



Association of California School Administrators

Kristin Lilly-Porter - 2025-2026 President, ACSA Region 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Our second General Membership Assembly (GMA) in February was a tremendous success for Region 7, bringing together educational leaders from across the area for an inspiring and collaborative event at the

Chez Shari Event Center in Manteca, California. The energy in the room reflected the shared commitment of our members, and we were especially honored to hear updates from our region committee members, who highlighted the impactful and innovative work taking place throughout the state. These presentations not only showcased progress, but also reinforced the strength of our collective efforts to support students, staff, and school communities.

As we look ahead, we are excited to gather once again for our Annual Region 7 Conference in South Lake Tahoe, May 1-3. This year's conference promises to be an engaging and enriching experience, featuring an outstanding lineup of guest speakers who will share insights, leadership strategies, and inspiration to carry forward into our work. A special

highlight of the weekend will be our Friday evening awards dinner on May 1st, where we will proudly recognize our Region 7 Award Winners across multiple categories—celebrating excellence, dedication, and the meaningful contributions of our colleagues.

In addition to learning and recognition, we are also excited to continue one of our favorite traditions—the Annual Kentucky Derby Soiree on May 2nd. This fun and festive gathering not only brings our members together in a spirit of camaraderie, but also serves a meaningful purpose as we raise funds to support our annual student scholarships, directly investing in the future of the students we serve.

As I prepare to conclude my tenure as Region President, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. Your volunteer hours, unwavering support, and positive energy have made this year truly special. It has been an honor to serve alongside such dedicated and passionate leaders, and I look forward to seeing Region 7 continue to thrive in the years ahead. Thank you for making this journey so memorable.

Kristin Lilly-Porter, Region 7 President

ACSA REGION 7 ANNOUNCES REGION OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027

President: Dr. Ben Howell
President-Elect: Dr. Girlie Hale
Vice President: Michael Shoyer
Treasurer: Araseli Zamora
Vice President, Programs:

Monica Lombardo
Vice President, Legislative Action: Tom Nipper
Vice President, Membership: Tami Garcia

Secretary: Janelle DeGreek
Past President: Kristin Lilly-Porter
ACSA State Board Representative: Jennifer Houser

The new officers will be installed at the annual Spring Conference at the Margaritaville Resort, Lake Tahoe on Saturday, May 2nd. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

The mission of the Association of California School Administrators is to advocate in the best interests of students and to develop, empower and inspire equity-minded educational leaders.

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

Mother Lode Charter

by Jared Hungerford, President

The mighty Mother Lode Charter welcomed in the New Year with two Every Student Succeeding breakfast events: one in Amador County and one in Calaveras County. Calaveras held its event on February 5th and honored 17 students at the Calaveras River Academy/Mt. Oaks School gymnasium with a wonderful breakfast catered by the Murphys Hotel and with flowers provided by the Bret Harte High School floral program. Amador's event on February 12th honored 11 students and was held in the culinary arts room at Amador High School. Breakfast was prepared by Amador High School culinary arts students. Both events gave well-deserved recognition to students who have gone above and beyond while facing serious challenges in their lives.

Currently, the Mother Lode Charter is preparing for the annual Employees Making a Difference event in honor of our exceptional classified employees. Additionally, we are working to recruit a new Vice President for the Charter as President Jared Hungerford completes his term and officers move into their new positions. Finally, the Mother Lode Charter is working to plan our Spring Professional Development Program which will be held virtually at 7:30 am on May 19th. More details will come in April. All Region 7 ACSA members are invited to participate.

Retired (RAC) Charter

by Barbara Magpusao, President

Retired Administrators' Charter started off the New Year with a meeting at Spring Creek Country Club in Ripon. Thanks to our members Denise Wickham, Dede Baker and Bob Lee, we are able to use the Country Club for our meetings. At this meeting, we discussed our slate of Officers and the 2026-2027 calendar.

Our 2026 - 2027 RAC Calendar dates are: September 1st, November 3rd, December 1st, February 2nd, April 6th, and June 1st. All meetings will be at Spring Creek Country Club unless otherwise noted. The meetings are from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Topics range from Post Retirement Financial Strategies to Travel Ideas. We met on April 7th at Spring Creek enjoying lunch and a game of Bocci Ball. We also have a fun meeting planned on May 5th at the Modesto Children's Museum featuring the History of Barbie.

