



# The News

## Tea Party, Unions Join Forces Against Chamber-Backed Anti-Protest



Labor unions and Tea Party activists came together at the Georgia statehouse Thursday morning to speak out against a controversial bill that they say could drastically limit free-speech rights.

The bill, which was drafted to restrict unions' ability to protest outside businesses and private residences, has attracted a broad and unlikely coalition of opponents across the state, including both liberals and conservatives who say the law would be unconstitutional. Hundreds such opponents gathered in protest at the capitol building in Atlanta on Thursday, chanting "We own the Dome!" The bill passed swiftly through the state Sen-

ate and could come up for a vote in the House on Thursday.

Introduced by Waffle House executive and Georgia Chamber of Commerce board member Sen. Don Balfour (R), the bill would impose \$1,000 fines on people who mass picket in a way that "obstructs" or "interferes" with a business in the midst of a labor dispute, or who picket outside the private residence of an executive in a way that interferes with the resident's "right of quiet enjoyment."

But opponents of the bill say an amendment to the House version would greatly broaden the law's applicability. After critics argued that

the bill unfairly targeted labor unions -- perhaps unconstitutionally -- an early reference to unions was apparently stricken from the bill. The result, says Julianne Thompson, Georgia state director for the Tea Party Patriots, is legislation that would restrict the protest rights of all groups, not just unions.

"They've actually made it worse," says Thompson, who stood with unions and criticized the bill as unconstitutional, even before the amendment. "So now what they've done is said you can't protest near a private residence for any reason, no matter what and no matter who you're with."

Joining the Georgia AFL-CIO and others on the left, several conservatives believe the broad language of the bill makes it ripe for abuse. Given the mixed-use nature of developments in At-

lanta and elsewhere, the "right of quiet enjoyment" clause could be used to stifle just about any protest that happens to be near a residence, says Kay Godwin, a conservative activist and well-known player in Georgia GOP politics. What's more, says Godwin, the controversial bill does nothing to address the economic issues that should be preoccupying Georgia legislators.

Republicans in the Georgia House committee handling the bill approved it before most Democrats realized it was up for a vote, according to Morris News Service. That speed has characterized the whole process, says Godwin. "By the time we figured out what was going on," she says, "they already had [the bill] in high gear."

The anti-picketing bill, known as SB 469, was written by the Georgia Cham-

ber of Commerce, according to the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. The business trade group says in a brief on the bill that it's intended to "protect" the safety of workers "during union organizing efforts or demonstrations."

"The Georgia Chamber believes this bill provides that balance and also ensures workplace disagreements are handled at work and not at private homes," the group argues.

The Georgia AFL-CIO has strongly criticized the bill, saying it infringes on the First Amendment rights of unions and all citizens. Charlie Flemming, the group's president, told HuffPost last week that labor activists in the state were thrilled to find support among Tea Party members, a group with whom they typically don't share much common ground.

# Come Join Us!



By Jere Copeland  
Executive Director

## **COME JOIN US**

Have you ever wondered what does my Union really do or how does it work? If you want to find out, come to one of our Board of Director meetings and see democracy in action. EDCEA is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership that meet monthly to decide Union policy and to give direction to staff on any variety of issues. The Board makes decisions on everything we do, from whether to have a booth at the County Fair to approving what contract items will go out to the membership for a vote. The meetings are at 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Union Hall, 2864 Ray Lawyer Drive in Placerville, except for in March, June, September and

December when they are held in South Lake Tahoe at the Pizza Works on Highway 50 near the Y. We currently have some openings on the Board and would invite those who want to get involved to come see us. This next year will be a contract year and we could use all the help we can get getting our message out. We also need members to tell us what you are thinking and what is important to you.

## **BYLAW REVISION ELECTION**

On July 3, 2012 there will be there will be a Special Membership Meeting of the EDCEA to vote on changes to the Association By-laws. These proposed changes are administrative in nature and are summarized below. A complete copy of the Bylaws with changes can be found on the website edcea.org. The vote will be at 5:30 pm and will proceed the regular Board of Director's meeting at 6:30 pm. The meeting location is at the Union Hall at 2864 Ray Lawyer Dr.

#202 in Placerville. If you have any questions, you can call the Hall at 530 626-2565.

