

President's Message

Thank you...for your support, encouragement, confidence, criticism (both positive and negative) since I took office earlier this summer. I appreciate all of your 'opinions' (some more than others ☺).

For those of you who don't know me...I've worked for the District since 1993 when I started as a Temporary Meter Reader. I promoted from Customer Service (Call Center and CIS) to ISD (Help Desk) to O&M (Asset Management). I became active in the Union after I passed probation and have held "some" office since 1996. I've been "more than happily" married for 15 years and have two beautiful little girls. My "turn-ons" include a raise above CPI, Filing a grievance...oops wrong magazine.

My goals for the next two years include:

- Continuing to strengthen our relationship with Local 444 (Thanks Reggie, Gerald, John, Charles, Rich, Lenny, Richard, Roger, Cheryl, et al).
- Preparing for the 2007 Contract Negotiations (see above ☺).
- Making EBMUD a better place to work. We need to focus on improving the morale and work environment, making sure people are treated fairly, etc.
- Increasing Membership involvement in the Union...That means getting you to show up to a few General Membership or Executive Board Meetings (the Holiday Party does not count ☺).
- Educating Members about the importance of political involvement (see below).

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The General Membership meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Next General Membership Meeting:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005 - 5:30PM

Administration Building – Training Resource Center

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President's Message (con't)

Just Say "No"

More than a few Brothers and Sisters have been echoing those same words at our voter registration tables the last few weeks...Apparently the message is getting out...The Special Election on November 8th is an attack on public employees. The current administration isn't just pro-business, it's anti-union.

I know, I know..."Why the hell is 2019 involved in politics?"..."I'm a (insert political party here) and I don't like 2019 spending money supporting candidates that I don't support philosophically"...Wah, Wah, Wah...The Republican Governor is not your friend! It's the responsibility of leadership to do everything possible to save your job/retirement/wages/health care...often that means becoming politically active. If we don't stop Proposition 75, the Governor will come after our pensions next year (he already tried it once and if we have no voice next election...we're screwed).

Speaking of Proposition 75 (and its uselessness)...we (AFSCME) already have a way to opt out of political spending through the AFSCME Political Rebate Procedure. Better yet, attend a General Membership Meeting and become involved in the process. If you don't like the Local's political spending...say something...just don't sit on the sidelines and complain!

The keys to a successful victory on November 8th...

- **Join Public Employees Organizing to Promote Legislative Equality (PEOPLE)...**

By participating in PEOPLE (AFSCME's political, legislative and fundraising arm), you can have a direct impact on the political process — from helping shape policies on privatization and other issues that affect us to helping elect the public officials who are our bosses.

As a public employee, our jobs, wages and working conditions are directly linked to politics.

- **Educate Yourself** (see page 3)

- **Talk the Talk...**

Stop by my cube (6th Floor – Webster side of the NAB) and pick up some buttons, bumper stickers, yard signs, literature, etc. Hand them out and show your support...Visibility is the key to getting out the message.

- **Become active in the campaign...**

Volunteer to Precinct Walk...Saturdays and Sundays (see www.afscme2019.org or page 5)

Volunteer to Phone Bank...Mondays thru Thursdays (see www.afscme2019.org or pages 6-7)

- **Vote NO on 74, 75, 76, 77 and 78! Vote YES on 79 and 80!**

Together we can win this election...we have to.