In June, we will be meeting to install our 26-27 officers and sharing our summer plans. If you are retired or soon to be, come join us. It is a great group of people, enjoying each other's company.

San Joaquin Charter

by Dr. Girlie Hale President

Happy Spring! We are winding down the school year with lots of news and celebrations. First, we'd like to thank Aaron Colburn for his service as Charter Treasurer as he steps down from his position. Dr. Khushwinder Gill, Superintendent/Principal of New Hope Elementary School District, has accepted the role as our Charter Treasurer. For our April 30th Spring PD, Charter President-Elect Dr. Kofi Rogers will be our guest author and will present content and key learnings from his book, "Change the Narrative, Don't Let the Narrative Change You."

During the ACSA Region 7 Spring Conference, we have six leaders being recognized at the Awards Dinner: Superintendent of the Year: Dr. Michelle Rodriguez, Stockton USD

Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year: Aggie Christensen, San Joaquin County Office of Education
Adult Education Administrator of the Year: Carly Sexton, San Joaquin County Office of Education

Continuation/Educational Options Administrator of the Year: Doug Silva, San Joaquin County Office of Education
Professor of the Year: Lisa Reece, Teachers College of San Joaquin

Bob Price Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Sheri Coburn, Retired, San Joaquin County Office of Education

Our End of Year Celebration is scheduled for May-14th, and will honor legacy educator awards to selected ACSA members who have provided a career of service. We hope to see members at our future meetings and events!

Stanislaus Charter

by Michael Shroyer, President

Stanislaus Charter has been off to a great year! We've enjoyed some amazing breakfast PD sessions, with our next one coming up on May 13.

Don't miss our upcoming retirement dinner on May 18th at the Fruit Yard as we come together to celebrate and honor our colleagues. More great moments ahead!



CHARTER REPORTS

Tuolumne Charter

by Ben Howell, Past President

Leading Strong: Celebrating Excellence in Tuolumne County

The Tuolumne County Charter (TCACSA) proudly honored 22 inspirational school employees at our annual Employees Who Make a Difference event on March 26. Over 120 county administrators and colleagues gathered at the Sonora Elk's to celebrate the dedication of those who go above and beyond for our school communities every day. We are thankful to recognize each individual for being an employee who makes a difference, and, most importantly, we cherish the way their work impacts students in Tuolumne County each day at school.

This celebration follows our Every Student Succeeding Breakfast which occurred in February and recognized 15 remarkable students at the Tuolumne Resilience Center. Their perseverance in the face of adversity is a testament to both their personal grit and the support systems within our schools.

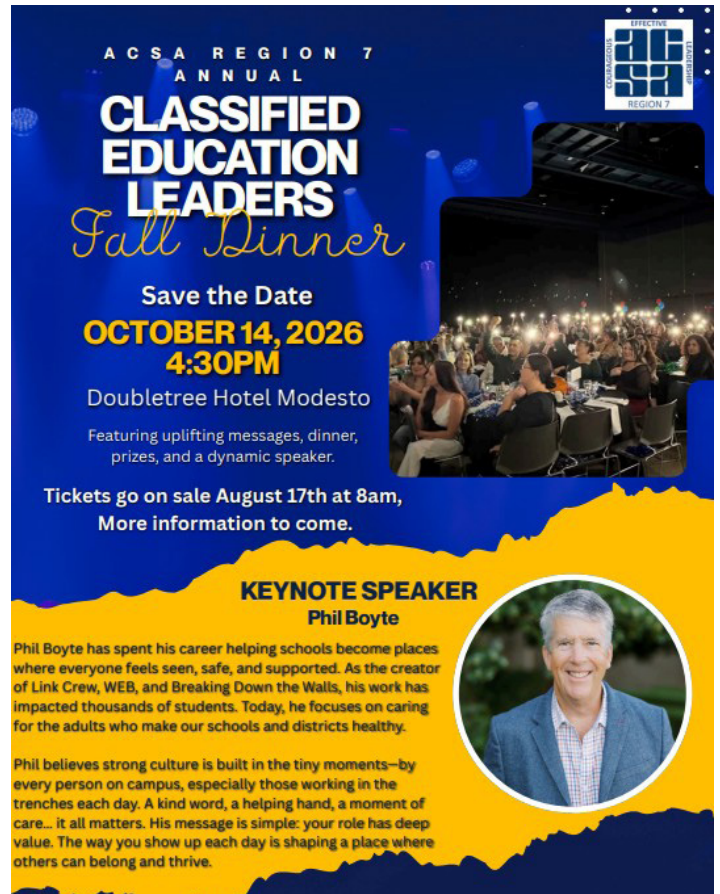
TCACSA would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Dan Imfield and the Sonora Area Foundation. Thanks to their generosity, every graduating senior receiving the Every Student Succeeding award was granted a scholarship—a “seed of inspiration” and recognition they will succeed in life in their next chapter.