## **Proposed Changes:**

**Article III and IV** – Minor language change and revision to language on retiree members.

**Article VIII** – Change in language to fit the County's consolidation of Departments.

**Article IX** – Change in language on dues to correspond with Local #1 language. **This does not change the dues, nor does it alter that any change in the amount must be voted on by the membership. It only puts the two sets of bylaws in agreement.**

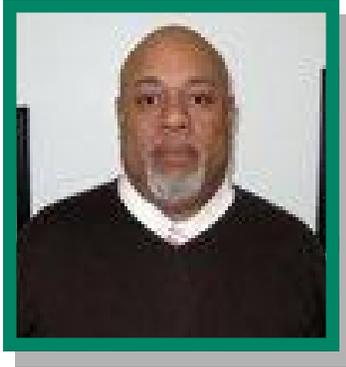
**Article X** – Change in meeting rules regarding quorum and confidential information.

**Article XV** – Change in language to reflect current list of Associations affiliated with EDCEA.

*"The Board makes decisions on everything we do, from whether to have a booth at the County Fair, to approving what contract items will go out to the membership for a vote."*



# Who is Saul Alinsky?



By Richard Boyd  
Business Agent

During my brief tenure here at Local #1, I have referenced Saul Alinsky on occasion. Recently I was out at a meeting at CPS and had referenced Saul and one of our members approached me after the meeting and asked "Not for nothing but who is Saul Alinsky." The question inspired me to write this article.

Newt Gingrich, the former Republican presidential candidate, invoked in his criticism of President Obama the name of Saul Alinsky. As a result, the 20th-century community organizer has caused a surge of searches on the Web.

After winning the South Carolina GOP primary, Gingrich said in his victory speech, "The centerpiece of this campaign, I believe, is American exceptionalism versus the radicalism of

Saul Alinsky." Which seemed to have the effect of viewers nodding, then thinking, "Who?" On Yahoo!, lookups included: "who is Saul Alinsky," "saul alinsky newt gingrich," "saul alinsky obama," and "saul alinsky rules for radicals" -- the name of the activist's book.

Alinsky has been dead for 40 years, and became known on campuses in the 1960s for his organizing tactics, along with a guide to the powerless (think the 99 percent) to grab control from those in power.

Born in 1909 in Chicago to Russian-immigrant parents, the writer is known as the founding father of community organizing. He worked his way through the University of Chicago, then got a job in the slums of Chicago as an organizer. Of his book, "Rules for Radicals," Alinsky wrote: "'The Prince' was written by Machiavelli for the Haves on how to hold power. 'Rules for Radicals' is written for the Have-Nots on how to take it away."

If the Occupy Wall Street movement is aligned with Alinsky's teachings, so is the Tea Party. Dick Simpson, a political scientist at the University of Chicago,

told Bloomberg News, "The Tea Party has understood how to mobilize their anger and turn it to political results, which is the underlying motif of Alinsky."

Saul Alinsky's name came up in the last presidential campaign, when it was noted that Hillary Clinton, who was a candidate in the Democratic presidential primaries, had written her college thesis on the agitator back in 1969.

Other Republicans have sought to link Obama to Alinsky, since both were community organizers in Chicago. But, as CNN points out, Obama was just 10 when Alinsky died, and he has never publicly mentioned the man.

The organizer himself would certainly appreciate the storm of controversy his name has generated of late. He said it best himself: "First rule of change is controversy. You can't get away from it for the simple reason all issues are controversial. Change means movement and movement means friction, and friction means heat, and heat means controversy."

*"First rule of change is controversy. You can't get away from it for the simple reason all issues are controversial. Change means movement and movement means friction, and friction means heat, and heat means controversy."*



# WE DO THE WORK!

## Let's Meet Katie Fahrer....

### Question #1 What do you do for the County?

I am an Emergency Response worker for Child Protective Services. I respond to, and investigate, allegations of child abuse.



### Question #2 What can the County do to help you be successful in your job?

The County can provide me with adequate job training and supervision, a manageable caseload, and opportunities for professional growth.

### Question #3 What can and/or should the Union do to help you be successful in your job?

The Union can help me be successful by providing support and guidance as to how to professionally approach my employer, the County, when I feel that I am not being treated fairly or being adequately compensated for the job duties I am being required to perform.

Stay Tuned for our next EDCEA, Local #1 employee's interview.  
Knowledge creates awareness and understanding, so let's share!

## FEDERAL LABOR UNION LEADER STEPS DOWN

The nation's largest federal employee union is losing its president. John Gage, who heads the American Federation of Government Employees President, announced in a letter to Union members that he's stepping down from his position. Gage called his near-decade-long tenure as president at the Union as "challenging but invigorating." "Along the way, there have been exhilarating wins and hard losses, one after another," he wrote. "Always they were accompanied with the reality of the next organizing drive, the next demonstration, the next election."

