

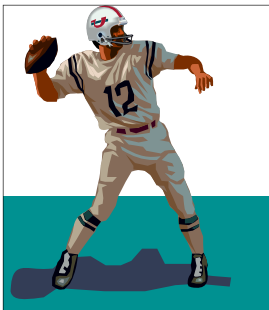
# News Update

Volume XXIV Issue IX

September 2009

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Sponsors</i>	2
<i>SCEA Board Changes</i>	2
<i>YCEA Membership Event</i>	2
<i>Paul Katz Scholarship</i>	3
<i>Shop Local and MORE!</i>	3
<i>Contact Info, Calendar</i>	4
<i>YCEA Update</i>	4



**Labor Day**—beginning of the NFL and college football seasons.

**The Bay Bridge will be closed on Labor Day weekend 2009.**

*BayBridgeInfo.org* features information on this massive engineering feat, including closure details and video simulations of the construction and on the new detour. Residents and visitors will have numerous alternatives for getting around the Bay Area, while the entire Bay Bridge is closed during the Labor Day weekend.

## DEFERRAL OF SCEA SCHEDULED SALARY INCREASE

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARY STUCKY

**Background:**

SCEA has scheduled a series of membership meetings for the purpose of interacting with the membership regarding the request from Sutter County for employees to defer the salary increase (COLA) scheduled for December 2009. As reported previously in the News Update, the County has made this request in light of the continuing State budget problems. In the County's opinion, this problem was not resolved by the recent actions of the State Legislature and Governor. Further, that it will be necessary to make additional cuts in State funding and possibly programs during this fiscal year.

The County has considerable reserves and they have indicated a willingness to spend down those reserves to a prudent level in order to protect jobs and minimize the impact to services. However, the magnitude of what is yet to come is not known. Therefore, acting conservatively the County wants to limit the expenditure of onetime reserve funds.

**Prevailing Question:**

If the increase is not due until

December 2009, why are we being asked to make this decision now? December is just several months away and it does take lead-time and additional work to ensure a salary increase is implemented in a timely manner. There is no indication that the economic situation in the State of California will improve greatly over the next several months or even within the next year. Even though the economy is showing some signs of recovery, the State Legislature and Governor have not dealt with the structural problem that continues to plague the State budget. There appears to be no chance of or reason to believe the situation will improve over the next several months.

**Meetings with the County:**

The SCEA Committee composed primarily of members who served on the last Negotiations Committee have met several times with the County to explore the need for the salary deferral and possible alternatives. SCEA has not opened our contract for negotiations nor have we engaged in negotiations formally with the County. We have discussed options and

possible alternatives hypothetically. If the SCEA membership indicates an interest in accommodating the County's request, the SCEA Committee will structure the best possible agreement for the membership to consider. A secret ballot vote will then be conducted for the SCEA membership to approve or reject opening and closing the contract for a specific reason, which will be detailed on the ballot and ballot information.

**Options Discussed:**

The County's request has also included a proposal that we extend our contract for one year and that the County would continue to cover 80% of any health insurance premiums increase. SCEA believes that the extension of the contract for one year is a good thing and it buys additional protection. We have indicated that any agreement to defer the COLA increase should also include a commitment from the County that they pay 100% of any premium increase during the remainder of the contract. The County has not rejected that possibility but they appear to be only willing to pick up any increase during

## Sponsors

**Join AAA** and the one time enrollment fee of \$17 will be waived. (742-5531)

Tell them you are a member of the Sutter/Yuba County Employees' Association, Local #1.

**Pelton's Party Rental & Sales** - Offers 10% discount on retail items. (674-2790)

**Muffler Masters** - Offers 10% discount on services and parts. (674-7030)

**Diamond Palace Super Store** - Offers 5% price reduction on all purchases and \$2.00 off any jewelry repair job. (743-1815)

**Richard's Tree Service** - Offers 10% discount. (673-7993)

**D Street Salon** - Offers 15% discount on services. (743-4555)

**Curves of Marysville** - \$39 sign up fee and the monthly membership fee is only \$39 per month. (743-5808)

**The Country Florist** - Set up an account with The Country Florist and receive a 10% discount (excludes out of town orders). (743-7387)

