



Association of California School Administrators

Mary C. Jones, Ed.D., 2010-2011 President, Region 7 ACSA

Spring 2012

Inside ACSA
Region 7

Page 2

San Joaquin Charter
Award Recipients Cont'd

Page 3

Stanislaus Charter
State ACSA
Mother Lode Charter

Page 4-7

Award Recipients
Cont'd

Page 8

Looking Ahead
2011-12 Officers
2012-13 Officer

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information.

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ACSA Region VII



Kristi Kirsch, Region 7
Newsletter Editor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Mary C. Jones, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, Ceres USD



Dear Region VII Leaders,

It has been an honor to serve as Region VII President for 2011-2012, and what an awesome year it has been! Our final Delegate Assembly, held on April 26, 2012, was bitter sweet as we celebrated the life of **Jane Johnston** with a musical tribute to her by "YES Company," a group of students she was so very proud of. At that assembly we recognized the **Every Student Succeeding Nominees** from each charter as well as announced the Nominee who will represent Region VII at the State Conference in November, **Juvenal Lechuga** from San Joaquin Charter. The other 2012 Nominees were: **Shawn Dye**, Stanislaus Charter; **Samantha Hurger**, Tuolumne Charter; and **Hannah Moore**, Mother Lode Charter. It was also at this assembly that Region VII decided to name

the Every Student Succeeding Award after Jane. Hereafter the award will be known as the **Jane Johnston Every Student Succeeding Award**. The **Ken Brown/Francine Gasper Scholarship**, awarded to children of ACSA members were also announced on April 26th. The recipients were: **Jessica Nichols**, **Michael Leland**, and **Underpreet Gill**.

Many kudos to **Barbara Cortese**, **Rick Bartkowski** and the **Region VII Conference Committee** for the outstanding event that was just held in South Lake Tahoe. The weekend was spectacular! The general and break-out sessions were A-1, and the newly added Kentucky Derby Soiree was a hit! Ladies, your hats were fabulous! Thanks to all the Rock Solid Leaders who worked tirelessly to put this engaging and inspirational event together. **Claudia Vicino** gets the nod as best facilities coordinator ever! And I thank **Mary Ann Sanders**, **Dee Dee Holcher**, **Bill Draa**, **Randy Gibbs**, and **Bob Price**
(continued on page 8)



REGION VII 2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Marcus Foster Distinguished Service Award

(This award is presented to one person each year whose service to education exemplifies strong support for the management team, exceptional leadership in managing school programs, commitment to educational quality and student achievement, and creativity in dealing with issues and problems facing public education)



Dr. Sonny Da Marto, Turlock Unified School District, has served as an incredible and effective educator for over 30 years, the last 4 years as Superintendent of Turlock Unified School District. His leadership initiatives in Turlock include the development of a Strategic Plan, facilities modernization, accountability, and a laser-like focus on effective first-dose instruction for all students. His colleague's note that he likes to challenge the status quo and ensure that the district is on the cutting edge of research based instructional strategies and professional development to support the needs of all the students in the district. He has been a leader in bringing character education to the district with a focus on the themes from Choosing Civility. Sonny is a past president of our State ACSA and continues in his advocacy role for public education. Congratulations Sonny!
(continued on page 2)

SAN JOAQUIN CHARTER

by Kim Ott, Charter President

We celebrated the stellar students in San Joaquin County February 29, 2012, at our *Every Student Succeeding Recognition Breakfast*. All of the nominees impressed us with their dedication to succeeding in school in spite of great obstacles. The Charter chose **Juvenal Lechuga** to represent San Joaquin County at the regional level and

ACSA Region 7 chose Juvenal to represent the region. Juvenal and his family and support team attended the General Assembly at the Peterson Event Center to receive the honor.

We are busily planning for our annual installation and recognition dinner that will be held at Papapavlo's in Stockton on June 6th. We have some outstanding educators who are retiring this year and we look forward to honoring their service to the educational community.

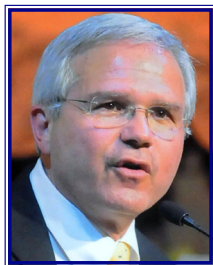


AWARD RECIPIENTS

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Bill Ullom Administrator of the Year

(Region 7 annually singles out one school leader who exemplifies the best in positive, effective, professional service to children and youth. This award is named in honor of Bill Ullom, a past region consultant, who passed away in 1981. Bill was a remarkable man whose love, sincerity, and kindness touched all who came in contact with him.)



