



CALIFORNIA
EDUCATIONAL
DATA
PROCESSING
ASSOCIATION

THE
DATABUS

"Serving California's Public Education Technologists"

Vol. 35 No. 6

Conference Edition, 1995

Welcome to the 35th Annual CEDPA Conference

Ken Jones, CEDPA President

Now, more than ever, Information Systems Professionals need information about products, consultants, and what their peers are up to. You have definitely come to the right place.

When I joined the CEDPA Board six years ago, I had no idea how important the organization would become to getting my job done. The ability to network with peers from around the State and have a voice in some of the workings at CDE has been invaluable. My current position with Lodi Unified School District has been that of starting a new information systems department and bringing in all new administrative technology. CEDPA has been a wonderful way to figure out all my options and get real world opinion from people who have already been through what was happening in Lodi. Looking back at the accomplishments of my first year and a half at Lodi, I have not done one thing that was original thought. That may sound a little boring, but I prefer to give my employer the best solution rather than the most clever, leading edge solution. Call me strange, but I like my job!

What I discovered in my adventure at Lodi was that there is not a comprehensive list of software or hardware solutions available from any source that I could find. For example, when asked what student information systems we should be looking at, I could name a few but I knew that I was leaving some potentially wonderful choices out. Where was there a list of all the vendors? Who do you

contact as you start down this road? The bottom line is that CEDPA was really my one and only choice.

CEDPA will be expanding the services it provides it membership during the next year. We believe that sharing information amongst our members is one of the most effective ways of keeping our members abreast of legislative issues and technology enhancements and we will be doing several things to enhance that communication.

First, all 1995 conference attendees will be provided a complete list of conference attendees. We know that a lot of networking takes place during the conference and we also know that sometimes that "connection" is broken after the conference concludes because you don't know how to get a hold of those people you had that important discussion with.

Second, we will be looking at hiring the services of someone who will help us analyze and provide information to our membership about the massive number of bills and other activities at the state and national levels that affect technology in education. This will be reported back to the membership in a regular column in *The DataBus*.

Third, CEDPA will increase the number and frequency of regional meetings it sponsors throughout the year. At present there are three "Special Interest Group"

(See "President's Message" on Page 2)

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

meetings that are conducted during the year. One meeting each is held in the Northern and Southern sections of the state, and the third meeting is conducted during the annual conference. CEDPA will change the focus of these meetings from a structured meeting that supports special interests (such as SISNET and the MIS Managers) to one of a more general "networking" nature. These "networking" sessions would be made available to the general membership and might cover a wider range of discussion topics. CEDPA will attempt to schedule these meetings every other month in *both* the Northern and Southern sections of the state, making a total of six luncheon meetings available to CEDPA's membership throughout the year.

Fourth, CEDPA will expand its presence on the Internet. We believe the Internet is rapidly becoming the universal vehicle for communication and sharing information. In addition to publishing an electronic version of *The DataBus* and providing other information about the organization, we plan to expand our services by implementing a bid clearinghouse web page that will contain information about recently-concluded bids that include "Piggy Back" clauses. How do we propose to collect this information? By using the Internet, of course! We plan to implement a series of online forms designed to collect information ranging from bid information to equipment and software surveys and will be depending on *you* to give that information to us via the Internet. All collected information will be publicized on the World Wide Web and also in *The DataBus*.

What is in the future for CEDPA? CEDPA is *your* organization and will be whatever you want it to be. The Board's view is that we will continue to spend time in several important areas. They include, but are not limited to, influencing legislation at the state and national levels, sharing information about how people like you are handling the upcoming 2000 date problem, what to do about upgrading your legacy systems to modern technology on a shoestring, how to build that network that the instructional folks are screaming for (and how to support it after you build it!), and war stories about things that worked and, more importantly, things that didn't work.

Stay tuned—and we sincerely thank you for support CEDPA. You don't get to be 35 years old without doing something right.

The CEDPA Board of Directors

President: Ken Jones (Pro Tem)
Lodi Unified School District
kjones@lodiUSD.k12.ca.us

President-Elect: Ken Jones
Lodi Unified School District
kjones@lodiUSD.k12.ca.us

Past-President: Perry Polk
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
perry7205@aol.com

Secretary: Jane Kauble
Los Angeles County Office of Education
kauble_jane@lacoed.edu

Treasurer: Mike Caskey
Stanislaus County Office of Education
mcaskey@stan-coe.k12.ca.us

DataBus Editor: Addison Ching
addison@deltanet.com

Director: Judy Acosta
Ventura County Superintendent of Schools
acosta@vcss.k12.ca.us

Director: Kathleen Barfield
Far West Laboratories
barfield@fwl.org

Director: Greg Lindner
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools
glindner@yolo.k12.ca.us

Director: Skip Sharp
San Diego County Office of Education
hsharp@sdcoe.k12.ca.us

SIG Co-Chairperson: John McBrearty
Contra Costa County Office of Education
jmcbrearty@cello.gina.calstate.edu

SIG Co-Chairperson: Warren Williams
Grossmont Union High School District
wwilliams@grossmont.k12.ca.us

Ten-Year Award Recipients

Ten year conference awards will be made during this conference to **Wray Miller** of Huntington Beach Union High School District and **Ed Lopez** of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. Congratulations!

A Well-Connected Board

Internet: Information highway provides an efficient communications vehicle.

Addison Ching

Your CEDPA Board is well connected!