In Solidarity,

Mark Foley - President - AFSCME Local 2019

Eight Initiatives to Appear on the November Special Election Ballot

- **Proposition 75** - Paycheck Deception: Prohibits public labor unions from using a member's dues for political contributions unless the member agrees in writing. **(OPPOSE)**
- **Proposition 76** - Spending Cap: Caps the amount of money that could be spent on programs and gives the governor the authority to force automatic across the board cuts if the state budget is not approved on time or falls out of balance during the year. The proponents are paying between \$5 and \$6 per signature for this measure near the end. **(OPPOSE)**
- **Proposition 74** - Teacher tenure: Extends from 2 to 5 years the time before teachers could qualify for tenure. **(OPPOSE)**
- **Proposition 78** - Voluntary prescription drug discounts: Companies would lower prices for Californians earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level, or \$28,710 for individuals. No penalty for companies that don't reduce prices. PhRMA agreed to this in negotiations with Schwarzenegger last year. **(OPPOSE)**
- **Proposition 77** - Redistricting: Gives a panel of retired judges power to determine legislative and congressional districts (now performed by the Legislature). Orders districts redrawn next year, 2006. **(OPPOSE)**
- **Proposition 79** - Required prescription drug discounts. Requires drug companies to lower the prices of medicine for Californians earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level, or \$38,280 for individuals. Companies that refuse would face new barriers to having their drugs prescribed in the state's Medi-Cal program. Schwarzenegger vetoed similar legislation last year. **(SUPPORT)**
- **Proposition 80** - Electricity: Would reverse the last vestiges of California's failed 1996 electricity deregulation law, putting all power producers under the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission and making it illegal for large users to sign new contracts to buy electricity outside the state's power grid. Schwarzenegger vetoed similar legislation last year. **(SUPPORT)**
- **Proposition 73** - Abortion notification: Would block minors from obtaining abortions until 48 hours after their parents are notified. **(NO POSITION)**

Member views on the Special Election

Choice. Everybody wants it. For Americans, it's a fundamental right, whether it's choosing our government, our careers, or what we're having for dinner. But some would argue that we have too many choices—that we should be forced to limit our choices in order to increase partisan political opportunities. One such example is coming up in the November Special Election: Proposition 77, the redistricting measure. In the last General Election, not one contested seat in the California Legislature changed parties. That's because our elected state representatives have gerrymandered their districts to prevent voters from having real choices. Both Republican and Democratic representatives have publicly come out in opposition to redistricting. In my opinion that is more than enough reason to vote for Proposition 77, "The Voter Empowerment Act"

Kevin Hangman

If Arnold Says "Yes", Vote NO!!

It is especially important for all working people to vote in this November's special election. Our governor has put many anti-union and anti-worker measures on the ballot. It is incredibly important that Californians reject these measures unequivocally. The governor has taken anti-public worker, anti-teacher, anti-nurse, anti-police, and anti-firefighter stands. He has proposed that all public employees lose their defined benefit retirement plans. He has proposed that we all pay a higher percentage of our health benefits.

If you want to avoid a huge cut to your standard of living, you need to vote against ***all*** the propositions put forth by the governor. Instead of splitting hairs over the possible benefits or detriments of each ballot measure, we need to give Arnold an across-the-board rejection of all his attacks on our standard of living. To do less is to pave the way for a raid on our retirement benefits. If we lose the defined benefit plan, our retirement income will be based solely on our contributions and interest. In the governor's defined contribution plan, when your money runs out, you live the rest of your retirement in poverty. In our current plan, you receive benefits until you die, no matter how much money you contributed. Big difference.

So, please make a big difference yourself this November and vote down all of the governor's propositions. He needs a strong message that his attacks on labor will not be tolerated in this state. He needs to understand that none of us want to live our lives without quality medical care, without competent teachers for our children, or without public safety services. Every vote counts, if you vote. See you at the polls.

Bob Flasher

Join Us to Defeat Schwarzenegger's
Special Interest Agenda at

ALLIANCE

FOR A **BETTER CALIFORNIA**

PRECINCT WALKS



OAKLAND



**Saturday 9/24, 10/1, 10/8,
10/15, 10/22 & 10/29**

9AM – 2PM

Alliance for a Better California
7992 Capwell Drive
Oakland CA 94621
Call Jocelyn (510) 569.3655

**Sunday 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23
& 10/30**

3PM – 7PM

Alliance for a Better California
7992 Capwell Drive
Oakland CA 94621
Call Jocelyn (510) 569.3655

BERKELEY

**Saturday 9/24, 10/1, 10/8,
10/15, 10/22 & 10/29**

9:30AM – 2PM

CUE
2161 Allston Way, Suite B
Berkeley CA 94704
Call Jerry (510) 267.7131
Email demprecinct@yahoo.com

HAYWARD

Saturday, 10/8

9AM – 2PM

Sponsored by
Hayward Firefighters IAFFL- 1909
22734 Main Street
Hayward CA 94541
Call Jocelyn (510) 569.3655

FREMONT/UNION CITY

Saturday, 10/15 & 10/22

For more information
Call Jocelyn (510) 569.3655

Get Ready to Get Out the Vote November 4,5,6,7,8!!

