



# San Diego Municipal Employees Association

Quarterly Newsletter  
October - December 2011

viewpoint



**ME A Member  
Kennedy Marcus  
and His Crew Work to  
Maintain Our City Streets**



### on the cover

Kennedy Marcus, a Public Works Supervisor in the Streets Division, and his crew work hard to provide safe and high quality roadways for City residents. In fact, the department has to maintain over 3,000 miles of roadways and alleys throughout the City!

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# President's Message

A man was walking the streets of downtown a few weeks ago asking people to sign a ballot initiative to "protect pensions for firefighters."

When asked if this was the Jerry Sanders/Carl DeMaio initiative that actually seeks to *take away* pensions from firefighters and most other City employees hired after next year, the man said "No, actually this will only take pensions away from politicians so that they don't collect \$300,000 a year like they do now."

So that's how it went in the most dishonest signature gathering campaign in the history of San Diego politics. The supporters of the "CPR" (Comprehensive Pension Reform) ballot initiative stopped at nothing to get this on the ballot. They paid their contract signature gatherers so much money per signature that they said literally anything to try to get people to sign.

Some signature gatherers were caught on tape lying about everything from how the initiative will lower gas prices to how it will protect the environment. Those tapes were sent to the Attorney General and other enforcement agencies, but it is not clear if anybody seems to care just how broken San Diego's (and California's) out of control "citizens" ballot initiative process really is.

The good news is that MEA, together with a coalition of other labor interests in town, had some success with the "Decline to Sign" campaign, which shadowed paid signature gatherers at various locations around the City for the last few months. Our success forced the campaign to change their tactics and go to voters' mailboxes and door-to-door to collect signatures, which is a significantly more expensive way to gather signatures. The bad news is that anti-union interests in town, led by Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilmember Carl DeMaio, raised around \$1 million to literally purchase signatures to get their initiative on the June ballot.

MEA participated in the Decline to Sign campaign because the easiest way to defeat the initiative is to keep it off the ballot. At

press time for this publication, the initiative proponents have turned in 145,000 signatures (they need about 95,000 valid signatures to qualify the initiative), but they have not yet been verified by the Registrar of Voters. After the Registrar makes an initial determination, we may also demand that every signature be independently verified, an expensive process but one that may reveal just how fraudulent the signature campaign has been.

Unfortunately, with a million dollars and media hysteria on their side, it is very likely that they will get the initiative on the ballot. That is why MEA and our attorney Ann Smith have also been engaged on the legal side of this fight for some time now. We believe that the proposed initiative is legally flawed in a number of areas, most notably that the proposed ballot measure masquerades as a "citizen's initiative" when really it is sponsored by Mayor Jerry Sanders and the City of San Diego. As such, it should properly be considered a City-sponsored initiative under State law, which means that the City's refusal to meet and confer with MEA regarding the contents of the initiative violates the law that guides labor relations in California.

MEA will continue to fight this costly (and likely illegal) ballot measure on all fronts. Assuming its supporters get the required signatures to put it on the ballot, the initiative's legal flaws may spell its demise. In the meantime, please try to ignore the political madness swirling around the proposed measure and know that we are working hard to make sure that negotiations over your salary and benefits remain at the bargaining table, not the ballot box.

Finally, take note that Phil's BBQ, Jerome's Furniture, and Karl Strauss Brewery are but a few of the San Diego businesses that have dedicated significant resources to the initiative...feel free to let them know how you feel about that by taking your business elsewhere!

## Officers 2010-2012

- Tony Ruiz, III President
- Bob Cronk 1st Vice President
- Jan Lord 2nd Vice President
- Candi Mitchell Treasurer
- Kyle Wiggins Secretary

## Executive Committee 2011-2012

- William Craig Environmental Services
- Lisa Goehring Water
- Francine Howell City Attorney
- Steven Ramirez Environmental Services
- Leslie Simmons Library
- Greg Woods Treasurer

## Board of Directors 2011-2013

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- Ramone Lewis Chief Steward
- Maurice Brown Engineering & Capital Projects
- Shamellia Cooper General Services
- Alice Daniels Purchasing & Contracts
- Tina Davis City Clerk
- Christine Doumbia Fire Rescue
- Joyce Edge Water
- Stephanie Galbicka Fire Rescue
- Ursula Greene Park & Recreation
- Connie Higgins Police
- Francine Howell City Attorney
- Graham Hufford Engineering & Capital Projects
- Shanae Hymon Water
- Renee Kinninger Development Services
- Jan Lord Human Resources
- Gabrielle Mead Police
- Tony Ruiz III Water
- Matthew Sanders Police
- Leon Sauls Transportation & Stormwater
- Janice Stevenson City Attorney
- Mark Wiedenhoff Environmental Services
- Greg Woods Treasurer



Are you having fun watching the latest partisan wrangling in the United States Congress? Do you have your DVR set for the next Presidential primary

debate? Can't wait to see what that nutty Rick Perry says next? Hopefully you have better things to focus on than the seemingly ever-present political campaign spectacles of our day.

With that being said, if you haven't already, you should begin to focus a bit of attention on the ballot measure and candidate campaigns shaping up in the City of San Diego for the June 2012 election. The results of these elections will have a direct—and possibly profound—impact on the City and City employees.

Many of us are properly focused on the Sanders/DeMaio ballot initiative (see President's Message on page 3). There are, however, a number of important candidate elections on tap for 2012 that deserve our attention. Most notably, Mayor Jerry Sanders will be term-limited out of office next year and a list of hopefuls to replace him seems to already be set. There are also five City Council Districts up for election and the results of those races may have just as significant of an impact on the direction of this City as the Mayor's race.

When San Diego voters passed the

"Strong Mayor" form of government, they also created a ninth City Council district. The redistricting process to reconfigure each Council district (and add a new one) was just completed and we now have five odd-numbered districts that are up for grabs next year. Incumbents Sherri Lightner, Todd Gloria and Marti Emerald are all up for re-election and were recently endorsed by MEA's Political Action Committee and Board of Directors.

