



*The mind is a fire to be kindled,  
not a vessel to be filled.*

-Plutarch.

***Message from the CAG President...***

In the wake of the mass shooting Sunday night in Las Vegas, I know I am not alone in the utter sense of shock and disbelief that has enveloped me these past hours. My inner mantra of Fred Rogers' words, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping..." has become the automated meditative loop of my inner voice to help me through these past hours and months of navigating tragic events and sense of despair.

Yet, I remain hopeful. I refuse to become cynical about humanity, especially when that would be the easiest thing to become. We are adults with decades of experience in our world, and we feel helpless and uncertain. I can only imagine how our sensitive children and students, with limited years of experience, must be processing these scary events. Let's be there for each other. Please reach out if you are in need of resources in your community to support your family, your students, your colleagues, your neighbors. Our regional representatives can help you connect to professionals to help meet your needs; please reach out to them, or to me, and thank you for being part of our community.

This newsletter brings the latest information about our community events, conference updates, and what is happening throughout the state of California in gifted education. The new school year always brings promise and excitement of new potential to be found and nurtured. We are honored to work with all of you and we admire your dedication and

passion for identifying and serving gifted children.

Over the summer we visited many of you in Sacramento, Santa Barbara and Oceanside and learned alongside you during our three summer gifted institutes and teacher demonstration schools. Hundreds of teachers were engaged in facilitating the understanding of depth and complexity, learning about the continuum of differentiation, using the curriculum as a catalyst to look for talent, studying ascending levels of intellectual demand, forming logical inferences, and integrating the arts throughout all academic domains. Students eagerly anticipated each day of deep learning and making connections between academic disciplines, as well as making personal connections with each other. If you have never joined us for one of our summer institutes, please reach out to see how we can assist the teachers in your school or district with professional development focused on research-based best practices for teaching gifted learners.

In looking ahead, we are excited to be partnering with NAGC and the San Francisco 49ers Museum in hosting a family day in the Silicon Valley on Saturday October 7. This January we will be offering a Symposium for teachers in the northern part of the state.

Much of our focus right now is on preparing for our 56<sup>th</sup> annual conference "Shining a Light on Gifted Education" in San Diego March 2-4, 2018. Please visit our website for information about submitting a proposal to present, for registration and exhibitor information, for

sponsorship opportunities, and to learn more about the conference structure for 2018.

CAG continues to be the largest advocacy organization for gifted children in the state of California. We thank you for your support as we continue working to meet the needs of gifted children and families. We look forward to seeing you in the months ahead.

With warmest regards,

Ann Smith

### ***Legislative Action Update***

The California Department of Education spent the last 18 months in development of an updated ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Consolidated State Plan. These plans allow for each state to individually make a case for how they will use federal dollars. Significant stakeholder engagement was sought throughout this process, including noticeable input from stakeholders concerned about ensuring that the plan would support the unique needs of gifted and talented learners. A revised California ESSA State Plan was submitted to the Department of Education on September 15.

The next step in the process is for the plan to be reviewed and approved by the Department of Education. California Association for the Gifted will continue to monitor its progress and keep our members updates on opportunities for action. To learn more about the process, follow this link: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/es/>

Kari Hansen-Smith, Legislative Chair

**[More information on CAG and Legislation](#)**

## **CAG 2018 Conference: *Shining a Light on Gifted Education***

The 2018 CAG Conference will be held March 3-4, 2018 in beautiful San Diego at the Sheraton Hotel & Marina. A Pre-Conference day will be held on Friday, March 2, 2018. We are happy to have Carolyn Callahan, Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and William McComas, Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas as our keynotes. Exciting events include the Pre-Conference Day with classroom observations taught by expert GATE teachers in the field and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Saturday Night Regional Social following Saturday's excellent presenter sessions.

### **Early Bird Registration**

Pre-Con: \$150

Conference Registration: \$345 CAG member, \$445 non-member

Group Rate (5 or more) \$345/person

### **Pricing after 12/20/17**

Conference Registration: \$395 CAG member, \$495 non-member

### **Conference Hotel Rate**

Conference rate for the Sheraton Hotel & Marina is \$199/night. Please mention that you are with the CAG Conference. Great venue on Mission Bay near many local dining and attractions!

Alison DeMark, Conference Coordinator

**Exhibitors please visit our website for information on booths and pricing.**

**Call for Presenters!  
Interested? [Click here.](#)**

## **Parent and Educator News**

As parents, we know how difficult it is to explain the world to our children. There are so many times I wish I lived in my own bubble, and the thought of becoming an ostrich has been known to cross my mind; neither are acceptable solutions. I remember having to answer my children's questions after the senseless destruction of September 11. I realized we couldn't hide our heads in the sand. The world is real, complete with all the good and bad and something we must address. I think we all grew up a little that day. Yesterday, we were again assaulted with another senselessly devastating act. With technology at our finger tips, our children are seeing and hearing all about this event from many different sources. Now is a time that we need to answer questions and offer reassurance.

