



## Farewell to Past Leadership

### Jere Copeland

On Friday November 8, 2019 Jere Copeland retired after 23 years of working for Local 1. Like so many of us, getting involved in an organization like a Union is a process of discovery. For Jere that process started while he was a Probation Office in the City of Martinez in Contra Costa County. It was in 1982 when Jere joined Local 1 and he has been working for fair wages, benefits and fair treatment for employees ever since.

Jere liked the Union, liked the feeling of working with others "to get something done", he liked "having a voice". He started out by becoming a Shop Steward and then ultimately became President his Unit.

Jere retired from Contra Costa County after 20 years of service and in 1996 went to work for Local 1. He came up to El Dorado County as a Business Agent in 2002 and then became the Executive Director in 2005.

While Jere has been here in El Dorado County he has many accomplishments but he feels that one of his main accomplishments is getting the County Government to become more Union friendly.

When you have a career that has been as busy as Jere's you might wonder what retirement will look like? Well Jere is not the sit in the rocker type of person. He is a Private Detective who likes fishing and is looking forward to working at his own pace!

Jere we wish you much happiness in this next chapter of your life

and we are grateful for all you have contributed to this Union! All the best to you and your family!!

### Kim Ivester

For 17 years we have been lucky to know that Kim Ivester was in the Local 1 office. She was the calm and steady voice on the phone making sure that messages were taken and given; that the office was organized and well run. You always felt good after talking to Kim. Well, Kim has decided it is time to leave; that the time is right for her to retire.

I just couldn't say goodbye without knowing a little bit more about Kim. So, Kim kindly sat down with me for a few minutes and shared that working for this union has been a wonderful experience. Being part of a union came naturally for her since she grew up in a union family.

Kim shared that her Dad was a crane operator and an Operating Engineer Union member for 60 years. She said that her Dad was always on the side of the underdog and that's one reason why he was an ardent union member. I think that Kim shared her Dad's opinion about supporting the "little guy" and is one of the many reasons why coming to work everyday was meaningful to Kim.

Kim started to work full time for Local 1 on January 3, 2002. I asked her if there was an event that stood out to her during her time with Local 1? Kim shared that seeing what a group of dedicated people can achieve when they come together to accomplish a goal was and is amazing to behold. She is proud to have supported and been a

part of what the union has accomplished here in El Dorado County over the years.

Kim is looking forward to being able to travel and visit family. She is also looking forward to having time to do more of what she loves, sewing. Kim loves to sew. She is planning to join the American Sewing Guild (ASG) and Sew for Vets. Each of these groups work on sewing projects for Vets. Kim loves knowing that these projects give back to and honor each recipients' service.

Kim was happy and beaming as she shared how fulfilling it is to serve, in her way, those who put their lives on the line for all of us. I think that there are many service men and woman who will be receiving a bit of love and respect from Kim through the beautiful quilts she makes!

WE will miss you Kim, but we are so happy for you!!



### What's Inside!

<b>Meet Laura Ghione</b>	<b>PG 2</b>
<b>Meet Roland</b>	<b>PG 2</b>
<b>Negotiating Team</b>	<b>PG 3</b>
<b>Delegate Assembly</b>	<b>PG 3</b>
<b>Members Benefits</b>	<b>PG 4</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>PG 4</b>
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>PG 4</b>

## Meet Our New Concil 57 Team

### Roland Becht

With the retirement of Local 1 Business Agent Jere Copeland and the historic vote for Local 1 to unify with AFSCME Council 57, we have a new Business Agent, please meet Roland Becht.

A little bit about Roland:

Roland's biography includes serving in Intelligence in the Army in Germany during the Cold War for three years. After leaving the Army he worked in the private sector for nineteen years before he went to work for the State of California.

It was while he was a state worker that he realized the importance of union representation. Roland stepped up, became a member of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and decided to get active. He became a Shop Steward and then Vice president of the local Chapter in San Diego. It wasn't long before he was elected to be a team member on the statewide bargaining council.

In 2010 Roland left state employment and became a staff member of the SEIU. He was the Union Representative working in five counties in Southern CA. In 2013 he was promoted and moved to Sacramento to work in the contracts department.