These are three very important races. We may not always agree with every position each of them take, but they are clearly three very thoughtful, accessible and reasonable members of the current Council. (On September 26, Emerald and Gloria—along with Councilmember David Alvarez—voted to oppose the outsourcing of the Miramar Landfill, while Lightner profoundly disappointed us with her vote to move forward.) Each will be facing varying degrees of opposition for election, but MEA

will be engaged in each race. If any of them receive more than 50% of the vote in the June primary election that alleviates the need for a November runoff. This would save everybody a lot of time, money and energy that could then be put to work in other races.

The other two districts up for election will be "open" seats, meaning that there is no incumbent running for re-election. Council District 5 (Carl DeMaio's current district) has the most conservative (and anti-public employee) voter population in the City, and the District 5 voters will likely want to elect another DeMaio-like representative. We may or may not have much in the way of alternatives in that district.

District 7 is Councilmember Marti Emerald's

current district, but because the district boundaries were substantially changed in the redistricting process, Councilmember Emerald is running instead for "re-election" in the new



Councilmember Marti Emerald discusses the current challenges facing the City Council.

District 9 (which encompasses many of the communities she currently represents). That leaves District 7 as an open "swing" seat, meaning it is wide open for candidates with various political views. MEA's Political Action Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates and we believe there will be a candidate worthy of our support and efforts in District 7.

The Mayor's race is wide open with about a dozen announced candidates so far, including four prominent current politicians, each of whom has a reasonable chance at advancing to the runoff election in November. Councilmember Carl DeMaio leads the pack with a solid—but relatively small—base of support among the angriest of San Diegans who are drawn to his message of anti-employee extremism. That enthusiastic "base" makes him very likely to advance out of the June primary election, but less likely to win the November runoff.



Councilmember Todd Gloria talks about some items coming before Council.

District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis and State Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher are both running as moderate Republicans, and both present themselves as a "more reasonable" version of Carl DeMaio. They seem to adopt many of his policies (like supporting his ballot



MEA Secretary Kyle Wiggins poses a question to Councilmember Sherri Lightner.



initiative), but argue that they will be more moderate in the implementation of those policies. Normally that would not be enough of a reason for MEA to give either of them a serious look, but given the miserable political environment of our day, any alternative to Carl DeMaio is worth our attention. Both Dumanis and Fletcher are making serious efforts to communicate and work with MEA and—unlike DeMaio—both are more focused on San Diego's future than rather than wallowing in the past, which are good things.



Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher



District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis

Then there's Congressman Bob Filner, the only prominent Democrat in a race crowded with candidates fighting to become the Republican choice. Congressman Filner has a very long history

of progressive action, not to mention a reasonable approach to problem-solving that is void of the anti-employee political winds blowing through our city and country. He is certainly a breath of fresh air in a crowded field of candidates who seem to be focused on seeing who can scapegoat City employees the most.

City races in San Diego are "non-partisan," which means that the top two vote-getters in the June primary election advance to the November runoff, regardless of their party affiliation. Other than that procedural detail, the Mayor's race—like most other City races—is in reality quite partisan. That means that with multiple Republicans and one Democrat vying for support on one ballot, Bob Filner is a likely candidate to make it out of the runoff. If that happened, and Carl



Congressman Bob Filner



Councilmember Carl DeMaio

DeMaio held onto his base of support, that could set the stage for the possibility of an epic, all-or-nothing Filner-DeMaio battle in the mayoral runoff election in November. Then again, if one of the more moderate Republicans make the runoff, either one would have an excellent chance to prevail in November.

Of course, a few months in politics can be an eternity. Who knows what the future holds or what political winds will be blowing next year. The only thing you can be certain of is that MEA's Political Action Committee is already engaged, monitoring the situation and communicating with the candidates. Ultimately, they will make a solid recommendation for action to the Board of Directors and MEA will work hard to help ensure that San Diegans elect leaders who are capable of moving our City forward.

*Mike Juchat*

# Tickets **ON SALE NOW** for the 2012 MEA Holiday Party

**Saturday, December 3rd**

Social Hour/No Host Bar

5:30pm to 6:30pm

Dinner Buffet

6:30pm to 7:30pm

Dancing

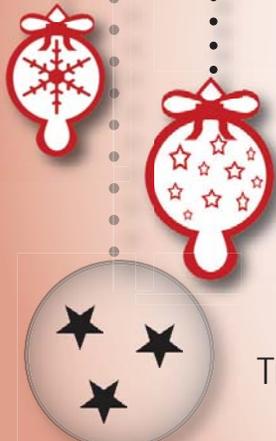
7:30pm to 11:00pm

**\$20**

Come enjoy an elegant buffet featuring chicken marsala and steak accompanied by various gourmet side dishes and a lavish dessert bar.

Tickets may be purchased at MEA's office at 9620 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 203 in Kearny Mesa. Last year's event sold out so purchase your tickets today!

*Limit (2) non-MEA guests per member.*





Get a quote,  
make a difference.

Get an auto, home and renters insurance quote between September 1, 2011 and November 30, 2011, and Liberty Mutual will donate \$5 to Susan G. Komen for the Cure® to help support the fight against breast cancer.

To get a quote, contact  
Denise J. Hardman  
at 760-930-0841 x59379.  
Visit [www.libertymutual.com/qfh-sdm](http://www.libertymutual.com/qfh-sdm)

For more information about Susan G. Komen for the Cure, breast health or breast cancer, visit [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org) or call 1-877 GO KOMEN.



## Group Term Life Rates vs. Individual Life Rates

Many members have questions regarding the voluntary group life insurance that the City provides and how to purchase additional coverage. The following information is intended to help you better understand the differences between group and individual life insurance plans.

The rates for the City's group life insurance plan are based solely on age. Regardless of your gender or health, you are going to pay a rate that automatically increases every five years (from 20 to 40%) and can take place without notifying the policy holder. Based on this age criteria, a relatively fit person is going to pay the same as an unhealthy person who is in the same age bracket.

