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California Statewide
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

ALERT

February 13, 2026

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

February 13, 2026

Alan Barcelona

CSLEA President



Hello CSLEA Members,

As you might read in more detail below, this week I, along with CSLEA Unit-A affiliate leadership, met with more than a dozen state legislators over a two-day period to press upon issues that are having a challenging impact on our members, and the public's safety. One issue pertains to vacant positions that are not being filled and the idea that those positions can simply be swept away to save money. For

example, is one California DOJ special agent assigned to investigate human trafficking cases in all of Northern California really enough? With the amount of fraud impacting public programs, does the State employ an adequate number of investigators? With dangerous contraband being sold throughout California in retail outlets such a smoke shops and other stores, is there an appropriate number of investigators to verify that what is being sold is legal? The list is long. We



provided numbers as they pertain to staffing deficiencies, as well as pay disparities. While I believe we opened some eyes, we are in an uphill battle. We will continue to press forward for improvements, for our members and for public safety. Thank you to the legislators who met with us, and to our affiliate presidents who presented their challenges in the field as public safety professionals. We will report back to all of our CSLEA directors at our next Board meeting scheduled for March 11th.

Other items that may be of interest:

While CSLEA has not yet announced a scholarship program this year, I want to make our peace officer-members aware of a PORAC scholarship that has been announced. PORAC is providing a scholarship grant that is available to the dependents of PORAC's active and retired members. You can find out more [here](#). The application deadline is March 6, 2026.

A second scholarship opportunity I can make you aware of is through CLEA (not to be confused with CSLEA). The scholarship is for children of CLEA plan participants. You can find more information about this, [here](#). The application deadline is April 30, 2026.

A reminder about your CSLEA \$15,000 Life Insurance Benefit. I like to periodically remind our members to be sure the beneficiary on record is your beneficiary of choice. This small attention to detail now, ensures that should something happen to you, the person you want to receive the life insurance money, does! To update or check on your beneficiary information click [here](#).

We have received an update (below in this newsletter) regarding CSLEA and ACWO member Chad Volheim. CDFW Wildlife Officer Volheim is experiencing a very challenging time with his health. We are grateful to PORAC for looking into our request for possible assistance to help him and his family. PORAC currently has a Fund-A-Hero campaign for Officer Volheim that you can find [here](#).

In closing, this is a three-day weekend for some. Please be safe in your travels, and happy Valentine's Day as well.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update by Shane LaVigne

LaVigne Strategies



Governor Newsom’s proposed 2026-27 state budget projects a roughly \$2.9 billion deficit for the coming fiscal year, driven by ongoing structural pressures and reliance on high tech and AI-related revenue growth to balance the books. This budget assumes roughly \$42 billion in additional revenue over the current forecast, but even with that uptick the General Fund outlook remains tight and increasingly fragile.

Meanwhile, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) has cautioned that the state faces a far larger shortfall, an \$18 billion deficit for 2026-27 and that multiyear deficits could grow to \$20–\$35 billion annually as spending continues to outpace revenue growth. In our recent Capitol visits with members, CSLEA has stressed the real costs of chronic vacancy rates, competitive pay challenges, and benefit pressures at agencies where staffing stability is critical to public and officer safety.

With the February 20 bill introduction deadline fast approaching, the budget and policy landscape is quickly taking shape. CSLEA is actively reviewing proposed legislation and engaging policymakers to ensure that fiscal decisions reflect the realities our members face on the ground, particularly around workforce recruitment, retention, and operational capacity. We will continue to advocate for responsible budget solutions that strengthen not strain California’s professional law enforcement infrastructure, and we’ll keep members informed as this process unfolds.

CSLEA WORKING FOR YOU



CSLEA Legislative Advocacy Days February 9-10, 2026

Unit A leadership meets with legislators to highlight public safety and enforcement challenges and concerns

“In response to a request from our Unit-A affiliate leadership, CSLEA, along with our legislative and political consultants, worked to set up two days of back-to-back-to-back meetings with members of the legislature to press the importance of the law enforcement, public safety, and consumer protection work that our CSLEA members do to keep Californian’s safe. The job vacancy rates in these areas cannot be allowed to continue if we want a safe and healthy California. The information we brought to legislators’ attention was valuable and educational. If you don’t shine a light on a problem, little is done to get it fixed, so that was our goal.” - CSLEA President Alan Barcelona

SACRAMENTO – On February 9-10, 2026, California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) President Alan Barcelona, joined by eight Unit-A affiliate presidents and a vice president, met with 17 California legislators and/or their office leadership to

address State staffing deficiencies and pay disparities that are impacting California public safety and CSLEA members working in sworn and non-sworn positions.

