

NEWS UPDATE



Representing Public Employees in City of Colusa, Sutter and Yuba Counties

Volume XXI, Issue IV

April 2006

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Mission Statement

To represent and assist public employees in their quest to improve their wages and working conditions and to ensure their rights are protected.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Last year the CIPELC Board of Directors decided to review the service contract of lobbyist and Executive Director, Karen Keeslar. Ms. Keeslar had served in this capacity for many years and the CIPELC Board felt obligated to review her contract to determine if the amount being charged by Ms. Keeslar was competitive. While this was a prudent and responsible action, Ms. Keeslar was offended and decided to terminate her contract with CIPELC. Unfortunately, Ms. Keeslar's actions subsequently have served to divide the CIPELC organizations. While the independent organizations continue to communicate with one another through other organizations, they have decided not to work collectively on legislative matters at this time.

Public Employees Union, Local #1 has acted decisively to assure that our members voice is still heard in Sacramento. The funds used to help support CIPELC have been redirected to employ our own Legislative

Director, Julia Jenkins. Ms. Jenkins has already begun monitoring legislation that affects our members and is keeping us informed about developments in Sacramento.

Ms. Jenkins, "Politics is my passion. I began my political career precinct walking for Local #1 when I was about 10 years old with my father. I obtained my B A in Communication with an emphasis in Journalism from Saint Mary's College in Moraga, CA. I worked for the Muscular Dystrophy Association as a fundraiser and event planner for 2 years before returning to graduate school at San Francisco State University to work on my Masters in Political Science. Last year I worked for House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi as an intern and then as staff to serve the constituents of the 8th Congressional District in addition to working with the San Francisco Democratic Party and the Alliance for a Better

California to defeat Schwarzenegger's initiatives in the special election. I believe in the political process and know that motivating our members into political action is vital to protecting the rights of all workers and making



Julia Jenkins
Legislative Director

California a better place."

Under the new legislative program, our members will be kept informed and will be asked to communicate with legislators about matters that affect them. We look forward to your involvement and support.

**National
Public Health
Week
April 3, 2006
to
April 9, 2006**

Healthy Infant and Toddler Safety Fair

For Parents

April 5th & 6th
10 AM—4 PM

YUBA COUNTY ONE STOP

**Beckwourth Room
1114 Yuba Street
Marysville**

View the Informational
Videos and Educational
Displays to become
eligible for

DOOR PRIZES And SAFETY ITEMS

Sponsored by
Yuba County Health and
Human Services
Department, Public Health
Division

For information call-
741-6466

Sutter County Walk for Fun and Fitness

**Saturday, April 8th at
the Yuba Sutter Mall
from 8:00—10:00 am**

After the walk, stop by
the Public Health
Department for-

***Bike Rodeo
Free Immunizations
Shoot Hoops
Madame Zolie
Boat Safety
Izzy the Bear
Bright Futures
WIC and more.....!***

CHILD WELFARE CASELOAD REDUCTION—AB 2193

AB 2193, by Assembly Members Bass and Cohn, pertains to child welfare services. This measure is set for hearing on April 4 in Assembly Human Services Committee.

Specifically, **AB 2193** would phase in new caseload standards for child welfare service workers over a five-year period commencing with the 2006-07 fiscal year and will fully implement those standards by the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year.

In 1998, SB 2030 was signed and enacted into law, directing the California Department of Social Services to contract for a study on state child welfare services workload. The study was released in 2000 and the following year, CSAC supported legislation to

implement the new child welfare services worker to child ratios. The standards used to determine child welfare social worker caseloads at that time were nearly 20 years old. The legislation was not enacted and current standards are now over 20 years old and social worker caseloads are exceedingly high.

Demographic and other societal changes as well as changes in child welfare policy have made it extremely difficult for social workers to keep pace with workload and the needs of clients. Child welfare has seen a significant increase in drug use, family violence, and family dysfunction. These issues have exacerbated the complexity and severity of the problems

that face the children and families served by our child welfare system. New, often unfunded state laws, regulations, and court decisions further strain social workers in meeting various mandates. As a result, social workers today face tremendous hardship in meeting workload demands within a complex child welfare system.

Committing resources to better caseload standards will improve the child welfare system. California can achieve its desired outcomes in child welfare—safety, permanency, and well-being—with a strategic investment in the social workers who are vital to providing services.

