

## 8,400 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES IN PUBLIC SERVICE

### City of L.A.

### Termination Rescinded



*George Webb*

For more than a year, George Webb's life was turned upside down. In June of 2004, Airport management placed him on Administrative Leave and subsequently terminated his employment with the City. George, the only Window Washing Supervisor at the Airport, was accused of ordering supplies that were not needed to clean windows, and encouraging the theft of City funds. After calling 777, George worked with his representative Victor Gordo to prepare his case.

Among the supplies that George was charged with needlessly ordering were a cleaner degreaser, multi-purpose cleaner, graffiti remover, and, yes, a hard surface cleaner. At the hearing, all of George's subordinates testified that not only did they use all of these products, but they used on a daily basis. George was also charged with: "encouraging the theft of City funds."

This charge, the City alleged, was warranted because George was ordering products from a vendor and not from the fixed price City contracts. At the hearing, it was quickly established that the City knew that vendors were coming onto Airport property to sell their wares (to all supervisors), that Managers themselves

*(Continued on page 6)*

### 400 Airport Police Join!

**On March 22, 2005 four hundred members of the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association (LAAPOA) voted overwhelmingly to join Local 777.**

"We're pleased to be part of the LIUNA family," reports George Jarvis, LAAPOA President. "We firmly believe that joining Local 777 will assist in better representing our members as we continue to grow."

Our newest members are nationally recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Safety Administration and FBI as a highly skilled workforce, creating one of the safest airports in the world at LAX. LAAPOA members also work at the Van Nuys and Ontario airports (where over sixty Ontario Airport police officers are also trained and function as firefighters).

LIUNA staffers Paul Bechely and Wendell Llopis deserve the credit for getting the

*(Continued on page 6)*



*From left to right: LAAPOA Board Member Burt Davis; Paul Bechely and Fred Lowe from Local 777; LAAPOA President George Jarvis; LAAPOA Board Member Clint Beacom; and LAAPOA Vice-President Manny Portillo.*

**NO 75**  
on **PROP**  
**Don't Silence Our Voice**

## Golden Bear Award Winners

All too often, newspaper readers open the “Letters to the Editor”, only to find at least one or more letters bashing public employees. That is all the more reason for *The Organizer* to publicize good work that too often goes unnoticed. LIUNA is proud to announce that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors honored nine LIUNA members—Robert M. Riedman, Michael A. Renney, Linda M. Burdo, William F. Davies, April Davis, Ronald Bryant, Cindy Edison, Kimberly Vanderhoof and Erin Dominguez— with the annual Cal-ID “Golden Bear Award.” Robert Michael Show was honored posthumously. The Golden Bear recognizes the superior performance of those deputies, police officers and forensic technicians who have received five “hits,” or positive identifications of criminals, from fingerprint evidence within the calendar year.

Forensic Technician II Kimberley Vanderhoof (Forensic Bureau East in Indio) explained that the prints in questions are latent prints from “unknown suspects.” Matching these prints to those available in the Cal-ID system yields the suspect’s identity. Along with four coworkers, Kimberley has also received a nomination for the Peace Officer and Public Safety Appreciation Day Award. Among her achievements were the location and collection of a shoe impression that matched the shoes of a possible rape suspect. The suspect was later convicted of that rape and a series of others in the Blythe area.

Crimes like homicide and kidnapping have no statutes of limitation, so in theory at least, the investigation never ends. Improvements in computerized identification technology have allowed forensic technicians to crack old cases in which latent prints were the only leads.

Forensic Technician II Linda Burdo recently got a “hit” on a homicide that occurred in 1981. Cal-ID could not match the prints until the matching set

recently appeared in the database. Senior Forensic Technician II Michael Renney (Forensic Bureau West) has cracked cases from the 1970’s and 1980’s, his most recent “hit” involving a 1983 crime.

Finally, a special tip of our hat to Robert Riedman (Forensic Bureau West), who has won a Golden Bear Award every year since Cal-ID established it.

