

The NorthState Public Employee

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

LOCAL 1

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

County Budget Problems Worsen—More Cuts Loom

by Rudy Jenkins

At the January 6 Board of Supervisors' meeting, the former CAO announced that the 09-10 budget had a 16 million dollar hole in it. Three weeks later, BCEA has learned in negotiations that this figure has grown to 19 million and growing. At the next Board of Supervisors' meeting on February 10, the County will have a complete financial update on their budget in open session. By now, you may have heard from your respective department heads that there will be some drastic cuts coming for next year's budget. As a result of the last budget shortfall in November of ten million dollars, all vacant positions and special reserves were elimi-

nated and all new projects put on hold. The County is now talking cuts of mandatory furloughs, higher health care premiums and employees paying their portion of PERS retirement with layoffs still a distinct possibility.

The County is expected to propose the cuts after the February 10 BOS meeting, but will not have a firm proposal till the end of February. As soon as BCEA receives the County's take away proposals, we will hold a Bargaining Advisory Committee meeting at the Board of Supervisors board room. Please watch for our e-mail alert to this meeting.

Our position at the table is still a four day work week which we believe is the only humane way to deal with the budget fall. Higher health care premiums hurt the lowest paid employees and mandatory furloughs upset workers lives by not having a the ability to plan ahead. Whether the County is closed for one day a week or employees are furloughed on certain days, the public will receive the same level of service. At the end of the day, there is only a certain amount of money to provide a level of service to the public.

contracts and allows vested pension benefits to be reduced for existing and prospective public-sector retirees. Tell your friends and family not to sign this petition which is yet another attack on your retirement.

From Your President

by Jim Pulling

After all our BCEA negotiation team has suffered through during our negotiation meetings with the county, that of listening to all the take-a-ways the county has presented us and asking the county employees to pickup every penny of the health insurance increases, we get a big slap in the face. To begin with, the county is in dire straights we are told by our local government leadership, "there is absolutely no money anywhere." Next, the county asks the negotiation team for more take-a-ways, "Could we please consider taking voluntary furloughs as this will help preserve jobs in the county and prevent mandatory layoffs."

The way I see it, if we hammer out a deal for the voluntary furlough program (again losing the vacation incentive we had); I ask you, "Do you think for a minute that we won't see more job losses?" Well, I am here to tell you that if you are thinking the furloughs will prevent any more layoffs, think again folks. I believe there will be more layoffs in the near future. I think all departments will see more budget cuts. I believe that short of a cut in operating hours, the county will

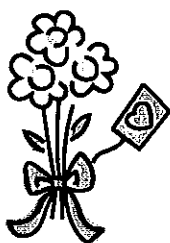
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Don't sign the Petition

by Rudy Jenkins

On January 21, the California Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced that the proponents of a new California ballot initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for a measure effecting public employee pensions. This measure eliminates State Constitutional restrictions on renegotiating public employee pension



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BCEA DIRECTORY

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 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

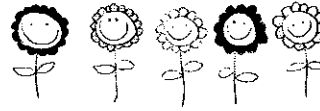
Jim Pulling, President 538-6608
 Leslie Roberts, Secretary 538-7282
 Gary Jenkins, Sergeant-at-Arms 538-7606
 Jennifer Honea, Director 538-7434
 Joe 'Ron' Hunt, Director 891-2756
 Les Rodrigues, Director 538-2158
 Pat Stevens, Director 538-6222

BCEA Stewards

Chief Shop Steward-

Jim Pulling, Treasurer 538-6608
 Doug Arnold, Public Works 538-7266
 Brett Cambra, Gridley Public Works 538-7606
 Carrie Erickson, Public Hlth 879-7408
 Stephanie Eveatt, Child Sup. Ser. 538-4317
 Christine Foreman, Chico DESS 879-3479
 Gregory 'Randy' Frieze, Probation 538-7265
 Gerry Grandstaff, Chico Assessor 891-2934
 Bill Grogan, Facilities Ser. 538-7408
 Rick Haynes, Behavioral Hlth. 538-6930
 Jennifer Honea, Sheriff 538-7322
 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
 Pat Stevens, Public Hlth. 538-6222
 Tracy Snyder, Public Hlth 532-5696
 Terri Weiss, Chico Behavioral Hlth 538-7707
 Mark Wietersen, Neal Rd. Landfill 345-2326

Welcome New BCEA Members



<i>Keith Atkinson</i>	<i>Public Works</i>
<i>Virginia Ball</i>	<i>Child Support Svcs.</i>
<i>Tim Hutcheson</i>	<i>Public Works</i>
<i>Rosalina Martinez</i>	<i>Child Support Svcs.</i>
<i>Angela Miller</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
<i>Linda Moua</i>	<i>Child Support Svcs.</i>
<i>Terrence Turenne</i>	<i>Facilities</i>
<i>Terri Weiss</i>	<i>Behavioral Health</i>
<i>Barbara Yingling</i>	<i>Assessor</i>



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

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.

