

# The NorthState Public Employee

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

**LOCAL 1**

Volume 22, Issue 1

January 2011

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

## Know your rights: safe working conditions

by Rudy Jenkins

The MOU and the law provide that the county provide you with safe working conditions. The MOU states:

### 21.01 Safe Working Conditions

When an employee has reason to believe a work assignment is in an unsafe work area or involves unsafe equipment, the employee shall report the problem to the immediate supervisor and may refuse to work in the area or use the equipment until it has been inspected by the supervisor. Should the supervisor, after such inspection, order the employee to work, the employee shall do so unless the employee believes, within reason, the work environment to be unsafe. In such instance, the employee may request the department head or assistant department head to inspect the work area. The employee will be assigned other work until

the inspection is made. The decision of the department head is final. Nothing herein shall be deemed to waive the employee's rights under CAL-OSHA.

Your right to have a safe working environment according to the MOU and the law and is enforced by the union through the grievance procedure or through CAL-OSHA. The county also has a safety officer to ensure that the county is providing safe working conditions and that all safety laws are complied with. The county's safety officer is Steve Weston and can be contacted at 538-7173.

The union often receives complaints about unsafe working conditions after the fact which it hinders the union's ability to effect a desirable resolution to the unsafe condition.

The old adage is that safety is everyone's business; this means that all county employees are responsible for a safe working environment. So if you are experiencing an unsafe working condition to either you or your fellow co-worker, it is your responsibility to report this condition immediately to the union, your supervisor or the county's safety officer.

tions runs through to Oct. 30 of 2011. The monies to pay the firm were transferred from the general fund, contingencies.

This contract appears to differ from the previous contract as in 2009-10 the firm was paid on an hourly basis and not a flat amount. BCEA has made an information request to the county as to what the total cost for the negotiator in 2009-10. We will provide you with that information in our next newsletter.

## 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 2011. Contact the BCEA office and get on the list.

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## BOS Renews Negotiators Contract

by Rudy Jenkins

At its regularly scheduled board meeting on December 14, the Butte County Board of Supervisors renewed the contract with their negotiator Jack Hughes from the firm Liebert, Cassidy and Whitmore from San Francisco to the amount of 60K. His contract for ongoing negotia-

## Happy New Year!

Like treasured ornaments, thoughts of you, our members, brighten the season and warm our hearts. We wish you all the best as we enter the new year. Happy 2011!



**BCEA DIRECTORY**

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 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 538-7322  
 Connie Alberico, Director 895-5050  
 Kelley Albright, Director 891-2999  
 Kandi Crane, Director 879-3460  
 Beth Standley, Director 538-5135  
 Pat Stevens, Director 538-6222

**BCEA Stewards  
 General Unit**

**Chief Shop Steward-**  
**Jim Pulling**, Treasurer 538-6608  
 Kelley Albright, Chico Behavioral Hlth 891-2999  
 Doug Arnold, Public Works 538-7157  
 April Blankenship, Chico Behav Health 891-2999  
 Brett Cambra, Gridley Public Works 538-7606  
 Christine Foreman, Chico DESS 879-3471  
 Stephanie Eveatt, Child Sup. Ser. 538-7414  
 H. Leon Frazier, Behavioral Hlth. 538-5216  
 Randy Frieze, Probation 879-3962  
 Rick Haynes, Behavioral Hlth. 538-6930  
 Jennifer Honea, Sheriff 538-7322  
 Gary Jenkins, Public Works 538-7606  
 Jesse Magana, Chico Public Works 891-2769  
 Brent McGurie, Chico Beh Hlth 891-2997  
 Carri Roberson, Child Sup. Ser. 538-6531  
 Les Rodrigues, Behavioral Hlth. 538-7954  
 Patricia Sanchez, Public Hlth 532-5696  
 Robin Seligman, Child Sup. Serv. 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

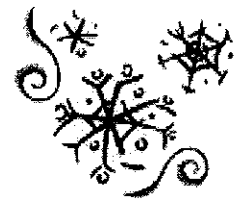
**Welcome New BCEA Members**



*Feather Main* DESS-SSW unit  
*Katherine Leasure* DESS-General unit  
*Debra Porter* DESS-SSW unit  
*Patricia Simpson* DESS-General unit  
*Christopher Suppus* DESS-SSW unit

**BCEA Stewards Cont'd  
 Social Services Workers Unit**

Debbie Chamberlin, Oroville DESS 538-3776  
 Kandi Crane, Chico DESS 879-3460  
 Joan Fedler, Chico DESS 879-3641  
 Tammy Felder, Chico DESS 879-3732  
 Pamela Jawad, Oroville DESS 538-5074  
 Jean Osborn, Chico DESS 879-3656



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

Name	Department
Susan Berry	Behavioral Health
Hollie Massie	Behavioral Health
Sandra Perez	DESS-SSW unit
Suzanne Preader	Sheriff
Donna Rogers	Behavioral Health
Molly Summerfield	Behavioral 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)

All Employee Catastrophic Leave Donation requests for publication in this newsletter is subject to the BCEA Board of Directors' policy. The policy is that: "only current dues paying BCEA members from the General unit and Social Services Workers unit qualify."