## CRFEA Gets Stronger!

The County of Riverside Fire Employees Association (CRFEA), LIUNA Local 777, hold meetings every other month to discuss issues and to hear about different



*From left are: Phil Albanese; Jasmin Loi, Riverside County HR; Walt Brandes; and Kerri Holland, Riverside County HR..*

Fire Department related topics from guest speakers. Chief Anthony, who recently became Chief of the Department in Riverside County, has shown a real commitment to working with CRFEA to improve efficiency and services to local cities.

## City of Indio

### Court Battle On Termination

City of Indio Water Services Worker Jose Ponce was terminated in March 2004 for violating city rules, the drug free workplace policy, and the employee conduct policy. The City was unable to produce any evidence that Jose was under the influence of drugs at work. The arbitrator ruled that Jose should be returned to work with full back pay.

The City has refused to honor the arbitrator’s decision and the Union has now taken the City to Superior Court on this.



At some members’ request what follows is the expanded version of our website article “It’s the Law!” which had briefly explained the rights of nursing mothers to express breast milk while at work.

The current law, contained in the California Labor Code, sections 1030 through 1033, began as AB 1025, sponsored by Assemblyman Dario Frommer, with support from both parties as well as labor unions and other advocacy groups. Former Governor Gray Davis signed it during the 2001-2002 legislative session.

The law requires all employers, including all public employers, to allow adequate break time for the employee to express breast milk. Time need not be authorized outside of normal breaks or lunch if doing so would seriously disrupt operations.

Note that the term used is “seriously” disrupt. Mere inconvenience is not enough reason for an employer to refuse an employee’s reasonable request for a break. Authorized time that does not run concurrently with “normal” break time is unpaid.

Employers must also make reasonable efforts to provide the employee with use of a location close to her work area. Toilet stalls do not fulfill this requirement! The Labor Commissioner enforces this law and will impose both citations and fines on violators.

LIUNA 777 is proud to have been a long-time supporter of Dario Frommer, who represents residents of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District (Glendale, Burbank, Los

(Continued to page 3)



## Written Reprimand Reduced To Warning

Carol Tibbetts, Eligibility Technician III with the Department of Public Social Services, had a Written Reprimand rescinded over a remark she made, after LIUNA Representative Sala Ponneh filed a disciplinary appeal on Carol's behalf.

"One of the requirements of just cause in employee discipline is that the wrongdoer have adequate notice that what she is doing is wrong. Carol did not know—or have reason to know—the impact her remark would have on her audience," Ms. Ponneh explained.

"Some words are so outrageous that the speaker could be expected to know without being told that they are offensive. In such cases, nobody believes that the speaker did not know what he or she was really saying. In Carol's case, nothing in her background or even her training and experience as a County employee would have made her aware that the remark carried the meaning that it did." The arbitrator agreed, based on the particular facts in the case. She reduced Carol's written reprimand to a corrective memo and required her to attend a diversity training class.

## Courts Prepare For Bargaining

Local 777 and the Riverside Courts are preparing to go into bargaining. Irene Cordoba, Court Examiner with Family Law



(From left) Susan Johnson, Sylvia Franz, and Irene Cordoba

and bargaining team member reports "We are looking forward to a process that reflects the labor management cooperation

that has existed thus far. Hopefully, we will reach an agreement that is beneficial to both the Court and the employees." Good luck!

## Alan Haeberle Recognized!

At the February membership meeting, member Alan Haeberle was recognized for his being the first leader to organize a public agency with Local 777—the City of Indio! He now works for the County of Riverside and continues to do a great job!



Alan Haeberle (left) is congratulated by Fred Lowe, Local 777 Business Manager, and Sandra Brown, Local 777 President.

## Bargaining Rights Rescinded

Newly elected Republican governors in Indiana and Missouri eliminated collective bargaining rights of some 50,000 workers recently when they signed executive orders unilaterally rescinding workers' bargaining rights and contracts.

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, Bush's former Office of Management and Budget director, issued an executive order that repealed 15 years of collective bargaining rights supported by the state's past three governors. His action eliminated bargaining rights of some 25,000 union members. He also rescinded contracts set to run through 2007.