Joe Silva, Superintendent, Tuolumne County Office of Education, is serving his third term as elected Superintendent of Tuolumne County. He is an exceptional leader who has numerous contributions to public education. His most unique contribution was his dedication and determination to lobby for reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Community Act in Washington, D.C. In fact, Joe was so successful in his advocacy for federal funding he was asked to lead the delegation from California for the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition. His efforts have resulted in continued funding in Congress for rural schools. He recently served as the chair of CCSESA, the state wide organization of 58 county Superintendents. He has had an enormous impact on public education in California and this is why our state ACSA organization recently recognized Joe as the recipient of the Ferd J. Kiesel Memorial Distinguished Award, the highest award that state ACSA bestows, and he will receive this award in November at the Leadership Summit for ACSA. Congratulations Joe!



ACSA Retired Volunteer of the Year - Barbara Cortese

Barbara was unanimously selected by members of the conference committee for her dedication and support of ACSA in retirement. Barbara retired from full-time paid work in the summer of 2009, but you would hardly know that from the amount of hours she volunteers each year for the region. She has chaired the conference committee for three years now, no easy task (given that she has to deal with Bill Draa and Bob Price all the time). Barbara is our first recipient of this award and deservedly so!

STANISLAUS CHARTER END-OF-YEAR REPORT

by Debra Hendricks, Charter President



With the 2011-2012 fiscal-year quickly coming to an end, so does an ending to my term as **Stanislaus Charter President**; having said that, I'd like to capture a few highlights of our year. Our charter has been able to be interactive participants in staff development opportunities throughout the year. We have also been fortunate to partake in events to acknowledge students, administrators, classified, and certificated staff. The monthly **Charter Breakfast Meetings** have afforded us the ability to meet as a charter and network in order to learn new information from both our speakers and each other.

As all good things must come to an end, we are currently planning our final event, the annual **Retirement**

Celebration to honor retiring administrators in Stanislaus County. The event is Thursday, May 17, 2012, at Galletto's Restaurant in Modesto. If you are a retiring administrator in Stanislaus County or know of someone who will be retiring by the end of this year, please email **John Christianson** at jchristianson@ceres.k12.ca.us.

It has been an honor to serve the Stanislaus Charter as president this year, and I know you will join me in welcoming incoming president, **Scott Borba**, as the 2012-2013 Stanislaus Charter President. Scott is an administrator with Empire Union School District and he is currently planning his transition with excitement and creative ideas. We look for great things from Scott and his cabinet.

STATE ACSA BOARD

by John H. Keiter, Ed.D., Superintendent, State Board Member (2010-2013)

The **State ACSA Board** met Thursday and Friday, May 10 and 11, to conduct leadership training and hold the Board meeting.

The Board took input we had solicited from the region for my vote on the member services realignment. Our region made it very clear to me that I should be supporting the realignment. ACSA is ramping up outreach efforts to non-members via email blasts. A blast is scheduled twice each month and is aimed at nearly 3,800 potential Regular and Consolidated members. Out of 5,000

names in our non-member database, there are about 1,200 without email information. Those names will be part of a mailing campaign and other recruitment strategies. This week the **Education Coalition** met with members of the administration to discuss the governor's plan for switching to a weighted student formula (WSF). Modifications to the WSF represent a significant improvement from the January proposal, but there are still a many questions that need to be answered regarding implementation. I will give feedback on this at the next Board meeting.

MOTHER LODGE CHARTER

by Sean Snider, President

It's hard to believe that it's May already and in just a few short weeks we will have completed the 2011-2012 school year! We have had an exciting year in Mother Lode Charter, highlighted by our ***Every Student Succeeding Breakfasts***, a very well attended iPad workshop, and hearing **Karen Stapf-Walters** update us on the latest legislation and budget news in Sacramento.

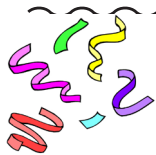
The final event of the year for Mother Lode Charter will be our **End-of-Year Officer Installation** and social on June 4 at the Pickle Patch in San Andreas.