Individual life insurance plans are the most cost effective option for relatively healthy employees. In fact, individual plans can provide the employee with more coverage for considerably less. For example, a 40 year old with a \$200,000 group policy pays \$22 a month with the rate increasing every 5 years. That same 40 year old can obtain a \$500,000 individual life insurance policy for a fixed, 20 year rate of \$31 a month. Not only will that individual get \$300,000 more coverage, they will also save more than \$7000 over that 20 year period.

Did you also know that it is possible to re-sell your individual plan? Some life insurance policies are attractive enough to investment groups that they will actually pay you cash for them. If your plan has the right options and payment structures you could walk away from your plan when you no longer need or desire the coverage with 3 times the amount you put in!

We encourage all employees to evaluate every available option and to take into account the plan that best suits you. If you have any questions, or would like MEA's Life Insurance Specialist, Will Stover, to help you get the best price based on your age, gender and health, please call him at 888-822-3994.

No purchase of a policy is necessary. Not available to residents of IA, MA, ME, NJ, NM, NV, NY, PA, or UT or to existing Liberty Mutual customers. Discounts and savings are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. Limit one quote per policy type (i.e., auto, home and renters) per person. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. A consumer report from a consumer reporting agency and/or a motor vehicle report, on all drivers listed on your policy, may be obtained where state laws and regulations allow. Coverage underwritten and provided by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. ©2011 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. All rights reserved.

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# MEA Is Working For You...



Blood Drive Committee members discuss the most recent drive as well as upcoming blood donation opportunities.



GM Mike Zucchet spoke at a discussion forum titled, "The Blame Game: Why Blame Public Employees?"



Purchasing & Contracting employees met with Supervising Labor Relations Representative Nancy Roberts at the new location at 20<sup>th</sup> and B to discuss delivery routes, work schedules and office space issues.



MEA's Labor Relations Representatives met with the City's Labor Relations Department to discuss issues which are common among most departments.



GM Mike Zucchet spoke to the media following the City Council's vote on the preliminary statement of work on the Miramar Landfill.



Senior Labor Relations Representative Kelly Cruz met with Code Compliance Officers from the Fire Prevention Bureau to discuss proposed changes to their uniform policy.

# Juan Baligad

## Engineering & Capital Projects

Provide a brief history of yourself—where you were born, where you went to school, some jobs you had before working for the City, stories about your siblings and family, etc.

I was born in the Philippines and went to public schools in the Los Angeles area. I attended San Diego State University where I received a four-year degree in Public Administration and a Masters in City Planning. My first job was at Kentucky Fried Chicken and I later worked for Sears Credit Central. I have also been a school bus driver, a limousine driver during the Republican National Convention and have even worked as a mystery shopper for a well-known drug store chain. I have also worked as a Planner for the Cities of El Cajon, Vista and Oceanside.

Did you have any nicknames growing up?

I don't know why, but they called me "Boy," which is something fairly common with Filipino first-borns, I think.

What is a habit you did as a kid and still do today?

I sometimes get lost in my own thoughts (my wife often says) and "check-out."

What brought you to the City?

I just happened to see their ad, and it was a promotional opportunity for me.

What was your first week like at the City? Any good "transition" stories?

I had already made arrangements to go to the Philippines for a month-long vacation before starting my job with the City. We had bought a ticket from a relative who neglected to secure a plane reservation to return home. We were told that our best chance was to fly to Seoul, South Korea,

and to get on a standby flight and to take our chances. We ended up making it back to San Diego a week later than we had planned. Fortunately, I somehow got in contact with somebody at the City and was allowed to start the job later.

If you could pick any job to do for a week, what would it be?

It would have something to do with ecotourism. Maybe as an intern for either an African photography safari or for a jungle-river cruise (like in Disneyland, but for real).

What tends to be your first thought when you wake up in the morning?

What day is it today (hope it's a weekend)? Or, I wish I had another couple of hours of bed time.

If a movie was made about your life, which actor would you want to play you?

I don't have many to pick from, so I would say either Ken Jeong (he's Mr. Chow from the "Hangover" movies) or Kal Penn (he plays Kumar in the "Harold & Kumar" movies).

Please complete this sentence, "I have a real knack for....."

...coming up with solutions, but I take a very long time to do it.

Which famous person would you want to keep you company if you were trapped on a deserted island?

Either Bill Clinton or George W. Bush. I would like to know what really went on behind the scenes and how things got done (or didn't get done).

What is something you'd like MEA members to know about you?

I would like for people to treat each other fairly.



# CITY EMPLOYEES **POWER** THROUGH THE BLACKOUT

Most of our experiences started out the same way; we were at work and noticed the electricity all of a sudden went out. Then we started getting the calls and texts from friends and family members who were also without power. Next came the challenge of trying to make our way home which entailed maneuvering through gridlocked traffic on the side streets and freeways.

Although it was incredibly tedious and inconvenient, most San Diegans arrived home within an hour or two of the blackout. Yet for many dedicated City employees, this wasn't the end of the workday, but just the beginning! The following three MEA members are just a few of the countless City employees who worked late into the night in order to make sure the rest of us were safe and sound. Although you will never get the credit you rightfully deserve, thank you for your unwavering commitment to public service!



**Stephanie Galbicka**  
Fire Dispatcher  
Fire Rescue

I was at home when the electricity went off but headed to work (Fire Communications) to see if they needed my help. When I arrived, it was organized chaos with everyone doing their part to get all

of the calls answered and to dispatch emergency services. Calls ranged from people who were trapped in elevators to life-threatening accidents. On an average day, Fire Communications takes around 500 calls; we took approximately 800 calls just during the hours of the blackout!



**Gabrielle Mead**  
Police Enforcement Officer

**Police Department**  
I was working in the Hillcrest area when I first noticed that the street lights were not working. I soon received the news that the power was out throughout San

Diego County. Due to the high volume of intersection lights that were out through the city, we were instructed to stay in the field and to help enforce four way stops at busy intersections. As it began to get dark, I turned on my vehicle's headlights and flashing lights and tried to control the flow of traffic while also

making sure that motorists and pedestrians were not blocking the intersections for the many emergency vehicles trying to enter and exit the nearby hospital.

