

# The NorthState Public Employee

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

**LOCAL 1**

Volume 20, Issue 2

March 2009

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

## Union Coalition Meets with County Negotiators

by Rudy Jenkins

On Friday, March 6, BCEA along with BCMEA, CWA, PEA, and BCPOA will meet with County negotiators to try and help save County jobs. As you may have already heard or read that the Board of Supervisors cut only the vacant positions at their March 3 meeting and did not act on the 50 layoffs or fire station closures. The County claims that they have an 18 million budget deficit for next year 2009-10. Had the BOS acted on all of the proposed cuts, it would have saved approximately 11 million for next year and an additional 2 million for this year. This would have left the County with an additional five million hole to fill come June, of which a million from the stimulus package could be used making just a four

million problem for next year. These figures all depend on how much lower the sales tax and property tax falls, any more cuts in the State's May Revise Budget and the outcome of the special election in May to enact the previous State Budget. We are certainly not out of the woods by any means. The BOS is to reconvene their budget reduction proposal at their March 24 meeting at 1:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. with proposals for the county's Unions to save County jobs. As soon as BCEA has any concrete proposals for our members to consider, we will have a Bargaining Advisory Committee meeting which all members are welcome to discuss these proposals.

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sake and for our sake."

~ Cesar Chavez

## About Unions

by Carole Kloss



In honor of St. Patrick's day, I am writing about the Irish in the American Labor Movement and their sacrifices when they came to this country to escape the famine in their country and the hardships they suffered while trying to provide for their families in this country.

In the 1840's, the great Famine devastated Ireland and sent hundreds of thousands of immigrants to America. Most of the Irish settled in industrial cities where they were subject to many casualties. They labored at backbreaking jobs, lived in overcrowded tenements, were practically owned by company "bosses" and their children were deprived of an education because they had to toil in mines and sweatshops. Irish Americans

"ABOUT" continued on page 3

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| BCEA Directory     | 2 |
| New Members        | 2 |
| Catastrophic Leave | 2 |
| Relay for Life     | 3 |
| Announcements      | 4 |
| Calendar           | 4 |



## Coming Soon . . . Shop Steward Training

1st Session: **Wednesday, March 25th**  
2nd Session: **Wednesday, April 1st**

Both sessions to be held at BCEA, Local 1 Office, 2210 5th Avenue, Oroville at 5:30 p.m. **You must attend both sessions!**

This Shop Steward Training is for any member who wishes to better their knowledge regarding grievances. A light dinner will be served before the training gets under way. This training will be given by Supervising Business Agent Karen Anthony out of our Martinez office. We are currently recruiting for the upcoming two day training. Contact the BCEA office and get on the list.

**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      | 538-7434 |
| Joe 'Ron' Hunt, Director       | 891-2756 |
| Pat Stevens, Director          | 538-6222 |

**BCEA Stewards**

**Chief Shop Steward-**

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Jim Pulling</b> , 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 |

"The fight is never about grapes or lettuce. It is always about people." ~ Cesar Chavez

*Welcome New BCEA Members*



|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Jessica Bradley</i>   | <i>Auditor-Controller</i> |
| <i>Nicholas Hoekstra</i> | <i>Development Svcs.</i>  |
| <i>Richard Ogden</i>     | <i>Behavioral Hlth.</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.



It is with much sadness that we must tell our members that long time BCEA member Susan Butler passed away. Susan was honored and remembered at a beautiful memorial on Monday, March 2 at the St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church in Oroville. Susan worked as an Account Clerk, Senior for the Employment and Social Services Administrative unit. Rest in Peace dear Sister Susan.



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

| <b>Name</b>    | <b>Department</b> |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Kimberly Algea | DESS              |
| Keith Homes    | DESS              |
| Rosemary Mueck | DESS              |
| Terri Weiss    | Behavioral Health |
| Alice Zavala   | 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)

“ABOUT” continued from page 1

had become masters of their destiny through the revolts against the old regime of labor cruelty and child labor. Many Irish-Americans such as the Mollie Maguires, Terence Powderly, and Mother Jones changed the course of the American labor society forever.

One of the earliest revolutionary groups Irish Americans were the Mollie Maguires. The Mollie Maguires was a secret, inside ring which controlled the lodges of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. They appeared in the U.S. in 1852. The Maguires opposed the draft of the Civil War, were important factors in local politics, and murdered and maltreated mine owners and bosses throughout Pennsylvania. The men whom the Mollies picked as their victims were often cruel and callous bosses who exploited the miners on every opportunity.

Miners were often paid by the amount of coal they produced. Miners were forced to live in company homes and buy groceries at a company store. Children were employed in the breaker room where they separated slate from coal and broke up the larger lumps. The Mollie Maguires became the means by which the miners could carry out their outrage against such working conditions.