Many of our gifted children are intensely sensitive to all the events happening around the world. Information regarding such a senseless act of destruction has the potential to affect them severely. How does one explain what is unexplainable? Platitudes that it will never happen again are not realistic. The attached article; "Mass shooting in Las Vegas: How to Talk to Students" by Cindy Long, has many helpful suggestions on how to begin these conversations while instilling a level of safety for the child.

Again, I hate the fact that discussions such as these are necessary, but unlike the ostrich, we need to live in our world and teach our children the necessary skills to cope with such events. Hopefully, they will be the catalyst that will create a future free of such tragedies.

Krista Landgraf, Parent Representative Chair

## **Articles of Interest**

### **The Arts Have Much More to Teach Us**

**Two arts education luminaries reflect on their work and what's ahead**

By **Howard Gardner & Ellen Winner** October 2, 2017

*Fifty years ago, a small group of scholars joined together to launch Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The philosopher Nelson Goodman christened the interdisciplinary team "Project Zero" to convey that while there was plenty of useful lore in education in the arts, there was little systematic knowledge. Through much of the 20th century, it's fair to say that artistry had not been taken seriously in American social science....*

[Read more](#)

### **Mass Shooting in Las Vegas: How to Talk to Students**

By **Cindy Long** October 2, 2017

*The nation woke up this morning to the horrific news of the largest mass shooting in U.S. history during a concert in Las Vegas, Nevada. As the news streams in and images flash across screens, children can't escape the disturbing scenes. Many will be scared and confused. We are offering advice from the National Association of School Psychologists for talking to your students about violence and other national tragedies:...*

[Read more](#)

## **Regional News**

Check out the [CAG Regional webpage](#) for updates and events near you.



## **Calendar of Events**

October 7: Family Day – SF 49ers Museum

January: Northern Symposium

March 2-4: CAG Conference in San Diego

# CAG Seeks Candidates for Executive Board Officers

## Applications Due December 31, 2017

The strength of the CAG organization is in the dedication and efforts of its membership. As a volunteer organization, we need passionate, hard-working people to provide not only the support, but the leadership that is required in order to fulfill our mission of providing for the needs of gifted children.

This spring we will be electing the following officers to serve on the Executive Board of the California Association for the Gifted: President-Elect, Secretary, Educator Representative Chair, and Parent Representative Chair. Please read the information below for a description of the duties of each office. You will also find a copy of the CAG Bylaws and Policies that specify in detail the duties of officers on the CAG website at [www.cagifted.org](http://www.cagifted.org). Please review them and feel free to email or call any of the current officers if you have questions.

**President-Elect: A candidate for President-Elect must have served on the Board of Directors.** The President-Elect shall be elected for a 2-year term. The President-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of President upon expiration of the President's term of office. The duties of the President-Elect shall be to serve in the absence of the President, act as a liaison to the Advisory Board, and perform other duties to be determined by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The President-Elect shall complete the term of office of the President should it be vacated, serving both the unexpired portion of the previous President's term and the elected term.

**Secretary:**

The Secretary shall be elected for a 2-year term and may serve a maximum of 2 consecutive 2-year terms. The Secretary shall maintain a systematic record of all actions taken at the annual business meeting and other called meetings. The Secretary shall distribute minutes and all pertinent documents to the Board of Directors, and other designated bodies.

**Educator Representative Chair: A candidate for Educator Representative Chair must have served on the CAG Board as an Educator Representative.**

The Educator Representative Chair shall be elected for a 2-year term and may serve a maximum of two consecutive 2-year terms; shall act as a liaison between the Educator Representatives and the Executive Committee; shall preside at the Educator Representatives' meetings and coordinate all state educator advocacy efforts.

**Parent Representative Chair: A candidate for Parent Representative Chair must have served on the CAG Board as a Parent Representative.**

The Parent Representative Chair shall be elected for a 2-year term and may serve a maximum of two consecutive 2-year terms; shall act as a liaison between the Parent Representatives and the Executive Committee; shall preside at the Parent Representatives' meetings and coordinate all state level parent advocacy efforts.

**If you are interested in a leadership position, please consider running for office.**

The following timeline has been established:

- Candidate's application form postmarked no later than December 31, 2017.
  - Telephone interview
  - Candidate's ballot statement received by CAG no later than January 31, 2018.
  - Ballots sent out electronically and/or mailed and received by members by February 23, 2018.
  - Ballots counted and results announced by March 9, 2018.
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# Application for CAG Executive Office

Please complete the application, affix a letter of endorsement, and mail or fax to the address below to be postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. Please type, not handwrite. Attach a separate sheet if needed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CAG Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Office you are seeking: \_\_\_\_\_

## Background Information:

Describe your current experiences with gifted children: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Candidacy Qualifications:

a. Identify professional and personal qualities that will enable you to perform the role of the office you are seeking.

