



CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL 2026
FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING
CCA/CAC LIASION COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Chairperson Benjamin Rivera
Co-Chairperson Sheri Learmonth

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - a. DAS Chief Adele Burns opened the room shortly before 9:00 am.
 - b. DAS Chief Adele Burnes conducted the roll call.
 - i. Members Present: Chuck Poss, Earl Restine (remote initially unresponsive, confirmed later), Randall Chenworth, Sheri Learmonth (remote), Alex Beltran, Larry Hopkins, Mark Burri, Yvonne De La Peña, Jason Rafter, Gary Adams, Todd Braverman, and Adele Burns.
 - ii. Members Absent: Frank Quintero, Richard Harris, Luis Ontiveros, Shelly Doran, Hugo De La Torre (remote), and Jack Buckhorn
 - c. Chairperson Benjamin Rivera called the meeting to order and noted the pledge had been missed at the start and asked everyone to rise.
 - d. The pledge was conducted.
- II. Review/Approve Previous Minutes
 - a. All members present approved the Previous Minutes for the meeting held on November 5, 2025, in Sacramento, California.
- III. Treasurer's Report — Mike Rivers
 - a. Diamond Sponsors for November:
 - i. STAR Program District Council 16.
 - ii. Statewide Joint Apprenticeship Program.

- b. PayPal transfer: \$16,035.64.
 - c. Deposit for Hyatt Regency Sonoma Wine Country: \$25,000. (made by Benjamin Rivera)
 - d. Net revenue for November: \$1,035.64.
 - e. Balance end of November: \$56,126.44.
 - f. December activity minimal due to holidays.
 - g. January starting balance: \$56,126.44. January revenue included:
 - i. Kaiser Permanente Diamond Sponsorship.
 - ii. \$5,935 in social networking and conference payments.
 - iii. \$4,775 in 2026 per-capita dues.
 - h. Current balance: \$71,836.44.
 - i. All Members present approved the Treasurer's Report.
- b. Networking Event Update — Don Simonich
- i. Approximately 30 golfers registered.
 - ii. Flyers distinguish “golfers” and “enthusiasts” (non-golfers who enjoy the event and beverage cart).
 - iii. Tee box sponsorships (\$100) are lagging; he encouraged programs to participate.
 - iv. Reminded attendees that the conference is only three months away.
- c. Conference Registration Update — Chair Benjamin Rivera
- a. Over 100 hotel registrations already received. Many attendees tend to register late, creating an administrative strain. He encouraged early registration to ease workload.

IV. Public Comment – Ben Rivera

- b. Rivera outlined the educational goals of breakout sessions and emphasized the need to support newer coordinators and commissioners. He reviewed planned topics:
 - i. RSI Funding and the two perspectives of Distribution of funds and LEA Use and maximizing opportunities.
 - ii. Contractor based Outreach by using the “Heavy Metal Camp” model connecting contractors with local High schools. Hands on exposure for students and show how successful in the Bay Area and expanding nationally.
 - iii. Workforce Investment Boards that many coordinators are being asked to join WIBs without understanding their roles. Breakout will clarify WIB functions and expectations.
 - iv. How Degrees & Apprenticeships can grow interest in degree pathways.
 - v. Ethical use of AI Tools with the rapid adoption of such tools. Some instructors are discovering that students are using AI tools to answer questions in real time.
 - vi. Mental Health having two perspectives of the traditional intervention model and the caregiver fatigue and the emotional toll on those providing support.
 - vii. Naloxone Training session will include distribution of naloxone kits.
 - viii. VA Services attempting to reestablish participation from VA staff and Federal approval requirement is pending.
 - ix. Foster Youth Workforce Pathways with a presentation from “First Place you Youth.” Benjamin Riveria emphasized the urgency of supporting youth who age out of foster care at 18 with limited resources.
 - x. Reentry and Diversion Programs to support individuals transition from correctional facilities and how successful members from these backgrounds can be.

V. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.