



The NorthState Public Employee

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

LOCAL 1

Volume 20, Issue 8

September 2009

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

Benefit Review Committee

by Rudy Jenkins

BCEA representatives attended the Benefits Review Committee meeting on Thursday, September 3, to hear about increased Delta Dental rates and lower rates for the life insurance, long term disability, and the voluntary AD&D. The county's insurance carrier, Driver Alliant, presented and explained the reasons for these new rates. The Delta Dental rate is expected to rise 10% and the county can save as much as 100k by switching the other insurances to either ING (a Danish Company) or Sun Life, both which have a three year rate guarantee. Driver Alliant is looking into other companies for our dental plan but have not yet received any quotes. The committee will be meeting in the very near future to look at these other plans and bring them for your review.

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Social Services Workers Petition for BCEA Representation

by Rudy Jenkins

The very same day the Social Services Workers overwhelming turned down a dreadful contract offer (52 yes to 185 no), BCEA received a petition to have BCEA start the process to represent them. These workers were extremely upset on how their union bolted from the coalition without telling them and cut a secret deal with the county without any direction from the membership.

After two meetings with the workers in Chico and Oroville, BCEA has begun the process to decert these workers from their current union, the Communication Workers of America. BCEA is now in the process of petitioning the county to have a secret ballot election to determine who will represent them. We will bring you updated information on BCEA's progress in helping these workers get the proper representation they need.

Retiree Pension and Health Care Benefits

by Jim Gregg, RPEA

The good news is that retirees have so far dodged the bullets of legislation concerning our pensions and health care benefits in these dire economic times. The bad news is that our critics are still out there pedaling false or half truths and distortions.

What follows are some interesting facts

to counter the bad news critics:

1. The average monthly pension for PERS retirees is about \$23,808 per year.
2. 78% of CalPERS retirees receive annual benefits of \$36,000 or less which is hardly the windfall that the governor and other anti-public employee critics write about.
3. It is true that about 1% of retirees receive more than \$100,000 per year. However, they are not typical retirees but were high paid senior executives at cities, counties, police and fire departments, state university presidents and physicians who worked a very long time before retirement.
4. It is also true that PERS funds are down 23.4% in the last one year period but the fund has recently recovered by \$20 billion to \$180.9 billion this year. Even with last year's decline PERS still has posted a 20 year investment return of 7.75%.
5. Retirees are tax payers, too. Studies done in 2006 showed that statewide, retiree pension dollars generated more than \$11 billion in economic activity, including \$778 million in state and local taxes.

It is hard working people like you that make our community and country great. We thank you for your contributions to our community.

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
 Pat Stevens, Director 538-6222

BCEA Stewards

Chief Shop Steward-

Jim Pulling, Treasurer 538-6608
 Kelley Albright, Chico Beh Hlth 891-2999
 Doug Arnold, Public Works 538-7157
 Brett Cambra, Gridley Public Works 538-7606
 Carrie Erickson, Child Sup. Serv. 538-6978
 Stephanie Eveatt, Child Sup. Ser. 538-7414
 Christine Foreman, Chico DESS 879-3479
 H. Leon Frazier, Behavioral Hlth. 538-5216
 Gregory 'Randy' Frieze, Probation 538-7265
 Bill Grogan, Facilities Ser. 538-7408
 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

Name	Dept
Robert Barth	Child Support Svcs.
Heather Gomes	Public Health
Aneesah Jamal	Public Health
Stephanie Price	DESS
Kevin Roberts	Sheriff

**BE OUR GUEST
 BCEA, LOCAL 1
 ANNUAL PICNIC**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Oroville Lake Fore Bay
 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Everything is **FREE**
 (including the parking)

Bring your family for a day of food and fun.

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

Name	Department
Kimberly Algea	Administration
Tou Chanh	Public Health
Kally Gillis	Environmental Health
Janis Griffiths	District Attorney
Patricia Prichard	Child Support Svcs
Katheryn Santos	DESS
Jennifer Veilleaux	Public Health

To donate vacation or compensatory time, complete the Catastrophic Leave Donation forms available from our Shop Stewards, the BCEA office, or Human Resources-Payroll.

About Unions

by Carole Kloss

A few years ago Gene and I were on vacation visiting old friends in Colorado Springs who we knew from our Army days, then drove down to El Paso to visit another couple we met in the Army. On the drive down on Highway 25 south, I noticed a sign that said "Ludlow Massacre." As we were on a time schedule and did not stop, I wrote it in the little notebook I keep in the car so I can remember to research interesting places when I get home. As I am an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota and have family ties to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota where the Wounded Knee Massacre occurred in 1890, the sign particularly interested me because I thought it was a site where an American Indian Massacre had taken place. One of my relatives, Buddy LaMonte, was buried in the Wounded Knee Cemetery. He was killed in the 1973 Wounded Knee incident. As it turned out, it was not a massacre concerning the American Indians but 20 innocent men, women and children who had their lives cut short because coal mining companies in Colorado used brutality and repression to bully working families in the coal mines.