Although it was congested and chaotic, most people were considerate toward one another and some were even appreciative of my efforts to help control the flow of traffic in order to get them home as safe and fast as possible.

I left Hillcrest around 9pm and there were still lots of people out walking around and patronizing the local establishments. All in all, everyone was in a good mood and it almost seemed like the outage was a reason for people to get together and to share their stories of where they were and how they eventually made it home after the power went out.



**Lisa Goehring**  
Multimedia Production Specialist  
Public Utilities

I was coming back from MEA's Political Action Committee meeting and had just parked at the City Concourse. I was heading to

a meeting and was in the elevator when it suddenly jerked to a stop. The lights went out momentarily but an emergency light came on and I rang the alarm button a few times. Then I tried the emergency call button which connected to a dispatcher but the signal was very garbled and I soon lost the connection.

I started trying my cell phone but it couldn't pick up much in the elevator. I finally managed to get a voicemail thru to my supervisor. Luckily, I had the Parkade security number with me and eventually got through to someone to let them know my elevator was stuck. At this point, I still wasn't aware of the massive blackout.

After about 30 or 40 minutes, I began receiving texts from my supervisor who let me know that there was a massive power failure.

I could hear people outside but it was hard for them to hear me. They said help would be coming but it could be a while.

About two and half hours later, I could hear the outside doors open above me. I was right between the terrace and street level of the structure and there was no direct access to the elevator except from the top.

Finally, I heard actual footsteps on top of the elevator and the access door opened. Within minutes, I was climbing up a very skinny ladder out onto the roof of the elevator. A couple of firefighters grabbed my hands and helped me leap up another few feet to the terrace level.

A bunch of cheers went up and the first face I saw was City Councilmember Sherri Lightner (who I'd just met that morning at our PAC meeting!) She gave me a hug and her staff gave me water. Some of the guys who had been trying to pry the outside doors open were also still there along with the Parkade staff and the fire crew from Station One who we all thanked. Eventually, I was able to head home with enough time to find all my candles and flashlights before it got dark!

# MEA's Website: Not Sure How to Register? We'll Show You How!

In order to make MEA elections more convenient and accessible to all members, we will be transitioning to an online voting system. If you have not registered on MEA's website, please do so by taking a moment and following these easy steps.

**STEP 1:** Go to [www.sdmea.org](http://www.sdmea.org)

**STEP 2:** On the right hand side there is a log in area, click on register.

**STEP 3:** The next page will require some information in order to identify you in our system. You will need to enter the following:  
Last 4 digits of your social security number  
Date of birth (this must be in the MM/DD/YY format)  
First Name (as it appears in the OneSD SAP system)  
Last Name (as it appears in the OneSD SAP system)

**STEP 4:** Click Next

**STEP 5:** The next page will ask you to set up a username and password.  
Username – this can be anything you like.  
(Some people use their OneSD username, but please note that it is not connected to OneSD.)  
Password – You must enter a password of 6 characters or more.

**STEP 6:** Click Next

**STEP 7:** The next page will ask you to set up a security question. This question will be used if you forget your password.  
Question – select one of the pre-set questions.  
Response – Please enter your response to the question selected.

**STEP 8:** Click Next

**STEP 9:** Finish Page – click on finish and the system will log you in.



MEA's upcoming Negotiations Team election will be conducted online, so please make sure your username and password are confirmed. If you encounter any difficulties with registering, please contact MEA at 619-264-6632.

## For the difference you make.



Coordinate with co-workers while on the move and keep up with family near and far. Get instant savings on monthly plans from where you work. Discounts for current city and county government employees of San Diego.

**Save 18%**

Select regularly priced monthly service plans

Requires a new two-year Agreement.

Activation fee waived for new activations.

Up to \$36 value. Requires a new two-year Agreement

Discount courtesy of WSCA



**SHOP ONLINE AT:**

[www.sprint.com/californialocalgovernment](http://www.sprint.com/californialocalgovernment)

Get a **\$50 Service Credit** per new line activation.

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\*Available online only - some restrictions may apply

**SHOP AT ANY SPRINT RETAIL STORE:**

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Mention Corp ID Code: `GLLCA_WSC_ZZZ`

Existing Sprint customers, call 1-866-853-4931 to have your discount applied to your account.



May require up to a \$36 activation fee/line, credit approval and deposit. Up to \$200 early termination fee/line applies. **Individual-Liable Discount:** Available only to eligible employees of the company or organization participating in the discount program or Government agencies participating in employee discount pricing with Sprint. May be subject to change according to organization's agreement with Sprint. Available upon request on select plans and only for eligible lines. Discount applies to monthly service charges only. No discounts apply to add-ons \$29.99 or below. **Other Terms:** Coverage not available everywhere. Nationwide Sprint and Nextel National Networks reach over 277 and 278 million people, respectively. Sprint 4G network reaches over 70 markets and counting, on select devices. The Sprint 3G network reaches over 272 million people. Offers not available in all markets/retail locations or for all phones/networks. Pricing, offer terms, fees and features may vary for existing customers not eligible for upgrade. Other restrictions apply. See store or [sprint.com](http://sprint.com) for details. ©2011 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint. MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. Research In Motion, the RIM logo, BlackBerry, the BlackBerry logo and SureType are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and may be pending or registered in other countries - these and other marks of Research In Motion Limited are used with permission. The HTC logo and HTC EVO are trademarks of HTC Corporation. Other marks are the property of their respective owners.

# Labor Representation Quarterly Overview

July -September 2011

At press time, 68 new cases were opened for this quarter (30 in July, 30 in August and 21 in September).

Three terminations were upheld and we are aware of two hourly employees being terminated (hourly employees do not have appeal rights to terminations). Representation on a variety of other disciplinary actions also took place during this past quarter.

Three different departments conducted fact findings which involved multiple employees; two have been completed, and one is still being conducted. There has been dissatisfaction concerning the amount of time it takes to conduct a fact finding and to receive the results. MEA has been active in working with Labor Relations to hold departments accountable to our MOU which states that employees shall receive the results of a fact finding within 30 calendar days unless there are extraordinary and extenuating circumstances.

