



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

Volume XXIV, Issue X  
October 2009

# News Update



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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.

## SCEA to Consider a Deferral

By S/YCEA Executive Director Gary Stucky

The SCEA Budget Committee has met seven times over the last several months to better understand the County's request for deferral of the COLA increase scheduled for December 2009. The Committee also explored other options that would provide cost savings yet allow for the COLA to be implemented. During recent membership meetings held a various times and locations, the pros and cons of these options were

discussed with the membership.

In the final analysis these options were problematic and not worth pursuing. The County is still asking the SCEA membership to defer the scheduled increase. The SCEA Board of Directors will meet on September 29, to determine whether to recommend approving the deferral. At this point the County has presented a formal

proposal for the deferral. SCEA has not reopened the contract, which only the membership can approve as a part of considering the deferral.

Included in the County's proposal are several issues that SCEA brought to the discussions and indicated would be necessary for our membership to seriously consider the deferral. On the issue of health insurance

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## Cost Savings Plan Discussed

By S/YCEA Business Agent Marie Clark

Several months ago the City of Colusa Employees' Association (CCEA) formed a budget committee to review the finances of the City. This budget committee is made up of President Glen Sturdevant, Treasurer Jesse Cain, and member Toni Benson, along with Business Agent Marie Clark. Since April of this year we have met several times with City Manager Jan McClintock and Negotiator

**CCEA**

David Mackowiak to discuss implementing a Cost Savings Plan (CSP). In this CSP, the City would like to implement mandatory time off in lieu of layoffs. This mandatory time off would be a *possible* salary decrease up to 10% of an employee's salary. The City and the CCEA Budget Committee have exchanged possible language back and forth for the CSP, but as of yet, no agreement has been reached.

The CCEA membership has already voluntarily deferred their 2% COLA this year to July 1, 2010 and the 2% equity adjustment was also deferred. Our members are suffering financially due to these cuts and to ask them to give up more income may be more than they can afford. The membership will decide as to whether they are willing to accept the CSP or face possible layoffs. We will keep you updated as this develops.

# Open Enrollment Ends October 9<sup>th</sup>



**SCEA**  
*Executive Officers*

**Kurt Schoenwald**  
President

**Ben Harper**  
Vice President

**Lorie Thomas**  
Secretary/Treasurer

*Directors*

**Michael Berry**  
Agriculture Department

**Vacant**  
Animal Control (*at large*)

**Pete Jensen**  
Assessor's Office

**Vacant**  
Community Services

**Terry Barber**  
Child Support Services

**Tod Littlefield**  
Facility Management

**Alice Williams-Root**  
Health Department

**Cyndi McClellan**  
Housing Authority

**Judy Chiaroni**  
Library (*at large*)

**Robert Ahu**  
Mental Health

**Ginny Tolliver**  
Office of Revenue Collection

**Ray Hogan**  
Public Works

**Verena Garvin**  
Social Services Department

**Audrey Goodnight**  
Superior Court

**Maria Carmona**  
Superior Court (*Alternate*)

The Yuba County annual **Health Open Enrollment period** began on September 14<sup>th</sup>. You should be thinking about whether your current health plan is meeting your medical needs. If you want to change your medical coverage, now is the time.

Comparing health plan benefits, features, and costs can be complicated.

CalPERS is offering an online tool called the **Health Plan Chooser**. If you are thinking about changing health plans, you can use the **Chooser** to:

- Compare options

and select a plan

- See which plans offer needed services
- See how participating plan members rate the plans
- Find your doctors in the plans
- Project the total cost of care under each plan – including premiums and co-payments

If you are satisfied with your health plan, you can use the **Chooser** to:

- Review your covered services
- Confirm your doctors are still in the plan
- Find out how other participating members rate the plan
- Estimate your future health care costs

You can access the Health Plan Chooser from the Open Enrollment banner on the home page of CalPERS On-Line at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHECK IT OUT!!!!**

*From the CalPERS Employer News – Fall 2009*

**The results of the Ballot Count for the 2009 Local #1 General Election are as follows:**  
 President—Dave Rolley      2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President—Lori Kerns      Treasurer—Lynda Middleton  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President—James Starr      Secretary— Vacant      Sergeant at Arms—Bruce Valentine

## Buy American

"Buy American!" might sound like nothing more than a slogan advanced by American manufacturers to sell products made in the USA, but the truth is that there are many reasons to consider buying American-made clothing, American-made toys, and other US-manufactured goods. We've listed just a few of the benefits of buying American below:

**Top Ten Reasons to Buy USA Made Products:**

- 10) Foreign labor standards allow unsafe worker conditions in many countries. When you buy American you support not only American manufacturers but also American workers, safe working conditions, and child labor laws.
- 9) Jobs shipped abroad almost never return. When you buy goods made in the USA, you help keep the American economy growing.

- 8) US manufacturing processes are much cleaner for the environment than many other countries; many brands sold here are produced in countries using dangerous, heavily polluting processes. When you purchase American-made product, you know that you're helping to keep the world a little cleaner for your children.

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# Surviving a Cardiac Arrest

A book scheduled to be released next month "Cheating Death", written by Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Neurosurgeon, reveals a recent discovery that could save lives. Often when someone suffers a heart attack, only 20-30% of those present attempt to perform CPR, either they are not trained in CPR or they are reluctant to engage in mouth to mouth contact with a stranger whom they know nothing about.


Recent research studies have shown that straight chest compression without mouth to mouth resuscitation is actually more effective at saving lives. Apparently the

blood stream has plenty of oxygen at any moment and even if we stop breathing our oxygen level will remain normal for quite a while. The key is to keep the blood flowing through our vital organs so they benefit from the oxygen in our blood and remain functioning. 100 chest compressions per minute is recommended, so call 911 and then start the chest compressions and don't stop. The No.1 thing that can save a life is a bystander's help. We encourage everyone to take the time to learn CPR from a trained professional, but remember it is better to do simple chest compressions instead of nothing.

