

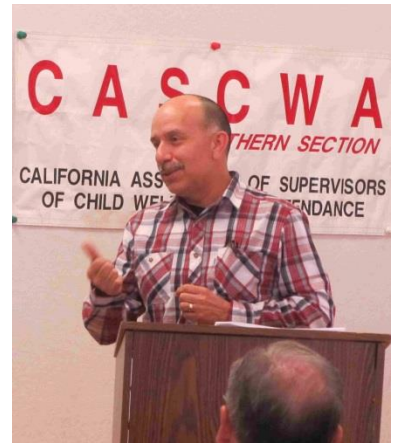


BLAZING NEW TRAILS TO CULTIVATE STUDENT SUCCESS

This edition of the Intercom contains information on up-coming CASCWA events and current issues.



THE BAY SECTION IS BUSY PLANNING THE NEXT STATE CONFERENCE IN NAPA!"



In this edition you will find: Information on the 2015 State Conference in Napa Valley, an interviews with CASCWA's legend, Sherman Garnett, and with Bob Moeller, San Diego Office of Education, big changes coming to CASCWA's Website, information on Southern Section's "It shouldn't hurt to be a kid" October Seminar, information on Bay Section's Fall Workshop, San Joaquin Section's LCAP – School Climate/Student Engagement Event Information, Jeni Mendel's "Website Pages and much more!"

PLEASE VISIT CASCWA'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CASCWA.ORG

THE INTERCOM INTERVIEWS CASCWA LEGEND MR. SHERMAN GARNETT



Sherman Garnett has been an educational leader for the past twenty years. He is one of a kind! If you have been to any CASCWA conferences or events, you have probably met Sherman and realize how important his work has been to the San Bernardino County Office of Education, CASCWA, ACSA and to educators throughout the state. Retirement is usually a time when an individual moves on into a period of rest and relaxation. Not for Sherman, he appears to be busier than ever and continues to be a true educational leader throughout the State of California. The editors of the Intercom hope you enjoy the following interview:

Sherman, we would like to start this interview with a little bit of your background. How did you get into the field of education? How did your career take you on a path of working with the most at-risk youths? And finally, how did you make the giant leap to work as the CWA administrator for San Bernardino County, a county that is larger in square miles than several states in America?

Originally, I intended to pursue a career as an attorney in the area of social justice or a social worker. However, upon my graduation in 1975, very few opportunities existed due to the economy. I had always admired my sixth grade teacher who happened to be my cousin and decided to test the education field. Once I completed my coursework, I immediately fell in love with the profession. During my second year teaching, Proposition 13 was approved by the voters which resulted in massive teacher layoffs and reduction. As a result, I was sent to teach at a continuation school of which I totally disapproved. Once there, I felt comfortable with this type population as the students were honest with you and willing to work with you if they considered you to have a genuine interest in their education. During the following year, I was transferred back to the comprehensive school to serve briefly as a teacher and athletic coach for (five years) while pursuing my administrative credential.

Once I received the credential, I was recruited and hired by the continuation school principal to serve as her administrator. I loved it. However, I was recruited back to high school and middle school serving in administrative capacities. Eventually, I was hired by San Bernardino County office of Education to create alternative education programs in the western end of San Bernardino County which included hiring teachers, selecting the site locations and building and creating a new juvenile hall program in the west end of the county.

It was a great experience in the fact that I worked with every school district CWA in the west end of the county in placement of student in the program and served as a member of each local school district SARB board as well. As a result of the success of the program, I was promoted and received the position as CWA for the County office, a position of which was a match for me and which I am thankful.

You filled big shoes when you replaced John Burton as the CWA Administrator for San Bernardino County. Those of us who remember when we first met you were amazed at how quickly you established your credibility. There is no way that a job description could adequately describe what you did on a daily basis. You were everywhere! Looking back what do you consider to have been your responsibilities in your position?

My major responsibilities during the fourteen year period in which I held the position was to ensure that every student in San Bernardino County was properly enrolled in a school setting designed for their individual needs via collaboration with local school districts and that each student and parent felt comfortable and safe in their school of enrollment.