I have enjoyed my two-year term serving as Mother Lode Charter President and I hope you have, too. I am extremely pleased to be able to pass the torch on to an in-

dividual as outstanding as **Scott Nanik**. He has some great things planned for our charter and I am excited for what he will bring with his Presidency.

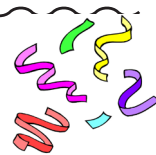
I would also like to introduce the rest of our cabinet for next year. We will have **Patty Haskell** as President-Elect and VP Programs, **Dan Klement** as Secretary, **Kathy Northington** as VP Legislative Action and treasurer, **Diego Ochoa** as Director - Amador, and **Ric Stitt** as Director - Calaveras.

I would like to thank you for everything these last two years as Mother Lode Charter president. You have been a tremendous network of support and I greatly enjoyed serving you in this role.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

(continued from page 2)



Elementary School District Board Members of the Year - Empire Union Board of Trustees: Loretta Stein, Carol Dovichi, Doug Bentley, Stacie Morales, and Patricia Shafer.

The current school board in Empire has a long history of supporting ACSA – for 25 years they have actively participated in the Region 7 Conference, encouraged attendance for all administrators at the ACSA state Leadership Summit, and encouraged and supported district leaders to serve on state and regional Councils and Committees to demonstrate their support of student achievement and ACSA activities. We all appreciate their participation and support!



High School District Board member of the Year - Jeanie Smith, Sonora Unions High School District
Jeanie has served nearly 20 years for two different school boards in Tuolumne County, and is a quiet activist for public education with an incredible work ethic. She is also the driving force and president behind the Sonora High Educational Foundation, campaigning hard to raise funds for the entire school community. Congratulations Jeanie!



Unified School District Board member of the Year - John Largent, Escalon Unified School District
For the past thirty years, John Largent's stewardship of the Escalon Union School District has been marked by a passionate commitment to the education of students. He is active in numerous organizations in town, and an advocate for programs to support teaching and learning in the school system. He was born, raised, and is a product of Escalon Schools. John Largent is widely known and respected throughout the community. Congratulation John!



Business Services Administrator of the Year - Steve Menge, from Patterson Joint Unified School District
Steve has been with the district for 24 years, first taking over the Food Services division in 1987 and cooking up a formula to get them out of the red and into the black, he was quickly appointed to Assistant Superintendent in 1992. He is known as the "Rock of Gibraltar" because he provides sound advice to colleagues and coworkers and also keeps people laughing with his witty humor. Steve is a pragmatic, get-things-done leader. Patterson is very proud of all of the leadership qualities that Steve brings to their team. Congratulation Steve!



Career Technical Education Administrator of the Year - Dr. Mike McCoy, Sonora Union High School District
In 2009 Mike McCoy assumed the position of Director of ROP as a cost saving measure, in addition to all his other duties as Superintendent. In the past 3 years he has completely revamped the program for students and retooled all of the career classes in the district. He has also developed strong community partnerships and articulated with the local community college. Mike has made it his personal mission to assist high school students and adult community members to find gainful employment. Congratulations Mike!



Central Office Administrator of the Year - John Christiansen, Ceres Unified School District
John has served in many leadership roles for Ceres Unified, rising from teacher to instructional coach, then Vice Principal, Principal, and now as Coordinator of Child Welfare and Attendance. He fully understands his role in supporting the success of students, teachers, and administrators. He actively promotes a district wide emphasis on positive learning environments and has been successful in having the entire district implement Randy Sprick's Safe and Civil Schools Program. He is a collaborative and resourceful leader for Ceres students and families. In addition, John served as the ACSA Stanislaus Charter President in 2010-2011. Congratulation John!

(continued on page 5)



AWARD RECIPIENTS

(continued from page 4)



Classified Manager of the Year - Cindy Young

Stanislaus County Office of Education is most fortunate to have the amazing Cindy Young! Cindy has responsibility, and works closely with, the Yosemite ROP staff of 75 different programs in 14 school districts, including the County Juvenile Hall, plus two community colleges. She has been involved with the county operated Occupational Olympics and Career Exposition for 25 years, showcasing ROP student talents and real world skills each March. She is a believer in career and technical education for students and is passionate in advocating for the integration of CTE curriculum and activities in alternative education programs run by the Stanislaus County Office of Education. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do!