[Read More](#)



CSLEA and CHP-PSDA Representatives Welcome 10 New Dispatchers to Union Membership

WEST SACRAMENTO— On February 9, 2026, California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) Senior Counsel Andrea Perez and CHP-Public Safety Dispatchers Association (CHP-PSDA) Vice President Victor Tovar conducted a new employee orientation for dispatchers training at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the new dispatchers to their union and the benefits of union membership.

“It is always a pleasure to meet the incredible individuals who journey into public safety and make it their jobs to help and protect the public,” said Perez. “We appreciate the skills that they are learning and the dedication it takes to train and work as a CHP dispatcher. Our goal today was to introduce ourselves to the dispatchers, so they have a face with the name of those who represent them, and to explain why union membership is so important as they perform their CHP duties. We thank them for their time and attention today and stand ready to assist them.”

Ten dispatchers recognized the value and protection that CSLEA offers and signed up for union membership. The dispatchers training at the Academy are assigned to Golden Gate, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Ventura, Merced, Chico, Indio and San Diego communication centers.

CSLEA Welcomes New State Parks Communications Operators to Union Membership

RANCHO CORDOVA – On February 11, 2026, California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) Membership Services Representative Victor Tovar conducted a new employee orientation for new State Parks communications operators training in Rancho Cordova.

The orientation provided the communications operators with the benefits and services associated with union membership, including representation, access to CSLEA’s proven Legal Defense Fund (LDF), and a \$15,000 life insurance benefit.

“We want new employees within Bargaining Unit 7 to have a chance to meet our membership services representatives and to ask questions about the benefits and services we offer,” said CSLEA President Alan Barcelona. “Union membership is job insurance. Our members have five labor attorneys available to them and can call with any job-related questions or concerns. We handle situations with managers, departments and Cal HR so our members don’t have to.”

Health Update: Wildlife Officer Chad Volheim, CSLEA & ACWO Member

From ACWO President Trevor Pell

We are sharing an important update on Chad Volheim's ongoing health battle following his sudden illness and hospitalization last summer.

The Diagnosis

Recent bloodwork has finally provided answers: Chad contracted Q fever, an extremely rare bacterial infection (with only 50–200 cases reported annually in the U.S.). While the initial infection has passed, Chad is now suffering from severe autonomic dysfunction as a result. The symptoms are debilitating, leaving him bedbound 90% of the time with profound exhaustion, tachycardia, and vertigo that makes standing for more than a few minutes nearly impossible.

The Search for Care

Finding the right specialists for such a rare post-viral condition is a challenge. While some regional institutions have been unable to help, Chad is currently seeking treatment through Stanford Neurology and infectious disease specialists at the Mayo Clinic. His family remains determined to "knock on every door" across the country until Chad gets the help he needs.

How You Can Help

The PORAC Fund-a-Hero fundraiser for Chad is still active. These funds are critical in helping Chad and his family cover mounting medical bills and the travel expenses required to reach out-of-state specialists.



If you are able to contribute or share his story, please visit his official fundraising page:

[Support Chad Volheim: A Wildlife Officer's Fight](#)

Thank you for your continued support and for keeping Chad and his family in your thoughts during this relentless fight.

AFFILIATE NEWS

CABCA

CABCA 2026 Scholarship Applications are now available

[Read](#)