Gage, who's 66, said he didn't decide to step down because he wanted to retire but because he wanted to "contribute to the labor movement in other ways." "I have a growing family that I've kind of neglected," he told the Baltimore Sun in an interview. In the next 10 weeks, Gage plans to wrap up his time at AFGE by completing negotiations on the organization's first contract the Transportation Security Agency and ensuring continued representation for the Union's members.

No word yet on who'll replace him, but Gage said he plans to leave the office of the National President in "excellent shape" for his successor.

# THINGS THAT MAKE YOU SAY...

## Hmmmm.....



Terence Flynn, National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) member, resigned yesterday evening, effective July 24. He has immediately recused himself from all agency business and has asked that the President withdraw his nomination for Board Member of the NLRB.

The NLRB Inspector General earlier this year issued two reports describing how Flynn funneled confidential information about NLRB activities and deliberations, including attorney-client privileged information, to two former NLRB members who have worked to undermine and discredit the NLRB. One of those former members was Peter Schaumber—who co-chaired the labor policy advisory group for Mitt Romney’s campaign.

The Inspector General found additional instances when Flynn funneled confidential information to Schaumber. These included a draft of an NLRB decision, dissents before cases have been decided and other information on the NLRB’s internal operations.

According to the NLRB:

"Earlier today, Chairman Pearce informed NLRB employees of the resignation and, on behalf of the entire Board, thanked them for their "hard work and commitment to excellence through even the most difficult circumstances." He intends to issue a statement after communicating with the staff on Tuesday."

From the New York Times:

"In one instance, Mr. Berry found that Mr. Flynn had secretly helped Mr. Schaumber write an opinion column that denounced an N.L.R.B. decision that favored labor unions. Mr. Berry called that action by Mr. Flynn "an abuse of his discretion."

The Flynn case has been referred to the Justice Department for investigation and to the Federal Office of Special Counsel, which is looking into possible violations of the Hatch Act, which bars federal employees from participating in partisan political activity.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka called for Flynn's immediate resignation in March and Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) called for him to resign earlier this month.

Flynn was sworn in as a Board Member on Jan. 9, 2012. He joined the Board in 2003 as Chief Counsel to Schaumber, and had previously been in private practice. The letter of resignation, dated May 25, was delivered via FAX and email on May 26.

“Governor Brown demonstrated once again his commitment to counties by staying true to his vow to sustain funding for realignment,” said Mike McGowan, California State Association of Counties (CSAC) President and Yolo County Supervisor.

## Governors May Revise Sees No Cuts To Counties

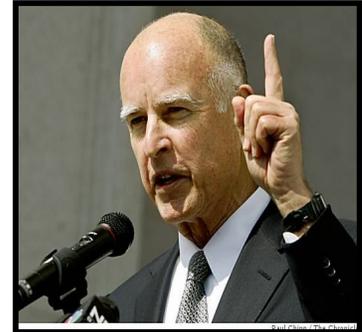
Governor Brown released his May Revision of the proposed 2012-13 budget which contains reductions in programs and services counties provide to 38 million Californians.

“Governor Brown demonstrated once again his commitment to counties by staying true to his vow to sustain funding for realignment,” said Mike McGowan, CSAC President and Yolo County Supervisor. “Our partnership with this administration remains strong and together

we will work to right this ship of state.” “As the Governor said today, government is not an abstract,” said Paul McIntosh,

CSAC Executive Director. “For counties, it’s a nurse visiting an elderly shut-in, a probation officer monitoring a violent offender, or a social worker ensuring a child is safe in foster care. The cuts the Governor proposes are going to have a measurable impact to our citizens. Only a balanced approach -- cuts and revenues along with

constitutional protections -- can begin to bring stability to counties and ensure they can continue to provide the vital services 38 million Californians depend on.”



## Today in Labor History...

Governor Jerry Brown signs the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the first law in the United States giving farmworkers collective bargaining rights. The legislation came after years of effort by the United Farm Workers union  
~ 1975

**Also on this date:**  
Massachusetts becomes the first state to establish a minimum wage...

House of Representatives approves Taft-Hartley Act...

AFL-CIO opens its new headquarters building.