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt's executive order took away bargaining rights of about 25,000 union members as well, including some 9,000 who had reached contracts with the state. The affected unions will seek legal action.

## Written Reprimand Rescinded

When Buck Bryant, Housekeeper with the Community Health Agency, discovered a flood at the end of his shift,



Linda Jefferson and Buck Bryant

he did what he was expected to do, by calling his supervisor and lead worker, informing them that there had been a flood. He asked if he should stay and work overtime to help out, and was told it was not necessary. He later received a written reprimand for inefficiency and negligence in performance of his duties.

Local 777 Representative Linda Jefferson and Buck filed a grievance and took the case to a mini-arbitration, where the mediator ruled that Buck met the expectation of notifying his supervisors when he called them and asked what he should do. The written reprimand was removed from Buck's file.

## About Women...

(Continued from page 2)

Feliz, Silver Lake, North Hollywood and Toluca Lake), and is a good friend to working men and women everywhere in California.

Imagine what the workplace would be like if labor unions lacked the resources to help elect legislators like Dario Frommer! If Californians approve the "Payroll Deception Act," **Proposition 75**, that is exactly what would happen. Workers would see very little progressive legislation like AB 1025 ever introduced into the legislature, let alone passed and made into law.



### AWOP Rescinded

When Rachelle Sparks' aunt passed away, she knew that she wasn't able to take bereavement leave for an aunt, so she put in for sick leave and vacation time. Even though Rachelle, a Dispatcher for Riverside County Sheriff's Department, had put in for vacation time and sick time, her supervisor changed it to a bereavement leave request, which meant requesting to use sick leave. The request was denied and she was considered Absent With Out Pay (AWOP).

Rachelle contacted Representative Kathie Delgado and they filed a grievance. They were both relieved that the grievance was resolved at Step One. Rachelle was paid back for the days she had been AWOP and granted her full seniority, which is precious when it comes to dispatchers shifts, vacations etc.

### Larry Brown Mediation Won



Larry Brown

Larry Brown, Senior Medical Electronics Technician for RCRMC, recently received a 40-day suspension when he was accused of theft and violence in the workplace. Local 777 Representative Linda Jefferson took the case to Mediation and, as a result of those efforts, his 40-day suspension was reduced to a written reprimand, as the charges were unsubstantiated.



### Out Of Class Grievance Resolved



From left: Kathie Delgado, Chris Van Matre, and Linda Jefferson

Chris Van Matre, Office Assistant II at RCRMC believed she had been working out of class for quite some time. She contacted her Representative, Linda Jefferson and they filed a grievance.

The remedy requested was that an expedited classification study be done. The County refused to conduct the study, their reasons being that they were planning on doing a general clerical classification study within the following year.

The case went to arbitration and the arbitrator ruled in the Union's favor, stating that the County violated the MOU by putting off doing the study: "within the next year" is not considered expedited.





Local 777 members attending a membership meeting in Los Angeles.

**Ontario Airport**

**A Life Saved**

On July 6, Ontario Airport Safety Officer Ryan Clark responded to a report of a traffic collision. Officer Clark was the first one on the scene, where he found a 50- year-old man who was not breathing. Clark responded immediately and began CPR. Officers Richard Shernicoff and Raul Rodriguez arrived shortly and also assisted with the CPR efforts. Ontario Airport Fire officers then arrived and Captain Mike Allamong, and fellow safety officers Solis, Rickina, Duncan and Nugent relieved the officers and continued patient care. Ontario City Fire then arrived and transported him to the hospital. The patient was alert and talking with his rescuers at the hospital.

This was a chance for our members at the Ontario Airport to put their hard work and training to use. Officers Clark, Mateer, Rodriguez and Shernicoff are Police Officers and also Firefighters and EMTs. The diversity of training these officers have been given was reflected by the work of Airport Safety Officer Rodriguez, who conducted a traffic collision investigation on the patient’s vehicle after assisting with CPR!

