary School, is the new Principal at Whitmore Charter School in the Ceres Unified School District.
- **Kevin Fox** was named Director I, Career and Technical Education at Stanislaus COE.
- **Jon Valenti** is the new Principal of Capistrano Elementary School in the Empire Union School District. Jon was formerly Assistant Principal at Glick Middle School.
- **Radhika Dinesh** was named Principal at Burbank Elementary School in Modesto City Schools. Radhika was Vice Principal in the Lammersville Unified SD at Bethany Elementary School.
- **Carlos Perez** is the new Assistant Principal at Glick Middle School in the Empire Union School District
- **Rogelio Adame**, formerly Assistant Principal Central Valley High School, is the new Principal at Cesar Chavez Junior High School in the Ceres Unified School District.
- **Kristin Lilly-Porter** was named Principal at Sam Vaughn Elementary Schools in the Ceres Unified School. Kristin was Assistant Principal at Sam Vaughn.

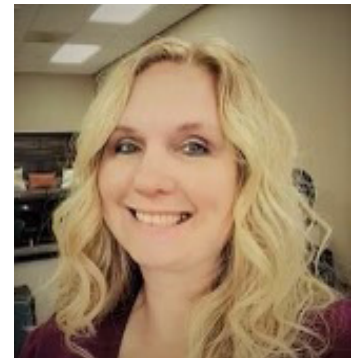
## ACSA Scholarships

Christine VanDenover was this year's recipient of Region 7's scholarship for the Personnel Institute. Christine is Director II for the Human Resources Department in the Waterford Unified School District. She has been a member of ACSA for five years. Christine said she never applied for a scholarship before because she was not aware that they existed. She can thank Toney Henry for making her aware of this wonderful opportunity.

This year Christine has taken on a huge challenge. She not only changed districts, but she changed to a position that is multifaceted. As a Director of Human Resources, she needed to connect with other human resource personnel who have been successful in this role. Attending the Personnel Institute allowed her to do just that. Christine learned strategies in recruiting and retaining employees as well as connecting with people in her county who she can depend on to help answer questions.

Christine would love to attend the Personnel Institute again and would strongly recommend others attend as well. The presenters are often lawyers, CBOs, superintendents, and assistant superintendents. She said you are guaranteed to walk away with something you can implement immediately. "Now that I know about our region scholarships, I would like to share that knowledge with others. It might make the difference between them being able to attend or not."

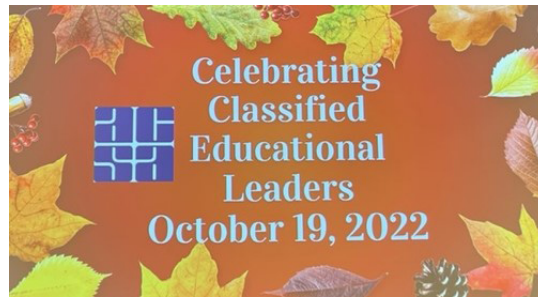
Please visit our website at <https://regions.acsa.org/7/about/scholarships/> for more information on our conference and student scholarships.



# CEL Annual Fall Dinner

The CEL Annual Fall Dinner was held on October 19th at the DoubleTree in Modesto. Keynote speakers were Brian and Avery Baker who spoke about the “Power of You and All That You Do.” This year we broke an all time attendance record of 777 attendees. A special thank you to the CEL Fall Dinner Planning Committee: Velma Silva, Marilyn Croft, Roberta Cheney, Kelly Gilbertson, Selene Jimenez, Mary Ann Sanders, and Claudia Vicino. Mark your calendars next year for the CEL Annual Fall Dinner on October 18th at the DoubleTree in Modesto.





## State ACSA Mentor Program

The State ACSA Mentor Program is now in its seventh year of operation, and it has proven to be a very valued benefit offered by ACSA Member Services. During the 2021-2022 school year, the ACSA Regional Facilitators established and monitored approximately 180 mentor/protégé relationships. During each full year of operation, the program has continued to grow as more and more new administrators realize the benefits of participation. Feedback from participants has been very positive, and ACSA is confident that new administrators will continue to take advantage of this program as the 2022-2023 school year progresses.

