

# The NorthState Public Employee

Affiliated with Public Employees Union, Local 1  
Serving BCEA Members in Butte County

**LOCAL 1**

Volume 20, Issue 11

December 2009

## Local One Joins CHCRS

by Rudy Jenkins

Public Employees Union, Local One recently became a member of Californians for Health Care and Retirement Security (CHCRS) to help preserve your retirement security. This group was formed several years ago by labor and public sector retirees to ward off pension attacks. They were very successful and kept the retiree formulas intact. Once again our pension is being attacked by the ever persistent Dr. Keith Richman, a former assemblyman who is trying to qualify two ballot measures to reduce pensions for future public employees. These initiatives would roll back pension benefits and increase retirement age for all newly hired public employees. So be wary and don't sign those petitions at the mall or grocery store as they are an attack on your retirement security.

There has been a lot opinion in the news lately saying that public sector retirement

is underfunded and cannot be sustained at its current levels. The real reason for this is the abuses and greed in the financial sector creating the stock market crash, which has affected all pensions public and private. Another attack on public pensions in the news chastises the 100,000 dollar retirements. The fact is that according to Rob Feckner, President of CalPERS, less than 1 percent of CalPERS retirees received pensions of \$100,000 or more, that the average pension is just \$25,000 and the median is \$16,900.

Protect your retirement security: tell your family and friends not to sign the petitions that degrade public service retirement.

## About Unions

By Carole Kloss

More on the organization of Tunnel and Rock Workers of America (TRWA) from their newsletter 3/3/61.

### PROGRESS REPORT ON ORGANIZATION

The Union Of Tunnel and Rock Workers of America is stronger today than at any time since it was first organized over a year ago. Its members are firm in their determination to obtain recognition as craftsmen and to steadily increase the stature of their union. In spite of organizations and individuals to downgrade the organization, the TRWA has established itself as a vital force in the field of labor. Its opponents, in their attempts to prevent the TRWA from obtaining the recognition that it rightfully deserves, only serve to increase its prestige. Every knock, therefore becomes a boost.

The objectives of the TRWA remain the same: To create a democratic union, dedicated to the welfare of its members. Having its policies and business transactions established and ratified by the majority vote of approval of the membership at large. Officers and representatives being elected to office come from the ranks of the members of the craft, not appointed: men who know from experience the problems which confront tunnel and rock workers. Progressive negotiations, securing not only the best possible minimum wage but also fringe benefits, something banked to the members credit for the future when they can no longer "cut it" in a fast heading. And we all reach that time eventually. Old Father Time takes care of that.

We organized and petitioned the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for an election whereby we could elect our own bargaining agent. This has not been done before in the heavy construction industry. It is clear that Gerald A. Brown, regional director of NLRB never intended that our case be won by setting up road blocks of "necessary" hoops to jump through. Each time all requests were complied with, we were told that these things were not sufficient.

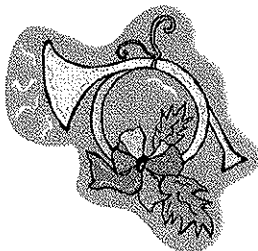
Upon tiring of this run-around by the NLRB, the majority of the membership voted to strike for recognition of our purpose and cause. The strike was a complete success. It forced Brown to act on our petition. He dismissed the petition.

That was the best thing that could happened, because now the case was out of his hands and in the hands of our attorneys, who successfully applied for an appeal.

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**BCEA DIRECTORY**

2210 5th Avenue  
 Oroville, CA 95965  
 Phone: (530) 533-8003 or (800) 991-2232  
 Fax: (530) 533-7983  
 E-mail: [bcea-gcea@onemain.com](mailto:bcea-gcea@onemain.com)  
 Website: [www.bcealocal1.org](http://www.bcealocal1.org)  
 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

**Staff**

Executive Director Rudy Jenkins  
 Office Manager Eloise Herman

**BCEA Officers and Directors**

Jim Pulling, President 538-6608  
 Les Rodrigues, Vice President 538-7954  
 Leslie Roberts, Secretary 538-7282  
 Gary Jenkins, Sergeant-at-Arms 538-7606  
 Jennifer Honea, Treasurer 538-7321  
 Linda Madison, Director 872-6328  
 Beth Standley, Director 538-5135  
 Pat Stevens, Director 538-6222