Over the years, members of CASCWA have relied heavily on publications from the San Bernardino County Office of Education, the Los Angeles County of Education and the San Diego County Office of Education. You have been personally involved with workshops and conferences focusing on several key publications and are considered an expert in several arenas. What are a few of the publications you take the most pride in and what are a few of your best memories from your presentations?



Thanks to John Burton and the LACOE administrative CWA team of Phil Kauble, Jerry Hime, Catherine Terry, etc. I was afforded a tremendous sounding board for ideas. John Burton prior to his transfer to Fontana USD as their executive director for student services, had created and updated yearly two manuals relative to student discipline and records. Upon my acceptance of the position, I decided to continue producing the manuals which required a tremendous amount of research and knowledge of the laws. However, I decided to take a different approach to the manuals in that I wanted to make the manual more specific to site administrators especially the deans and assistant principals who deal with CWA issues on a daily basis. I began to add recommended policies, practices and procedures for students and parents based upon my administrative experiences which were produced yearly until my retirement from the county office. During my retirement I decided to continue publishing the manuals in this area which are a labor of love using a completely different format and view from the previous manuals including a chapter quizzes via my new company, Sherman Garnett and Associates. The publications continue to be utilized today by many districts across the state. I have just completed the October 2014 Student Discipline Manual which will be available for purchase beginning in a few weeks. As a result, I have been busy conducting district and site training across the state in these topic areas. Additionally, I have started working in collaboration with the California Department of Education and other colleagues across the state in rewriting the State SARB manual which we hope to have completed by the end of the calendar year. The manuals will be available for download at no cost to all school districts in the state.

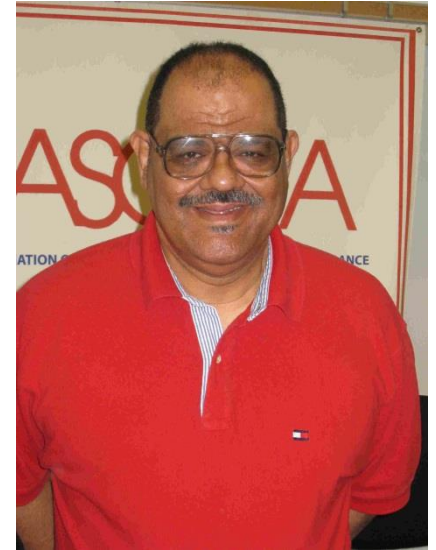
You have been a mentor to administrators throughout the state and have developed professional friendships that will last a lifetime. You are a past president of "CASCWA's Southern Section" and a past president of "State CASCWA." We know how important you have been to CASCWA, but we would like to know what CASCWA means to you!

CASCWA is a great support system for new and continuing administrators nationwide. CASCWA provides mentoring, training, relatively inexpensive conferences, networking and a strong sense of community. As one works in this type position either as a dean, assistant principal, principal, CWA, etc, CASCWA is there for you. CASCWA is the only organization in the state specializing in child welfare and attendance issues. I am deeply in gratitude to Mr. Frank Boehler, the retired but still working CWA at Orange USD whom I met at my first CASCWA State Conference in 1999. I was trying to figure out my new position and the numerous duties. Mr. Frank Boehler, of whom I consider a brother, is a compassionate man whom invited me to join the group. The CASCWA southern section group met monthly for an exchange of ideas, support and to provide services to CWA personnel across the state.

You have served on the "State's School Attendance Review Board" for several years. One would think that all parents would want to see their children in school and would want to see their children achieve to their maximum potential. However, that is not the case and it takes strong administrators to take on these parents in the early years and to be a champion for the truant/credit deficient student in the high school years. You and several others are to be commended for your efforts and intervention that resulted in a beautiful young homeless student to enroll and graduate from Berkeley

University. Please tell us a little about State SARB and share with us this wonderful story of this young lady who took advantage of CASCWA's scholarship program!

State SARB is a uniquely collaborative statewide group that has been appointed by the State Superintendent to tackle the "tough issues" relative to student attendance and truancy. I have been fortunate to serve for the past twelve years as a member of this body. All of the individuals who comprise this group ranging from representatives of numerous community based organizations, PTA, attorney general's office, probation department, department of social services, state nursing organization, counselors, teachers, CWA personnel representing both local school districts and county offices of education meet quarterly to strategize and make recommendations to the state superintendent to implement policies, procedures resulting in increased student attendance and success. State SARB activities have included recognition of Model SARB programs at the yearly CASCWA state conference, providing a SARB training component for local school districts and a SARB handbook. None of the SARB members are compensated for their training or transportation to the meetings which are held in Sacramento at the Department of Education and via teleconferencing at various county offices throughout the state.



