

# News Update



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

Volume XXV, Issue IV

APRIL 2010

## Just the Facts on Pension — And More!

*By Executive Director Gary Stucky*

SYCEA Local #1 continues to monitor anti-public employee pension forces to ensure that our members are informed and to protect our members' valuable benefits. We are pleased to inform you that even though two initiatives (which would have decimated public employee pensions in the State of California) were qualified for circulation; the sponsors have essentially "thrown in the towel" claiming insufficient funds to acquire the necessary signatures to place these matters on the November ballot. We will remain vigilant in tracking efforts to undermine public employee pensions.

and exaggerations, Sutter County has decided to sponsor a pension workshop in order to provide factual information to the Board of Supervisors and the public. This workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 4, at 6:00 PM prior to the regular Board meeting. Presenters at the workshop will include Rick Santos, CalPERS Actuarial and Ameer Brown, Executive Director, Retirement Journal. Mr. Santos will provide information regarding the funding of defined-benefit retirement plans and Ms. Brown will focus on the pros and cons of defined-benefit plans versus defined-contribution plans.

massive turnout at this workshop. To the contrary, we feel it is important that this workshop occur without distraction or the potential for logistical problems. The SCEA Board of Directors and Site Representatives have been encouraged to attend in order to have a presence before the Board of Supervisors and to take advantage of this opportunity to become better informed on this important issue. We of course encourage all members to watch the workshop on television, which we understand will be aired in connection with the normal production of the Board of Supervisors meeting that same week.

Meanwhile, due to an abundance of misinformation

At this time, your leadership is not requesting that we have a

### **SCEA Member Appreciation-April 22**

*Please join us for some good food and at the Sheriff's Training Center.*

*The event starts at 11:00 a.m.*

*Serving food from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

*A ticket will be distributed before the event to MEMBERS. Article inside.*

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## Membership/Fair Share Fee Payer/Conscientious Objector

*By Marie Clark  
Business Agent*

When a new employee is hired within one of the units that we represent where employees have approved an agency shop agreement, the employee is given a choice between becoming a member, fair share fee payer, or an exemption as a conscientious objector (if they qualify). If the employee joins

as a member, they are entitled to the full benefits of membership, which include attending all union meetings, presenting ideas for negotiation proposals, voting on the full contract, or any contract modification that eliminates or defers a benefit, attend the membership appreciation

luncheons, receive discounts from local businesses and amusement parks tickets and coupons, free notary services, receive pens, lanyards and other union give-away items, the option to participate in insurance program plans, vote on the election of officers, directors, or site

representatives, hold office as an officer, director, or site representative. The dues for a member are 1% of the employee's gross monthly salary plus \$1.25 unit fee per month. Only .04% of the 1% dues funds programs not directly related to employee representation. The

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Carol Witherow, Well-Deserved Retirement

By Executive Director Gary Stucky

After over 40 years of dedicated service to Yuba County, Carol Witherow, a friend, a coworker and union activist has decided to retire and enjoy life doing those things she loves the most. Carol became active in YCEA very shortly after the Association decertified the Operating Engineers, Local #3 (OE3) in 1985. Carol was an activist in OE3 and quickly became involved in the Association and put her acquired knowledge to work on behalf of her coworkers.

Since 1985, Carol was actively and continuously involved in YCEA serving on various committees, helping with social events and serving on the Board of Directors. When she retired, she held the position of Secretary/Treasurer and served on the YCEA Budget Committee. Carol's retirement represents a significant loss of historical knowledge to both the County and our Association. Nonetheless, we are happy for Carol and wish her a long, healthy and prosperous retirement.



Carol Witherow and Gary Stucky  
Happy retirement, Carol!

### Request for Catastrophic Leave Donation — Laura Wakefield

Yuba County member, **Laura Wakefield of the CalWORKS division of Health and Human Services** has been granted catastrophic leave for a serious health condition. All sick leave and vacation accruals have been exhausted and she is expected to be out for an undetermined amount of time.

The Catastrophic Leave Policy allows Yuba County employees to donate their accrued **vacation** time to a co-worker who has exhausted their own leave time due to a catastrophic injury or illness. On March 16, 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved this request.