Labor Representatives were also involved with the Purchase of Service Credit informational meetings, numerous meet and confers, Labor Management Committees and a variety of individual representation issues. Unfortunately, we continue to receive requests for representation regarding misuse of the City's computer system. Please remember that personal use of all City equipment (including the internet and email) is prohibited and violations are subject to disciplinary action.

MEA is gearing up for upcoming contract negotiations starting with the Special Salary Adjustment, New Class and Title Change request process. MEA received 18 requests which will be forwarded to the Personnel Department Director and the Civil Service Commission who will determine which will be studied.

## Know Your Rights: Bereavement Leave

It's always incredibly difficult when you lose a loved one and the last thing you want to think about is work. That is why there is a clause in MEA's MOU which grants bereavement leave to allow time for you to focus on your family and to work through this difficult period. Article 91 states that "paid bereavement leave of up to three days is available upon the death of an employee's spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter (including step-, foster, or adopted son or daughter), or state-registered domestic partner, with a limit of one eligible death per fiscal year. Proof of death (death certificate, obituary, funeral program, etc.) must be provided in order to receive Bereavement Leave, which is in addition to Annual Leave."

If you have recently lost a loved one, please let us know how we can help and support you. If you encounter any difficulties in getting bereavement leave, please do not hesitate to contact your MEA Labor Representative at (619) 264-6632.



**WAYNE HAY CONSTRUCTION**  
General Contractor CA License 945205

Specializing in home improvement and remodel

**PHONE**  
619.402.0369

**EMAIL**  
whay444@cox.net

# Naughts & Noteables

*Naughts and Noteables* is a new section which features MEA member feedback about businesses and services in San Diego County. If you enjoyed a delicious meal at a restaurant, had a great experience at a dental office or found a certain mechanic to be reliable, let us know!

Please feel free to provide your feedback on any establishment that deserves recognition. The goal of this section is to be a resource for our readers by letting them know what other members' experiences have been.

If you would like to participate, please contact Lora Folsom at [lfolsom@sdmea.org](mailto:lfolsom@sdmea.org) or 619-264-6632. We look forward to your input and feedback!

## **Antique Row Cafe**

3521 Lemon Grove Ave (at Lester Ave)  
Lemon Grove, CA 91945  
(619) 828-0071

Antique Row is a small restaurant located in Lemon Grove (there's another location on Adams Avenue, but I'm only familiar with the one in Lemon Grove) with great customer service and reasonable prices. The food portions are also nice and there's never a long wait.

Reviewed by: Alice Daniels  
Purchasing and Contracting Department

## **Chick-Fil-A**

Sports Arena  
3570 Sports Arena Blvd San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 758-1555

Eastlake Terraces  
2089 Olympic Pkwy Chula Vista, CA 91915  
(619) 482-6719

Mira Mesa  
10750 Camino Ruiz San Diego, CA 92126  
(858) 566-7800

Carmel Mountain  
11670 Carmel Mountain Rd  
San Diego, CA 92128  
(858) 613-0573

This business is the healthiest alternative to "fast food" chicken without all the oil and with all the tenderness! They have reasonable prices, prompt service, are "Southern" friendly and their strawberry lemonade is second-to-none. They also offer many great price-reduced specials/promotions.

Reviewed by: Ramone Lewis  
Business Office

## **Balboa Dental Care**

4223 Genesee Ave #109  
San Diego, CA 92117  
(858) 541-1844  
[info@balboadental.com](mailto:info@balboadental.com)

I've been going to Balboa Dental Care for a couple of decades and they are the best!

Reviewed by: Pete Lynch  
Development Services Department

## **Sunrise Deli**

9945 Campo Rd (between Barcelona St & Cordoba Ave)  
Spring Valley, CA 91977  
(619) 460-5800

New York style deli, best food combinations ever! #14 is my favorite which is the shrimp, avocado, mushroom sandwich. They are open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Reviewed by: Stephanie Clark  
City Attorney's Office

## **Jenna Druck Foundation**

2820 Roosevelt Rd. Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92106  
(619) 294-8000  
[info@jennadruck.org](mailto:info@jennadruck.org)

This is a great organization that is focused on helping parents and families who have lost a child or loved one. Their staff is very compassionate and their grief support groups are held on a weekly basis and are life-saving.

Reviewed by: Tina Davis  
City Clerk's Office



## **We Want Your Feedback**

The Viewpoint is your magazine and we welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Please don't hesitate to contact Lora Folsom at (619) 264-6632 if you would like to submit a letter, article, photograph or upcoming event notice.

# SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH, ONE PITCH AT A TIME

Congratulations to the following City Park and Recreation youth baseball and softball teams who just finished another fantastic season.

MEA is proud to help support programs and activities aimed at providing youth with safe and constructive environments. Thank you to the Park and Recreation staff and coaches who have been so instrumental in establishing and maintaining these vital sporting programs. More importantly, thank you for helping to instill the importance of responsibility, self confidence, accountability and camaraderie in our youth.

Congratulations again on another great season!



# Stepping Up to Serve: Introducing your 2011-2013 MEA Board of Directors

Thank you to MEA's Election Committee who organized the Board of Directors election and stayed late into the evening in order to tabulate the votes. There were several contested Board seats and we are grateful to all of those who took the initiative to run in their departments.

At the September Board meeting, MEA was pleased to have Councilmember Todd Gloria as the guest speaker who delivered the

installation oath to the new Board of Directors. Councilmember Gloria also took time to thank and acknowledge City employees who continue to demonstrate their commitment and dedication to public service.

The Board of Directors serves a two year term and meets every month to discuss and make decisions on behalf of the 4,000 City employees who MEA represents. The

Board is also responsible for approving the organization's budget and for setting policy on all MEA matters.

Thank you to our newly elected Board of Directors who have each answered the call to serve by being a voice for their department and setting aside their valuable professional and personal time in order to promote and enhance the goals of our union.





