

News Update



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

Volume XXVI, Issue III/IV

MARCH / APRIL 2011

WISCONSIN WORKERS – LOSE THE RIGHT TO BARGAIN

By Gary Stucky, Executive Director

It is truly a sad time for public employees in the State of Wisconsin, who have been battling for weeks to retain their rights to collectively bargain with their employer who had these rights wiped out by GOP lawmakers that have taken control of that State's legislature. You may be saying, well that is Wisconsin and this is California. If so, think again. Longtime SCEA activist Robert Ahu said it well in an email he issued shortly after the shocking news was made public.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is way past time to chose the degree of willingness to

participate in actions we may be called upon to protect what we have. Or at least to protect the right to have a say in how we are going to be impacted.

Read the articles in Yahoo News! or your newspaper or turn on the tv. You have to take hold of this and try to understand the potential broad impacts.

Good Luck to us all.

Perhaps this may seem dire, but we should not assume that what we have is permanent and safe. Any right not vigilantly protected is at risk. Within the last several months legislation was introduced to

take away your right to collectively bargain, the GOP in this state has tried to use this as a bargaining chip with the Governor to get what they want and there are other conservative anti-public employee groups working to petition and qualify a state-wide initiative for next year. Will these efforts succeed? Likely they will not, but we cannot assume that public will support your rights in this area in light of the mounting public opinion that public employee wages and benefits exceed those in private sector and that collective bargaining is to blame for this disparity.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Annual Local #1 Crab Feed	2
Amusement Park Discounts	2
Sutter County Contract	Insert 1
Orange County Court Case	Insert 1
Our Sponsors	Insert 2
SYCEA Contact Information	4
Calendar of Events	4



Wednesday, April 27, 2011

CCEA, LOCAL 1 2011 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

By Business Agent Marie Clark

The City of Colusa Employees' Association, Local 1 (CCEA, Local 1) members held a meeting on March 15, 2011, to elect a negotiations team and to submit proposals for 2011. The results of election of officers/directors were also reported on. Glen Sturdevant was re-elected as

President; Walt Sweeney has one year left on his term as Vice President; Toni Benson was elected as Treasurer; Christa Drawver has one year left on her term as Secretary; Alan Campbell was re-elected as a Director; and Mahinalani Baker has been appointed to fill the vacant position of

Director.

The 2011 negotiations team will consist of Glen Sturdevant; Toni Benson; and Walt Sweeney. The member who will be the representative for the



supervisory unit has not been filled as of yet. Staff reported that she spoke at some of the City Council meetings regarding items that would affect the membership. Negotiations are expected to commence sometime in April.



WISCONSIN WORKERS—LOSE THE RIGHT TO BARGAIN

(Continued from page 1)

"Collective bargaining" allows employees to work together with their union to negotiate rather than having their employer unilaterally determine wages, benefits and working conditions of their employment. Whether in the private sector or public sector, individuals bargaining alone with their employer are not on a very equal playing field. It would be

naive to assume that such negotiations are simply between two grown and fair-minded persons. It is also foolish to think that civil service laws alone can protect worker interests or that they will ensure fair wages and benefits.

Before the rise of public sector unions, public employees were paid considerably less for similar jobs

when compared with their counterparts in the private sector. We have been playing catch-up for the last several decades. Public sector unions are setting the standard for workers as an organized force and what has been accomplished is not outlandish or excessive. The push to end public sector collective bargaining comes as private sector

(Continued on page 4)

9th ANNUAL CRAB FEED 2011

By Local #1 Business Agent Satomi Cadena

The 2011 Crab Feed proved to be another success. Local #1 was able to raise \$6480.14 toward the Local #1 Political Education Committee fund. This exceeds last years' profit which is greatly due to the generous donations made by several of our Units.

Local #1 sold 182 tickets and had 124

present for food & socialization. We received monetary donations from the Contra Costa County General Service & Maintenance Unit, the Contra Costa County Family & Children's Services Unit, the Contra Costa County Community College District, the Contra Costa County Health Services Professional Unit, Sutter

County Employees Association, Yuba County Employees Association as well as from United Labor Bank.

The Crab Feed Committee will be discussing plans for 2012 in the near future.

Amusement Park Discounts

By Office Manager Anna Anderson

What your Union has available at this time:

- Discovery Kingdom—Everyone pays the kid's price. (\$29.99 + 2.5% city fee)
- Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park—Save \$15 starting 3/27/11
- Great America—Save \$15 starting 3/27/11
- Knott's Berry Farm—\$10 off Regular Admission (ages 12 to 61)
- Legoland—Save \$8
- Monterey Bay Aquarium—\$2.00 off regular admission
- Ripley's Believe It or Not!—Buy two combo tickets and get one free
- Roaring Camp Railroads—Save \$2 on Adult/Child admission (Sun—Fri)
- San Diego Zoo—\$4 off a One-Day Pass
- San Diego Safari Park —\$4 off a One-Day Pass
- San Francisco Zoo—One free child admission with one paid adult
- Seaworld—Save \$6 on single day admission
- Six Flags Magic Mountain—\$20 off General Admission
- Universal Studios—Buy A Day and Get 2nd Day FREE
- Winchester Mystery House—Save \$3 on each Estate or Mansion Tour

These are discount coupons. This is not a full listing, only the most popular. For more information go to our website at www.sycea.org and click the link "Park Deals" above the spinning carousel. Click the "Coupons" tab—scroll down the page.