I am most proud of CASCWA sponsoring a student throughout her college career who recently graduated from UC Berkeley. This individual was a homeless student during her senior year of high school who came to my attention and that of my county office homeless coordinator, Brenda Dowdy who was staying in a shelter. Brenda who consulted with me on a regular basis supported her throughout her senior year. However, she did not receive any senior scholarship offers at all although accepted to UC Berkeley. Enter CASCWA. Brenda and I completed the application for a CASCWA southern section scholarship including providing the student's handwritten narrative. She was awarded the scholarship. However, CASCWA southern section decided that a one-time scholarship was not sufficient. WE decided to support her throughout her undergraduate tenure by contributing annually to her education.

Yes, the student graduated in four years and Brenda Dowdy attended her graduation ceremony on behalf of CASCWA and the county office of education.

CASCWA has relied on you for legislative information. What are a few of the important bills that have recently signed into law and what are a few of the pending bills that our membership should place on their watch list?

I was asked many years ago to represent CASCWA as the southern representative for legislative action. Currently I serve as the CASCWA state chairperson for legislative action. As legislative chair, my team and I produce a yearly legislative summary of bills which have been chaptered only on the CASCWA web site in order that our members can prepare themselves for the chaptered bills which become law on January 1 or earlier in some cases. Legislation this year appears to be heavily focused on a package of truancy related and SARB legislation sponsored by the attorney general and several legislators. Each of the packages of bills has been sent to the governor's desk of which action must occur prior to the first week in October 1 in the form of a veto or approval of the legislation. Additionally, there is another critical piece of legislation sponsored by numerous public interest groups across the state relative to student suspension expulsion in the area of defiance. This bill would eliminate suspension of students in grades K-3 for defiance and would not authorize a recommendation for expulsion for any student for defiance (48900 K)

Behind every great administrator is a great secretary. Luvia Hernandez was your secretary for many years until your retired. You were blessed with one of the best secretaries ever. Today, we are amazed at your emails, website and personal involvement with CASCWA, ACSA and the CWA Academy. Tell us a little bit about the academy program, what is it all about and how anyone who is interested can make contact.

I am currently working for the eight consecutive year with fellow CASCWA southern section board member Ray Vincent as co-director of the ACSA Pupil Services Academy. This seven month long academy is a training ground for new Pupil Services Administrators across the state. In addition to conducting a couple of the sessions, Ray and I bring in the best Pupil Services Administrators in the state to train the participants for either three hour or four hour intense sessions. We

have and continue to utilize a great cadre of CASCWA members as key trainers for the academy. Kudos to Academy and Southern Section board members, Jerry Hime, Steve Fraire, Cami Berry and Maria Bravo for their continual support and outstanding and yearly presentations at the academy. The academy is open to all. Our first sessions begin October 17 at the ACSA office in Ontario. As a result of these academies, I have compiled a list serve in which I send out at no cost to anyone daily updates and happenings in the world of pupil services. Anyone can subscribe to the service by a simple e-mail to me requesting to be placed on the list. I have over five hundred CWA personnel on the list.



Yes, I was blessed with the best secretary ever for CWA by the name of Luvia Hernandez.

Finally, you have a beautiful wife, successful children and wonderful grandchildren. We congratulate you on this lifetime accomplishment! What else would you like to share with our "CASCWA Members" in this edition of the Intercom?

Thank you for the interview opportunity. I want to continue to contribute to the needs of our students and their families. I hope to contribute on a larger scale as I am a candidate for a seat on the governing board of the San Bernardino County Board of Education Seat B which covers the cities of Montclair, Upland, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and parts of Fontana. The incumbent has decided not to seek reelection. I am one of three candidates and the only candidate with a background as an educator. Visit my web site: www.garnettforsbcountyboard.com for further information. .

THANK YOU SHERMAN FOR THIS INTERVIEW AND FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE KIDS IN CALIFORNIA!