If you decide that you would like to make a donation from your accrued **vacation** hours, please contact Yuba County Personnel for the Request to Donate Vacation Hours to Co-Worker form.

### Amusement Park Discounts

By Office Manager Anna Anderson

What we offer and the best deals we could find:

#### Online ticket deals at amusement park websites:

- Discovery Kingdom—*Everyone pays the kid's price. (\$29.99)*  
*Online at [www.sixflags.com/discoverykingdom/tickets/index.aspx](http://www.sixflags.com/discoverykingdom/tickets/index.aspx)*
- Great America—*Online [www.cagreatamerica.com/shop/shopping\\_general\\_admission.cfm](http://www.cagreatamerica.com/shop/shopping_general_admission.cfm)*  
*\$24.99 for 4 tickets*

#### Coupons at [www.sfbayfun.com/coupons.html](http://www.sfbayfun.com/coupons.html) are listed below:

- Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park—*Save \$15*
- Ripley's Believe It or Not! - *Receive \$5 off full priced adult admission and \$2 off full priced child admission (Monday-Thursday only).*

- Roaring Camp Railroads—*SAVE \$2.00 per person, up to 6 tickets, Sun. - Fri.*

#### Coupons at [www.visitcalifornia.com/pages/funspots](http://www.visitcalifornia.com/pages/funspots) are listed below:

- Legoland—*Save \$8 Coupon*
- Monterey Bay Aquarium—*\$2.00 off regular admission*
- San Diego Zoo—*\$4 off*
- San Diego Wild Animal Park—*\$4 off*
- Seaworld—*Save \$6 on single day admission or get two days for one*
- Universal Studios—*\$8 off general admission*
- Winchester Mystery House—*Save \$3 on each Estate or Mansion Tour*
- Turtle Bay Exploration Park—*AAA—10% discount*  
Group rates for Turtle Bay (10 or more

in your party) Call Jan @ 530 242-3108  
\$7 Adults (13 +)  
\$4 Children (4-12 years old)

This is not a full listing, only the most popular. For more information, please go to our website at [www.sycea.org](http://www.sycea.org). On the home page go to the Park Deals link at the bottom right-hand corner. You can print the coupons right there!

**Please review coupons for any restrictions such as limits on how many per party (you may need two coupons).**

No park or travel tickets are available yet. We will let you know when they are available and the prices on our website. **We sale tickets Monday through Thursday.**

Set up an account with  
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10% discount on all purchases\*  
(\*excluding out of town orders).

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For more info!

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## (530) 415-4399

Z Best—Over 15 years of experience—Call for pricing.  
**25% off on any detail for SYCEA members!**



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Official smog test and repair station  
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Marysville  
10% member discount or  
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**530 742-0304**



Administrative Professionals Week is  
**April 18-24** with  
Administrative Professionals Day on  
Wednesday,  
**April 21**

## SCEA Membership Appreciation-April 22

By Office Manager Anna Anderson

This year we are planning a western themed Membership Appreciation at the Sheriff's Training Center (Whiteaker Hall) on Thursday, April 22. The event will start at 11:00 a.m., food will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and then we will start cleaning up about 2:00 p.m. The event will be catered by Bill's Chuckwagon, which the Association has used in the past and we received great feedback regarding their food and service.

The menu will be pulled pork on a hoagie roll (BBQ sauce on the side), green salad, potato salad, ranch beans with bacon, and homemade cake for dessert. **Members who do not eat pork, should contact our office so we**

**can provide an alternate sandwich for them at the event.**

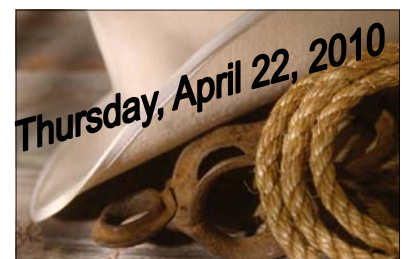
The Parker Group, Liberty Mutual, and The Country Florist will attend and have some information available for you about their services. We will have door prizes and a few giveaways.