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, TCACSA is shifting focus toward leadership movements in curriculum and instruction for our Spring Professional Development Program.

Whether on campus or through countywide collaboration, we are committed to finishing the year with innovation, joy, and a shared dedication to student success.

ACSA REGION 7 THANKS GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

For Sponsoring Our October CEL Dinner & Our February General Membership Assembly




ACSA REGION 7 ANNUAL
CLASSIFIED EDUCATION LEADERS
Fall Dinner

Save the Date
OCTOBER 14, 2026
4:30PM
Doubletree Hotel Modesto

Featuring uplifting messages, dinner, prizes, and a dynamic speaker.

Tickets go on sale August 17th at 8am,
More information to come.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Phil Boyte



Phil Boyte has spent his career helping schools become places where everyone feels seen, safe, and supported. As the creator of Link Crew, WEB, and Breaking Down the Walls, his work has impacted thousands of students. Today, he focuses on caring for the adults who make our schools and districts healthy.

Phil believes strong culture is built in the tiny moments—by every person on campus, especially those working in the trenches each day. A kind word, a helping hand, a moment of care... it all matters. His message is simple: your role has deep value. The way you show up each day is shaping a place where others can belong and thrive.



KENTUCKY DERBY

Purchase Derby Squares \$5.00 each to help raise money for ACSA Student Scholarships!

Bring festive attire and hats for our Contest during the event!

We will have two categories: Best Hat and Best Dressed Couple! Prizes will be awarded.

Enjoy some appetizers and no host bar to watch the race.

May 2nd 3:15-5pm in Atrium II

Sponsored by:



LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY 2026

**by Jared Hungerford,
State ACSA Vice President, Legislative Action**

Monday, April 20th, delegations from all 19 ACSA regions will converge on the State Capitol for ACSA's Legislative Action Days. The first day will consist of advocacy training, region team breakouts and preparation, a group reception, and a region dinner. The following day, teams will meet with their assigned regional legislators to advocate for students using the 1 Voice Platform that highlights the need for robust and stable school funding, a reduction of duplicative plans and reports, and the need to address staff shortages statewide.

Your Region 7 delegation to Legislative Action Days includes: Tom Nipper (R7 VPLA), Jared Hungerford (State VPLA), Deb Rowe (R7 State Board Member), Kristin Lilly-Porter (R7 President), Barbara Magpusao (R7 Retired Charter President), Brandie Brunni (SJ Charter VPLA), and Matthew Hutsell (Stanislaus Charter VPLA). The Region 7 team will be meeting with the legislators or staffers from the offices of: Heath Flora (AD 9), Rhodesia Ransom (AD 13), Juan Alanis (AD 22), Marie Alvarado-Gil (SD 4) and Jerry Mc Nerney (SD 5). Our delegates will effectively represent you and your students by making our needs clear to our legislators through stories of local and personal impact.

Thank you to our delegation for their commitment to legislative action and to all ACSA members for your support and advocacy for our students!

ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE COMING SOON

by Monica Lombardo Vice President, Programs

Welcome to the ACSA Region 7 Spring Conference: Leading with Purpose and Resilience

The Region 7 Conference Committee is thrilled to invite you to the much-anticipated ACSA Region 7 Spring Conference, set against the breathtaking backdrop of Lake Tahoe. From Friday, May 1, to Sunday, May 3, 2026, we are bringing together educational leaders from across the region for a transformative experience filled with insightful keynote speakers, engaging breakout sessions, and valuable networking opportunities.