Much of the Association's business that is conducted by the Board of Directors is conducted via the Internet. We've found that using electronic mail is one of the most efficient ways of getting requests fulfilled, action items completed, questions answered, and disseminating the same information to many individuals with a minimum of effort.

Ken Jones really started the ball rolling. He "broadcast" his understanding of the Board's business and action items to be completed the day following the first board meeting he presided over. Since that time, telephone calls and the attendant "telephone tag" between board members have been kept to a minimum but at the same time the efficiency of conducting board business has increased substantially. Why is this?

Your board is spread throughout the state and meets approximately once a month to conduct association business. Often issues that are raised and questions that need responding to aren't resolved until the following meeting. Sometimes these issues are time-sensitive and need to be resolved in a shorter time frame. Telephone calls are effective only if the person you're calling is available to take your call when you make that call; call-back slips may be responded to hours or even days later, and it's sometimes difficult to recall that exact thought or idea you had in mind when you made the original call. With electronic mail, you're able to document your thought or idea immediately and send your document to the intended receiver or receivers at the click of a button. The receiving party also has documentation of your exact thought and idea and can react or respond to it immediately after reading your original message when that response is fresh in his/her mind. Ideas or concepts don't get lost or forgotten; thoughts and ideas can be captured and responded to in "real time" but at the convenience of the reader.

As editor of your newsletter, it's important for me to inform board members what articles they are scheduled to contribute and when they need to have their articles completed and submitted. The Internet has been a great vehicle to communicate this information to them. In addition, most, if not all, articles that have been submitted for publication by your board members this past year have

come to me via the Internet.

Your board also uses the Internet to assist with conference planning. Main speaker, breakout session, and vendor information has traversed the Internet on many occasions during the past months. In addition, CEDPA board members have a CEDPA FTP server available to them which contains vital conference planning information such as a constantly-updated file containing the most current information about who's exhibiting, whether they've paid, their booth assignment, and if they're contributing any "extras" such as door prizes or other giveaways.

It may even get to the point where the majority of board business *can* be conducted electronically, thus minimizing the frequency of our in-person meetings and the amount of paperwork that gets distributed to the board in the normal conduct of business.

A prime example of technology leadership, I believe, is exhibited by *Technologists* who actually use technology to accomplish their business objectives and meet their goals. Your well-connected board is such an example of how technology can be and is used to conduct association business in an efficient and effective manner.

Win a Door Prize at the Vendor Show!

Don't forget to deposit your door prize ticket at the registration counter to be eligible for one of the many door prizes graciously donated by our supporting vendors. This year you may win a Walkman, a GINA™/CORE+ Account, software, an HP-10B calculator or even a \$50 gift certificate! One lucky attendee will even win one night's stay at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, compliments of the Fairmont Hotel!

Drawings will be periodically throughout the vendor show on Thursday in the vendor exhibit area. As usual, you must be present to win, so don't miss out!

Our exhibitors are largely responsible for underwriting the costs of your conference, so be sure to visit their exhibits and review their products and services.

The Internet Demonstration Room: Gateway to the Information Highway

Be sure to check out the Internet Demonstration Room, located in the California Room. This room, a very popular feature of last year's conference in Long Beach, has again been set up by popular demand. In it you will see several examples of multi-vendor solutions to Internet connectivity. This "Internet Lab" has several live connections to the Internet using various vendors' data communications equipment, servers, personal computers, and end-user software.

You have the opportunity to review the end-to-end solutions from the wire in the wall to some of the software that students and administrators can use to access the vast pools of information on the Internet. Experts will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about hardware and connectivity solutions.

The Internet Demonstration Room will be available throughout the conference so you can experience the Internet within the context of the many Internet-related breakout sessions and the vendor show. Educators have been saying for years that nothing beats hands-on experience, and we have the latest for you to lay your hands on. Don't miss this opportunity in the California Room!

Fill Out Those Evaluation Sheets—Please!

The evaluation sheets you have been provided are very important to the CEDPA board. This is the only way the board has of knowing your level of satisfaction with the various aspects of the conference. We especially need to know your feelings about the mix of breakout sessions in order to effectively plan next year's conference. If you don't return these evaluations, we won't know what you liked—or didn't like—about this year's conference.

Please help your CEDPA board by filling out the evaluations and turning them in. Thanks for your assistance!

Panel Discussions to Address Internet Issues in Education

Two roundtable panel discussions highlight this year's breakout sessions. In line with this year's theme of "Connecting Education," both panels relate to Internet connectivity issues in the educational arena.

The first panel will be conducted by Brian Lloyd, president of Lloyd Internetworking, an Internet connectivity solution provider. Joining Brian on the panel will be Pat McGregor and Karl Auerbach, also from Lloyd Internetworking. The panel will discuss "Appropriate Access Issues for K-12 Educators." The availability of educationally-inappropriate materials on the Internet will be examined along with attendant legal, technical and acceptable use responsibility issues. Example solutions that have been implemented in some agencies will also be revealed.

The second panel is a general roundtable discussion about the Internet and Internet-related topics. The panel will be moderated by Farley Stewart, president of Internet Products, Inc., another Internet connectivity solution provider. Also on the panel are Warren Williams from Grossmont Union High School District and Skip Sharp from the San Diego County Office of Education. Bring your questions and concerns to these experts and get their recommendations.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

- 1996 (South)
October 16-18, 1996
Marquis Hotel, Palm Springs
- 1997 (North)
October 29-31, 1997
Radisson Hotel, Sacramento
- 1998 (South)
October 14-16, 1998
Marquis Hotel, Palm Springs