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b. Identify what you believe to be the most important issues facing gifted education in the next few years. Discuss how you would like to be of service in those areas.

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## List References:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to fulfill the duties of the office as described. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if interested in chairing one of the CAG committees.

Please affix one letter of endorsement and mail to CAG Election, PO Box 696, Yucaipa, CA 92399, or FAX your application and letter of endorsement to 916-988-5999, or email to admin@cagifted.org.

# CAG Seeks Candidates for Board of Directors

## Applications Due December 31, 2017

The strength of the CAG organization is in the dedication and efforts of its membership. As a volunteer organization, we need passionate, hard-working people to provide not only the support, but the leadership that is required in order to fulfill our mission of providing for the needs of gifted children.

This spring we will be electing a Parent Representative from each of CAG's eleven geographical regions. We're looking for quality candidates to run for office and provide the necessary leadership. (*Parent Representatives and Educator Representatives are elected in alternating years.*)

You will find a copy of the CAG Bylaws and Policies that specify in detail the duties of officers and representatives on the CAG website. Please review them and feel free to email or call any of the current officers if you have questions.

### **What is Expected of A CAG Regional Representative?**

CAG's eleven regions are each served by two representatives -- one parent and one educator. The representatives serve as liaisons between the region and the Board of Directors, coordinate activities in the local regions, foster interest in CAG membership, and respond to queries from local parents and educators.

Please review this list of responsibilities for Regional Representatives. While the list may seem overwhelming, be aware that the Regional Representatives do not do all of the work alone in their region. They are encouraged to develop a regional committee and work together with local members to accomplish regional goals. Reimbursement is available for expenses incurred for CAG business.

### **Basic Responsibilities of Regional Representatives**

1. Attend scheduled Board meetings
  - Prepare, plan, and budget for region
  - Use regional expenditures aligned with regional plans
  - Complete a regional report for each meeting.
  - Give a brief report to update Board of regional events, if requested.
2. Develop regional capacity
  - Develop regional support committee
  - Develop leadership network
  - Organize meetings/local in-service
  - Develop a systematic liaison network with affiliate groups
  - Disseminate timely information
  - Maintain phone, email, and mail contacts
  - Recruit new members
  - Encourage continued membership
  - Follow-up on members who discontinue
  - Assist with CAG sponsored events in the region

4. Commit to annual conference duties
  - Participate in regional CAG Distinguished Service Award selection and ceremony
  - Assist in Resource Room
  - Actively participate in all other conference responsibilities
5. CAG activities:
  - Serve on committees
  - Facilitate committees
  - Attend related in-service
  - Submit articles to Gifted Education Communicator, if appropriate
  - Contribute regional news for newsletters and the CAG website on regular basis
6. Advocacy duties
  - Initiate and maintain legislative contacts in region
  - Initiate and maintain contacts with school districts and County Offices of Education

### **What are the Benefits of Board Participation?**

- A forum where your ideas about gifted education in California can be heard and disseminated.
- An opportunity to use your leadership abilities in a meaningful activity.
- An opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with leaders in the field—California and the nation.
- Reimbursement for travel expenses incurred for organization business.

### **Term of Office**

All officers and representatives are elected to a two-year term.

**If you are interested in a leadership position, please consider running for office.**

The following timeline has been established:

- Candidate's application form postmarked no later than December 31, 2017.
- Telephone interview
- Candidate's ballot statement received by CAG no later than January 31, 2018.
- Ballots sent out electronically and/or mailed and received by members by February 17, 2018.
- Ballots counted and results announced by March 3, 2018.

# Application for CAG Parent Representative

Please complete the application, affix a letter of endorsement, and mail or fax to the address below to be postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. Please type, not handwrite. Attach a separate sheet if needed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CAG Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Office you are seeking: \_\_\_\_\_

## Background Information:

Describe your current experiences with gifted children: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Candidacy Qualifications:

a. Identify professional and personal qualities that will enable you to perform the role of the office you are seeking.

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b. Identify what you believe to be the most important issues facing gifted education in the next few years.  
Discuss how you would like to be of service in those areas.

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## List References:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to fulfill the duties of a regional parent representative as described. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if interested in chairing one of the CAG committees.

Please affix one letter of endorsement and mail to CAG Election, PO Box 696, Yucaipa, CA 92399, or FAX your application and letter of endorsement to 916-988-5999, or email to admin@cagifted.org.