Alliance for a Better California 7992 Capwell Dr. Oakland, CA 94621 www.betterca.com
Alliance for a Better California, educators, firefighters, school employees, health care givers and labor organizations. Major funding by CA Teachers Association Issues PAC and CA State Council of Service Employees Issues Committee. Printed in house. Labor donated.

Join Us to Defeat Schwarzenegger's
Special Interest Agenda at

ALLIANCE FOR A BETTER CALIFORNIA

ALAMEDA COUNTY

PHONE BANK LOCATIONS



Oakland 1

Monday through Thursday, 5:30 – 9pm
Alliance Office, 7992 Capwell Dr.
Call Jocelyn (510) 569.3655

Oakland 2

Monday through Thursday, 5:30 – 9pm
Sundays 4-7pm
New CLC Office, 100 Hegenberger Rd. Ste 150
Call Erwin or Joyce (510) 632.4242 x226

Oakland 3 - West

Monday through Thursday, 5:30 – 9pm
SEIU Local 616, 155 Myrtle St
Call Berry (510) 452-2366 x528

Oakland 4 - Downtown

Tuesday & Wednesday, 5:30 – 9pm
SEIU-UHW 250, 560 Thomas L. Berkeley Way
(formerly 20th St. between Telegraph & San Pablo)
Call Jocelyn (510) 569.3655

Oakland 5 – Jack London Square

Monday through Thursday, 5:30 – 9:00pm
Carpenters 2236, 115 Broadway
Call Jocelyn (510) 569.3655

Oakland 6

Monday through Saturday, 11am – 8pm
OEBDC, #4 Eastmont Mall
Call Henry (510) 562.6099



Hayward 1

Tuesday through Thursday, 5:30 – 9pm
UFCW 870, 28870 Mission Blvd
Call Rachel (510) 885.1970

Hayward 2

Monday, 5:30 – 9:00pm
Carpenters 713, 1050 Mattox Rd @ Angus Rd.
Call Jocelyn (510) 569.3655

Fremont

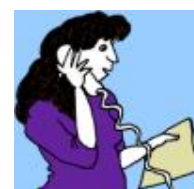
Monday through Thursday, 5:30 – 8pm
SEIU 790, 37138 Niles Blvd.
Call Sue (510) 744.4340

Tri-Valley

Monday through Thursday, 5:30 – 9pm
IBEW 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin
Call Greg (925) 556-0595

Berkeley

Sunday, 3:30 – 8:30pm
Monday through Thursday, 6 – 8:30pm
CUE, 2161 Allston Way Ste. B
Call Jerry (510) 267.7131



Get Ready to Get Out the Vote November 4,5,6,7,8!!!

Alliance for a Better California 7992 Capwell Dr. Oakland, CA 94621 www.betterca.com

Alliance for a Better California, educators, firefighters, school employees, health care givers and labor organizations. Major funding by CA Teachers Association Issues PAC and CA State Council of Service Employees Issues Committee. Printed in house. Labor donated.

Contra Costa Central Labor Council & Contra Costa Building Trades Council



No on 74! No on 76! Phone Bank Schedule

☎ Pittsburgh, Boilermakers 549 Hall, 2191 Piedmont Way | Monday – Thursday, 5:30 – 8:30.

☎ Martinez, Teamsters 315 Hall, 2727 Alhambra Ave | Monday-Thursday, 5:30 – 8:30.

☎ Richmond, Letter Carriers 1111 Hall, 402 37th St. | Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday – NO Tuesday – 5:30- 8:30.

Join volunteers from other unions and community partners as we get the message out about these anti-worker initiatives. To volunteer or for more information on the special election, contact the Contra Costa CLC/BTC Labor to Labor Campaign at 925-228-0161 or volunteer@cclabor.net

mhg/clc

AFSCME on Hurricane Katrina

In response to one of the worst disasters in the history of our country, your national union is providing \$100,000 to our "AFSCME Fallen Heroes Fund." This money will be used to assist the hundreds, and possibly thousands, of AFSCME members and their families in the affected areas.

AFSCME has over 3,300 members in Louisiana, more than 800 of whom work in the hard-hit areas of New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Soon, these hard-working public service employees will be back at work, aiding their fellow citizens, often while trying to manage their personal losses as well.

In addition to direct financial aid, in the coming days we are sending in a team of national union staff to provide support on the ground. The group will work out of AFSCME Council 17's office in Baton Rouge.

