

The NorthState Public Employee

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

LOCAL 1

Volume 21, Issue 1

January 2010

Local #1 represents public employees, is independent, and is run by the members

New Year - New Challenges

by Rudy Jenkins

With the New Year, BCEA faces new and some old challenges in negotiations and at the ballot box. The new state budget is supposed to be 20 billion short and with the state losing its furlough challenge, it will no doubt climb another few billion. At the ballot box, there are once again challenges to public employee's retirement formulas to create two a tired system for new employees. These tired systems would undoubtedly create problems down the road when the lower tier outnumbers the current tier employees. Despite what the newspapers are saying in their editorial, there is nothing inherently wrong with the current retirement formulas. As I stated in a previous article, it is the Wall Street greed that has created this financial mess and reduced all pension funds public and

private.

It is also election year for Butte County, Supervisors Dolan and Kirk, and all elected county positions including the Auditor, Assessor, Clerk Recorder, District Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer. BCEA will be involved in endorsing those candidates who will work with us to improve your working conditions. BCEA will be conducting candidate interviews for these positions shortly after the closing filing date of March 12.

On the brighter side, the coalition remains solid and is prepared to start negotiations with the county sometime in the latter part of March. Also, the election to determine who represents the Social Services unit begins the middle of this month and should BCEA prevail, then this unit could once again join the coalition. This would give the coalition greater bargaining power with over 1800 county employees. No longer will the county be able to play off one group against another.

The county goes into the New Year with a new interim chief administrative officer and a balanced budget for this year and the next; however, this is always subject to what will happen at the state level. We can only hope that things will turn around enough this year and not see the cuts of last year or hear the tails of doom and gloom at the Board of Supervisors meetings.

BCEA will keep you apprised of these and other issues as they affect your wages and working conditions throughout the coming year.

About Unions

by Carole Kloss

I can't help but to compare these laborer's fight with the one we are dealing with now. All folks want is fair representation without intimidation.

This is an article by R.L. (Stubby) Andreoff, President. Printed in the March 3, 1961 edition of the TRWA Liberty Call newsletter.

To the members and officers of all labor locals concerned:

This is to clarify once and for all the purpose of the Union of Tunnel and Rock Workers of America in their present fight for a certification election.

We the members who do the work required to drive tunnels and outside drilling, ask only the rights we have as American citizens and that is by secret vote to choose our own representation. Now who in these United States has the authority to deny a man his right granted by our Constitution? Well it has come to be.

We petitioned the National Labor Relations Board in the latter part of 1960 for an election. Without giving us a chance to present our case before an impartial board, one man took it upon himself to become our government. That man Gerald A. Brown, of the NLRB ruled that we were an inappropriate bargaining unit. Now what is his version of an inappropriate unit? We have never been able

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BCEA DIRECTORY

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 Website: 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

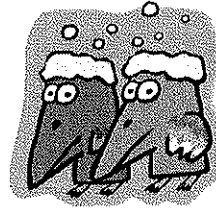
BCEA Stewards

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
 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



Inderjit Bains Behavioral Health
Barbara Yingling Assessor

Complementary Notary Services provided by Eloise between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call for an appointment at 533-8003.

Our main office in Martinez recently mailed out ballots for the BCEA MOU ratification vote. Some of them were returned because of an incorrect address and then there were some members who called and asked why they did not receive their ballot. Well, most of them forgot to notify me of a change of address. Although, these members were given a new ballot, the union needs to keep current on you so that we can make sure that you are notified when important information comes out from us.

—Eloise Herman

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

Name	Department
Tou Chanh	Public Health
Eric Gowins	Behavioral Health
Karen Jones	Development Services
Shirley Irene Koenig	DESS
Cerita Penman	Assessor
Gayle Russell	Behavioral Health
Synda Sayre	DESS
Vang Thao	Behavioral Health
Jennifer Veilleaux	Public Health
Barbara Wangberg	Clerk-Recorder

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

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to find out, but we do know one thing. Nobody ever determined that the Labor Union was appropriate. But he ruled against us. It could only mean one thing. He ruled in favor of the Laborers Union.

Now let us look at the Laborers Union. There are many officers in various locals who are dedicated men in the cause of organized labor. These men, the tunnel and rock workers hold in the highest regard. But for the last 20 years we have never had the good fortune to have been represented by but a very few men of our own choosing. They always tell us, "Well you miners are only here for maybe a year and then have to go where the next job is and we can't have a business agent for such short periods."

So what happens? They put some business agent in office who knows exactly nothing of our working conditions or how to draw up a working agreement. Now this suits the contractors just fine and in the end, every safety rule in the book is broken. Men are crippled and killed. The contractors proceed on the theory: "To hell with the miners, save the equipment."