As luck would have it, in 2018 Roland left the SEIU and moved over to AFSCME. You can see, even from this very short snapshot of a biography, that Roland has learned about Union opera-

tions from the ground up, representing members at all levels. This experience along with a keen attention to detail, has led to Roland becoming a skilled contracts negotiator and member representative.



Roland has been part of teams that have improved the lives of thousands of people across California and now he will be here to work with El Dorado County Local 1/ AFSCME members.

Roland will be in the Placerville Office about 3 days a week. If you need to connect with Roland to talk about an issue or to welcome him

don't hesitate to call Laura at the Union Office for an appointment. The Union Office # is 530- 626 -2565.

### Laura Ghione

Most of our Union members may not know that Laura Ghione has been quietly working here in the Placerville Local 1 office with Kim Ivester for about 2.5 years. She has been supporting all of us by helping Kim to keep our Union office humming along. With Kim's retirement, Laura will now be front and center running the office by herself. She is looking forward to the challenge and we are looking forward to getting to know her better.

Laura is not new to Local 1. She started working for Local 1 in Contra Costa County on May 1, 2002. In August 2017 Laura moved to El Dorado County when an opportunity presented itself. She loves El Dorado County!

Laura came from a family of immigrants (Spanish, Italian and French) and like most of us, she has had her ups and downs. It was working through the hard times that she learned how important unions are. She realized that her work with the union helped to insure that people received decent wages and benefits and that they had support/ representation if they needed it. It makes her feel good knowing that she is working for the benefit of others.

Working for the benefit of others doesn't just include us human beings; Laura has a passion for giving back to the community and that includes our four-legged friends. She loves animals! Laura currently has 1 rescue dog and helps her friend and fellow animal lover, with her friend's rescue dog and rescue horse. Laura's slogan is "Adopt don't Shop" and Laura walks the walk, she is very active within-line animal rescue networks and she loves working to find homes for our deserving animals through networking.

Another passion for Laura is the Toys for Tots program. When she was located in the Contra Costa County office she ran both the Food Drive and the Toys for Tots program. When Laura moved to El Dorado County she decided to start the Toys for Tots program here. Thanks to Laura we now have a Toys of Tots donation Box in our Union Office. So, stop by the office to make a donation and to WELCOME Laura.





## Our Next MOU Negotiations Team

Maybe you are hearing rumblings that negotiations are coming around again. After the last two years it may feel unsettling, but don't worry, times are a little different now. With the successful vote to join AFSCME Council 57 completed, our EDCEA Local 1 is now on track for a unified and strong voice in the up and coming contract negotiations.

As you know the Board of Directors reached out to the membership to see who might be interested in participating on the negotiation team. The members responded and the Board selected the following members to be on the Negotiations Team.

Your team will soon be participating in AFSCME sponsored Negotiations training. Negotiations are projected to begin in January. Stay tuned and please don't be shy

about sharing ideas and concerns to your Site Reps and Board Members. Being unified as we go into negotiations is important to the success of negotiating a good contract for all of us. We are all in this together!

gate by virtue of the office. The 7 remaining delegates will be selected as follows:

- 2 from Units represented out of the Concord Office
- 2 from Units/Affiliates represented out of the El Dorado Office
- 2 from Units/Affiliates represented out of the Sutter/Yuba Office
- 1 from the Units in the Los Banos/Merced Units

All delegates **must** be members in good standing.

*As a delegate, they must actively participate in the Delegates Assembly which meets quarterly at the C57 Office in Oakland. The meetings occur the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month in January, April, July and September.*

### EDCEA NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

**Rebecca Klare, President**

**Greg Hicks**

**Robert Foster**

**Mary Luckel**

**Alison Ehlers**

**Larry Argenio**

**Tracy Melton**

### ALTERNATES

**Carl Pascoe-Bickel**

**Aaron Mount**

**Justin Canning**

**Stay Union - Stay Strong**



This election of delegates will be for the current Delegate term ending April 2021. If you have questions please feel free to email [info@peu1.org](mailto:info@peu1.org) or call 925-228-1600. We will hold elections in January. Please use the attached nomination form.

