

Fellow COPE fund contributors:

While I know many of you already, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Dan Dryden and I have recently been appointed by the CCE E-Council, as the chairperson for the Committee On Political Education (COPE). As a voluntary COPE contributor, I wanted to reach out and bring you up to speed on the direction the E-Council has given to me with regard to COPE.

As you are probably aware, the CCE E-Council is prohibited from engaging in activities of a political nature. However, the E-Council is afforded the right to appoint a COPE committee to represent the unit members regarding political affairs, such as candidate and initiative endorsements, financial contributions, etc.

While the COPE committee has the ability to work on any political subject or campaign, it is the E-Council's hope that we would focus on the most local and impactful campaigns. Currently, that campaign would be the upcoming Palomar College Governing Board election in November of this year. Two trustee seats will be up for election and candidates have already declared their intention to run. It will be up to the COPE committee to select candidates (if any) to endorse for election. **Please remember that COPE is not interested in a candidate's political affiliation. Our responsibility is to identify the issues that will impact our unit and vet the candidates to find out what their stance is on those issues, thus allowing us to decide if an endorsement is appropriate.**

As COPE chair, it is my responsibility to fill the four additional seats that make up the COPE Committee. To be considered for one of the seats, you must be a current CCE Member, in good standing and also be a current voluntary COPE contributor. The committee will meet once per month and the committee chair or appointee is to report out any COPE activities to the E-Council once per month.

With the November election quickly approaching, I would like to have the COPE committee in place and an initial meeting before September 1st. If you would like to be considered as a committee member, please email me at dan@palomarceaft.org with your name and phone number, as well as a brief statement as to why you'd like to be on the COPE Committee.

In Unity,

Dan Dryden
CCE COPE Committee Chair
dan@palomarceaft.org