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

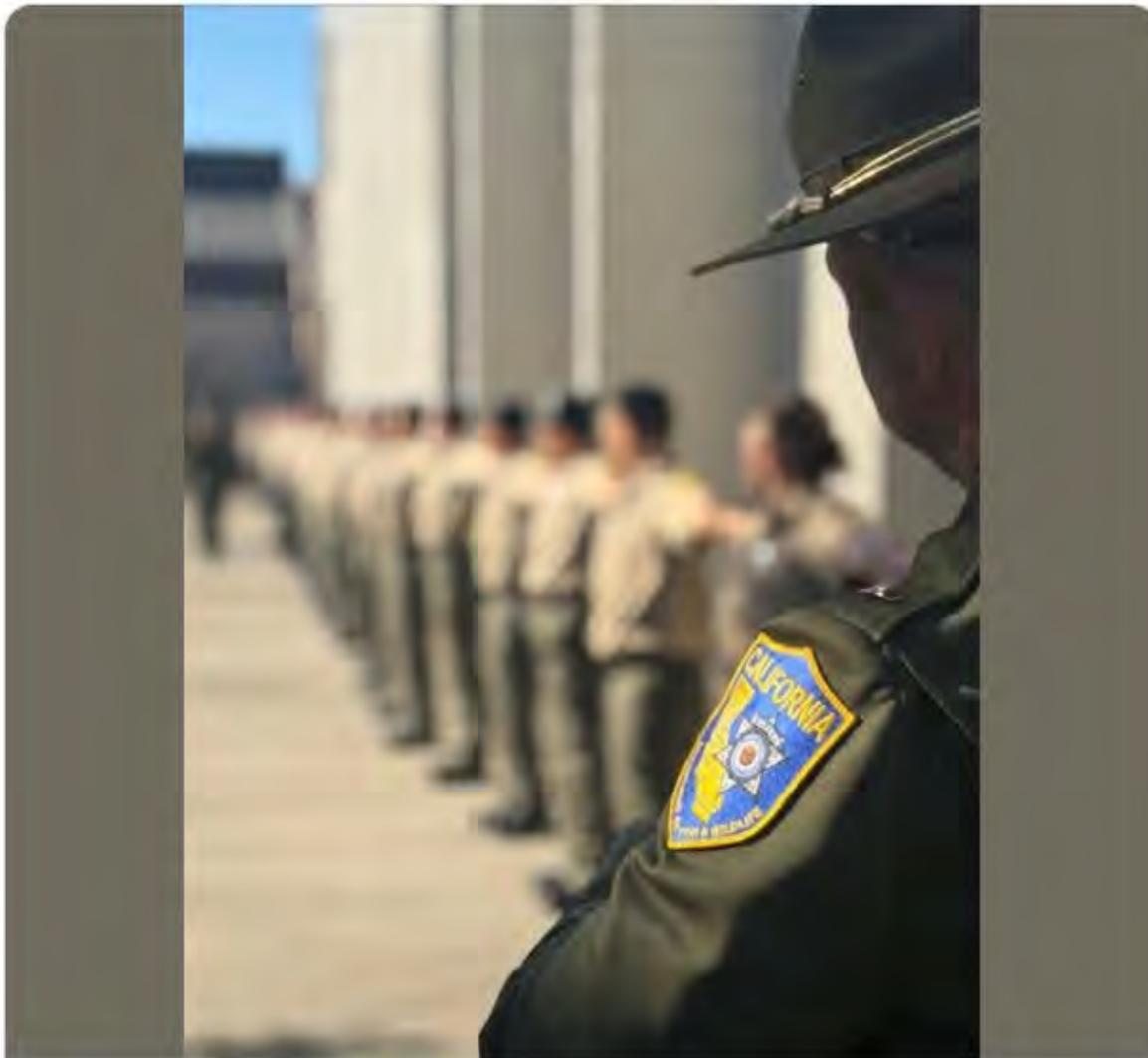


California Statewide Law Enforcement Association - CSLEA

January 20 at 8:34 AM · 🌐



Wishing the cadets and our some of our newest CSLEA members the best during their training at the academy!



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

January 16 at 4:32 PM · 🌐

This week, the cadets of Wildlife Officer Academy Class 69 took their first steps toward a career defined by service, sacrifice, and stewardship.... [See more](#)

PORAC Monthly News Magazine

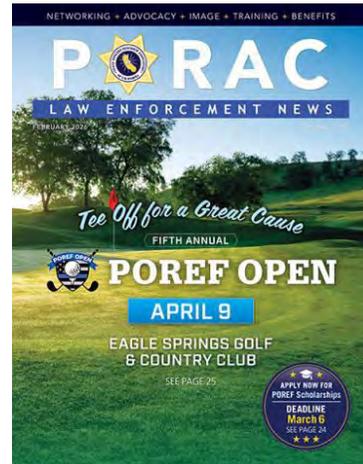
February 2026

[Articles](#)

[Flipbook](#)

[PORAC 2026 Scholarship Information](#)

The deadline for submissions for the PORAC Scholarship is March 6, 2026



NEWS FEED



Store Clerk in Redding Busted for Selling Alcohol to Someone Under the Ag...