To contact your legislators regarding AB 2193-

Senator Sam Aandestad
State Capitol
Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-4004

**Assemblymember
Rick Keene**
State Capitol
Room 6027
Sacramento, CA
94249-0003
(916) 319-2003

**Assemblymember
Doug La Malfa**
State Capitol
Room 4177

Or email them at:

senator.aandestad@sen.ca.gov

assemblymember.keene@assembly.ca.gov

assemblymember.lamalfa@assembly.ca.gov



HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT

BY MARIE F. CLARK, BUSINESS AGENT

Two years ago, a new health care insurance program became available. Also referred to as a health savings account, this type of health insurance may only be good for some Americans. The health savings account requires people to pay more of their own medical expenses in exchange for a tax benefit if they set aside money for that purpose. It is a two-part arrangement. One that is less expensive, but cost at least a few thousand dollars upfront before the coverage begins, combined with a special investment account into which they and sometimes their employers may save money tax-free for current or future medical expenses. Currently this tax-free savings only applies to Federal taxes and not California State taxes. Some think this will curb the cost of increasing health care costs, although this type of health insurance is too new to make a definite conclusion at this time.

According to a recent study, the people that benefit from this health savings account are wealthy and in good health. The average American cannot afford to set money aside to pay for this type of health insurance, let alone the co-payment cost of

hospitalization. The health savings account does not tell you that there are costs that a regular insurance company would have paid, but the health savings account does not pay. This leaves many paying over and above what they would have normally paid if they had stayed with the standard health insurance. This is definitely something to consider if one does not have a large savings and does not want to possibly lose more than what may be considered a short-term savings by having the health savings account type of insurance.

A survey by the Employee Benefits Research Institute found that people who were under the health savings account plan were more likely to delay or avoid health care when they were ill. The total cost comparison between the standard health insurance plan and the health savings account is approximately between \$200.00 to \$2,000.00 less for the health savings account, but the deductible costs to you is at least \$1,700.00 to \$2,300.00 more for the health savings account. Under these plans the employee's annual exposure is also increased significantly to over \$5,000 per year. The

people going into the health savings account may very well be finding that they will end up paying out a lot more than originally anticipated especially if a catastrophic event happens in their life such as a serious accident!

In addition, it is important to remember that standard health insurance programs, which provide basic group coverage, are supported through insurance premiums paid by all, whether they are older, younger, in good health or not in good health. If people pull out of these standard health insurance plans and transfer into health saving accounts, the cost will rise for those left in the standard health care. Eventually, the costs will continue to force more and more into less desirable alternatives and undermine group insurance entirely.

Please be advised that when you have the option to choose between a standard health insurance plan and the health savings account, take the time to weigh the pros and cons very carefully.

National Child Abuse

Prevention Month

Casa de Esperanza, Inc.
HANDS ACROSS THE BRIDGE

Sunday, April 23
1:00 PM

It shouldn't hurt to be a child!

From Yuba City Town Center across the 5th Street Bridge to Veteran's Park in Marysville. 674-5400



Insurance Serving You in
the Marysville & Yuba
City Communities

AAA Insurance provides the same peace of mind and responsive service you've come to expect from us. We offer a wide range of products.

*Auto Homeowners
Motorcycle
Life and Annuities*

And don't forget the many benefits of AAA Membership, including America's best Emergency Road Service.

Join AAA now & it is \$17 off enrollment!

Members of Public Employees Union Local #1 can go to www.aaa.com & enter promotional code 184b

or call 1 800 564-6222.



Freedom from Smoking

Register Today for No-Cost Classes

Quit Smoking
Quit Chewing
Make a Plan that Works for You
Nationally Recognized Program
Taught by a Certified Facilitator
Attendance Required for Insurance Approval of Cessation Aids

Orientation:
Wednesday, April 5th,
Planning:
Wednesday, April 12th

Call Now to Register & Get All the Information 749-6465

Funded by funds received from the Tobacco Tax Health Provision Act of 1988-Proposition 99, under Grant 89-97947 with the California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section.

YCEA NEGOTIATIONS


Over the last several months we have been preparing for negotiations in Yuba County. Development of a draft Master Labor Agreement to replace the current merit system rules and rules on compensation and benefits, selection and training of the YCEA Negotiation Committee, development of our proposal package and collection of information to support our position. The stage is now set to begin negotiations once we finalize a few logistical details.