**Bounce Central** - Inflatable party rentals and concession machines! Offers 10% discount. Yuba City (870-8515) bouncecentralonline.com

**Manuel's Smog & Auto Repair** - Official smog test and repair station. Manuel Saldana Jr. - Owner/ASE Certified Mechanic/Smog Technician. Offers 10% discount or \$5.00 off smog inspections. Marysville (742-0304)

## SCEA Board Changes

BY OFFICE MANAGER ANNA ANDERSON

SCEA President Gary Bengs resigned from the Board due to his retirement from Sutter County. We hope that Gary has a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

Kurt Schoenwald expressed interest in the President's seat when he learned of Gary's resignation. At the August meeting, the SCEA Board acted to place Past President Kurt Schoenwald in the

position as President. Kurt previously held the office of SCEA President during the 2005-2006 term. Kurt has worked at the Agriculture Department as an Agricultural & Standards Biologist for over 11 years.

There were also several additions to the Director seats. Verena Garvin and Judy Chiaroni expressed interest in joining the Board. Verena

was appointed to the Social Services Director position and Judy was appointed to the large Director position for the Library.

There are still two seats available on the Board; Director for Animal Services and Director for Community Services.

*Congratulations! SCEA welcomes Kurt, Judy, and Verena. We appreciate your commitment to staying involved in your Association.*

## YCEA Membership Appreciation 2009

BY OFFICE MANAGER ANNA ANDERSON

The YCEA membership has increased to approximately 639 members and it has become increasingly hard to find a place to hold events. Therefore, we have decided to try the Riverfront Park Nature Area that has been used by the County for their yearly Employee Appreciation event. I have attended these events and being outdoors was very pleasant with room to spread out and not be so confined as you are in an indoor setting.

We queried our Site Representatives for dates and decided that Thursday, October 8, 2009 looked good for a fall festival and did not appear to have any conflicts within the workplace. YCEA plans to hold the event from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Food will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Staff has been pricing caterers for a barbecue menu.

After careful consideration regarding quality of food, variety, food for all tastes and diets, and pricing; the best all around choice was Bill's Chuckwagon from Grass Valley. Their owner, Tom Stanley, was very helpful and even offered to include the refreshments for a chance to provide his service in our area and maybe get some "word of mouth" referrals. Staff had sampled some of his food at an event and found the choice cut ball tip roast extremely tasty and tender and met or exceeded tri tip in comparison. The menu will include barbecued ball tip roast and skinless boneless chicken breast; spring salad with tomatoes, croutons, and dressing; ranch beans with bacon, and garlic bread. *There will be vegetarian lasagna for members who notify us by Thursday, October 1 so we can give Tom time to purchase and prepare it.*

*YCEA will take your name and we will distribute special tickets to give to the servers at the event. There will also be bottled water and lemonade to quench your thirst and cookies for dessert.*

As usual, we will distribute a ticket with your name on it. If you do not receive a ticket by October 1, 2009, please contact us so we can check the database and either print you a ticket or give you an explanation.

**We hope that YCEA members will join us for some good food and camaraderie.**

*We have 19 Fair Share Fee Payers who are NOT members. These employees pay their fair share but it is not membership dues. Members also pay a \$1.25 unit fund fee per month that covers events and meeting costs. We welcome Fair Share Fee Payers to join the Association as a member at any time and encouraged them to do so.*



Scholarship winners—  
Group Photo  
Top row left to right—  
Alexandria Rose Mazerolle  
Nerissa Hall  
Taryn Lee Barnard  
Danielle Lavy  
  
Bottom row—  
Deirdre and Paul Katz  
*Pictures will be online in color!*

**General Manager  
Larry Edginton  
presents awards:**



Taryn



Danielle



Alexandria



Nerissa

## Paul Katz Scholarship 2009

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARY STUCKY

Public Employees Union Local #1 established the Paul Katz Scholarship Fund to recognize and honor Paul for his many years of dedicated service to working people and community service. Before retiring, Paul worked for Local #1 as an Administrative Assistant to the General Manager and he coordinated Local #1's Political Education Program. Under his guidance and direction, Local #1 became a political powerhouse in

Contra Costa County. He was also instrumental in leading the fight to save the County Hospital. Paul's wife Deirdre also was active in community service and volunteered at the Library for many years.