The mine operators decided to strike back, so they hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency. The agency chose a young Irishman named James McPharland who changed his name to McKenna and went to Pottsville, Pennsylvania to begin his work. McPharland was accepted by the Irish mining community. There he acquired specific names and addresses of the members of the Mollie Maguires. Finally, a railroad conductor discovered he was a detective and McPharland left town and took his evidence with him.

Nineteen men were hanged for their crimes and others received long jail sentences. The Molly Maguires lost much of their influence and never again were an important part of the Irish coal mining community in Pennsylvania. The Mollie Maguires influenced the labor movement by proposing change. Even though they were on the violent side, they clearly let The “bosses” know that change would have to take place for them to continue

working. They gave the labor movement its first push into action and gave warning that drastic changes will take place.

The most noteworthy of all Irish-American labor leaders was Terence Vincent Powderly. He was born in Carbondale, Pennsylvania to Irish immigrant parents. Powderly was a railroad worker at the age of thirteen and later became a machinist. In 1871, he joined the Machinists' and Blacksmiths, national union and soon became its president.

Three years later, Powderly joined the secret organization called the Knights of Labor. The Knights developed into the largest and most influential force in the American labor movement. Powderly then rose to the head and was given the title “Grand Master Workman.” He held this position from 1879-1893. Under Powderly's direction, the Knights of Labor reached their peak of power in 1886 when the membership totaled one million. As working conditions became more harsh, the organization faltered along with the entire labor movement. At the turn of the century, the movement had gotten stronger with the appearance of the American Federation of Labor (AFL). No longer a dominant figure in the labor movement, Powderly spent his last years working for the AFL.

An exceptional and effective Socialist woman union organizer was an Irish woman named Mary Harris Jones, also known as “Mother Jones.” Mother Jones had a great impact on the labor movement in America. She was born in Cork, Ireland in 1830 and came to America in 1835. She married George Jones who was a member of the Iron Moulders Union and an organizer for the Knights of Labor in the southern and southwestern coal fields. In 1867, yellow fever struck the Jones's and all four children and their father died. The death of George Jones gave Mary the burning desire to continue his work in the union. In 1882, she took part in her first coal strike in Hocking Valley, Ohio. But her deepest interest was in taking part in the struggles of the United Mine Workers of America. It was a vigorous and rapidly growing union that was what made Mother

Jones a labor leader.

Before Mother Jones' actions, mine workers were subject to fourteen hour work days and the companies owned everything, from the miners, shacks and stores right down to their churches. The companies even believed that they owned the miners.

From the beginning of her involvement in the union until she was almost one hundred years old, Mother Jones was where the danger was the greatest. Crossing militia lines, spending weeks in damp prisons, unconcerned under the wrath of governors, presidents and coal operators, she helped organize the United Mine Workers with the only tools she ever used, “Confidence and a voice.” In closing, I would like to share an Irish blessing with you:

These things I warmly wish to you ~  
 Someone to love  
 Some work to do  
 A bit o' sun  
 A bit o' cheer  
 And a guardian angel always near.



## 24 HOUR RELAY FOR LIFE

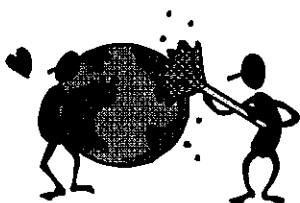
This year's 24 Hour Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society will be taking place the weekend of April 25-26 at Pleasant Valley High School in Chico.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and its success is based on the participation of many energetic, 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. Everyone who participates will have a chance to win some wonderful prize.

If you are interested in joining a team or would like to sponsor a participant, please feel free to contact Susie Rees at 538-2551 or Stephanie Brown at 538-6462 for more information. Remember . . . there's no finish line until we find a cure.

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. Complimentary meal served afterwards. Please watch for a flyer for more information.



**BCEA Scholarships**



**Graduating Seniors  
please apply on line at  
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.

**Applications must have their paperwork into the BCEA,  
Local 1 office by Friday, April 10, 2009.**



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| sun                               | mon   | tue  | wed  | thr | fri              | sat |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|-----|------------------|-----|
| 1                                 | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5   | 6                | 7   |
| 8<br>Daylight Savings Time Begins | 9   | 10   | 11   | 12  | 13               | 14  |
| 15                                | 16  | 17 St. Pat's Day<br>PEU, Local One<br>BOD Mtg<br>7:30 PM<br>Martinez | 18   | 19  | 20 Spring Begins | 21  |
| 22                                | 23  | 24 BCEA, Local 1<br>BOD Mtg<br>6:00 PM<br>Oroville                   | 25 Shop Steward<br>Training<br>5:30 P.M.<br>Session 1                                | 26  | 27               | 28  |
| 29                                | 30 PEU, Local One<br>Staff Meeting<br>BCEA Office<br>Closed | 31 Cesar Chavez Day  |  |     |                  |     |

march 2009