The workload at the Association Office has been excessive over the last few months, which has put us a little behind the targeted start date, but there is still sufficient time to complete our negotiations before the expiration of our current contract. Unlike prior years, the State is not looming over the County ready to grab local funding to balance their own budget and County officials have acknowledged that there is a need to improve the County's standing in the local labor market.

We wish to inform the members in the Professional Unit that while she appreciated the show of support by her Unit members, Reem Burris felt her workload at CPS would not allow her to perform adequately on the Negotiations Committee. Therefore, Deborah Biersteker who received the next highest vote count in the Committee election has been moved into that alternate position. We are also

membership meetings and participation has been fantastic. As we continue with this process your continued support is vital to your Committee's success and our ability to secure a fair and equitable contract. Please watch for communications regarding the status of negotiations and what you can do to show support for your Committee. One thing that we will be asking our Site

Representatives and Negotiations Committee members to do is to hold "Brown Bag" lunches in the workplace in order to answer questions and seek your feedback. We encourage you to take the time to attend these meetings as an active way to show your support.



Please make sure that your Member Survey is returned no later than **Friday, April 7.**

seeking one member from the Office/Clerical Unit and two members from the Supervisory Unit to serve as alternates on the Negotiations Committee.

Thanks again to the many members who have been involved in the preparation for negotiations with the County. Your attendance at

THANKS !!! – SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING!

REGISTER TO VOTE

You can go to the Secretary of State website under the ELECTIONS AND VOTERS INFORMATION section and register to vote online or print out the form and mail it.

www.ss.ca.gov/

You can also get the forms from the Association office or your county's elections department.



You have until May 22 to register for the June Primary and if you have moved, you need to REREGISTER.

Plan to VOTE and voice your opinion!!

TCSIG ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SCEA Board of Directors feels it is important to inform our members of the County's representatives on the Tri-County Schools Insurance Group (TCSIG) Employee Benefits Advisory Committee. The Sutter County members of the committee are:

Alma Amaya-Matta
Social Services
Staff Services
Analyst
822-7230 Ext. 292

Pasqua Halter
Sutter County
Personnel Analyst
822-7113

Jeff Hartman
Live Oak Fire
Department
Lieutenant
695-3522

Greg Zambiec
Sutter County Sheriff's
Department
Sergeant
822-7307

If you have concerns or issues that you would like them to present for TCSIG's consideration, please communicate directly with these representatives. Please make sure you send a copy of any correspondence to the Association.

If you ask the committee members, maybe they will have an email address where you can write to them and copy in the Association at local1@sycea.org.

Know Your Rights!

Will you be prepared when crisis arises due to unforeseen events that may happen in the course of an employee's career?

Nobody wants to find themselves in a position that warrants disciplinary action but sometimes no matter how good of an employee you see yourself as, circumstances happen that may be beyond your control.

If you are called into a meeting with your supervisor or a department head, you usually will not have time to prepare your thoughts and answer questions in the most appropriate way. You may be asked to sign something. You may be interviewed or investigated or asked to do something that may not be in your best interest. Will you be prepared? Do you know that you have the right to ask if the purpose of the meeting is investigatory and if it could lead to discipline, reprimand or dismissal? Do you know that at that point you can ask for union representation to be present and have the meeting rescheduled? Do you know

that if you request union representation and it is denied, you have the right to refuse to answer any questions that could be used against you. Do you know that you should NOT refuse to attend the meeting or it may be considered insubordination?

Will you be prepared to fight for your rights? Check out the website **Know Your Rights** page and be prepared!

"Administrative professionals have always been valuable assets to their employers," said Kay Enlow CPS/CAP, 2005-2006 president of the **International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP)**. "In today's high tech, fast-paced workplaces, they perform vital roles as communications hubs, office organizers, problem solvers, and contributors on project teams. They are 'creating excellence' every day by taking pride in doing quality work and in their efforts to upgrade their knowledge and skills through continuing education and training. **Administrative Professionals Week** is an opportunity for employers to recognize the workplace contributions of administrative staff and support their professional development." - **Administrative Professionals Week, April 23-29, 2006**

ATTRACTION TICKET SALES

Please phone the office at 674-0185 to make sure someone is available to sell you the tickets and to check availability of the tickets you are requesting.

