



Count me in!

JULY 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:
8/9/22 and 9/6/22

Email edceapub@gmail.com
for the Zoom link.

OFFICE

EDCEA, LOCAL 1
2864 Ray Lawyer Drive,
Suite 202
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 626-2569
Email: edceapub@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION STAFF:

Marcia Woods
President

Laura Ghione
Administrative Services Assistant

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS EMAIL:

edceapub@gmail.com

Or

edceapres@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'll keep it short this month to leave room for two great reports from our members, Brittiany Fitzgerald and Michelle Babcock, who attended the Labor Notes Conference in June and the AFSCME International Conference in July. Check out their reports for insights on what's happening in labor unions around the country. On behalf of all our members, I want to thank Brittiany and Michelle for taking their time to attend these two important conferences.

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

Labor Notes Conference Report, by member Brittiany Fitzgerald

Most of what I remember is that unions always start smaller, and get bigger as membership increases and once most of the employees are in the union it allows the union power to bargain with the workplace to get the needs of the workers met. While generally negotiations benefit both parties the workers get better benefits than they would have without the union because workplaces' usual goals involve making as much profit as possible.

It was also made clear in the grass roots presentation I went to that the starting of a new union is hard, but well worth the process. The meetings I went to for healthcare union workers were mostly about nurses, but they also all expressed similar issues that my therapist coworkers have as well, that we are burned out and overworked, especially now with everyone being so unsettled and needing therapy as the pain pandemic is winding down.

It was great to see so many people speaking together and commiserating on their struggles and sharing their successes.

Welcome New Members

Sheree Smail — HHSA\BH
Samuel Kalinowski — Agriculture
Samuel Marchant — Planning and Building

July Anniversaries

Congratulations to our members celebrating the following anniversaries this month:

1 Year: Amanda Khang, Ariana Khang and Efren Sanchez
10 Years: Nora Carillo, and Brittany Berridge

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AFSCME International Convention Report, by Michelle Babcock, Shop Steward

I bring greetings from your Brothers and Sisters from all over the US representing AFSCME in Solidarity! Convention 2022 was so epic! I am not sure if anyone has ever been to national convention before, but this one was pretty special after the last 2 years that we have been through. If any of our other members have an opportunity to attend next time, I highly recommend it. The next convention will be held in Chicago in 2024.

Council 57 is pretty special as well. The leadership that we have is amazing! So many talented Public Sector members that truly want to make a difference in California. The conversations that I had with delegates from all over the state and beyond were so enlightening, encouraging and inspiring. The resolutions that we heard on the floor during General Session all week had a lot of positive outcomes. AFSCME is pushing forward and leading the way in creating a strong future for younger members in many ways. Being a part of a Union is more common and popular in 2022 than it was in the 1960's. I know that is hard to believe, but can you imagine what the future will be if this continues? The movement is rising up and that is very exciting! Private sector employees are joining us in this endeavor. Starbucks and Amazon are a couple that come to mind. While we were in Philadelphia, AFSCME organized a rally on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum. The employees there are negotiating their very first contract with the City!

The classes and workshops were very informative. I made sure to sit in on all of the Shop Steward classes. The stories that I heard from all over the Country made me feel so lucky to live here in Northern California and to be a part of Local 1. We have it so good here, I can't even tell you. There are things that we can do for our members to make it more attractive to stay for the long term rather than jump to another jurisdiction because pay is not what it needs to be. But, I feel like the comradery that we have here is something that you can't overlook. It motivates me to continue to speak with my fellow coworkers and remind them what the Union stands for. We have a good contract and good leadership here in El Dorado County and I don't want anyone to take that for granted. I remember working in the Private Sector before getting my first government job in Oregon back in 2012. I was never guaranteed a raise and seldom saw any kind of increase that I could plan for or count on for me and my family. We have so many good benefits and security. Sometimes we forget how good we have it. My goal is to inspire others to get involved and be proactive for our future as a union.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to have gone to the Convention this year. Thank you for sending me and I was honored to represent El Dorado County. I would be happy to share with anyone any of the resolutions that passed and the ones that didn't...as well as all of the fun memories that I brought back with me from Philly.



KEEP CALM AND READ YOUR CONTRACT