A Weekend of Inspiration and Growth

Our journey begins Friday morning with an emphasis on leadership and team building. We are especially excited to introduce the Women's Leadership Professional Development breakfast featuring Dr. Donya Ball, starting at 7:45 a.m. This event is currently sold out. The official conference kicks off at 9:30 a.m., followed by a dynamic ACSA Panel featuring Leilani Aguinaldo, Serette Kaminski, Barrett Snider, Michael Fine, and Scott Nanik, who will address current legislative trends and educational priorities.

The momentum continues Saturday with a diverse lineup of presentations designed to challenge and inspire. Our general sessions will explore the realities of leadership, the importance of self-awareness in building organizational culture, and the transformative power of play in deepening team trust.

Expanded Learning Opportunities

We are incredibly fortunate to feature an inspiring lineup of visionary leaders who bring a wealth of expertise and passion to this year's conference. Dr. Donya Ball sets a powerful tone for the weekend, leading both our inaugural Women's Leadership Professional Development breakfast and our closing address with her deep commitment to professional growth and empowerment. We are equally thrilled to welcome Dr. Kristin Anderson, whose anticipated insights into educational leadership provide invaluable perspectives for navigating today's complex academic landscape. Additionally, the collaborative energy of Dr. Amy Alzina and Karla Gonzalez promises to be a highlight of Saturday's programming, offering attendees practical strategies and innovative ideas to bring back to their home districts. Together, these esteemed speakers embody the spirit of excellence and resilience that defines ACSA Region 7.

ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE CONTINUED

In addition to our featured speakers, attendees can choose from a wide range of breakout sessions led by local administrative leaders. These sessions cover a variety of critical themes for today's educators, including:

- **Team Excellence:** Strategies for building healthy, high-performing teams and improving dynamics.
- **Administrative Strategy:** Practical approaches to compliance, from paperwork to purpose, and connecting program evaluation to student achievement.
- **Community and Wellness:** Cultivating Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) through practical leadership moves for thriving school communities.
- **Visionary Leadership:** Leading with resilience, purpose, and an inclusive vision for the future.
- **Modern Professional Skills:** Enhancing workplace trust and mastering quick tech tips for the digital age.

Celebrate and Connect

We are especially excited to host the President Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Friday, May 1st, starting at 5:45 pm. This is a special evening dedicated to celebrating the outstanding achievements of our Region 7 Award winners. Let's not forget the fun! Be sure to pack your Kentucky Derby attire for our Saturday Soiree at 3:15 pm. It's a perfect opportunity to support our scholarship fundraiser while showcasing your style and socializing with peers.

Also, between our high-impact sessions, don't forget to head over to the Vendor tables to join the excitement. This year, our Vendor Bingo and raffle prizes are bigger and better than ever, offering you more chances to win while you connect with our wonderful sponsors. You can catch the action during our dedicated Vendor Hall hours on both Friday and Saturday, where we've scheduled multiple rounds of drawings for Vendor Bingo and raffles throughout the day.

Secure Your Spot

With enthusiasm building and registrations filling up fast, we encourage all interested individuals to visit the ACSA Region 7 website to secure your spot and your accommodation at Lake Tahoe.

Do not miss this incredible opportunity to connect, learn, and grow at our Annual ACSA Region 7 Spring Conference. We can't wait to see you there!



Leadership Training For Region Officers, Region Council & Committee Representatives & Charter Officers

June 8, 2026

Fruit Yard, Modesto

Look for Upcoming Registration on Eventbrite



Benefits of ACSA Membership:

- Professional development and best practices
- Career networking and statewide job opportunities
- State/federal student & administrator advocacy
- Leadership opportunities
- Legal support and assistance
- Scholarships to ACSA professional development
- Leadership awards and recognition
- Mentorship
- Liability insurance coverages

JOIN TODAY!

ADMINISTRATORS OF THE YEAR 2026

by Annie Cunial, Region 7 Awards Chair

We are extremely excited to honor our ACSA Region 7 Administrators of the Year! Please join us for the Awards Ceremony and Dinner on May 1, 2026, at the Compass Rose Ballroom in the Margaritaville Hotel, South Lake Tahoe. The ceremony begins with seating at 5:45 p.m. and dinner will be served immediately following the ceremony. School administrators will be recognized for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the students they serve. Help us celebrate these worthy individuals.