**Tony Ruiz III**  
President  
Water



**Robert Cronk**  
1st Vice President  
Library



**Jan Lord**  
2nd Vice President  
Human Resources



**Candi Mitchell**  
Treasurer  
Water



**Kyle Wiggins**  
Secretary  
Police



**Bill Craig**  
Executive Board  
Env. Services



**Lisa Goehring**  
Executive Board  
Water



**Francine Howell**  
Executive Board  
City Attorney



**Steve Ramirez**  
Executive Board  
Env. Services



**Leslie Simmons**  
Executive Board  
Library



**Greg Woods**  
Executive Board  
Treasurer



**Brian Anthony**  
Park &  
Recreation



**Juan Baligad**  
Engineering &  
Capital Projects



**Maurice Brown**  
Engineering &  
Capital Projects



**Terri Bumgardner**  
Development  
Services



**Eleuterio Buquiran**  
Water



**Issy Camacho**  
Engineering &  
Capital Projects



**Samuel Cerrato**  
Library



**Rebecca Cesena**  
Park &  
Recreation



**Stephanie Clark**  
City Attorney



**Shamellia Cooper**  
General Services



**Alice Daniels**  
Purchasing &  
Contracting



**Tina Davis**  
City Clerk



**Natalie de Freitas**  
Storm Water



**Mary Enyeart**  
Police



**Sarah Erazo**  
Park &  
Recreation



**Jean Evans**  
Retirement



**John Fisher**  
Development  
Services



**Stephanie Galbicka**  
Fire Rescue



**Howard Greenstein**  
Planning



**Graham Hufford**  
Engineering &  
Capital Projects



**Ramone Lewis**  
Business Office



**Pete Lynch**  
Development  
Services



**Gabrielle Mead**  
Police



**Joseph Miesner**  
Library



**Helen Phillips**  
Retired  
Representative



**Beverly Simmons**  
Risk Management



**Susan Taylor**  
Real Estate Assets



**Jeffrey Wallace**  
Debt Management



**Cody Wilkinson**  
Metropolitan  
Wastewater



**Karen Witherspoon**  
Police

# MEA's

## Annual

# General Membership Meeting

MEA's Membership Committee put on another great General Membership Meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Members feasted on Abbey's Barbeque while children played games and made crafts with MEA staff members. The night also entailed an exciting raffle drawing with Ann Smith playfully calling out the winning numbers (often times pausing before finally calling out the last number). Congratulations to all of the lucky raffle winners!

Members also heard from special guest Councilmember Marti Emerald who had the crowd howling with her honest and comedic assessment of City politics. She also took

time to praise City employees for their hard work and perseverance during a difficult and tenuous time. The occasion also provided members with an opportunity to ask questions and to speak directly to both Councilmember Emerald and their union leadership.

Special commendations were presented, including Boardmember of the Year awarded to Jean Evans, Volunteer of the Year to Pete Lynch and Steward of the Year to Ramone Lewis (more on page 19). In addition, MEA's Secretary and Scholarship Committee Chair, Kyle Wiggins presented awards to high school seniors Emma Aceves, Diana Polyak and

Allison Blake, who received scholarships from MEA (more on page 19).

Thank you to all of those who attended and made the General Membership Meeting such a fun and successful event. We look forward to the next opportunity to share an evening together!

Special thanks to Greg Woods and Nancy Roberts for their hard work and to Ann Smith, Jon Hayes, Union Bank and Purchase Power for their generous donations to the prize raffle.





# Reflecting Back and Looking Forward

MEA would like to acknowledge the many contributions and years of service of recently retired MEA-represented City employees. We wish you all the best as you embark on the next chapter of your life!



## Victoria Bender

I have worked for the Park and Recreation Department for 17 years and volunteered for five years prior to being hired. There have been many memories but it was always really special when patrons would return after years of being away and would remember me. It was especially memorable when the youth of the communities would come back to tell me about their success stories. It meant so much to me when they would attribute their achievements to the Park and Recreation Department and the involvement of the staff who helped them stay on the right track with positive reinforcement.

Retirement brings the opportunity for my husband, myself and our dog, Libby, to travel. We have lived aboard our boat for the last 15 years and we will soon be heading to Baja to visit my grandfather's birthplace of San Jose de Cabo!



## James Smullen

I have worked as a Library Clerk for the last 12 years. I have had so many wonderful memories at the library but helping and interacting with the kids will always stand out. A crowd favorite was my Bruce the Shark puppet (from Finding Nemo) which I would bring out for the children. Although some were a bit uncertain about Bruce's toothy grin, almost all of the kids really liked him. On more than one occasion, I would have to tell a young patron that Bruce was "taking a nap," although I would eventually "wake up" Bruce to assuage the disappointed child's concerns.

I also had the good fortune of working alongside some great co-workers. We had a really good group at the Carmel Valley branch and we would take time out of a busy day to celebrate one another's birthdays and accomplishments.

Retirement brings about more opportunities to focus on my hobbies including bike riding, photography and volunteering. I enjoy the challenge of riding from Rancho Bernardo to Lake Hodges, south through West Wood and back home. I also love to be outdoors to take photos of the landscape with my press camera. Although I still set aside time to read, I definitely take advantage of every opportunity to be out and about!



## Velma Smith

In my 15 year tenure with the City, I have worked for a few different departments including Real Estate Assets, Water and Development Services. One of my more memorable experiences was when I was employed at the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant. The team and I were lucky enough to go on a tour of the San Vicente Dam Reservoir and saw everything from inside the dam. Wow, that was quite an experience, knowing that all of that water was flowing right over the top of us!

Throughout the years, I have had great co-workers who were like my extended family and significantly enriched my life. I learned from each of them and hopefully they learned from me as well. I won't forget how my "Alvarado Water Treatment Team" surprised me on my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with a little celebration, all while leading me to believe that it was an impromptu meeting I had to attend. That team was the best! Everyone worked well together and genuinely liked each other.

For me, retirement brings the freedom to do whatever I want, whenever I want. I no longer have to use an alarm clock and I can now travel at a moment's notice! I will definitely miss, however, the daily interaction with my co-workers. I love people and enjoy helping others. That's why I volunteer twice a month at a convalescent home. Volunteering is a way of sharing your "goodness" with others while accentuating the "goodness" in them. It's a win-win situation and we all have so much to give.