Confidential Employee of the Year - Roberta Cheney, Turlock Unified School District

Roberta has been an integral part of the leadership team in Turlock for the past 15 years. She is the “go to” person for the district, serving as administrative assistant to the Superintendent. She is often the first contact person people have with the district and she is adept at handling questions and concerns in a caring, easy manner. She displays a phenomenal work ethic along with dedication to the district, a sense of humor and a smile on her face every day. Hats off to Roberta!



Continuation/Educational Options Administrator of the Year - Janine Cuaresma, San Joaquin County Office of Education

Janine is responsible for the San Joaquin County Court and Community Schools, operating in 24 sites throughout the county. She is the President of the state-wide organization Juvenile Court and Alternative School Administrators of California, and has also chaired the organization’s annual conference. She is chairing the 6 year WASC review of the county run programs, and was one of the founders of the Charter Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, serving at-risk students. She is also active in various Stockton community events, which are too numerous to list. Congratulations Janine!



Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year - Lacrisha Ferriera, Turlock Unified School District

Lacrisha has been the leader in the district’s improvement of daily instructional practice in every classroom across 14 sites. Last year, she visited over 400 classrooms and she revolutionized the classroom observation process by instituting the use of iPads with every site and district administrator. She has been instrumental in advocating for, and helping to create, the Turlock Educational Foundation to support public school funding. She is not afraid to lead courageous conversations with her peers and to seek a shared resolution with her colleagues using skill and compassion. She wrote the application and gained approval for the innovative eCademy Charter School as an alternative for students and families. Lacrisha is indeed an advocate for public education. Congratulations Lacrisha!



Elementary Principal of the Year - Heather Sherburn, Orville Wright Elementary, Modesto City Schools

Heather embodies all of the characteristics of an outstanding leader. She has led the staff at Orville Wright in the airport district of Modesto to an impressive 115 point API gain the past two years. Prior to this, she led the staff at her previous school, Wilson Elementary, to a 95 point API gain over 2 years. She is the kind of person who thinks outside the box and seeks solutions for students and families far beyond the 4 walls of the school. She has helped form and develop the Airport Neighborhood Collaborative to empower the community to find resources for students and their families. She has fund raised over a half million dollars in public grants and donations from the business community for services and programs for her school community. Heather walks the talk when you think about the phrase “it takes a village.” Heather is outstanding in every way. Congratulations Heather!

(continued on page 6)



AWARD RECIPIENTS

(continued from page 6)



Middle Grades Principal of the Year - Janice Latham, Somerset Middle School, Sylvan Union School District

Janice has served public education for over 30 years. She has been an outspoken advocate for children with a proven track record of student achievement, an unwavering encourager of colleagues, and an ethical and responsible leader. At Somerset Middle School, Janice has led the staff to embrace and engage as Professional Learning Communities. She has laid the foundations for teacher collaboration and embedded those elements into the culture of the school. For Sylvan School administrators, she is the experienced leader who others seek for counsel and wisdom, serving as their “rock solid leader.” She will retire in June after many

years serving students and families. Congratulation Janice!



Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year - Phil Alfano, Assistant Superintendent, Patterson Joint Unified School District

When you mix “attention to detail” with “being an attentive listener” you get Phil Alfano. Phil has an exceptional positive attitude that says we can do whatever it takes, and you will not hear Phil say “that’s not my job” but rather “let me look into that.” He is a firm believer in catching people doing great things, and has modeled this in Patterson with recognition programs for students, classified and certificated staff, and administrators. He has also organized an Aspiring Administrators Academy with 30 attendees at monthly meetings and professional development. He has also found time to serve in various ACSA Charter positions,

including past President of the Stanislaus Charter. Give it up big time for Phil Alfano!



Pupil Personnel Administrator of the Year - Glenda Bacca

Glenda has been the Director of Special Education for the past three years in Ceres, and in that time she has implemented programs and services to increase the academic performance of all special education students in the district. In fact, for the 2010-11 school year, Ceres posted a 33 point gain in their API for special education. Glenda would be quick to give credit to the members of her Leadership team, and the attention to development and delivery of a district-wide RTI intervention. Under her leadership, the district has employed an instructional coach for special education, restructured SDC classrooms so teachers can focus on grade appropriate standards, and instituted core teams of specialists to address unique special education issues at sites in a proactive manner. Congratulations Glenda!