You can still register for the entire conference, but unfortunately our Awards Ceremony is sold out. Register at: <https://2026acsaregion7springconference.eventbrite.com>

Superintendent:

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez - Stockton USD

Superintendent/Principal:

Carmel Portillo – Belleview SD

Secondary Principal:

Karen Sells, Sonora High School

Sonora Union High SD

Middle Grades Principal:

Kristi Cody, Prescott Jr. High School

Stanislaus Union SD

Elementary Principal:

Kristin Lilly-Porter, Samuel Vaughn Elementary School
Ceres USD

Business Services Administrator:

Dr. Kristi Britton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services - Ceres USD

Central Office Administrator:

Michael Rich, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development
Modesto City Schools

Secondary Co-Administrator:

Wendi Cook, John H. Pitman High School
Turlock USD

Middle Grades Co-Administrator:

Lucia Hernandez, Assistant Principal, Blaker-Kinser
Junior High School
Ceres USD

Elementary Co-Administrator:

Marielena Zuniga, James Marshall Elementary School
Modesto City Schools

Classified Leader:

Angelica Cazares, Director of Nutrition
Ceres USD

Confidential Employee:

Randon Jones, Office Manager– Ceres HS
Ceres USD

Personnel/Human Resources Administrator:

Aggie Christensen, Division Director, HR
San Joaquin COE

Career Technical Administrator:

Rachelle Barkus
Senior Director, Ed Options - Modesto City Schools

Special Education Administrator:

Angela Durossette, Program Specialist
Ceres USD

Student Services Administrator:

Kristina Smith, Director of Student Support Services
Calaveras COE

Curriculum & Instruction Administrator:

Heidi Nunes, Senior Director, Early Childhood
Education - Modesto City Schools

Adult Education:

Carly Sexton - Director II, Workforce Development
San Joaquin COE

Continuation/Educational Options Administrator:

Doug Silva, Director I, County Operated Schools &
Programs – San Joaquin COE

Technology Administrator:

Mark Fabela, Director of Technology
Sylvan Union SD

Professor of the Year:

Lisa Reece – Teachers College of San Joaquin
San Joaquin COE

Valuing Diversity:

John Acha, Director of Secondary Education & CTE
Turlock USD

Partners In Educational Excellence:

Tuolumne JPA – Tuolumne Charter

REGION 7 SPECIAL AWARDS

Board of Trustees:

Empire Union School Board – Loretta Stein
(Board President); Carole Dovichi (Board Clerk);
Doug Bentley; Bob McDonough; and Gina Smith

Bob Price Distinguished Service Award:

Dr. Sheri Coburn, RN, RCSN, Retired Administrator
San Joaquin COE

Bill Ullom Award

Deborah Rowe, Assistant Superintendent, HR
Sylvan Union SD

Why ACSA?



ACSA has always provided promising practices and great ideas to become the most effective and inspiring administrators possible. We learn with and from each other. Sooooo grateful.

Mary Ann Sanders
Region 7 Executive Director & Consultant

MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE ACSA BOARD MEMBER

By Deborah Rowe

As the 2025-2026 academic year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey of serving on the ACSA Board of Directors. It has been a year defined by strategic vision, collaborative spirit, and a steadfast commitment to supporting Region 7 & California's educational leaders.

Our work began with a sense of shared purpose during our Board Retreat (July 14-16) at the stunning Cavallo Point in Sausalito. Under the guidance of ACSA President Dr. Daryl Camp, we spent those days charting our strategic direction. A particular highlight was our trek to the Chase Center for a focused workday, an experience that solidified our bond as a team and set the tone for the productive year ahead.

The Board convened four times this year, intentionally aligning our meetings with major professional development milestones like the Leadership Assembly and Summit. This structure ensured that our governance remained deeply connected to the learning and growth of our members.

Beyond the full board meetings, I had the privilege of serving on two vital committees:

- Finance Committee: Ensuring the fiscal health and sustainability of our organization to better serve our regions.
- Leadership Development Committee: Cultivating procedure, process and bylaw changes for Board review and approval.