The patient was so grateful to the officers for saving his life, they were all invited to his home for a “Celebration of Life” barbeque.

**City of L.A.**

**We’re Not Done Yet!**

As the City has seen fit to give the DWP employees a raise, the other unions representing the rest of the city workforce is meeting to discuss what action we will be taking — and we will be taking action! Stay tuned.

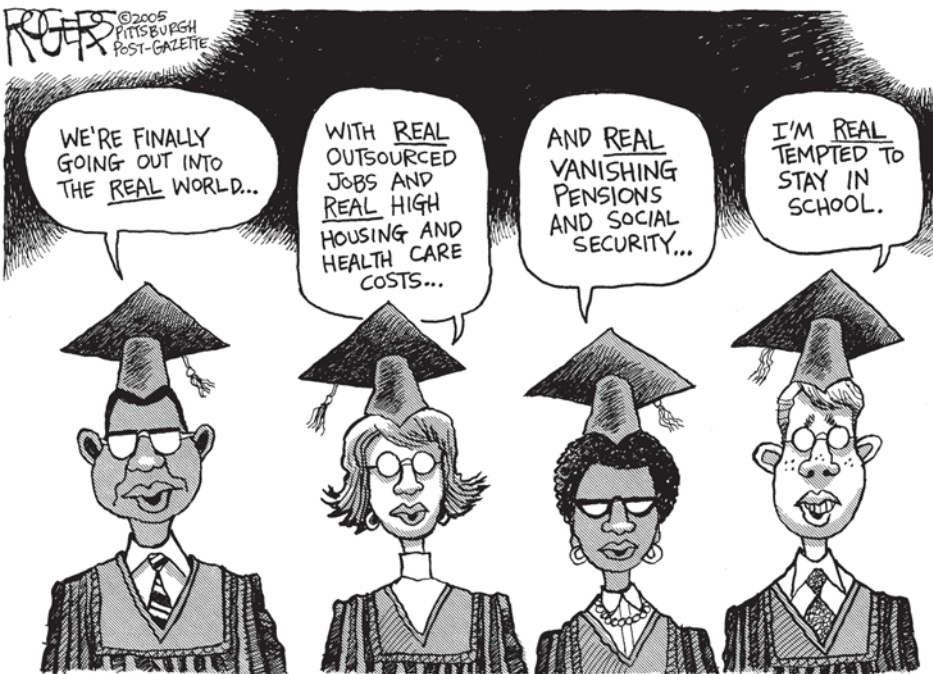


**Local 777 Members Conduct Detention Officer Recruit Training Academy**

Principal Detention Officer and Local 777 Los Angeles Executive Board member David Yuen recently served as the Senior Drill instructor in charge of the recruit training academy. Principal Detention Officers Charles Duncan and Michael Ellington also served as drill instructors. The graduating class recently held a graduation ceremony, which former LA City Councilman (and now L. A. County

Federation of Labor Executive Secretary-Treasurer) Martin Ludlow attended. First Assistant Chief McDonnell conducted the inspection of the recruits and Assistant Chief Sharon Papa gave the commencement speech.

Good work Local 777 members and congratulations to the new Detention Officers!



## City of L.A.

### **Military Leave Resolved**

When Sgt. Elvin Galindo, Senior Traffic Supervisor, was called for military duty, he made sure to cover his bases by arranging his vacation, sick leave and time off to ensure he would not lose his health insurance benefits. Sgt. Galindo was especially concerned about this because his disabled son was scheduled to have surgery while he was on duty. After being on military leave for 30 days, payroll cut off Sgt. Galindo's benefits, despite all the work he had put in to ensure this wouldn't happen. With the help of Representative Victor Gordo, Galindo filed a grievance and was able to resolve the issue.

### **400 Airport Police...**

(Continued from page 1)

two groups together. Driving LAAPOA to affiliate was a May 17<sup>th</sup> ballot measure to amend the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, sponsored by Councilmember Jack Weiss. This measure, Charter Amendment A, would have allowed for an unfriendly takeover, forcing a merger with the LAPD. These efforts were taking place despite the findings of a major study funded by the L.A. City Airport Commission, that recommended against just such a merger.