Looking up the Ludlow Massacre on the internet, I found what was called the bloodiest event in the southern Colorado Coal Strike. The coal miners organized and asked their employers for things such as:

- Recognition of the union as bargaining agent;
- An increase in tonnage rates (equivalent to a 10% wage increase);
- Enforcement of the eight-hour work day law;
- Payment for "dead work" (laying track, timbering, handling impurities, etc.);
- Weight-checkmen elected by the workers (to keep company weightmen honest);
- The right to use any store, and choose their boarding houses and doctors;
- Strict enforcement of Colorado's laws (such as mine safety rules, abolition

such as mine safety rules, abolition of scrip), and an end to the dreaded company guard system.

The major coal companies rejected the demands and in September 1913, the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) went on strike. The strike went on for months: it was cruel and many people lost their lives. The last battle on April 20, 1914, Colorado militiamen, coal company guards, and thugs hired as private detectives and strike breakers shot and burned to death 20 people, including a dozen women and small children. Later, investigations revealed that kerosene had intentionally been poured on the tents to set them ablaze. The miners had dug foxholes in the tents so the women and children could avoid the bullets that randomly were shot through the tent colony by company thugs. The women and children were found huddled together at the bottoms of their tents. Their deaths became a rallying cry for the UMWA, who called the incident the "Ludlow Massacre."

A monument erected by the UMWA stands today in Ludlow, Colorado in remembrance of the brave and innocent souls who died for freedom and human dignity. In December, 2008, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the Ludlow site as a National Historic Landmark. "This is the culmination of years of work by UMWA members, retirees and staff, as well as many hundreds of ordinary citizens who have fought to preserve the memory of this brutal attack on workers and their families," UMWA International President Cecil E. Roberts said.

"The tragic lessons from Ludlow still echo throughout our nation, and they must never be forgotten by Americans who truly care about workplace fairness and equality," Roberts said. "With this designation, the story of what happened at Ludlow will remain part of our nation's history. That is as it should be." The dedication ceremony was held at Ludlow on June 28, 2009.

I have only touched on the basics: I hope it is interesting enough for you to do some internet searches. Two men I didn't mention, Major Patrick J. Ham-

rock and Lieutenant K.E. Linderfelt, were in charge of the militia that carried out the brutal and savage atrocities of the Ludlow Massacre against the coal miners and their families. It came as no surprise to read that Major Hamrock served in the 7th U.S. Cavalry when it massacred Sitting Bull's ghost dancers at Wounded Knee in South Dakota in 1890.

Time for our Annual Elections

by Eloise Herman

BCEA, Local 1 members are voting by mail ballot this month on the five open positions on the BCEA Board of Directors. Members running are:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| * Bob Buckner | Assessor |
| * Jennifer Honea | Sheriff |
| * Linda Madison | Beh. Hlth. |
| * Lesley Roberts | Env. Hlth. |
| * Beth Standley | DESS |
| * Pat Stevens | Public Hlth. |

PEU, Local 1 is also holding elections this month for their general officers. Their general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, September 22 in Martinez.

We have shifted our general membership meeting, where the secret ballots will be counted, from our normal fourth Tuesday of the month to Wednesday, September 23, at 6:00 P.M. at the BCEA office in Oroville.

Members in good standing should have received two ballots in the mail. One for the PEU vote and another for the BCEA vote. For those members who have not received a ballot, you can get a replacement ballot by contacting the BCEA office. It's important to keep your address current.

Dates to remember:

Sept. 18: Last ballots accepted for PEU elections.

Sept. 23: Last ballots accepted for BCEA elections at 6:00 P.M.

Remember, every member of BCEA has a responsibility when it comes to voting. You have a voice, and you are expected to use it: it is those that participate that run the union.

Coming Soon . . . Shop Steward Training

1st Session: **Wednesday, October 28**
2nd Session: **Wednesday, November 4**

Both sessions to be held at **BCEA, Local 1 Office, 2210 5th Ave., Oroville at 5:30 P.M.**

This Shop Steward Training is for any member who wishes to better their knowledge regarding layoffs. 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.

Amusement Park Tickets for Sale

<u>Member Prices</u>	<u>General Admission</u>
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Tickets available through BCEA office :

<i>Discovery Kingdom</i>	\$ 27.00	\$ 29.99
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Tickets available through Martinez Office :

Phone Number 1 (800) 585-0054 or (925) 228-1600

<i>Disneyland</i>		
2 day, 10-up	\$138.00	\$143.00
2 day, 3-9	\$119.00	\$123.00
<i>Legoland</i>	\$ 45.00	\$ 63.00
<i>Great America 7 & up</i>	not sure	
<i>Universal Studios</i>	\$ 57.00	\$ 67.00

(Tickets purchased through Martinez Office will be mailed out through the U.S. Postal Service. Allow 2 weeks to receive.)

Sorry, we cannot accept checks.

Complementary Notary Services provided by Eloise between the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Please call for an appointment at 533-8003.

sun	mon	tue	wed	thr	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9 BCEA Office Closed Staff Meeting Sacramento	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 BCEA Picnic 11:00 AM Fore Bay Oroville Lake
20	21	22 Autumn Begins PEU, Local One Gen Member Mtg 7:30 PM Martinez	23 BCEA, Local 1 Gen Member Mtg 6:00 PM Oroville	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	 <i>september 2009</i>		