

From: Liz Bettencourt
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 4:07 PM
Subject: President's Message - August 30, 2012

Sensitivity: Confidential

Members:

Pension Reform

EA's Vice President of Outreach, Dave Matthews, has been doing the herculean job of sifting through a variety of information coming out of Sacramento about the Governor's pension reform bill. We now have several documents to share with you:

1. A summary of the outcome of the State's Conference Committee on pension reform. This summary was prepared by AFSCME's legal branch and is subject to a legislative vote tomorrow, Friday, August 31. Most of it clearly applies only to new hires. We're trying to track down the details of the anti-spiking component as the summary indicates that won't impact current employees. We will have much more for you on this after the vote and as we get clearer information.
2. Updated information from AFSCME just today, and
3. The CalPERS analysis of the Conference Committee's report. All three documents can be found on the EA website. Our thanks to Dave for tracking this important issue.

We will have an opportunity to talk more about this at our membership meeting next week. We encourage you to go to the EA website. Here is the link and the password is vea.

<http://valleywaterea.com/>

September Membership Meeting Wednesday the 5th

Next week we will have our monthly membership meeting at noon in the HQ Boardroom. We have several important issues to discuss. The meeting notice, with agenda and officer reports will be out shortly. We will be providing food, so please be sure to RSVP your attendance as soon as you receive the it so we can get an accurate head count.

Did You Know?

The Labor Day holiday is more than just the end of summer vacation. The holiday was enacted to pay tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. It was first adopted by the state of Oregon in 1887, but became federal law in 1894 under President Grover Cleveland after that year's Pullman railroad strike in which many striking workers were killed. Cleveland saw this as a means to bring the two sides back together after the strike and to begin healing the profound wounds left in the aftermath of its tragic events. Speaking just for me, in spite of everything I face today as a worker, this day gives me pause to think about how fortunate I am to have my family, my job and my Union.

Don't forget to RSVP for the AFSCME picnic on September 15. Contact Cathy Paramo.

Have a great long holiday weekend, and Happy Labor Day to you all!

Liz Bettencourt

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