The outstanding group of Regional Facilitators meet virtually on a regular basis during the year to discuss ways to increase the number of relationships and improve the quality of each. Their goal is to improve the effectiveness of administrative leaders, thereby increasing the success of their students, and protecting the investment that is administrative personnel. District and school administrators are expected to be great leaders from the very beginning of their careers, but the framework to hone their leadership skills primarily occurs prior to their gaining practical experience. Mentoring is an excellent way to provide on the job, confidential, practical support for new administrators, and possibly the best aspect is that the service is included within your ACSA membership dues.

Region 7's Mentor Program Facilitator is Debra Hendricks. Debra was formerly the Superintendent of Sylvan Union School District and is the primary owner and consultant with DH Facilitating & Training. Her email address is: [dhftconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:dhftconsulting@gmail.com).



Now more than ever, it is important that new administrators know of the program and encourage them to participate. Simply go to [www.acsa.org/mentorprogram](http://www.acsa.org/mentorprogram). This link will take you directly to an application, where you can sign up to be a mentor or a protégé. As previously stated, there is no additional charge for this service. Upon completion of the form, you will be contacted by our Regional Facilitator. Don't fail to take advantage of this opportunity.

## Region 7 Welcomes New Members

### San Joaquin Charter

Katie Nilsson, Dir. II, LEA Medi-Cal Svcs., SJCOE  
Robert Winterhalter, Assistant Principal, Lodi USD  
Neil Young, Associate Superintendent, Lodi USD

### Stanislaus Charter

Kimberly Brinkman, Director, Career Navigation & Workforce Prep, Patterson JUSD

Sara Cruz, Principal, Chatom Elementary SD  
Nicholas DePauw, Director of Inform/Technology, Patterson JUSD

Candace Looney, Assistant Principal, Turlock USD  
Stephen Mauchley, Assistant Principal, Patterson JUSD  
Jeffrey Menge, Asst. Supt./Admin. Svcs., Patterson JUSD  
Susan White, Executive Secretary, Patterson JUSD

### Tuolumne Charter

Debra Gardiner, Director, Special Education, Sonora ESD



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## Looking Ahead

### December

- 2 Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Mtg. 7:00 am - Zoom
- 6 RAC Luncheon Meeting 11:30 am - Spring Creek Golf Course - Ripon
- 7 Stanislaus Charter Meeting 7:00 am - Zoom  
San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting - 8:30 am - Zoom
- 9 Mother Lode Winter Social 4:30 pm - Olive Crush
- 12 Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Holiday Dinner 4:30 pm

### January

- 10 Tuolumne Charter Board Meeting 7 a.m.
- 11 San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting 8:30 am - Zoom
- 13 Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Mtg. 7:00 am - Zoom  
Mother Lode Charter Cabinet Meeting 7:30 am
- 17 Region 7 Conference Committee Meeting 4:30 p.m.  
Region 7 Cabinet Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 18 Stanislaus Charter EMAD Event 4 p.m.
- 19 Award Nominations due to State ACSA 11:59 p.m.

### February

- 1 San Joaquin Board Meeting 8:30 am - Zoom  
General Membership Assembly 4:30 pm  
Dave Wong's - Stockton
- 2 Mother Lode ESS (Amador) Event 7:45 am

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## Region 7 Officers 2022-2023

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Deborah Rowe  
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Tami Garcia  
**TREASURER**  
Araseli Zamora

**VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS**  
Kelene Blevins  
**VICE PRESIDENT, LEG. ACTION**  
Jared Hungerford  
**VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP**  
Kathy Griggs

**SECRETARY**  
Mark Campbell  
**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Ramona Soto-Barajas  
**STATE BOARD MEMBER**  
Scott Nanik  
**REGION 7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/**

**CONSULTANT**  
Mary Ann Sanders  
**REGION 7 COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST & FACILITIES DIRECTOR**  
Claudia Vicino

## Charter Presidents 2022-2023

**MOTHER LODGE**  
Karen Vail

**SAN JOAQUIN**  
Heather Sharp

**STANISLAUS**  
Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr.

**TUOLUMNE**  
Michael Merrill

**RETIRED**  
Barbara McCleskey