LAAPOA went to work early and hired Bedrock Strategies, which oversaw the campaign, doing a great job with targeted mailings and dynamite literature. Special thanks go to Kevin M. Acebo (now with the Mayor's office), Scott Mann, and Laurie Saffian.

Getting on board early to lend their support to the No On A battle included Captain LaPonda Fitchpatrick from LAWA, as well as Assemblymembers Dario

Frommer and Jackie Goldberg, Vice-President and Regional Manager for LIUNA, Rocco Davis, put out the call to all LIUNA locals to contribute,



and over \$150,000 was raised through this grassroots effort. LAAPOA contributed another \$300,000.

In the heat of the campaign, on April 29, just a few weeks before the election, Los Angeles Airports Police Officer Tommy Scott died in the line of duty. A



*Tommy Scott*

field training officer, he became the first officer killed in the 59-year history of the Airport Police force.

Tommy's father offered encouragement to keep fighting, and through that support and hard work by LAAPOA members and their supporters, LIUNA members and all of organized labor, voters overwhelmingly rejected Charter Amendment A!

That effort included phone calls to voters from Councilmembers Cardenas, Hahn, and Zine, along with phone calls from Congresswoman Maxine Waters and State Treasurer (and hopefully our next Governor!) Phil Angelides.

"This was a victory for the underdogs, which doesn't happen enough — making it all the sweeter," observed Business Manager Fred Lowe.

One opponent of the merger who made her voice heard during the fight was former Airport Executive Director Lydia Kennard. As we go to press we have just learned that Ms. Kennard is about to be appointed as Executive Director of the Los Angeles World Airports once again.

## City of Pasadena

### **Bargaining Begins**

Bargaining continues for a new MOU under a cloud of distrust as a result of recent actions by the City.

Those actions include the City almost imposing a unilateral pay cut for all employees, as a result of increased CalPERS costs for the 2% at 55 retirement plan.

Only a demonstration by over two hundred employees at a critical Council meeting prevented the pay cut.

That resolve by all the unions working together carried over into a victory, when the City agreed to back off of the pay cut and instead bargain with all unions in the same room at the same time on pension issues. Those meetings resulted in the City dropping its demand for the pay cut, and will hopefully stop the City from playing one union against the other, as they have done in the past.

The negotiating committee consists of Local 777 Representatives Jennifer Grondahl and Paul Bechely, as well as Chapter President Nicki Montoya, Linda Cox, Brenda Reynolds, and Greg Thomas.

Stay tuned!

### **George Webb...**

(Continued from page 1)

purchased from these vendors and, of course, that management encouraged the practice.

Most telling was the fact that George's own Supervisor did not follow the "alleged practice" of limiting purchases to the City's contract(s). When asked on cross examination how he could reconcile the fact that George was being terminated for making purchases in the same manner as he had, George's supervisor simply had no answer.

In the end, the Board of Civil Service Commissioners ruled that George did not violate any policy, should not have been terminated and that he was to be reinstated with full back pay. Welcome back George!



(Helicopter photo taken by George Jarvis and Jared Yochim.)

Thousands of demonstrators turned out on May 26 at Pershing Square in Los Angeles to let the governor know how angry working people are with his attacks on working families.

### Union Membership Makes A Difference!

The notary fee for Auto Club members is \$7 and \$4 for AAA Plus members. Compare that to Local 777 members who pay—nothing! Get your notarization done at the Riverside and Los Angeles offices *free of charge!*

Please call our Riverside office, (951) 682-4590, or our Los Angeles office, (213) 380-6678, for information or to schedule an appointment during office hours.

### Lake Elsinore Negotiations Continue



Lake Elsinore members meeting to discuss negotiations for a new MOU — stay tuned.

### California's Working Poor

Many California households, particularly those earning minimum wage, are struggling to afford to pay for their housing, transportation, food and other basic needs, according to a new study.