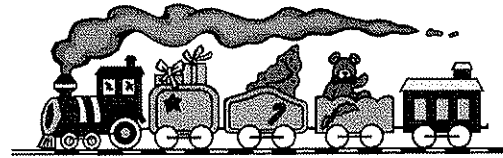
**BCEA Stewards**

**Chief Shop Steward-**

**Jim Pulling**, Treasurer 538-6608  
 Kelley Albright, Chico Behavioral Hlth 891-2999  
 Doug Arnold, Public Works 538-7157  
 Brett Cambra, Gridley Public Works 538-7606  
 Carrie Erickson, Child Sup. Ser. 538-7088  
 Stephanie Eveatt, Child Sup. Ser. 538-7414  
 Christine Foreman, Chico DESS 879-3479  
 H. Leon Frazier, Behavioral Hlth. 538-5216  
 Gregory 'Randy' Frieze, Probation 879-3960  
 Rick Haynes, Behavioral Hlth. 538-6930  
 Jennifer Honea, Sheriff 538-7321  
 Gary Jenkins, Public Works 538-7606  
 Linda Madison, Paradise Beh Hlth 872-6328  
 Jesse Magana, Chico Public Works 891-2769  
 Brent McGurie, Chico Beh Hlth 891-2997  
 Les Rodrigues, Behavioral Hlth. 538-2158  
 Patricia Sanchez, Public Hlth 532-5696  
 Robin Seligman, Child Sup. Ser. 538-6232  
 Beth Standley, DESS 538-5135  
 Pat Stevens, Public Hlth. 538-6222  
 Tracy Snyder, Public Hlth 532-5696  
 Mark Wietersen, Neal Rd. Landfill 345-2326



*Welcome New BCEA Members*



<i>Denise Baldwin</i>	<i>Behavioral Health</i>
<i>Mellissa Derder</i>	<i>Behavioral Health</i>
<i>Patricia Donahue</i>	<i>DESS</i>
<i>Darrell Morgon</i>	<i>Child Support Services</i>
<i>Alma Roots</i>	<i>DESS</i>



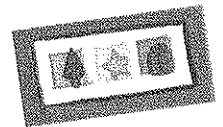
If you haven't already received a free BCEA, Local 1 2010 pocket calendar, please contact a Shop Steward or give us a call.

**GREAT IDEA:** *When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address. Think of how many cards these wonderful people who have sacrificed so much for us would get.*



*Please send to:*

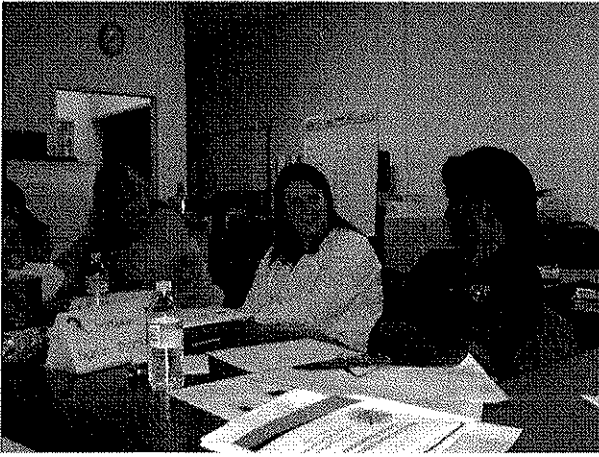
A Recovering American Serviceman or Servicewoman  
 c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
 6900 Georgia Avenue  
 NW Washington, D.C. 20307-5001



**BCEA Members in Need of  
 Catastrophic Leave Donations at this time:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
Tou Chanh	Public Health
Kathy Gillis	Environmental Health
Eric Gowins	Behavioral Health
Pennie Majors	DESS
Sharon Nelson	DESS
Kathryn Santos	DESS
Jennifer Veilleaux	Public Health

To donate vacation or compensatory time, complete the Catastrophic Leave Donation forms available from the BCEA office, our Directors, Stewards, Site Reps or website. [www.bcealocal1.org](http://www.bcealocal1.org)



Participating in recent Shop Steward Training are, from left, Tracy Snyder, Beth Standley, Jennifer Honea, and Supervising Business Agent Karen Anthony.