# Congratulations to the 2011 Ann M. Smith Scholarship Award Winners

Congratulations to this year's Ann M. Smith Scholarship recipients. These three high school seniors exemplify what it means to be a leader which is demonstrated through their involvement in their schools and communities. MEA wishes you all the best in your scholastic endeavors as you embark on this exciting new chapter of your lives!



**First Place**  
Emma  
Kathleen  
Aceves:  
*Daughter of  
MEA member  
Kathleen  
Aceves*

Emma is her high school's

senior class president, is the captain of the golf team and is a member of the Peace Commission. She also volunteers for the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department's summer camps for people with disabilities as a way to give back to the community. She will be attending Loyola University Chicago and majoring in nursing.



**Second Place**  
Diana Polyak:  
*Daughter of  
MEA member  
Valery Polyak*

Diana has a 3.8 grade point average and has been an

active member of the Rotary Club throughout high school and was an intern for the La Jolla Light Newspaper during her junior and senior years. She also plays water polo and swims and considers these teams to be her second family. Diana will be majoring in both Business and Art and hopes to one day open her own international art business.



**Third Place**  
Allison Blake:  
*Daughter of  
MEA member  
Philip Blake*

Allison has been involved with numerous activities throughout her

four years of high school. She has volunteered more than 200 hours of community service, runs on both the cross-country and track teams and is involved in choir, ASB, the California Scholastic Federation, American Sign Language, Relay for Life and Rachel's Challenge Club. Allison will be majoring in Elementary Education and wants to become a teacher.

## Steward of the Year



**Ramone Lewis**  
Business Office

Congratulations to Ramone Lewis who was recognized as Steward of the Year. Ramone has been a steward for several years and was recently elected to Chief Steward by his colleagues. MEA Second Vice President Jan Lord was one of many who remarked that Ramone is "an awesome steward and is a wonderful representative of MEA as Steward of the Year!" Thank you Ramone for all of your hard work and tireless efforts to protect and uphold the rights of MEA members.

## Boardmember of the Year



**Jean Evans**  
Retirement Office

Jean has been on the Board for over a decade and has been actively involved in the Soc & Rec and Adopt a Senior/Family Committees. She is known for being a careful listener and for applying logic and reason when discussing issues and has also always been there for MEA members in need of retirement-related questions at SDCERS. Thank you for your leadership on MEA's Board of Directors and for your countless contributions which have greatly benefited MEA and its membership.

## Volunteer of the Year



**Pete Lynch**  
Development Services

Due to his dedication, service and many contributions on behalf of all MEA members, Pete Lynch has been named Volunteer of the Year. From his active role as a MEA Board and Political Action Committee member, to his volunteering weekends to campaign on behalf of MEA-endorsed political candidates, he has always put the interests of his union family before all else. Thank you Pete for your countless contributions which have greatly benefited MEA and its membership.

# Welcome to the MEA Family



Congratulations to MEA Boardmember Mary Enyeart who welcomed new grandbaby, Emma Michelle Crumrine on September 15<sup>th</sup>.



Congratulations to MEA member Ricardo Carrera and his family and their newest edition, Isaac.



MEA Parking Enforcement Officers Pamela Peterson and Abel Saucedo are happy to present their new edition, Simon William Saucedo.



REA invites you to join us for a series of luncheon programs featuring the four leading contenders for mayor. It is important to hear from each candidate, whether we agree, disagree or just don't know their views on issues which could affect current, retired and soon-to-retire employees. We hope you will be able to attend one or all of these upcoming free programs.

We kick off with Congressman Bob Filner at our meeting on Tuesday, November 8 at 11:30 AM at the War Memorial Building in Balboa Park.

Although the program is free, there is a \$10.75 charge for non-REA members who are staying for lunch and reservations are required. You can reserve your spot by phone or email by contacting Dave Twomey at (619) 236-1407 or [hospitalitymea@csdrea.org](mailto:hospitalitymea@csdrea.org). The deadline for reservations is Friday, November 4 at 5PM.

Please consult our website for the menu and additional information at [www.csdrea.org](http://www.csdrea.org).

We look forward to seeing you!

Jim Baross, President REA



Today an employee of yours came to my residence to check on the property's water pressure. I can't tell you what a pleasure it was working with **Harold Harris**. He checked out the City's meter thoroughly and reported the water pressure psi. He continued to find the source of the water pressure problem and suggested solutions. Not only was his work ethic exemplary, his friendly demeanor was a real pleasure.

Supervisor **Jon Jones** was extremely helpful as well confirming Harold's results. Although this did not turn out to be a City issue, it was so nice to have City workers go above and beyond to help a resident. It certainly shows the high level of customer service that City of San Diego employees show. I just wanted you to know that you have some outstanding employees.

Sincerely,  
Alyne Strusser, Ocean Beach

# SHOW US YOUR VIEWPOINT

The Viewpoint features a section of MEA members photographed with their Viewpoint in different (and hopefully exotic) locations. So on your next trip, don't forget to pack your Viewpoint and take a picture. If your photograph is featured, you will receive a pair of movie tickets.



MEA Boardmember Graham Hufford swims with the Whale Sharks in Bahia de los Angeles, Baja.



MEA member John Quigley celebrated Big Brother Day with his "little brother" Christopher at a Chargers game. Before kick-off, Christopher tried on a 60 pound flack jacket worn in Iraq and Afghanistan by United States Marines who were exhibiting their gear and weaponry at the stadium.



# Connected to our Community



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*Carrots with honey,  
lemon zest and thyme*

**by Bill Craig**  
MEA Executive Committee

#### INGREDIENTS:

8 big carrots  
2 tbsp honey  
¼ cup butter  
6 sprigs of thyme  
Grated zest and the juice of ½ large lemon  
Salt and pepper

Peel the carrots and cut them on the bias into half inch rounds. Place in a large sauté pan and pour enough cold water to just cover them. Add the honey, butter, thyme and a generous pinch of salt. Bring to a boil over a medium heat then lower to a simmer. Cook until they are almost tender (about 15 minutes). Now turn up the heat to boil the liquid rapidly until it's reduced to a shiny sweet glaze. There should be a couple of tablespoons of the glaze coating the carrots. Squeeze the lemon juice over them and check on your salt and pepper. Just before serving, sprinkle with the lemon zest. No more insipidly dull carrots at your house.