Robert E. Kelley Award - Tom Freeman, Retired ACSA Member

Tom has served in a variety of positions throughout a 40 year span of service, 38 years in public schools and 2 years in private schools. He has been an active member of ACSA, past chair of the Middle Grades Partnership Network, taught education classes for Chapman University, served on the Education Advisory Committee for Assemblywoman Kristen Olsen, is a member of the Advisory Board for the College of Education at CSU Stanislaus, and still finds time to enjoy a round of golf with friends and ACSA colleagues. Thank you Tom, for 40 years of outstanding service to students, families, and their communities!



Secondary Co- Administrator of the Year - Mitch Heldstab, Summerville High School, Summerville Union High School District

At Summerville High School they say that Mr. Heldstab IS the culture of the school. Energetic, hard-working, and always on the move. Mitch is seen and heard throughout the hallways and classrooms at Summerville High. He has been a school administrator for the past 11 years and truly “walks the talk” of respect and admiration for promoting success and high quality educational experiences for all students. He has established many local community resources for students and makes it a point to ensure that individual students’ needs are met, whether that is academically, socially, and behaviorally. Congratulations Mitch!

(continued on page 7)



AWARD RECIPIENTS

(continued from page 6)



Secondary Principal of the Year - Dr. Cheryl Domenichelli, Kimball High School, Tracy Unified School District

Cheryl opened the doors to Kimball High in 2009 and through her visionary leadership the school has embraced the principles of small learning communities and pathways. Kimball quickly established themselves as one of the top valley high schools, earning an 805 API in 2011 and aiming higher each year. Cheryl believes in shared leadership and how important it is to grow the capacity of all of her staff members. In addition to our Region 7 recognition, Cheryl has been selected by **State ACSA as the California Secondary Principal of the Year** and will be recognized at the Leadership Summit in November of this year. We are

very proud to honor Dr. Cheryl Domenichelli!



Special Education Administrator of the Year - Kathy Skeels, San Joaquin County Office of Education

Kathy has worked for the San Joaquin County Office of Education since 1984, and has always operated on the premise that all children can learn, beginning with her first position as a speech therapist. She lives by this belief and conveys to parents that their children's needs are always central to discussions and efforts by the schools, and this operating principle has proven invaluable in promoting communication and avoiding conflict. In addition to her regular duties as the SELPA Director, Kathy finds time to serve on the CDE Special Education Facilities Work Group, is the co-chair of the State SELPA Administrators Legislative Sub-Committee, and as a member of the Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education has traveled to Wash-

ington D.C. to lobby on behalf of children to the Department of Education. We are so honored to have Kathy as a member of Region 7 ACSA. Congratulations Kathy!



Superintendent/Principal of the Year - Dr. Jim Frost, Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District

As the leader of a small and rural school community in our mountain foothills, Jim Frost is an outgoing and involved leader at all three rural school sites. Students and staff are used to seeing him on their campus and are comfortable with bringing issues to him for resolution. He has advocated for standards based instruction as well as building teacher-leader capacity at each of the rural school sites. Thanks for your many years of leadership!



Superintendent of the Year - Dr. John Keiter, Summerville Union High School District and Twain Harte/Long Barn Union School District

One of John's strengths is the ability to facilitate a shared vision of student success for both school districts he serves. He also works closely with the Summerville High Foundation and Black Oak Casino on projects to benefit the school. In addition, Summerville High District sponsors two charter schools, one which provides theatre for the community. In his spare time John serves on the State ACSA Board, has served as Region 7 President, and has traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for education funding. He has been in public education for 35 plus years and functions as an exemplary community leader. We are proud to have John accept the award for Superintendent of the Year!



