



# Count me in!

DECEMBER 2022

WEBSITE: EDCEA.ORG

FACEBOOK: EDCEA, LOCAL #1



## BENEFITS!

AFSCME Advantage Annual Scholarships  
See our website for details.

## MEETINGS

EDCEA, Local #1 has a Board of Directors (BOD) that meet on a monthly basis along with EDCEA staff, on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm with occasional exceptions. All meetings are held via Zoom.

Upcoming meetings:  
January 28, 2023 @ 9AM  
Email [edceapub@gmail.com](mailto:edceapub@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

## OFFICE

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Marcia Woods  
President

Laura Ghione  
Secretary

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There are times that a member will complain to me that they think “the Union doesn’t do anything” so I’d like to take this opportunity to explain a little more about what we do. There’s a lot more going on behind the scenes than you may realize. For example, I serve on our Board of Directors, the PEU Local 1 Board of Directors, and the AFSCME Council 57 delegate board—that’s two monthly meetings plus a quarterly meeting, for a total of 26 meetings a year that I attend. Then there are frequent meetings with HR to address member issues with benefits, classifications, labor policies, etc. I also attend the monthly shop steward meetings and, every two weeks, we meet with new employees at Orientation to explain their Union benefits to them. Added to that, there is responding to members when they bring us their issues, researching relevant policy, and representing them at various types of meetings—with over 900 members in our bargaining units, there is always something going on with answering their questions, representing them and resolving their complaints. Because these are often confidential proceedings, we can’t always tell you the specifics, but we will be reporting to you in our January newsletter with general information on what we’ve addressed this year. So when a member asks, “what does the Union do?”, there isn’t a short answer, because we are always working on a lot of things all the time. Oh, and did I mention that all of your representatives (board members, shop stewards, site reps) are also working our full-time County jobs in addition to our Union work?

Please do understand that I’m not complaining. These are the duties we willingly took on and we perform them to the best of our abilities because we believe we can make a difference in your life and the lives of all our members. We, your representatives, are always working on your behalf to solve problems that affect our working conditions and the benefits we are entitled to. Our business staff, Brian Dane and Laura Ghione, are also working full time to assist members, provide information, solve problems, research solutions, make sure our member information is up to date, and keep track of who’s where and how to reach them when we need to.

Some of you may have received a “greeting card” from an organization suggesting you might be better off leaving the Union. I urge you to read between the lines and ask yourself, why does this organization care whether I belong to a union or not? What’s in it for them? Why did that organization spend a lot of money to design, print, and mail these slick pitches to our members? I guarantee they are not reaching out because they care about your welfare and whether you receive the benefits you deserve. Where will that organization be when you need representation to resolve a workplace issue? How about when it’s time to negotiate pay increases? If you do the research to discover who’s funding these mailings, it’s easy to discover their true motives, so stop for a moment and remember who is really on your side and working hard to improve working conditions for all of us.

To you, our loyal members, we sincerely appreciate your ongoing support—it means a lot to all of us. I’ll end this with my own greeting, on behalf of our board and our staff, to each and every one of you, that you enjoy the upcoming holidays and that the coming year brings good fortune to you, your families, your friends, and your communities.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK - SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS - CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

## ***PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONTINUED***

**This is OUR Union. Every Voice matters. Your VOICE matters!**

### Survey

A survey has been sent to members' home emails, seeking your opinion on our insurance benefits. Please check your personal email and respond to the survey no later than December 22. If you didn't receive the email, be sure to update your personal email information with Laura Ghione at [edceapub@gmail.com](mailto:edceapub@gmail.com). Since we will be doing a series of these surveys to prepare for negotiations next year, please make sure we have your current contact information so you can make your opinion count.

### Bulletin Board

Last month, I asked members to find the Union bulletin board at their worksite and send me a photo. Helen Keith, our new BOD secretary, was the first to respond so she will receive a Local 1 water bottle. Let me know if you don't have a Union bulletin board at your site so we can send one to you.



Coming in our January newsletter: 2022 year in review

### ***Welcome New Members***

Juliet Avalos - HHSA/SS

Laura Santens - HHSA/SS

Je'Tai Lawson - HHSA/SS

Matt Cahill - IT

Cheryl Garcia - Assessor

Kerri Jo Sanders - CDA

### ***Anniversaries***

Congratulations to our members celebrating the following anniversaries:

1 year - Brian Boies, Minerva Sanchez-Ramos, Carla Munoz

5 years - Belinda Knittle, Andrea Ledford, Clayton Seado, Kourtney Vinatieri-Mohn,  
Laura Volk, Paul Ogden, Teri Prather, Chelsea Forman

10 years - Kevin Corley, Shannon Wild

25 years - Ernst Belgram

# **KEEP CALM AND READ YOUR CONTRACT**

To the members of EDCEA,

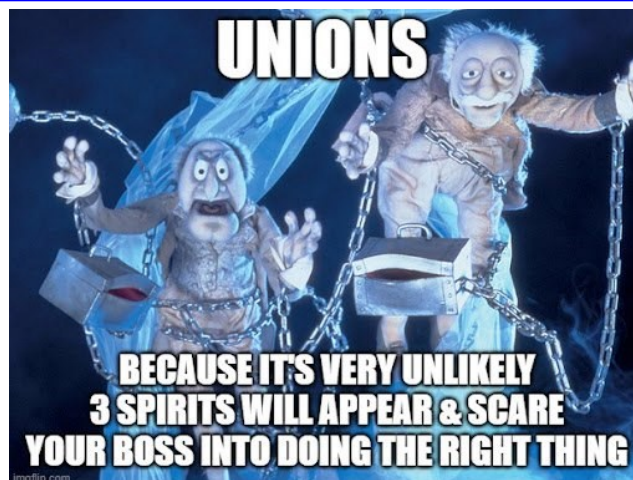
I hope all are doing well and preparing for a happy holiday season. On behalf of your President Marcia Woods, I wanted to provide a brief update on an issue of great importance to many of you. As things in California have become more expensive, the number of people forced into homelessness has increased and the County is opening a Navigation Center to provide them with services. Many of our members have expressed safety concerns and we wanted to make sure that you and your colleagues are safe at work. First, I would like to acknowledge the work many of you do to provide services for the homeless; it is the workers of the County, our union brothers and sisters, that make this County run. *You are an integral part of the community, and you deserve to be kept safe.*

After the announcement regarding the Navigation Center being opened, President Woods spearheaded an effort to make sure that steps were taken to make the situation as safe as possible for the workers near the Navigation Center.

As a result, four security officers will be hired, and two at a time will be patrolling the government center. We are also working to ensure adequate lighting for the area. There is a document forthcoming to detail how employees can get in touch with the security officers during the workday.

Moving forward, we will work to monitor the situation and update our membership. The County wants a report in June, however, we will work throughout the next few months to document your concerns and bring them to the County in effort to ensure the situation is working for all involved. Your EDCEA leadership is working tirelessly for you, and we hope to make sure that you are aware of these actions. I wish you all a happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing more of our membership in the New Year.

In solidarity, Brian Dane  
Union Representative



**KEEP CALM AND READ YOUR CONTRACT**