REDDING – On January 16, 2026, the Redding Police Department, which conducts Minor Decoy operations with...

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DUI Driver Who Caused Head-On Collision in Mendocino County...

The California Department of Justice's forensic laboratory assisted with evidence "Criminalists at California DOJ..."

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DIR investigation Results in Charges Filed Against Bay Area New Horizons Scho...

Owner charged with wage theft, tax evasion and embezzlement "The Department of Industrial Relations offe..."

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California ABC and Santa Maria Police Cite Clerk for Selling Alcohol to Minors

"It is important to conduct minor decoy operations throughout California to ensure that clerks are doing their jobs i...

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Suspect Arrested in Multi-Jurisdiction Cold Case Sexual Assault Series

The California Department of Justice provided critical forensic support with a familial search BERKELEY – On January...

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California ABC Agents and SLO PD Investigate Underage Drinking at AB...

"It is not uncommon for undercover ABC agents to sit in establishments posing as patrons in order to evaluate business...

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CDFW Uncovers International Wildlife Poaching Network

"This investigation demonstrates California's commitment to protecting wildlife, even outside of our country, by...

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Two Sacramentans Convicted for Pimping and Pandering, Operating...

An investigation by California DOJ special agents with support from EDD and DHCS "These investigations help to...

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120 Arrested in Statewide Operation "Stand on Demand"

"It is important that law enforcement targets human trafficking from all angles in order to protect the victims as well as...

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CDFW Officers Tranquilize & Relocate Mountain Lion from SF Neighborhood

SAN FRANCISCO – On January 27, 2026, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) officers, with a whole l...

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Butte-Glenn Sexual Assault Response Team Releases 2022-24 Report...

The SART includes California DOJ Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) crime lab "Criminalist at the California Departme...

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LA Man Convicted of Attempted Human Trafficking in Stanislaus...

The California Department of Justice assisted in this operation and the investigation "Conducting a decoy..."

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California's UCETF Conducted 48 Operations in 2025 to Dismantle Illici...

"Illicit cannabis operations hurt our economy, legitimate cannabis operations, our environment, fish and wildlife, and..."

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ABC Agents and Delano Police Arrest Two for Furnishing Alcohol to...

"It's easy to follow the law here and help contribute to public safety, simply by refusing to purchase or furnish alcohol t..."

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La Costa Canyon High School Teacher Arrested for Possession of Child...

"California DOJ special agents are instrumental in protecting Californians from harm. They work in various..."

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Fresno Woman Sentenced in Fentanyl Homicide Case

California DOJ High Impact Investigation Team assisted with investigation
"Investigating fentanyl overdose deaths..."

[Read More »](#)



ABC Agents and Redding Police Cite Two for Furnishing Alcohol to a...

A third person was arrested on an outstanding warrant "When you say yes to individuals under 21 who are solicitin..."

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Modesto Police and ABC Cite Clerk for Selling Alcohol to Minors

"Kudos to the 11 clerks who carefully checked identification and denied the sale of alcohol to someone under the ag..."

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Fentanyl Dealer Convicted of Murder in Placer County

ROSEVILLE – On February 3, 2026, the Placer County District Attorney's Office announced that Brandon Garner, 44, wa...

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Successful Underage Decoy and Shoulder Tap Operation in Oceanside

"Anytime ABC agents and their local law enforcement partners conduct these operations targeting underage drinking..."

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California DOJ Assisting MCSO with Mystery Involving Two Human...

"We respect the work conducted by California DOJ criminalists as they assist law enforcement with identifications an..."

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Seven Arrested for Hospice Fraud in Monterey County

"The California DOJ Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse works, in part, to protect tax payer funds as they pertain L...

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Company to Pay \$6 Million for Paid Sick Leave and Wage Violations

The LCO opened this investigation in 2020 after receiving information that a farmworker living in employer-provide...