Tickets will not be sold on Fridays!

Great America
Age 7 & up

\$31.00

Disneyland/Martinez
3 day Office
Age 10-up
\$ 136.10

3 day
Ages 3-9

\$ 109.10

Universal Studios
\$ 42.00

Marine World
\$ 25.99

Water World
Conc/SAC
\$ 17.99

We also plan on having SunSplash tickets this year!

We have the Great Amercia & Marine World tickets NOW.

Please plan ahead so you don't miss out.



SCEA
Executive Officers

Kurt Schoenwald
President

Gary Bengs
Vice President

Lorie Thomas
Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Summers
Past President

Directors

Michael Berry
Agriculture Dept.

Lisa Berry
Assessor's (at large)

Gail Gould
Community Services

Terry Barber
Child Support Services

Shara Hunter
Facility Management
(at large)

Alice Williams-Root
Health Department

Cyndi McClellan
Housing Authority

Sylvia Oakley
Library (at large)

Robert Ahu
Mental Health

Ginny Tolliver
Office of Revenue
Collection

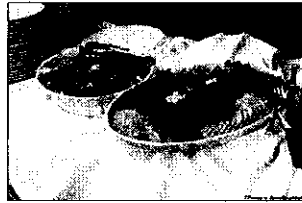
Joy Hopking
Public Works

Lesley Pitts
Public Works
(Alternate)

Verena Garvin
Social Services Dept.

Danette Able
Superior Court

OUR SPONSORS



Sizzler Restaurants

872 Onstott Road

Yuba City—673-1458

Salad Bar/Sunday Brunch Buck (\$1.00 off)



Barris Printing

409 Fourth Street

Marysville

10% discount on printing services

749-8851

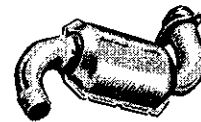
Muffler Masters

2069 Live Oak Blvd.

Yuba City

10% discount on services and parts

674-7030



Casa Carlos

413 Sixth Street

Marysville

742-7793



Sierra Central Credit Union

820 Plaza Way

Yuba City

671-4411



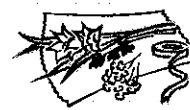
Diamond Palace

532 D Street

Marysville

5% price reduction on all purchases & \$2 off any jewelry repair

743-1815



The Country Florist

1500 North Beale Road

Marysville

743-7387

Dan Bill Small Engine Repair

By appointment
20% member discount
Lawnmowers and more!
674-7250



Dan services/repairs lawnmowers, trimmers, blowers, edgers and tillers.

Richard's Tree Service

1235 Oswald Road

Yuba City

Offers 10% discount

755-1386



THANK YOU SPONSORS

COOL OFFERS FROM THE HOTTEST ATTRACTIONS

Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park

\$12 off general admission (usually \$38.99) when you purchase online at bonfantegardens.org

Exploratorium—San Francisco

\$2 off adult admission only, up to 6 guests. Expires 12/31/06. www.exploratorium.edu/

Knott's Berry Farm

Regular adult admission has just been lowered to \$39.95 and kids (3-11) and seniors (62+) are always \$14.95! Coupon Adults \$24.95 through 4/30/06—knotts.com

Legoland

1 - Day Tickets
Adult \$53.00
Children (3-12) & Seniors (60+); \$43.00
Children (0-2) are free!
Coupon for \$8 off Full-Price Admission for up to 4 people, valid through March 31, 2007—lego.com

Marine World

Online One-Day Admission Special \$39.99 Limited Time offer—sixflags.com

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Regular Adult Admission is \$21.95, Students (13 thru 17 or college ID) \$19.95, Child (3 thru 12) \$12.95
\$5 off Full-Price

Admission on day of purchase. Limit 4 per coupon, one per group. Valid through March 31, 2007.

www.mbayaq.org/

San Diego Zoo

Adults \$32, Children (3-11) \$19.75

\$8 Off Best Value Admission through 3/31/07, limit 6 per coupon, one per group.

www.sandiegozoo.org/


San Diego Wild Animal Park

Adults \$28.50, Children (3-11) \$17.50

\$8 Off Best Value Admission through 3/31/07, limit 6 per coupon, one per group.

www.sandiegozoo.org/

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk



\$26.95 (online savings of \$8), includes all-day rides AND two attractions—

beachboardwalk.com/ (make sure you click on coupons and discounts and print \$100 in savings)

SeaWorld

Regular Admission Adult \$53, Child (3-9) \$43.