We are proud of the fact that four out of five of this year's recipients are daughters of SYCEA members. They are Taryn Lee Barnard, (Mom Kimberly works for Yuba Superior Court) Alexandria

Mazerolle, (Mom Michele works for Yuba County Health and Human Services) Danielle Lavy, (Mom Tina works for Sutter County Health Department), Kristin Henderson, (Mom Karen works for Sutter County Social Services). Kristin is not pictured since she was not at the awards presentation.

Congratulations to the winners who each received a check for \$500. *Also pictured with the SYCEA winners is Nerissa Hall whose mom works in the Contra Costa area.*

**Love to  
SHOP  
Local**

Pick up your discount card at the Association Office or the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce.  
Details @ [sycea.org](http://sycea.org).  
Click the link and learn how to save!

**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
REALTY

Here is how I am helping my buyers right now:

- Down payments for 1st time buyers
- Seller assisted closing costs
- Access to low market financing
- Successful short sales-many homeowners are protected from foreclosure by doing a short sale (call for details)

Call Parm Hansra  
(530) 632-8373

**It's an amazing time to buy!!**

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

*sycea.org*

## TICKETS

DISCOVERY KINGDOM \$27

SUNSPASH \$18

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS \$57

Please call the office before you come in  
[sycea.org/parkdeals.htm](http://sycea.org/parkdeals.htm)

If all the cars in the United States were placed  
end to end, it would probably be Labor Day  
Weekend. ~ Doug Larson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SCEA Site Rep/Membership Mtg** — *Thursday* September 3  
*Mental Health Dept. (Details on bulletin)—Site Reps and members attend*

**Labor Day (Federal Holiday)** *Monday* September 7

**YCEA Site Rep Mtg** — *Tuesday @ noon* September 8  
*S/YCEA Association Office—YCEA Site Reps attend*

**SCEA Board of Directors' Mtg** — *Monday @ noon* September 21  
*S/YCEA Association Office—Board members attend*

**Local #1 Board Mtg** — *Tuesday @ 7:30 pm.* September 22  
*Held at Local #1 Martinez Union Hall - Local #1 Board members attend*

**YCEA Board of Directors' Mtg** — *Wed @ noon* September 23  
*Held at the S/YCEA Association Office—Board members attend*



## YCEA Update

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GARY STUCKY

### County Budget

When the Board of Supervisors (BOS) met on August 18, to adopt the final budget they were advised that the fund balance for fiscal year 2008-2009 as reported in the tentative budget was over projected requiring further adjustments to balance the budget. Actions taken by the Board included not filling the Public Guardian position, reallocating funds from the Public Safety Fund Account, and reallocating funds from the contingency reserves. Balancing the budget was also helped by the County receiving delinquent property taxes that have been paid due to home foreclosures and short-sales in the County.

For now the County's budget is balanced, but the status of the budget is hanging on what the State does to balance their own budget. If the economy does not improve quickly, it is almost certain that additional cuts will be necessary. Fortunately, the economy is showing signs of recovery, but most economists are predicting a slow bumpy return to a positive "bull market" and consumer confidence. It is unlikely that the recovery will eliminate the need for layoffs next fiscal year, with the implementation of the County's obligation to begin paying the employee contribution of 7%.

For details, see the Quick Notes for August 20, 2009 that are posted online at [sycea.org](http://sycea.org).

### Early Retirement Incentive

The County is not in a position to offer a true incentive, but to encourage those that might be seriously considering retirement already; the County is offering potential retirees a payout of \$500 per year for each year of service. If the Board of Supervisors give final approval, the offer will be made to employees who retire up through January 31, 2010. The County will treat this payout as a bonus since the IRS code will not allow separate handling for those that may wish to apply the amount toward health insurance premiums. The YCEA Board approved the County making this offer to interested employees in order to expedite the County's ability to

talk seriously with those that may take this option.

### Voluntary Time Off Program

The BOS will be asked to approve the final policy to implement the Voluntary Time Off Program within the next few weeks. The policy reflects the agreement reached with YCEA. We encourage employees to consider this Program if they are able and can afford to take some time off. As a reminder, the program provides that interested employees may take time off without pay on a pre-determined schedule in order to generate salary savings that will reduce budget costs while maintaining delivery of services to the County's clients.