Valuing Diversity Award - Deborah Nickols, Director II, San Joaquin County Office of Education

Deb has served the most at-risk students in San Joaquin County since 1992. She serves as Director for the Court and Community Schools, serving as the instructional leaders at 6 school sites. She takes a personal interest in her at-risk students and is constantly finding ways to make connections with them in order to help them be successful. Deb has created a partnership with several community organizations who work alongside at-risk students and their families on a weekly basis. Over the years Deb has taught, mentored, parented, nurtured, cajoled, protected, and advised all sorts of children: gang members, Latinos, Asians, Whites, African Americans, convicted felons, juvenile delinquents, homeless children, foster youth, CPS protected, and special needs children. She perseveres to win the hearts and the minds of the children who attend her schools and programs.

Congratulations Deb!

President's Report

(continued from page 1)

for all the behind the scenes support. Best wishes to all **Region VII Administrator of the Year Recipients!** It was a pleasure to recognize you at the conference.

Congratulations to our newly installed 2012-2013 officers, **Sean Snider**-President, **Sheri Coburn**, Ed.D.-President Elect, **Scott Nanik**-Vice President, **Bob Price**, Ed.D.-Vice President, Legislative Action, **Kathe Gonzalves**-Secretary, and **Denise Wickham**, Ed.D. & **Barbara Cortese**-Co-Vice Presidents, Program. **Nora Hana** continues as the Region Treasurer. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to ACSA. The region will be in very good hands with your leadership!

We look forward to honoring **Joe Silva** (ACSA Ferd Keisel Distinguished Service) and **Cheryl Domenichelli** (State ACSA Secondary Principal of the Year) at the 2012 Leadership Summit - November 8-10, 2012 in San Diego. Congratulations on your awards!

Leadership in education is more important than ever. The challenges facing education in California are not few. Our students need us to be Rock Solid today! Thank you for your Rock Solid Leadership in keeping ACSA's mission alive by:

- Championing public education;
- Working to ensure students have the essential knowledge and skills needed to excel;
- And supporting educational leaders.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve the Region VII as President for 2011-2012. It was a tremendous ride!



Yours in ACSA Service,
Mary J.

President Dr. Mary Jones and "First Husband," Renny, share a special moment with Keena Turner at Region 7 Conference

REGION 7 OFFICERS 2012

President - Sean Snider

President Elect - Sheri Coburn, Ed.D.

Vice President - Scott Nanik

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs - Denise

Wickham, Ed.D. & Barbara Cortese

Vice President, Leg Action - Bob Price

Secretary - Kathe Gonzalves

Treasurer - Nora Hana

Past President - Mary Jones, Ed.D.

Looking Ahead in Region 7 2011-2012

May

- 16 7:00 AM, SJACSA Charter Meeting, SJCOE
- 16 7:30 AM, MLACSA Cabinet Breakfast Meeting, Rod's, Angels Camp
- 17 5:00 PM, SCACA Awards/Retirement Reception
- 28 5:30 PM, SCACSA Cabinet Meeting

June

- 5 11:30 AM, RAC Summer Luncheon/Installation
- 6 6:00 PM, SJACSA Recognition/Installation Dinner, Papapavlo's
- 11 Region 7 Leadership Training, Elk's Club, Sonora
- 11 8:30 AM-1:30PM, Leadership Training for Region & Charter Officers, Committee & Council Chairs, Elk's Lodge, Sonora
- 12 4:00 PM, MLACSA End-of-Year Celebration & New Officers Installation
- 14 10:30 AM, TCACSA Awards Luncheon, Margie Bulkin's Home, Twain Harte
- 25 5:30 PM, SCACSA Cabinet Meeting

Visit our website for additional upcoming events -
regions.acsa.org/7

Region 7 Officers 2011-2012

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS	SECRETARY	REGION 7, STATE BOARD MEMBER
Mary C. Jones, Ed.D.	Barbara Cortese	Christine Facella	John Keiter, Ed.D.
PRESIDENT-ELECT	VICE PRESIDENT, LEG. ACTION	TREASURER	REGION 7 CONSULTANT
Sean Snider	Jane Johnston		Mary Ann Sanders
VICE PRESIDENT		PAST PRESIDENT	
Sheri Coburn, Ed.D.		Brenda Chapman, Ed.D.	

Charter Presidents 2011-2012

MOTHER LODGE	TUOLUMNE	STANISLAUS	SAN JOAQUIN
Sean Snider	Margie Bulkin	Debra Fusco	Kim Ott