BCEA Members in Need of

Catastrophic Leave Donations at this time:

Name	Department
Tara Callahan	DESS
Rosemary Mueck	DESS

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



“FROM” cont’d from page 1

find itself in a fast running river without a paddle (hold on for a wild ride). The only thing that makes any sense and is even the slightest bit of a concession the county to offset their proposals, would be to again visit a 36-hour work week. No matter what you hear from the county, I will make claim to the statement that the only real reason the county doesn't want to consider a 36-hour work week is it would not be in the best interest of the public.

I say the public has to know that we are having financial difficulties and that not just the lowest paid employees should take the brunt of the problem. We need to make the public aware that there is a solution to this problem that could have some potential benefit to the majority of the workforce. They also need to be aware that the county would like us to accept all the cuts to help them meet the budget needs and that even with the furlough and the other offers on the table, there will still be substantial layoffs in the county. These layoffs whether the county would like to admit it or not, will result in reduced public services.



Relay for Life 2009 Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back!

This year's 24 Hour Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society will be taking place the weekend of April 25-26 at Pleasant Valley High School in Chico. Last year was a huge success and we are looking forward to an even better event in 2009.

This year, Team BC is being captained by Stephanie Brown and Susie Rees from the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office and Administration - Finance and Risk Management. These energetic event planners have been meeting regularly with team members to develop a fun-filled program to educate the community about nutrition, physical fitness and cancer prevention. Team BC has been involved in Relay for Life for the past several years and we are very excited to see this year's event getting under way.



The fundraising goal for 2009 has been increased by 10% over the \$5,000.00 that Team BC raised in 2008 and 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.

The platform for Team BC this year is Nutrition, Physical Activity and Cancer and there will a number of activities offered to encourage adults and kids alike to get healthy. Some of these will help raise additional funds for the Cancer Society and everyone who participates will have a chance to win some wonderful prizes.

Relay for Life is a fun, family friendly event and we are encouraging everyone to participate by coming out to Pleasant Valley High, April 25-26 to support all the Butte County Teams. If you need more information or would like to sponsor a participant, please feel free to contact Susie Rees at 538-2551 or Stephanie Brown at 538-6462. Remember...there is no finish line until we find a cure.

Christmas Open House Party

Members enjoyed light-hearted conversation, drink, and food on December 18, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.





Kudos to the County of Butte employees who contributed to the Christmas Canned Food Drive delivered on December 15, 2008. Your donations put a huge smile on the homeless veterans who are housed at the Jerry Knight Transitional Housing Facility. BCEA matched your donations by purchasing \$308.00 worth of ham and frozen turkeys from the helpful people at the local *Cash-n-Carry* store. Pictured from left to right: three veterans; Steve Longoria, President of VECTORS; Andy Herman, volunteer; Carole Kloss, retired BCEA member; Gene Kloss, volunteer; and another veteran standing behind Mr. Longoria. Thank you members for your generosity.



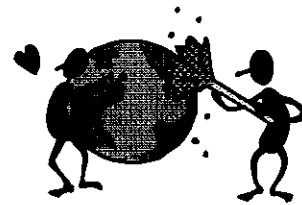
Thanks you Shop Stewards for your participation in the Leadership Training on Monday, February 2, 2009. We appreciate your dedication to excellence and the ideals you uphold. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Coming Soon . . . Shop Steward Training

BCEA, Local 1 is looking for ambitious leaders. This is your chance! We are currently recruiting for an upcoming two day training to be held tentatively in March 2009. Contact the BCEA office and get on the list.

doing it for
THE COMMUNITY
Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for participants to help with the next roadside clean up on Nelson road in Oroville one Saturday morning in March. Complimentary meal served afterwards. Please watch for a flyer for more information.



sun	mon	tue	wed	thr	fri	sat
1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Board of Supervisors Meeting Major Budget Projection	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 
15	16 President's Day 	17 PEU, Local One BOD Mtg 7:30 PM Martinez	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 BCEA, Local 1 BOD Mtg 6:00 PM Chico	25	26	27	28

february 2008