A flyer with a ticket on it will be distributed in the workplace with your name on it the week of April 12-16. We are planning to print the list of raffle prizes on the flyer too. If you are a member and you do not receive a ticket by Monday, April 19, please contact our office to find out why. We hope to see you at the event.

**Your S/YCEA staff and volunteers are trying to make this event one to remember!**



**SCEA, Local #1  
Western  
Member**



# S/YCEA

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in City of Colusa, Sutter  
and Yuba Counties

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## Yuba County Service Awards

FOR A LIST OF YUBA COUNTY MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED SERVICE AWARDS FOR 10, 15, 20, 25, AND 30 YEARS...

PLEASE GO TO THE OUR WEBSITE AND YOU CAN VIEW THE LIST ON A LINK FROM THE HOMEPAGE.

## Coming soon!



SunSplash  
opens on  
Memorial Day  
weekend

# Calendar of Events — April 2010

- YCEA Site Rep/Membership Meeting** — *Tuesday* April 13  
*11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the 1-STOP (Maidu Room)*
- SCEA Board of Directors' Meeting**— *Monday at noon* April 19  
*Held at the S/YCEA Association Office—Board members attend*
- Local #1 Board Meeting** – *Tuesday at 7:30 pm.* April 20  
*Held at Local #1 Sacramento Union Hall - Local #1 Board members attend*
- Administrative Professional's Day** — *Wednesday* April 21
- SCEA Membership Appreciation** — *Thursday* April 22  
*Sheriff's Training Center 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Food from 11:30-1:30)*
- YCEA Board of Directors' Meeting** – *Wednesday at noon* April 28  
*Held at the S/YCEA Association Office—Board members attend*

### UPCOMING SCHOOL, STATE, AND PUBLIC AGENCY ELECTIONS FOR CalPERS BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

During 2010, the California Public Employee's Retirement System will be conducting elections for School, State, and Public Agency representatives on the CalPERS Board of Administration (Board). The term of office for the current representatives, Rob Feckner (School), George Diehr (State), and Priya Sara Mathur (Public Agency) will expire January 15, 2011. The new term of office will begin January 16, 2011, and end January 15, 2015. Eligible School, State and Public Agency Members will have an opportunity to vote for their representative on the Board.

In March 2010, the Notice of Election was mailed to Public Agencies for posting and routing to active members. The Notice outlines the procedures for becoming a candidate and gives the election schedule of dates and activities.

CalPERS members who have recently moved should update their address information before May 2010 to ensure that each eligible member receives a ballot at their home in September 2010. Members may update their address information by going to the Forms & Publications area of the CalPERS On-Line, at [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov), and downloading a Member Change of Address Form to mail, or make the change online using myCalPERS. Or call the Customer Contact Center @ 888 CalPERS. Also, members should inform their employer of any change of address for their employer's records.

## Membership/Fair Share Fee Payer/Conscientious Objector

\$1.25 (equals \$15 yearly) defrays the cost of the give-away items, member appreciation events and leadership meeting costs.

When an employee chooses to become a fair share fee payer, none of their money is spent for political action. The monthly/bi-weekly dues amount for a fair share fee is 96% of the 1%. Fair share fee payers do not pay the unit fund fee since the fee payer does not qualify for the additional benefits of membership.

A conscientious objector is someone who demonstrates that they are a member of a

bona fide religion, body, or sect that has historically held conscientious objections to joining or financially supporting public employee organizations as a condition of employment or that provide proof that they have personally held such beliefs historically, pursuant to the law. If an employee qualifies as a conscientious objector, then the 1% dues amount is contributed to one of the three charities that the Union has designated. Pursuant to the law these charities are nonlabor related and nonreligious based. Additionally, the unit fund fee doesn't apply since the conscientious objector does not qualify for

the additional benefits of membership.

Whether you are a member, fair share fee payer, or conscientious objector, you will receive representation on collective contract matters and individual representation on grievances and disciplinary appeals. Currently there is a one-time initiation fee of \$45.00 for members and conscientious objectors, and \$43.20 (96%) for fair share fee payers.

We encourage anyone who has questions on membership, fair share fee payer or conscientious objector status to contact the Union.