To make a donation to assist your fellow AFSCME members in Louisiana, send a check to the "AFSCME Fallen Heroes Fund." Please indicate on either the memo line of the check or in a cover letter that your contribution should be used for Katrina relief.

Please send checks to:

AFSCME Fallen Heroes Fund

1625 L St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036-5687

AFSCME's International Convention

As you may have seen in news reports, the service employees (SEIU), the Teamsters, the textile and hotel workers (UNITE-HERE), and the food and commercial workers (UFCW) announced they are boycotting the AFL-CIO Convention. Their entire so-called "Change to Win Coalition" - which includes the Farm Workers and the Laborers - has also said they will resign their positions on the Federation's Executive Council. And, on Monday, both SEIU and the Teamsters announced they have disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO.

What caused this?

Both sides put forward different proposals. President Sweeney, working with all of the unions in the Federation, developed a comprehensive set of reforms that represent real change -- and reflect the best ideas of everyone who has participated in the debate about the future of the labor movement. Sweeney's plan will dramatically step up organizing, create strategic Industry Coordinating Committees to unite workers and their unions who do similar work in similar core industries, and create a year-round member education and mobilization program that won't just focus on national politicians, but on elections at every level, along with issue campaigns.

(Continued on page 9)

AFSCME's International Convention (con't)

While there were still some differences, they were few. In the end, the Change to Win effort was simply a transparent attempt at a power grab. They wanted to replace President Sweeney but they did not have the votes. So they left.

Our reform agenda is based on four important principles: worker power; real unity; real change; and democratic decision-making.

- **Worker Power.** We stand for helping workers build power to change their lives while Change to Win is only about power for themselves. It turns out they were more interested in taking over the AFL-CIO than reforming it.
- **Real Unity.** We stand for unity and solidarity -- they're for division and "my way or the highway." We made genuine attempts to compromise -- they bargained in bad faith.
- **Real Change.** We stand for changing workers' lives -- they're simply about changing the leadership of the AFL-CIO and getting back their dues. In fact, they are delinquent in paying their dues to the AFL-CIO, totaling \$8.5 million. We stand for organizing workers -- they're for subsidizing large affiliates. We embraced real reforms but their bottom line was naming the officers.
- **Democratic Decision-Making.** We stand for democracy and bottom-up organizing -- they want a small group of decision-makers and top-down control. They only want the biggest unions to make the big decisions - no matter who that excludes, including women and people of color.

Second, we have to do everything to involve our members and make our union as strong as it can be at every level. We should always do this. But now, we have to be prepared for raids of our members by Change to Win unions, as well as competition for prospective members during organizing campaigns.

We all know what we have to do. We must grow our ranks and our political power. We will make greater progress growing the labor movement when we have more political power, and we'll have more pro-worker elected officials -- at every level of government -- when we've organized more workers into unions. Through organizing and through politics, we will make the labor movement stronger than it's ever been.

We are sorry to see SEIU and the Teamsters leave. They're weaker without us; we're all stronger together. But make no mistake - we are going to strengthen AFSCME and the Federation, grow our membership, build worker power and win real victories for working families.

For more information on this debate, please visit www.afscme.org/press/talkingpoints/pdf.

In Solidarity,

Gerald W. McEntee

President, AFSCME International

AFSCME Local 2019

P.O. Box 71288
Oakland CA 94612-7388

E-mail:
UNION@AFSCME2019.ORG



AFSCME
In the Public Service.

Our Mission

To promote the welfare of the membership and to provide a voice in the determination of the terms and conditions of employment. We are committed to the process of collective bargaining as the most desirable, democratic, and effective method to achieve this. Both as union members and as citizens, we shall employ available legislative and political action.

To unite the Clerical, Technical, Service and Inspection, and Professional employees of EBMUD into a single cohesive labor union.

DISCLAIMER: Any opinion expressed by a contributor about a controversial subject is to be considered his/her own personal opinion, not the opinion of Local 2019 as a whole and should not be considered as an endorsement.

Visit us on the web at
WWW.AFSCME2019.ORG

Upcoming Events

2005 Western Women's Conference

November 4-6, 2005

**Fairmont Hotel
170 South Market Street
San Jose, California 95113**

The Executive Board meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of every month.

Next Executive Board Meeting:

Tuesday, November 1, 3:30PM
NAB (Conference Room 7A/B)