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Clovis Mother Sentenced for Arming Her Son, a Felon and Gang Member

The California Department of Justice Special Operations Unit and Human Trafficking / Sexual Predator...

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State Parks Lifeguards Assist in Water Rescue South of Carmel

MONTEREY COUNTY – On February 5, 2026, California State Parks lifeguards came to the rescue of an individual who...

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PCSO Requests Assistance in 1972 Cold Case Homicide

Potential identification was developed with the assistance of the California Department of Justice (Richmond...

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California DOJ Identifies Human Remains Found in Shasta County

"There seems to be no shortage of work for the criminalists at California DOJ forensic labs. These professionals work...

[Read More »](#)

Our Legal Team

We employ a staff of five attorneys. Our mission is to defend Unit 7 members in disciplinary proceedings and to enforce the collective bargaining agreement between CSLEA and the State of California.

Meet the Team



The CSLEA Legal Division

Each member of the CSLEA Legal staff has been designated as a principle point of contact for job classifications and representation issues. Email contactus@cslea.com to learn who your individual point of contact is. If your contact is unavailable, any of our available attorneys can assist you

[To learn more about CSLEA's Legal Division](#)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS VIDEOS

Disability Retirement Law Featuring CSLEA Chief Counsel Kasey Clark

THE CSLEA ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

CSLEA



California Statewide Law
Enforcement Association

Member Guide

CSLEA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

\$100

**The CSLEA
Sponsorship Program**

LEARN MORE

Earn \$100 for each new member you sponsor

- Encourage membership
- Have new member list you as their sponsor on membership application
- CSLEA sends you \$100!