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# Catastrophic Leave Requests

The following MEA members have established catastrophic leave accounts and request your generosity in helping donate annual leave in their time of need. If you are able to help, please contact your Payroll Specialist for the proper paperwork. Every hour helps!

## Marlea Smith

My name is Marlea Smith and I work in the City Attorney's Office. I have exhausted all of my leave time due to health issues and surgery, which required me to be off of work for approximately 3 weeks. Any time that you can contribute to my catastrophic leave bank would be greatly appreciated. You can contact Payroll Specialist Claudia Guardado at extension 35864. Thank you.

## Tutasi (Tasi) Epenesa

My name is Tutasi (Tasi) Epenesa and I work in Parking Administration as a Public Information Clerk. I have been diagnosed with a neck/back condition. I will be out of work to recover from 4/2011-10/20/11 and have no leave time available. Any time donated will be greatly appreciated and a blessing. Thank you so very much.

## Korinne Monroig

My name is Korinne Monroig and I work as a Clerical Assistant II in the City Attorney's Office Civil Division. My son has been diagnosed with a serious health condition that has required me to be off from work to care for him. I have exhausted all of my leave time and have been caring for him for several years without pay. It has now created a financial burden for me. To assist with my son's ongoing doctor appointments, therapy and care, any contributions to my catastrophic leave bank would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your kindness.

## Jen Garcia

I am a single mom, and the eldest in my family. In February 2010 my mom was diagnosed with Stage 4 Cervical, Ovarian, Uteran and breast cancer which has spread to her lungs, liver and lymph nodes. She was scheduled to have surgery in September of 2010. Since her surgery that cancer has continued to spread and we are continuing treatment. As her primary caretaker, I have exhausted my leave and have taken leave without pay. I simply cannot afford to take any more leave without pay without it affecting my capability to provide for myself and my son. Any leave time that can be donated will be a blessing and most appreciated. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Aracely Robles

My name is Aracely Robles and I work as a Clerical Assistant II in the City Attorney's Office Criminal Division. I have been on maternity leave since September 2, 2011 without pay. I have exhausted all of my leave time due to doctor appointments throughout my pregnancy. I am in need of leave to care for my baby for the remainder of my maternity leave. Any contributions to my catastrophic leave bank would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

# new MEA members



- Fabiola Amarillas
- Brian Anderson
- Christian Anderson
- Laralyn Asato
- Jose Bantum
- Steven Bliss
- Susan Brannian
- Claudia Brizuela
- Bernice Castillo
- Marie Cuvadar
- Tremaine Dickey
- Eugene Dulay
- Lizeth Escamilla
- Julie Estill
- Erica Fitzgerald
- Irazema Garcia
- Brian Genovese
- Danielle Grimm
- Maile Hartelt
- Steven Hiczewski
- Joseph Jimenez
- Sean Kelly
- Jennifer Lamas-Villanueva
- Georgette Manela
- David Marlow
- John Mendivil
- Stephen Moore
- Andrew Oster
- Gary Patterson
- Natashia Pierre
- Corie Scarpella
- Matthew Schmidt
- Duane Skarbic Jr.
- Sammie Taylor Jr.
- Tuong Tran
- Stefanie Wenceslao

# MEA Discount Tickets for Members

Please call or stop by the MEA office for your discount tickets.

Discount Ticket	MEA Price	Regular Price
San Diego Zoo Deluxe Package		
Adults	<b>\$33.50</b>	\$40.00
Children (Ages 3-11)	<b>\$25.00</b>	\$30.00
San Diego Wild Animal Park Deluxe Package		
Adults	<b>\$33.50</b>	\$40.00
Children (Ages 3-11)	<b>\$25.00</b>	\$30.00
Sea World Day Pass		
Adults	<b>\$45.00</b>	\$69.99
Children (Ages 3-9)	<b>\$45.00</b>	\$61.99
Legoland		
Adults	<b>\$53.00</b>	\$69.00
Children (Ages 3-11)	<b>\$53.00</b>	\$59.00
Six Flags Magic Mountain		
Adults	<b>\$26.00</b>	\$59.99
Children (Under 48")	<b>\$17.50</b>	\$34.99
K1 Speedway (Must be 4'11")	<b>\$15.00</b>	\$25.95
AMC Restricted	<b>\$6.00</b>	
AMC Unrestricted	<b>\$7.50</b>	
Reading	<b>\$6.75</b>	
Regal Restricted	<b>\$6.50</b>	
Regal Unrestricted	<b>\$7.50</b>	

## events

November 3, 2011  
MEA Finance & Executive Committee meetings

November 6, 2011  
Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 9, 2011  
MEA Executive Committee & Board of Directors meetings

November 11, 2011  
Veteran's Day

November 17, 2011  
MEA Executive Committee meeting

November 19, 2011  
MEA Golden Share Pick Up

November 22, 2011  
MEA Steward's meeting

November 24 and 25, 2011  
MEA Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 3, 2011  
MEA Holiday Party

December 11, 2011  
MEA Children's Holiday Party

December 14, 2011  
MEA Executive Committee & Board of Directors meetings

December 17, 2011  
MEA Golden Share Pick Up

December 22, 2011  
MEA Executive Committee meeting

December 26 through January 2, 2012  
MEA Office Closed for the Holidays

January 1, 2012  
Happy New Year!

January 5, 2012  
MEA Finance & Executive Committee meetings

January 11, 2012  
MEA Executive Committee & Board of Directors meetings

January 16, 2012  
MEA Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 23, 2012  
Chinese New Year

January 24, 2012  
MEA Stewards meeting

January 26, 2012  
MEA Executive Committee meeting



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