## Council 57 Delegate Assembly

Through our Affiliation with AFSCME District Council 57, Local 1 is entitled to 8 seats on the Council 57 Delegate Assembly. The Delegate Assembly is the highest governing body of the Council. The term is 2 years. As the President of your Unit, I am sharing this information with all our members. Nominations should be sent to [info@peu1.org](mailto:info@peu1.org) no later than 12/20/19.

Local 1 is allocated 8 delegates based on our membership size. The Local 1 President is a dele-

*"Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor."*

**JOHN F. KENNEDY, speech, Aug. 30, 1960**

**"Workers of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!"**



## Officers

President	Rebecca Klare	Assessor	621-5728
1st Vice President—WS	Tracy Melton	CDA Admin & Finance	621-5858
2nd Vice President—SLT	Larry Hobson	HHSA-SS-SLT	573-3204
Secretary			
Treasurer	Debbie Touchette	Assessor	621-5724
Past President	Walter Davies	Retiree	
Chief Shop Stwd—WS	Greg Hicks	Transportation	621-5929
Chief Shop Stwd—SLT	Mary Luckel	Child Support Svcs	573-3458

## Director

Joan Barbee	HHSA—Soc Svcs	642-7274
Kristen Jennings-Manners	HHSA—Soc Svcs	642-7234
Sean Conley-Widing	Assessor	621-5755
Jenny Wilson	HHSA—Emp & Training	642-7274
Marcia Woods	Assessor	621-5768
Laurie Blazich	Retiree	
Vacant	Retiree	

## Upcoming Events

- 12/17/19** PEU, BOD Meeting Concord 6:30pm  
**12/18/19** Organizing Committee (OC)  
 Union Office 5:30-6:30pm  
**12/24/19** Christmas Eve Holiday - Office Closed  
**12/25/19** Christmas Day Holiday - Office Closed  
**12/31/19** New Year's Eve Holiday - Office Closed  
**1/1/20** New Year's Day Holiday - Office Closed  
**1/11/20** BOD Workshop - Union Office  
 9:30 - 4:00pm  
**1/15/20** Organizing Committee (OC)  
 Union Office 5:30-6:30pm  
**1/21/20** PEU BOD 6:30-8:30pm  
**1/29/20** Organizing Committee (OC)  
 Union Office 5:30-6:30pm

## Meetings

EDCEA, Local #1 has a Board of Directors (BOD's) that meet on a monthly basis along with EDCEA staff, on the first Tuesday of every month with occasional exceptions. All meetings are held at the Union Office in Placerville with quarterly meetings held in South Lake Tahoe. All MEMBERS are welcome to attend.

We ask that you please RSVP 1 day in advance for food ordering purposes.

## Benefits of Membership

### Auto Advantage

- Auto Insurance
- Auto Buying Service & Car Buying Advice
- Motor Club
- Goodyear Discount Tires and Car Services
- A Guide To Union Made Vehicles

### Education

- AFSCME Free College
- Scholarships

### Health Services

- Medical Bill Negotiating Service
- Health Savings
- Health Savings: Questions and Answers

### House & Home

- Refinance & First Time Homebuyers Mortgage Program
- Save My Home Hotline
- Moving Van Discounts
- Budget Truck Rental
- Pet Services

### Insurance

- Life and Supplemental Insurance
- Insurance Programs: Questions and Answers
- Retiree Health Insurance

### Legal

- Legal Services
- Legal Services Program : Questions and Answers
- Immigration Legal Services
- Public Safety Protection Program

### Money & Credit

- Union Plus Hardship Grants
- AFSCME Advantage Credit Card
- Consumer Reports
- Credit Counseling
- Layoff Helpline
- Retirement Planning Center
- Union Plus Credit Clinic

### Travel

- Travel Center
- Car Rental Discounts
- SuperShuttle Discount

### Union Shopping

- AT&T Wireless Discounts
- Entertainment
- Flowers
- Paycheck Direct Member Purchasing Program

## LABOR UNIONS:

THE FOLKS WHO BROUGHT YOU THE WEEKEND.

CHILD LABOR LAWS, OVERTIME,

MINIMUM WAGE, INJURY PROTECTION,

WORKMENS COMPENSATION INSURANCE,

PENSION SECURITY, RIGHT TO ORGANIZE . ETC.