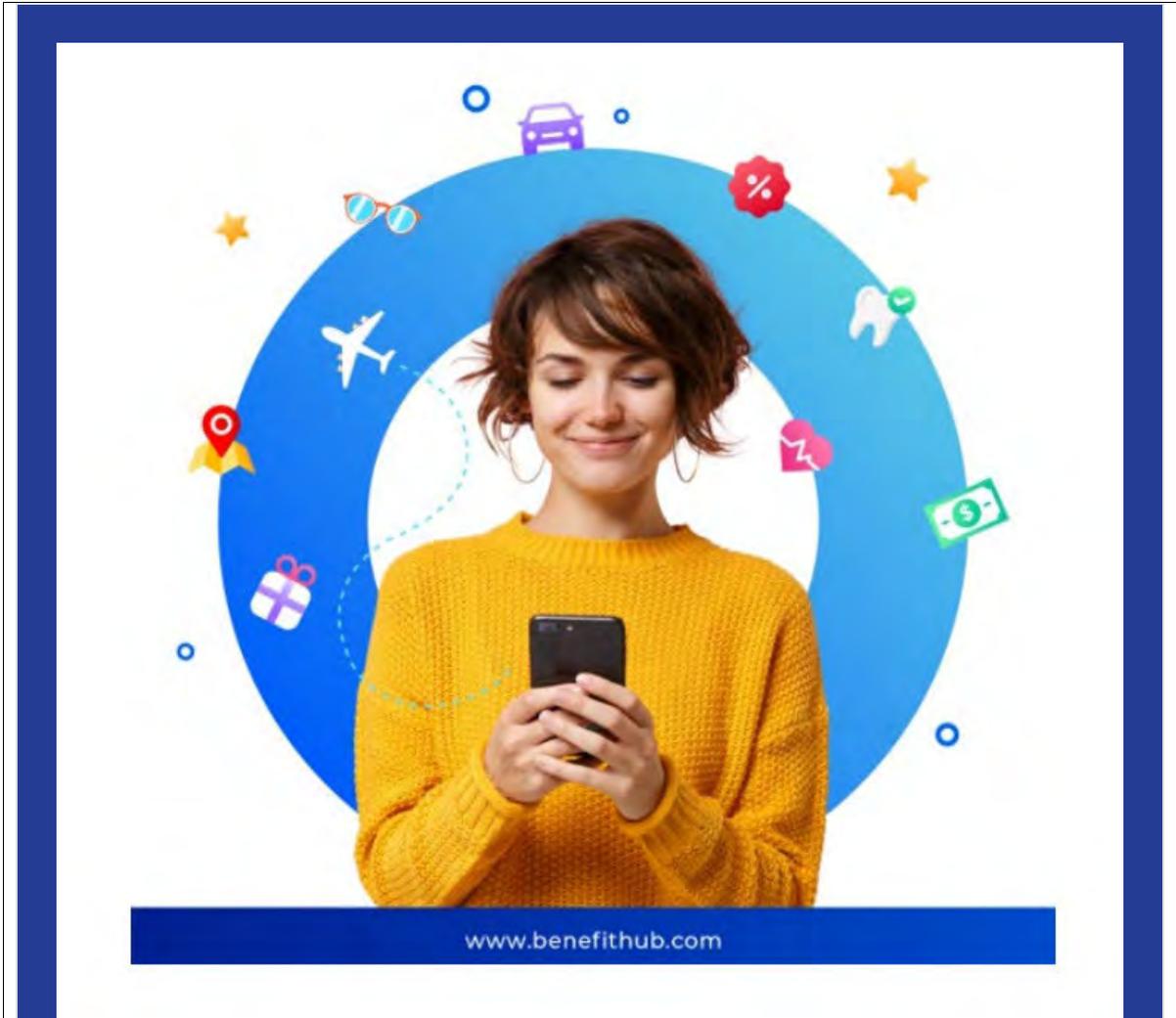


The CSLEA Sponsorship Program

The CSLEA Sponsorship Program could very well put a smile on your face and money in your pocket! For our members who understand the importance of union membership, in protecting pensions, bargaining power and career insurance - keep talking, keep sponsoring, because the benefit of signing up members is \$100. If you've never sponsored a new member but want to know how, keep reading! **Earn \$100 for each new member you sponsor.**

[Read More](#)

ADDITIONAL CSLEA INFO



CSLEA's Exclusive Member Discounts Program has a new look.

Haven't enrolled in the program yet? Check it out, [here](#).



CSLEA Foundation

**Consumer Protection &
Public Safety**

[To Learn More](#)

CSLEA Exclusive Member

Discounts Program

[To Learn More](#)

**CSLEA is a Member
Association of PORAC**

[To Learn More](#)

CSLEA's Mobile App

CSLEA's Mobile App is available at Google Play and the Apple Store.

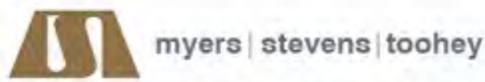
The app can help you access everything CSLEA including:

- the CSLEA LDF hotline
- contacting CSLEA
- membership benefits and information
- the Unit 7 contract
- keeping up-to-date with CSLEA news
- knowing your CSLEA board of directors
- CSLEA attorneys who represent you
- accessing CSLEA.com and social media
- updating your member contact info



The app is a great way to stay in touch with your union and for your union to stay in touch with you! Be sure to allow push

notifications as well and CSLEA will notify you of important events and information.



**As a member of CSLEA,
you have a \$15,000 Life Insurance Benefit.**

To Update Beneficiary Information:

Contact: Maritza Torres

Executive Assistant

Myers-Stevens & Toohey & Co., Inc.

800-827-4695 ext. 633

mtorres@myers-stevens.com

-



CSLEA MEMBERS

Additional Member Benefits

Allstate Benefits

Workers compensation has reduction of benefits after 22 day elimination period.

No California SDI, only NDI (starting @\$135 per week).

Leave time is valuable, don't use it all before you get benefits.

24 Hour paycheck protection for Accident and Sickness

and Cancer Insurance

Benefits paid from day one for accident, day seven for illness. Plans are through payroll deduction and are portable; they go with you if you change jobs or retire and you retain the same group rate.

Accident and Sickness Coverage Highlights:

On and Off Job Accident Disability Income coverage No Medical Exams Required

Covers Dislocations/Fractures, Ambulance & Expenses Up to \$60,000 accidental death insurance

Maternity Disability Income available (ask agent) Benefits paid after tax, when you need income

Cancer and Specified Disease Protection Coverage Highlights:

Progressive benefit at initial internal cancer diagnosis No Medical Exams required

Annual benefits for treatment (i.e. radiation & Chemo) Bone Marrow Transplant

Wellness Benefit pays for annual checkups
Benefits

Hospital and Intensive Care

For more information contact Jay McDonnell at 760-734-4402

Or email jaymcdonnell@msn.com



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