\$7 off Full-Price Admission with California Fun Spots Coupon.

www.seaworld.com/

SixFlags Magic Mountain

Buy one get one free coupon.

General Admission \$59.99, Children (under 48") \$29.99,

Children (2 and under) FREE. Coupon expires 4/30/06.

www.sixflags.com

Southern California CityPass

\$199.00 beginning 4/1/06 for a 3-Day Park Hopper to Disneyland Park and California Adventure, 1-Day to Universal Studios, SeaWorld San Diego and either San Diego Zoo or Wild Animal Park—www.citypass.com

Universal Studios

Save \$18 off regular Box Office Price of \$56. Coupon good for admission of \$38, good for up to 6 tickets until 4/30/06.

universalstudios.com

The Wax Museum—San Francisco

\$3 off General Admission, limit 6 persons. Expires 12/31/06.

Winchester Mystery House—San Jose

Mansion Tour Admission Adult (13-64) \$19.95, Child (6-12) \$13.95.

\$2 off per person, up to 6 guests, on the Mansion Tour. Expires 3/31/07.

For coupons call the Association at 674-0467 "press 103" and leave your name and phone number.

YCEA

Executive Officers

Robin Timoszyk
President

Joe Oates
Vice President

Carol Witherow
Secretary

Dennis Moseley
Treasurer

John Houston
Past President

Directors

Tracy Hutchinson
Professional Unit

Marsha Simmons
Professional Unit
(Alternate)

Linda White
Supervisory Unit

Karin Deveraux
Technical Unit

Irma Mendoza
Court Unit

Maria Hicks
Court Unit
(Alternate)

Kemry Smith
Clerical/Office Unit

Pete Sweeney
Crafts/Maintenance
Unit

George Boyd
Crafts/Maintenance
Unit (Alternate)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EASTER— <i>Sunday</i>			April 16
SCEA Board of Directors' Meeting — <i>Monday</i>	12:00 noon	Association Office	April 17
YCEA Site Representative Meeting — <i>Tuesday</i>	12:00 noon	Association Office	April 18
Local #1 Board Meeting — <i>Tuesday</i>	7:30 p.m.	Held in Sacramento	April 18
SCEA Site Representative Meeting — <i>Tuesday</i>	12:00 noon	Association Office	April 25
ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY— <i>Wednesday</i>			April 26
YCEA Board of Directors' Meeting — <i>Wednesday</i>	12:00 noon	Association Office	April 26



Representing Public Employees in City of Colusa, Sutter and Yuba Counties

718 Bridge Street,
Suite A
Yuba City, CA 95991
Phone: 674-0185
Fax: 674-0477

Check us out!
sycea.org

Remember your web page has calendar, newsletter and know your rights information.

NEW MEMBERS

Yuba County

Andrea Armstrong
Public Works

Ronald W. Cook
Veteran's Services

Shana H. Day
Community Development Building

Stephen Duckels
Assessor's Office

Daniel Ritner
Probation Department

Amanda Ruiz
County Clerk Recorder

Kristin Wreden
Community Development Building

Roger Harkema
Community Development Building

Maria Valle-Leanos
Social Services CPS

Leonard Hope
Administrative Services

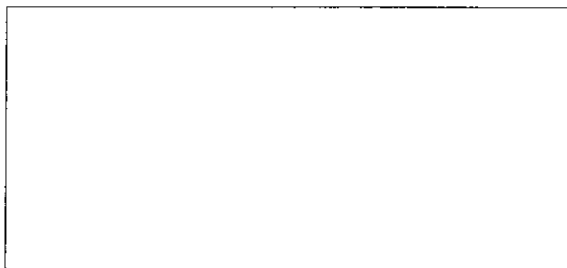
929
members strong!

Sutter County

Penny Schock
Auditor's Office

Lisa Berry
Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office

STAY UP TO DATE



Wild at Work.
The Premier Resource For Employee Values

Wild At Work -
America's Premier
Resource for
Employee
Discounts!

Call the Association
to get your coupon
book.

674-0467, press
103, and leave
your info.