While cost of living and wages vary widely in the state, on average, a two-parent family with one employed adult needs to make \$51,177 a year, or \$24.50 an hour, to pay for housing, transportation, food, utilities, child care, health coverage and taxes and other basic expenses, according to the study by the California Budget Project.

The state's minimum wage is \$6.75 an hour, which amounts to an annual income of \$14,040. The 2004 federal poverty level for a family of four is \$19,157, the group said.

Saying he supports the concept of raising the wages for California's lowest paid workers, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger nonetheless vetoed a bill September 29 to increase the minimum wage by \$1 an hour to \$7.75 over the next two years.

### Thank You Mexico!

One of the first countries to offer its support to the American people devastated by Hurricane Katrina was Mexico. Three days after Katrina hit, a 45-vehicle convoy was escorted by the US Army and the Texas Department of Public Safety carrying water treatment plants and mobile kitchens that could feed 7,000 people daily. The convoy bound for San Antonio was the first Mexican military unit to operate on U.S. soil since 1846 (when it was then Mexico)!

Military engineers, doctors and nurses were among the 200 people headed to San Antonio, with the Mexican government planning to send another 12-vehicle convoy the following week, as well as a Mexican navy ship to the Mississippi coast with rescue vehicles and helicopters.



## Questions about **Proposition 75**, the Paycheck Deception Act

**Question: I read the Ballot Summary and it seems like **Proposition 75** is fair and protects employees. Why shouldn't I vote for it?**

Answer: You already are protected. The United States Supreme Court ruled in the Hunson case that you cannot be forced to contribute to your Political Action Committee (PAC) and that your union must account for all political contributions. This proposition is simply unnecessary.

**Question: Who's behind **Prop. 75**, anyway?**

Answer: Lewis Uhler, founder of the National Tax Limitation Committee, wrote this measure. Recently Uhler was quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle (6/8/05) as saying he targeted public employee unions because of their "greed" and "arrogance." Some major financial backers are Ameritrust Capitol ((\$250,000), WalMart heir, John Walton (\$100,000), and mortgage broker Rboin Arkley (\$100,000), among others. In all, eight big businesses have accounted for 99% of the funds raised by Uhler so far. These corporations are against minimum wage, overtime, adequate health care, and adequate public employee pensions, so they've resorted to **Proposition 75** to silence the voice of working people.

**Question: Who's against **Prop. 75**?**

Answer: Every major law enforcement union, teachers, nurses, firefighters, as well as every major public employee and trade union.

**Question: OK. I see my union is against **Proposition 75**, but I still think that we spend way too much money on political activities.**

Answer: Well, the truth (according to the Federal Election Commission) is that business outspends labor by a 24 to 1 ratio. So while

it may seem like we spend a lot of money, it's a pittance compared to corporate contributions.

This ratio will worsen under **Prop. 75** because **Proposition 75** only restricts employees who belong to a union. It does not restrict corporations. It is expressly designed to increase costs and red tape for unions, and decrease the amount of money unions can spend in fighting for your rights!

**Question: Well, that doesn't seem fair. What will happen if **Proposition 75** passes?**

Answer: **Prop. 75** is the first step of a politically motivated two step plan. Once they've taken away your PAC, and destroyed your ability to fight on a level playing field, they've silenced your voice. The second step of the plan is to demolish the current pension system.

**Question: O.K. I've heard enough! What can I do to defeat **Proposition 75**?**

Answer: Get out and vote! Get your family, friends and relatives to **Vote No on 75** as well! Ask your union what you can do to help.

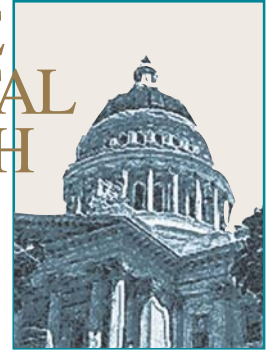
### Your LIUNA Pension

If there have been any changes in your life that affect who you have named as your Pension Beneficiary please let the folks in Washington, D. C. know!

### Desert Hot Springs Police Join!

Congratulations to the Desert Hot Springs Police for joining Local 777. We know you are already active in the November election and we're proud to see what great members you are already.