## BCEA Local 1 Website

by Jim Pulling, BCEA President and Chief Shop Steward

The BCEA Local 1 website ([www.bcealocal1.org](http://www.bcealocal1.org)) is running smoothly so far. It is a good source of information that is constantly updated. The "Contacts" page is the place to go when you have questions you need answered or for some reason need immediate assistance from a union representative. You will find there a list of all the BCEA shop stewards for both the General unit and the Social Services Workers unit. Also keep in mind if you are in a department that has both General unit and Social Services Workers unit members, either one can represent the other.

There is a "Forms" page that contains several forms such as scholarship application, grievance, catastrophic leave, complaint filing, associated membership, grant access to your personnel file, release time for union representation, and a newly added form, the hazard report. The forms are either in a PDF format or a Word 1997 - 2003 formats. I have also put the 2011 Holiday and Pay Schedule on the site under the "Resources" tab.

Also remember that if you see a potential hazard, it needs to be brought to the attention of your immediate supervisor. If for any reason you do not feel that the existing problem is being taken care of in a timely manner then by all means move it up the channels. If necessary, the Hazard Report form may be filled out and sent to our county safety officer Steve Weston. If the problem is severe enough, please make sure that you report it immediately as you may save a co-worker from a serious injury or illness. A hazard can be many things including but not limited to a common practice in your work area than could lead to a potential serious illness from a contaminated item or place in your work area. Contact with anything that is known to be contagious may not seem serious to some but it is possible that an individual could take the contagious illness home to a family member that may not have the immune system to fight that illness and could result in hospitalization or a worse outcome.

Anyway, I wanted to share the nuts and bolts of the efforts being made on our website.

## Keep Us Up to Date

If your name, your work location or your contact info changes, please let us know. You can email the information to [bcea-gcea@onemain.com](mailto:bcea-gcea@onemain.com). Thanks for your cooperation.



If you haven't already received a free BCEA, Local One 2011 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 Scholarships

Graduating Seniors please apply on line at [www.bcealocal1.org](http://www.bcealocal1.org) or call our office for an application.

Who's eligible? Children, grandchildren or legal wards of our member's family who are pursuing secondary education. How much free money? The actual amount of the award depends on the availability of funds and the number of entrants.

**Applicants must have their paperwork into BCEA, Local 1 office by Friday, March 25, 2011.**

## 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 April (9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with weather permitting). Complimentary meal served afterwards. We will keep you posted.



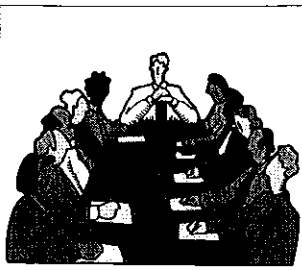
## GIVE BLOOD, SAVE A LIFE.

Why is your blood needed? The blood supply continually needs to be replenished. Only 38% of Americans are eligible to give blood and of those only 8% do. That amounts to only about 3% out of every 100 people.

Butte Community  
BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, February 8, 2011  
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
BloodSource Building  
555 Rio Lindo Avenue, Chico

For more information, please contact  
[BloodSource@1-800-995-4420](mailto:BloodSource@1-800-995-4420)



**REMINDER:** Please try and attend one of our Board of Directors meetings held every fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. They are usually at the Union Hall in Oroville (2210 5th Ave). Every third month we have them in Chico (*new location: Round Table Pizza, 2027 Forest Avenue, Chico*). Our Union aims to be visible to its members. Please come and introduce yourself to us, we will be happy to answer any questions or address your concerns. We look forward to seeing you there.



Helping BCEA deliver the food to VECTORS, standing on the left: Dan Wilson and Gene Kloss.

Kudos to the many BCEA members and friends who contributed to the Christmas Canned Food Drive delivered on December 16, 2010. Your donations put a huge smile on the homeless veterans who are housed at the Jerry Knight Transitional Housing Facility in Chico. BCEA matched your donations by purchasing hams and frozen turkeys from the helpful people at the local *Cash-n-Carry* store.

Again, thank you very much, as this donation would not exist if it wasn't for the generosity of you. This is a very meaningful way to honor our vets.

— Eloise Herman

sun	mon	tue	wed	thr	fri	sat
january 2011						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  Office Closed	18 PEU, Local One BOD Mtg 7:30 PM Martinez	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 BCEA, Local 1 BOD Mtg 6:00 PM Oroville	26	27	28	29
30	31					