# SCEA to Consider a Deferral

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premiums, the County has agreed to cover any increase to premiums 100% during the period of deferral so employees would not be required to pay more without an offsetting salary increase and continue the 80/20 split on any increase during the contract duration. The County has also agreed to work toward implementation of the Option 2 Death Benefit for our Probation Officer members,

who were not covered when SCEA secured this benefit on behalf of other SCEA members. The County has also agreed to improve the application language pertaining to Pay for Service with Distinction. During discussions the parties have essentially agreed to a set of regional agencies for future salary comparisons and the County has agreed to conduct a salary survey in time for our next full contract negotiations. Lastly,



## SCEA Board Changes

**Audrey Goodnight** from the Sutter County Court's Criminal Division was appointed to the SCEA Board as a Director for the Courts on Tuesday, September 22.

**Congratulations!**



**YCEA Executive Officers**

**Ryan McNally**  
President

**Ramona Mallonee**  
Vice President

**Carol Witherow**  
Secretary

**Dennis Moseley**  
Treasurer

**Robin Timoszyk**  
Past President

**Directors**

**Tracy Hutchinson**  
Professional Unit

**Alex Hadley (Alternate)**  
Professional Unit

**Traci Rongey**  
Supervisory Unit

**Linda White (Alternate)**  
Supervisory Unit

**Denise Hamon**  
Technical Unit

**Vacant (Alternate)**  
Technical Unit

**Vacant**  
Court Unit

**Vacant (Alternate)**  
Court Unit

**Alicia Phillips**  
Clerical/Office Unit

**Stephanie Smith**  
Clerical/Office Unit (Alternate)

**George Boyd**  
Crafts/Maintenance Unit

**John Houston (Alternate)**  
Crafts/Maintenance Unit

the County also proposes to extend the contract for one year, which provides added protection to employees.

After the Board of Directors meet further information will be distributed to the membership, including details on membership meetings to be held the evenings of October 7 & 8 and opportunities for our members to vote.

**Please try to attend one of the meetings.**



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

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Yuba City, CA 95991

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Email: Local1@sycea.org



# Calendar of Events

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>SCEA Membership/Site Rep Mtg.</b> <i>Wed</i>                       | October 7  |
| <i>Agriculture Dept. - SCEA Members Attend (5:15 p.m.)</i>            |            |
| <b>YCEA Membership Appreciation</b> <i>Thurs</i>                      | October 8  |
| <i>Riverfront Park Nature Area - YCEA Members Attend</i>              |            |
| <b>SCEA Membership Mtg.</b> <i>Thurs</i>                              | October 8  |
| <i>Veteran's Memorial Hall - SCEA Members Attend (5:15 p.m.)</i>      |            |
| <b>YCEA Site Rep Meeting</b> <i>Tues — NOON</i>                       | October 13 |
| <i>Association Office - YCEA Site Reps Attend</i>                     |            |
| <b>SCEA Board Meeting</b> <i>Mon — NOON</i>                           | October 19 |
| <i>Association Office - SCEA Board Members Attend</i>                 |            |
| <b>Local #1 Board of Directors Mtg.</b> <i>Tues</i>                   | October 20 |
| <i>Local #1 Office (Sacramento) 7:30 p.m. - Local #1 Board Attend</i> |            |
| <b>YCEA Board Meeting</b> <i>Wed — NOON</i>                           | October 28 |
| <i>Association Office - YCEA Board Members Attend</i>                 |            |

**WE ARE ON THE WEB!**  
**WWW.SYCEA.ORG**

## YCEA Membership Appreciation Fall Festival TICKETS TO EVENT



You should receive a ticket to the **Y C E A Membership Appreciation**, on October 5 or October 6. If you are a member and you do not receive the ticket, please phone the Association and let us know on Wednesday, October 7. The event will be held at the Riverfront Park Nature Area from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 8.

Food will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. **If you are a vegetarian, you need to contact our office at 674-0185 and let Anna know ASAP!**

Please do not wait until the day of the event to contact us about a ticket because staff will out of the office setting up the event.

**We hope to see you there!!!**

## Buy American

*(Continued from page 2)*

7) Many countries have no minimum wage restrictions, or the minimum wage is outrageously low. When you choose products made in the USA, you contribute to the payment of an honest day's wages for an honest day's work.

6) The growing lack of USA ability to manufacture many products is strategically unsound. When you seek out American-made goods, you foster American independence.

5) The huge US trade deficit leads to massive, unsustainable borrowing from other countries. Debt isn't good for you and it isn't good for America.

4) Foreign product safety standards are low. For example, poisonous levels of lead are in tens of millions of toys shipped to the USA. When you buy toys and other goods made in the USA, you can be confident that American consumer protection laws and safety standards are in place to protect your family.

3) Lack of minimum wage, worker safety, or environmental pollution controls in many countries undermines the concept of "fair and free trade". No Western nation can ultimately compete on price with a country willing to massively exploit and pollute its own people. When you buy only American-made products, you insist on a higher standard.

2) Factories and money are shifting to countries not friendly to the USA or democracy. When you avoid imported goods in favor of American-made items, you help ensure that the United States doesn't find its access to vital goods impacted by political conflict.

1) As the US manufacturing ability fades, future generations of US citizens will be unable to find relevant jobs. Buy American and help keep your friends and neighbors-and even yourself-earning a living wage.

**Join Made in USA Forever.com in standing up for America.**  
**By Todd Lipscomb, founder of MadeinUSAForever.com.**