



PEU Local # 1

Representing Solano County

Mid-Managers Unit 16

February, 2009

CHANGE IN UNIT LEADERSHIP

Gina Merrell, H&SS Project Manager, stepped up to the plate and has assumed the reigns of leadership as Robbie Wilson steps aside to focus on other interests.

Robbie will still be available for support as we tackle the issues that are important to our bargaining unit members.

In her statement of interest, Gina said:

"I want to bring a new energy and enthusiasm to our group and facilitate its development to not only advocate for our employment positions, but to also build our ranks as a support team for each other in these difficult economic times. I bring to the group my administrative experience and my knowledge of politics and this County. I want to ensure that we have a strong voice in the community as well as in the County. I will listen, talk, and advocate for you as your President. I will work with the County to ensure that we are all treated fairly and equitably. I am asking for your vote to ensure that Local One has a new and powerful voice in the hard times ahead. Together, we can get through this stronger and better."

Our Local One officers are the following volunteers:

- ◆ President Gina Merrell
- ◆ Vice President Ava Williams
- ◆ Treasurer Greg Gomez
- ◆ Secretary Carole Saint-Louis
- ◆ Past President Robbie Wilson

We have one additional volunteer who would act as Shop Steward in his work area. If anyone else is interested in being a site representative or even a site contact, let us know.

No public sector employee is safe from the blue pencil of budget adjustments as programs are downsized or eliminated due to funding problems.



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6TH ANNUAL LOCAL ONE CRAB FEED HUGE SUCCESS

Thank You

Solano Mid-Managers for your generous donations !!!!!

Once again, the Local One Crab Feed was enjoyed by over 160 members and their friends and family.

No host bar, delicious salad, pasta, bread and of course crab marinated to perfection!

Tons of great prizes were raffled off including a 42" flat screen TV.

This is the only fundraiser held by the Local to raise funds for its political education and activity to support electing bosses who understand the jobs and environment of public sector employees.



Thank you for your support.

This is always a sold out event, so be sure to get your tickets early next year.



Volunteers Make America Great

Thank you

to our bargaining unit members and others who volunteered many hours of their personal time to coordinate the efforts of the "Hope for the Hungry" Project in January



Because of you, more than 5,400 citizens of Solano County received 115,000 pounds of food that was donated by the San Francisco Fancy Food Show. No task was too small and no task was too great for you to overcome. Your efforts are appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Thank you!

Social Security Administration Question of the Month

By Linda Zamfino, Social Security Administration Public Affairs Specialist in Oakland, CA

Question:

I lost my Social Security card, should I get a new one?

Answer:

Knowing your Social Security number is what is important. The only time you may need the actual card is when you start a new job. However, if you need to replace your Social Security card, you can do so free of charge. Remember, you are limited to three replacement cards in a year and 10 during your lifetime. Learn more about your Social Security card and number at: www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. Learn more about Social Security by visiting our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at 1-800-772-1213



COUNTY CUTS BUDGET SHORTFALL IN HALF

County departments cut the projected budget shortfall in half despite additional losses in revenue and the growth in the demand for services, according to the FY2008-09 Midyear Financial Report presented today (February 10) by the County Administrator.

The County now projects a budget shortfall of \$4.3 million, down 53 percent from the \$9.2 million projected shortfall at the end of the first quarter.

“Unfortunately, with revenue losses outpacing our cost containment efforts, the impressive job County departments are doing to address our budget shortfall is not enough,” said County Administrator Michael D. Johnson.

The departments implemented a comprehensive resource reduction strategy to narrow the budget gap, including:

- ◆ Reducing the overall active workforce size by 54 positions by instituting a selective hiring freeze and deleting 39 unfunded vacant positions.
- ◆ Reorganizing programs for efficiencies and cost savings, such as the combining of Mental Health’s Outpatient and Crisis Unit Clinics and the consolidation of the Vallejo and Fairfield offices of Child Support Services.
- ◆ Deferring purchases and reducing the scope of contracts, such as the replacement of the telephone system at the juvenile Hall and a water tank at Founts Springs Youth Facility

The projected shortfall could rise by at least \$2.5 million as some anticipated costs are not yet part of the budget, such as a special election sometime between April and June for voter approval of any new taxes proposed by the State Legislature. Other unknowns in the recently adopted State budget could also impact the County’s fiscal situation.

The Board of Supervisors continued to grapple with the governor’s proposal to defer payments to counties for transportation projects and health and social services performed on behalf of the State. The proposal, if enacted, would delay an estimated \$44.4 million for seven months and cause serious cash-flow problems for the County. Among the proposed funding cuts is \$1.2 million in grant funding for public safety programs, including the Sheriff’s highly successful California Methamphetamine Enforcement Team.

The majority of the presentation, however, focused on addressing the County’s Long-term financial picture in light of an estimated 30,000 more parcels qualifying for assessed value reductions. The Impacts of the new assessments are not fully known, but County officials are estimating at least a 6 percent reduction in property taxes for FY2009/10. Sluggish retail sales will also mean a decline in sales tax revenues for public safety departments

County departments were directed to identify programs to eliminate that are no longer effective, affordable or a priority to the Board and to prepare the FY2009/10 Requested Budget with a 10 percent reduction in Net County Cost or General fund contribution.

“Midyear is not a traditional midyear any more, where we primarily look at how to close out the year with a balanced budget. Midyear has become the vehicle for looking further out at the fiscal environment and strategically positioning ourselves to better manage the anticipated financial impacts,” Johnson said.

The Board of Supervisors will continue discussions on the midyear budget at its Feb. 24, 2009 meeting.

Information collected at:

www.co.solano.ca.us/news



Labor Applauds Obama's Choice Of Liebman to Chair Labor Board

President Obama has named Wilma B. Liebman, a ten-year veteran member of the National Labor Relations Board, as chair of the panel.

Liebman's appointment was applauded by the labor community, where she is viewed as thoughtful and sympathetic to the concerns of working people.

The Board oversees union representation elections and remedies unlawful practices by management and labor that arise under the nation's primary labor law, the National Labor Relations Act.

Three of the Board's five seats have been vacant for more than a year because of conflict between former President Bush, who wanted candidates favored by business to dominate it, and Congress, which objected to his approach and refused to approve of his choices. Obama is expected to get the Board back up to full strength.

Liebman has served on the Board since November 14, 1997. First appointed by President Clinton, she is now serving her third term, which will expire on August 27, 2011.

Before joining the Board, Chairman Liebman served from 1994 to 1997 at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, first as Special Assistant to the Director and then as Deputy Director. She began her legal career as an NLRB staff attorney in 1974, then served on the legal staff of two unions: the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (1980-1989) and the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen (1990-1993).

A native of Philadelphia, Chairman Liebman holds a B.A. from Barnard College and a J.D. from the George Washington University Law Center.

(Union Communications Services)



Have you moved?
Changed your telephone number?
Maybe a name change?

In a continuing effort to update our communications with you we need your assistance updating our records.

If you believe that your records might possibly be outdated, please give us a jingle with your up to date information. Just call 925/228-1600 or send an Email to Business Agent Karen Anthony at kanthony@peu1.org

Huge thanks out to those of you who have notified us already!