

Quick Notes: SCEA, LOCAL #1 SITE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING Thursday, August 4, 2016

Employee Wellness Clinic Survey: In addition to SCEA's survey, the County decided to conduct its own survey. Many employees have been confused by the dual surveys, SCEA is encouraging all employees to participate in the County survey (it was extended) even if you completed ours. SCEA will be meeting with the County on the subject matter before engaging in negotiations. Once the County survey is complete and we have met with the County to discuss areas of concern, we will release the actual survey results and a report on our meeting(s) with the County.

Contract Negotiations: Twenty-five members attended the meeting on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at the Agricultural Department. This was a good show for our first meeting; we will continue to build momentum as we work to secure a new contract. Linda Trigueiro, Deolinda Moreno and Verena Garvin have been nominated to represent the General Unit; Bob Buckner, Charles Benson, Joyce Pope and Sky Galvan have been nominated to represent the Professional Unit and Maria Heredia has been nominated to represent the Supervisory Unit. The Negotiations Committee is composed of two primary representatives from each bargaining unit, plus the President and your Chief Negotiator. Nominations will close Monday, August 8. The SCEA President will appoint additional committee members as necessary. After the Committee has been elected or appointed, the Committee will meet to review suggestions received from the membership and staff. The Committee will then recommend a package of proposals, which the membership will vote on at a future meeting. Any suggestions received but not included in the package will be discussed and voted on by the membership, as to whether the suggestion(s) will be included in the package. Please submit any suggestions in writing via email to Local1@sycea.org prior to Monday, August 15, 2016.

Unfunded Pension Costs and CalPERS Financial Status: A recent editorial written by Dan Walters presents a gloomy picture of CalPERS pension costs and its ability to fund retirement benefits through stock market earnings. Mr. Walters has chosen to present the historical background and to cast a pessimistic view of the facts. (See posting of article) Rob Feckner, CalPERS Board of Administration President, presents a more realistic and accurate view of retirement costs and CalPERS efforts to manage those costs. (See posting of article) Retirement costs will continue to be a significant factor over the years ahead and these costs will have an impact in contract negotiations. The attacks on public sector pension plans will continue. Taking away pension security from public employees is the wrong solution; the answer should be retirement security for all workers.

Local #1 Board Action and Communication: A second letter was sent to all our members regarding the directions given by the Local #1 Board at its April meeting. The Board directed staff *to explore all reasonable affiliation options, and begin negotiations for a favorable affiliation with an appropriate AFL-CIO international union.* Local #1 managers have concluded that the American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees is the most favorable and similar international union to consider for affiliation. Over the course of the next several weeks additional information will be distributed and various meetings will be held to answer questions. If the Local #1 Board agrees with the tentative agreement being developed, it may direct that the matter be submitted to the membership for a vote during the first two weeks in October.