## STATE CAPITAL WATCH



AB6 by Assemblywoman Wilma Chan, D-Oakland is something to support. Currently, couples earning more than \$80,692 pay the highest income tax rate – 9.3%. Chan's legislation proposes to tax couple earning more than \$285, 164 at a 10 percent rate and those earning more than \$570,327 at 11 percent. The extra money, projected at about \$2 billion a year, would go into the state's general fund. This is the third consecutive year she made the proposal.

The "Preschool for All Act," pushed by Rob Reiner, the actor and movie director who in 1998 successfully proposed a ballot measure that increased cigarette tax by 50 cents per pack for childhood program. This ballot proposal would impose an additional 1.7 percent income tax on couple earning more than \$800,000 and individuals earning more than \$400,000. The projected \$2.3 billion in revenues would go only toward funding preschool.

Why it matters: In spite of the economic upturn, the state still spends more money than it takes in. Unless the state reduces spending or increases revenues, it faces \$8 billion to \$10 billion annual deficits beginning in the 2006-07 fiscal year.

A January poll by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that 69 percent of Californians wouldn't mind increasing taxes on the top income bracket. And last November, voters approved Proposition 63, a tax on millionaires for mental-health programs. The people who would fall under the new tax brackets make up about 5 percent of California's taxpayers.



# SUPPORT THOSE CANDIDATES AND ISSUES on November 8 that keep us working!

## Los Angeles City Council Candidates

**Elect Herb Wesson, District 10**



**Elect Jose Huizar, District 14**



“Both **Herb Wesson** and **Jose Huizar** have proven that they stand with working families on the issues that impact them the most – wages, benefits – especially health care – and keeping our Pensions!

## Statewide Propositions

**NO ON PROPOSITION 74:** Blames teachers for all that’s wrong with our education system by extending their probation from two years to five years before gaining permanent status and MOU protections. This initiative does nothing to improve our schools and will make it harder to attract and keep good teachers.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 75:** Intended to silence the voice of union members in politics by creating a bureaucratic nightmare that will prevent us from fighting back against the next big business move on our Pensions when they try with another ballot measure again next June. Union political contributions would be restricted but corporations would be untouched by the initiative. Corporations already outspend labor 24 to 1 in national politics and Prop 75 would make this imbalance even worse. A union member currently has the right to have his union stop making political contributions on his/her behalf, but the millionaires who paid for the signature gatherers to put this on the ballot knew this already. There wasn’t one worker involved...

**NO ON PROPOSITION 76:** Would allow the Governor to make devastating midyear budget cuts if revenues fall below expenditures, and give him the power to void any Memorandum’s of Understanding (MOU’s) if any money in those MOU’s had come from State grants — which would put **ALL OF OUR MOU’S AT RISK!**

**NO ON PROPOSITION 77:** Would change the Constitution’s redistricting rules, giving power to three unelected and unaccountable retired judges. But redistricting California, a diverse state of 37 million people, is too big and too important a job for just three unaccountable retired judges. Giving one set of politicians more power over another is no reason to change the Constitution.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 78:** The Drug Companies have spent almost 75 million dollars to convince us that there’s real teeth in their commitment to enter into a “voluntary” program to reduce prices...but why will they? They have no real incentive to lower the sky-high cost of prescription drugs. A “No” vote on this measure is necessary to provide consumers with real relief from soaring drug prices, because whichever measure gets the highest number of votes becomes law.

**YES ON PROPOSITION 79:** Sponsored by consumer, senior, and health organizations, Proposition 79 would provide deeper, enforceable discounts to twice as many Californians than the drug industry-backed Prop. 78. Proposition 79 would use the purchasing power of the State of California to negotiate the best price for up to ten million Californians, who now pay more than anybody else in the world for prescription drugs.

## Desert Hot Springs City Council Candidate

**Dale Evenson:** As an active member of Local 777 working in the County Fire Department, Dale will have a lot to contribute to make Desert Hot Springs a more livable community.