No tickets are available yet. When they become available we will post it online under the "Park Deals" - "Tickets" tab.

SCEA MARDI GRAS MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION

By Office Manager Anna Anderson



Clockwise—Child Support Services under cover; Linda and Gloria from County Clerks; the food line; Marie, Verena, and Ray having fun; and Michelle Poole from The Country Florist.



Door Prize winners are posted on our website at scea.org.

Laissez les bons temps rouler! (French)



SCEA held their Membership Appreciation on Fat Tuesday, March 8 at the Sheriff's Training Center/Whiteaker Hall. The Mardi Gras theme event was a lot of fun. Beads were offered during admissions at the door. Employees were served lunch from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. The menu was barbecued chicken breast, jambalaya, green salad, and bread.

Refreshments included punch and bottled water.

The tables had beads and masks and festive table cloths. We had some background music including the "French Quarter Stomp" and "Fire on the Bayou". Association staff tried to create a little New Orleans atmosphere.

Michelle Poole from The Country Florist participated and signed up accounts. She brought a lovely silk flower arrangement that was included in our door prize giveaway!

Special thanks to Tom Stanley from Bill's Chuckwagon for all the wonderful food and such a pleasant, helpful serving staff.

S/YCEA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS — April 2011

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

718 Bridge Street
Suite A
Yuba City, CA 95991

Phone: 530 674-0185
Fax: 530 674-0477
Email: Local1@sycea.org



BILL'S CHUCKWAGON

- SCEA Site Rep Meeting** — *Thursday at noon* April 7
Held at the S/YCEA Association Office - Site Reps attend
- YCEA Site Rep/Member Meeting** — *Tuesday 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.* April 12
Held at the 1 STOP Maidu Room - Membership attends
- SCEA Board of Directors' Meeting**— *Monday at noon* April 18
Held at the S/YCEA Association Office—Board members attend
- Local #1 Board Meeting** – *Tuesday at 7:30 pm.* April 19
Held at Local #1 Sacramento Union Hall - Local #1 Board members attend
- EASTER** *Sunday* April 24
- ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY** *Wednesday* April 27
- YCEA Board of Directors' Meeting** – *Wednesday at noon* April 27
Held at the S/YCEA Association Office—Board members attend

WISCONSIN WORKERS — LOSE THE RIGHT TO BARGAIN

By Executive Director Gary Stucky

(Continued from page 2)

unions have dwindled to 7 percent of the workforce. Not surprisingly, workers have seen wages stagnate, and health and retirement benefits have been significantly eroded or eliminated altogether.

The fact that public employees are 36 percent unionized is hardly an overwhelming force. However, make no mistake, without this organized counterbalance force in the economy, it would be a race to the bottom in pay and benefits for all workers. Pensions and health benefits came first to unionized workplaces. Unions have set the pattern for wages and benefits, which employers have used to attract and keep workers. More importantly, unions have fought over decades to enact laws for basic working conditions, including maximum hours of work, safety standards and prohibitions against child labor.

This attack on public employees and their

unions is a distraction from the real issue, which is the continuing erosion of pay and working conditions for workers throughout the economy. It is interesting to note that in 1965, the ratio of CEO pay to average worker pay in the private sector was 24 to 1; it's now about 260 to 1. In the private sector profit margins are tracking at the highest levels since the 1960s, as unit labor costs continue to fall. Weaken public employee unions and expect to see such trends worsen.

We need to start asking ourselves; **why are these forces against us? And, who is really behind this effort to silence the voice and political influence of public employees.** If these forces are legitimately concerned about the future of our nation and this State, why are they not vigilantly demanding regulatory oversight and other changes on Wall Street to ensure the recent and past market crashes are not repeated? The truth be told, the wealthy in this country have been working for decades to

destroy the “middle class” in this country. They have succeeded in outsourcing well paid jobs to foreign countries and undermined the strength of private sector unions. They got wealthy on the market run up and when the market crashed they were the recipients of trillions of dollars that transferred from the pockets of the “middle class” to their own wealthy pockets. Let us be clear, we have been engaged in a class war, it is time we woke up to this reality. Rights that are not staunchly protected are at risk. **Thank you Wisconsin State workers for reminding us of our obligation to protect what we have, before it is too late! This is truly a sad moment in the history of this nation. Whose rights will be next?**