Together, we tackled many robust agendas that addressed the evolving needs of our profession:

- We refined Board protocols and provided targeted support for Regional recruitment, ensuring our local chapters remain strong.
- We received critical updates from the AI Task Force, helping ACSA navigate the transformative impact of artificial intelligence in education.
- From strengthening ties with affinity organizations to making key Political Action endorsements, we ensured our voice was heard in the races and legislative battles that matter most.
- We bid a grateful farewell to Mary Gomes upon her retirement and enthusiastically welcomed our new Director of Leadership, ensuring a seamless transition for our Academies.

We are concluding the year with an eye toward the future. One of our most exciting upcoming goals is empowering our authorized ACSA leaders with direct access to membership data via a new PowerBI dashboard.

To maintain security and professional standards, this rollout will include the issuance of ACSA-specific email addresses. We are currently in the process of securing the necessary licenses to make this tool a reality, providing you with the real-time insights needed to lead your regions more effectively.

It has been an honor to represent you this year. As I turn the page toward retirement, I look forward to trading the demands of a professional calendar for the freedom to rediscover old passions and embrace a slower, more intentional pace of life. Thank you for your continued dedication to the students and schools of Region 7.



REGION 7 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Mother Lode Charter

Sarah Alfred - Chief Business Official - Calaveras USD

San Joaquin Charter

Mary Jo Fernandez - Director of Instructional Support -
New Jerusalem ESD

Tyler Mullen - Assistant Principal - Tracy JUSD

Stanislaus Charter

Tammy Hushaw - Acting Executive Director -
Connecting Waters Charter

Jose Perez Sanchez - Assistant Principal - Ceres USD



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LOOKING AHEAD IN REGION 7

April

- 15 General Membership Assembly - 4:30 p.m.
The Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum
- 16 Mother Lode Charter Employees Making a Difference
4:30 p.m. - Calaveras River Academy Gym
- 20 - 21 Legislative Action Day - Sacramento
- 28 Tuolumne Charter Board Meeting 7 a.m. - Willow
Wisp Café

May

- 1-3 Region 7 Annual Spring Conference - So. Lake Tahoe
- 5 Retired Administrators Charter Luncheon Meeting
11:30 a.m. - Modesto Childrens Museum
- 6 Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Meeting 7 a.m. - Virtual
- State ACSA Leadership Training - Sacramento
- 7 State ACSA Leadership Assembly - Sacramento
- 8 State ACSA Board Meeting - Sacramento
- 13 Stanislaus Charter Professional Learning Breakfast
7 a.m. - My Garden Cafe - Ceres
- San Joaquin Board Meeting 8:15 a.m. - Virtual
- 14 San Joaquin Charter End-of-Year Event - 4:30 p.m.
Valley Brew, Stockton
- 14 Mother Lode Cabinet Meeting 7:30 a.m. - Virtual
- 18 Stanislaus Charter Retirement Dinner - 5:00 p.m.
Fruit Yard, Modesto
- 19 Mother Lode Spring PDP - 7:30 a.m. - Virtual
- 26 Mother Lode End-of-Year Event 4:30 p.m. - TBD

June

- 8 Region 7 Leadership Training - Fruit Yard - Modesto
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- 9 Tuolumne End-of-Year Event - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. -
TBD
- 10 Stanislaus Charter End-of-Year Cabinet Meeting
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Galletto Ristorante

Region 7 Officers 2025-2026

PRESIDENT
Kristin Lilly-Porter
PRESIDENT-ELECT
Dr. Ben Howell
VICE PRESIDENT
Dr. Girlie Hale
TREASURER
Araseli Zamora

V.P., PROGRAMS
Monica Lombardo
V.P., LEG. ACTION
Tom Nipper
V.P., MEMBERSHIP
Jennifer Houser
SECRETARY
Janelle DeGreek

PAST PRESIDENT
Tami Garcia
REGION 7
STATE BOARD
MEMBER
Deborah Rowe
REGION 7
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/

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

Charter Presidents 2025-2026

MOTHER LODGE
Jared Hungerford

SAN JOAQUIN
Dr. Girlie Hale

STANISLAUS
Michael Shroyer

TUOLUMNE
Gabe Wingo

RETIRED
Barbara Magpusao