**Local 777**

*Annual Holiday  
Party!*

**Saturday, December 3  
Noon  
Castle Amusement Park  
Riverside**

*Great Food! Miniature Golf!  
Rides! Midway Games!  
Raffle Prizes!*



**Tickets will be available  
the first week of November!**



## *Holiday fun!*

**All day unlimited rides, one round of miniature golf, four arcade tokens, and free parking!**

**FOOD — Noon to 1:30 p.m.**

**RAFFLE — 1:30 p.m.**

**You must arrive between noon and 1:30 p.m. to be given your unlimited rides wristband.**

### **Members are FREE!**

- But you must provide a \$10 deposit in advance which will be refunded to you at the party upon arrival.

### **Members' Guests**

- Your first 2 guests/immediate family members are \$10 each.
  - Your 3rd and 4th guests are \$20 each.
  - Any additional guests are \$25 each.

### **Ticket Information**

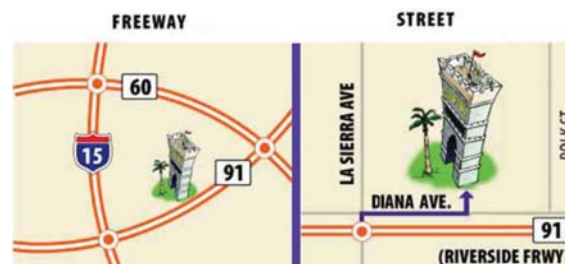
- Checks or money orders only! Last day to purchase tickets is Friday, November 18. (Tickets cannot be purchased at the party.)

*To purchase your tickets please call or visit:*

**Riverside office**  
4000 Tenth Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
951-682-4590

**L.A. office**  
3440 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 835  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
213-380-6678

## **MAPS TO CASTLE AMUSEMENT PARK**



Castle Park is located at:

3500 Polk Street, Riverside, California 92505 • (951) 785-3000



## The Lowe-Down

by Fred Lowe

Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Like the old Pete Seeger song, it's time to choose **which side are you on.** Yes, we are a special interest. Our interest is in protecting the wages and benefits of our members.

When the Governor was elected he promised not to take money from special interests and we have given him none. However, he has taken **twice as much money from the other special interests as Gray Davis took.** These special interests — the large corporations and their millionaire owners and CEO's — have been wining and dining the Governor's office like never before.

As you know, any member at any time can notify their union that they want to stop any of their dues money going to politics. Let's get one thing straight from the start: contrary to the claims of its backers, **Proposition 75** is not designed to protect the rights of nurses, police officers, firefighters, teachers and other public employees. Rather, it is intended to undermine the influence of public-employee unions and promote an anti-union agenda, part of a national movement to cripple Social Security and eliminate defined pensions for public employees.

Eight millionaires accounted for \$935,000, or 99 percent, of the \$945,000 raised to put **Proposition 75** on the ballot. If you are rich you can pay professional signature gatherers \$3.00 per signature and put **anything** on the ballot you want to. If you are looking for workers behind **Proposition 75** who might have been involved in this forget about it.

Contributors have included 'every day' folks like William Lyon (Lyon Homes) from Newport Beach — \$250,000; A Jerrold

### LABORERS' Local 777

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## HEED THESE WORDS

“Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history.

There is a tiny splinter group of course, that believes that you can do these things. Among them are a few Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid.”

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1952

Perencho (owns Univision) — \$250,000; \$100,000 from the late Wal-Mart heir John T. Walton; Los Angeles investment banker Frank Baxter — \$251,000; Eureka mortgage broker Robin P. Arkley II — \$302,000; and the state Republican Party gave \$200,000 to the initiative.

**Proposition 75** is not a new idea. California voters rejected a broader “paycheck protection” measure in 1998 — Proposition 226.

Please tell your friends and neighbors what's really at stake here. We will be gearing up for next June's ballot battle where the Governor once again will try and eliminate pensions for public employees. We will need all the resources at our disposal to fight back against this attack, and that means defeating **Proposition 75**.

**On November 8, let's not let them silence our voices.**