We have tried again and again over the years to get proper representation, but to no avail because 90 percent of the business agents who represent us know about as much about our work as a curly headed Chinaman trying to use an Irish brogue.

Our health and welfare plan is entirely unsatisfactory and should be investigated. We will challenge any official of the Laborers Union connected with tunnel work to open debate on the charges we have made. That challenge includes Fourth Vice-President Lee Lalor or Charlie Robinson. If they dare to debate us on their argument as to why we should not have a union of our own. We have asked them to allow us to set up a separate branch within the Laborers Union and to that they replied that they wouldn't even consider it.

We are not as they have stated, a "bunch of radicals". If it is radical for a group of men to want only their fair and just rights

as union men, then they can call us anything they see fit. But for the benefit of anybody who is interested, this fight has only started. We will get this fair treatment we are entitled to as citizens. We will win regardless of the time, money or sacrifices involved.

Who We Are

by Gary Stucky, SYCEA Local #1 Executive Director

Public Employees Union Local #1 has launched an important media campaign to educate the general public of the essential role our members have to ensure the public's safety and well being. It is no secret that public employee jobs, wages and benefits are under attack. It is critical that the general public is reminded that county, city, school district, and special district employees are friends, neighbors, and family.

PEU Local #1 has discovered that for pennies on the dollar the union can purchase time on cable television to communicate this message. The union has already received very positive feedback on this first production, which is currently playing in media markets in the Sacramento and Bay Area next to CNN news. If you have not seen our commercial on television, you can go to <https://www.peu1.org> to view a YouTube version (the link is under the Local #1 Mission Statement). The union plans to begin work on a second commercial soon and is looking to expand into other media markets where we have members.

Martin Luther King Jr. Remembered

"We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles, rather than by the quality of our service and relationship to humanity." — Martin Luther King Jr. January 18 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed), a day to honor this man who was a principle force in the civil rights movement and a leader of moral and social progress and nonviolence.

BCEA Shop Steward Retired

Farewell to a longtime BCEA shop steward who has stepped down after many years of faithful service. Gerry Grandstaff, who retired with 32 years and 2 months working for the Assessor's Office in Chico as a Principle Property Appraiser, worked his last day with the County of Butte as of December 30, 2009. As an active BCEA member, he formerly served on the Board of Directors, the Negotiation Team and miscellaneous committees. BCEA salutes his efforts to help other workers better understand their rights and be a positive difference in the workplace. Many thanks and best wishes to Gerry in his retirement.

—Eloise Herman

Mortgage Services

by Gary Stucky, SYCEA Local #1 Executive Director

Public Employees Union Local #1 is pleased to inform our members that the Board of Directors at their November meeting approved entering into an agreement with Wells Fargo Home Loan Services to offer discounted services to our members. A wide variety of loan services and information will be made available to our members through this service, including assistance with home loans through CalPERS.

You can access additional information through the PEU Local #1 website at <http://www.peu1.org>. A mailing will also be initiated to our members in January (paid for by Wells Fargo) to inform our members of this service and the discount rates. Watch for this important information and take advantage of the value added member benefit.



See's Candy Discount

by Anna Anderson, SYCEA Local #1 Office Manager

It has come to our attention that Government employees can purchase See's Candy at a discount of \$3.90 a pound. This is for the one pound prepackaged boxes. Normally the box is \$15.60, but with the discount it will cost \$11.70 a pound.

Please be advised that this promotion is only available at the Sacramento Q. D. Shop 02109, 1009 "L" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 location and in Rancho Cordova. If you need more information, please call 916-443-4497 for further details.



The clerk advised me that there may be a price increase in January. If so, the discount would be recalculated.

HOW SWEET!

We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.
 — Martin Luther King Jr.

Holiday Cheer

by Eloise Herman

Thank you to all members, including the retirees, who stepped up this year to contribute to the Christmas Canned Food Drive delivered on December 18, 2009. Your donations put a huge smile on the homeless veterans who are housed at the Jerry Knight Transitional Housing Facility during these tough economic times. BCEA matched your donation by purchasing \$300.00 worth of tri-tip, ham, and frozen turkeys from the helpful people at the local *Cash-n-Carry* store in Chico. Thanks for being generous and caring.

In other news, the Lighted Christmas Parade that was scheduled to be held on December 12 in Oroville was canceled due to poor weather conditions.

We recently held our Annual Christmas open house party on December 10, 2009. Thanks to everyone who participated to share some holiday cheer. It was a good time to socialize with people we work with and their spouses/families.

PARTING SHOTS

- ~ Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes it comes alone.
- ~ The aging process could be slowed if it had to work its way through Congress.

sun	mon	tue	wed	thr	fri	sat
january 2010					1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed	19 PEU, Local One BOD Mtg 7:30 PM Martinez	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 BCEA, Local 1 BOD Mtg 6:00 PM Oroville	27	28	29	30
31						