Continued, from left, Patty Sanchez, Robin Seligman, Brett Cambra, Linda Madison, Tracy Snyder, Beth Standley.

Congratulations to all shop stewards. We couldn't do it without you!!!

## Relay for Life 2009 - Team BC Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back!

The 2010 American Cancer Society Relay for Life will be taking place the weekend of May 1 and 2 at Pleasant Valley High School in Chico. Last year was a huge success and we are looking forward to an even better event in 2010!

This year, Team BC is being captained by Stephanie Brown and Teresa West from the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office and Susie Rees from Administration/Finance and Risk Management. They will be developing a fun-filled program to educate the community about the American Cancer Society and its services.

Team BC has been involved in Relay for Life for the past several years and has raised over \$15,000 for the American Cancer Society. The fundraising goal for 2010 has been increased by 10% over the \$6,700 that Team BC raised in 2009, making the new goal \$7,370! We need your help! This annual event is a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and its success is based on the participation of many compassionate, committed volunteers. It requires people to participate as well as to sponsor participants with monetary donations and all Butte County employees are encouraged to get involved one way or another. We're hoping to start collecting the donations early so that we can make our new goal for Butte County.

Relay for Life is a fun, family friendly event and we are encouraging everyone to participate by coming out to Pleasant Valley High, May 1 and 2, 2010 to support all of the Relay for Life Teams. If you need more information about joining the team, or would like to sponsor a participant, please feel free to contact Susie Rees at 538-2551, Stephanie Brown at 538-6462 or Teresa West at 538-7445. Remember...there is no finish line until we find a cure.

### Corrections

In the last month's November issue of the newsletter, the list of graduates who completed the Fall Shop Steward Training on page 3 contains an error. Shop Steward Tracy Snyder of Public Health was accidentally not listed. Congratulations to Tracy for being a graduate of the training and volunteering her time to serve as a union steward.



### YOU'RE NEEDED!

Answer the call to action . . . come join us and volunteer your time to help with the BCEA, Local 1 float. We are entering a float in the Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 12, to be held at 6:00 p.m. in Oroville. The Oroville Downtown Business Association will be judging the event. The theme of this year's festival will be "have a holly jolly Christmas."

For more information, contact Carole Kloss at 589-1832, Les Rodrigues at 538-7954, Jim Pulling at 538-6608 or Pat Stevens at 538-6222. Hope you can make it!!!

Eloise Herman



Celebrate the Christmas season  
with fellow employees and good cheer  
We're planning a Christmas open house party  
to end the year

Thursday, December 10, 2008  
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

BCEA Office  
2210 5th Avenue  
Oroville

Enjoy a Christmas buffet of trays from Raley's,  
meat balls with gravy, BBQ cocktail franks,  
sweets, and cold beverages

Refreshments will be served throughout the day



### Giving at Christmas Time

Send Christmas wishes to the homeless veterans at the Jerry Knight Transitional Housing Facility on Rio Lindo Avenue in Chico. You will be helping fight hunger in your community by joining us at BCEA, in our annual Christmas Canned Food Drive. The food barrels will be picked up by Monday, December 18. Every single donation counts! The collection stations are located at: 202 Mira Loma Drive-Public Health; 78 Table Mountain Blvd-DESS; 82 Table Mountain Blvd-Public Health; 7 County Center Drive-Public Works; 33 County Center Drive-Sheriff; 1474 Myers Street-Child Support; 2445 Carmichael Drive in Chico-DESS; and 107 Parmac Road in Chico-Behavioral Health.

***BCEA is going to match your donations!***

#### ABOUT UNIONS cont'd from page 1

The case is now being handled by the NLRB in Washington, where we can expect some action on it.

That is all for this month. I have much more to come. I also have the original newsletters, if anyone is interested in reading them.

sun	mon	tue	wed	thr	fri	sat
december 2009						
6	7	8	9 BCEA Office Closed	10 BCEA Open House Christmas Party	11	12 Lighted Christmas Parade 6:00 PM Oroville
13	14	15 PEU, Local One BOD Mtg 7:30 PM Martinez	16 BCEA, Local 1 BOD Mtg 6:00 PM Oroville	17	18 BCEA Christmas Canned Food Drive Ends	19
20	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve  Office Closed	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve  Office Closed		