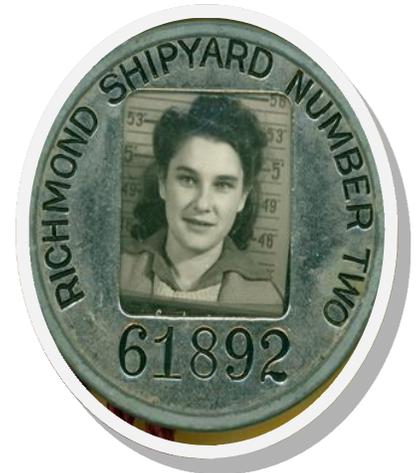
**June 05**  
A strike begins at a General Motors Corporation

parts factory in Flint, Michigan that spreads and ultimately forces the closure of GM plants across the country for seven weeks. The Flint workers were protesting the removal of key dies from their plant and feared their jobs would be lost. The company ended the dispute by assuring the plant would remain open until at least the year 2000  
~ 1998

**June 06**  
United States President Harry S Truman and American Federation of Musicians President James Petrillo perform a piano duet at the union’s convention in Asbury Park, NJ.  
~ 1948

### June 07

Founding convention of the United Food and Commercial Workers. The merger brought together the Retail Clerks International Union and the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of North America  
~ 1979



## President Obama Slow Jams A Scary Truth About College Costs

President Obama appeared on the Jimmy Fallon Show several weeks ago to slow jam his message about college affordability, but behind the laughter there was a very serious message: On July 1, more than 7.4 million students with federal student loans will see their interest rates double unless Congress acts.

Those rates – which will double to 6.8 percent – will saddle students and/or their parents with an additional \$1,000 in debt this year, on average, and for each year Congress allows the rates to double.

Unfortunately, some in Congress are out of touch about the burden this would cause for working students and middle class families.

“I have very little tolerance for people who tell me that they graduate with \$200,000 of debt or even \$80,000 in debt because there’s no reason for that,” Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) said.

Well, there is one reason for it: the Ryan Republican Bud-

et. College costs have been on the rise for decades, with the typical college tuition tripling in the last 30 years.

By voting for the Ryan Republican budget, Representative Foxx and her colleagues are trying to make college even less affordable. The Ryan Republican budget could eliminate Pell Grants for more than 1 million students and it slashes work-study funding that could affect hundreds of thousands of students. This is the same budget that gave millionaires \$394,000 in tax cuts.

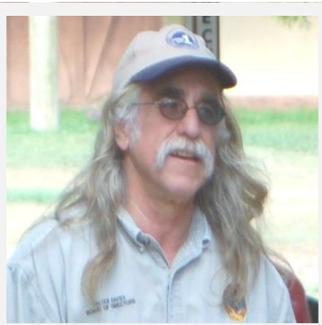
Just looking at the unemployment rates for high school and college graduates shows how valuable a college education is, especially during the current economic downturn. According to the Department of Labor’s recent jobs report, 4.3 percent of college graduates are currently unemployed, compared with 10.5 percent of those with only a high school diploma. Additionally, the wage difference between college-educated adults and high school gradu-

ates has tripled from 75 percent in 1979 to 230 percent in 2003. Given the benefit a college degree provides for a worker or a family, Congress should be acting to make college more affordable, not less.

Today, Sens. Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) unveiled a bill to prevent the interest rate hike on student loans: the Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike of 2012.

Urge your members of Congress to prevent the interest rate hike on Twitter using #DontDoubleMyRate,

By Walter Davies  
EDCEA President



What will my College debt be?

*“I have very little tolerance for people who tell me that they graduate with \$200,000 of debt or even \$80,000 in debt because there’s no reason for that,” Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) said.*

## CalPERS Actuary Recommends 5.7% Boost in California Funding

The California Public Employees’ Retirement System’s chief actuary says state taxpayers should increase contributions 5.7 percent, or \$213 million, next year to cover the cost of pensions after record losses. California would pay \$3.7 billion, or about 4 percent of the state’s budget, for retiree benefits in the fiscal year beginning July 1, actuary Alan Milligan recommended in a report today. School districts would pay \$1.2 billion. Calpers, as the fund is known, is the largest pension in the U.S., with \$232.5 billion in assets. It’s still recovering from the recession which caused it to lose 23 percent in fiscal 2009, its worst one-year decline on record.



# UNION TERMS WORD SEARCH

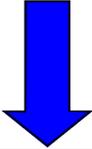


**El Dorado County Employees Association, Local #1**

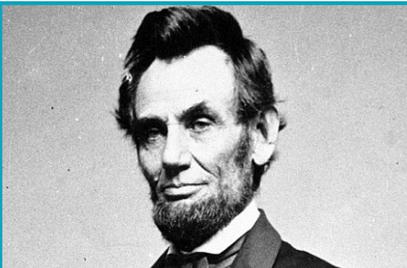
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Phone: 530-626-2565  
Fax: 530-626-2569  
E-mail: edcea@peu1.org

To View Your EDCEA, Local #1  
Board of Directors,  
Staff & Calendar  
Check out the web...



**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.EDCEA.ORG](http://WWW.EDCEA.ORG)



"All that serves labor serves the nation. All that harms is treason. If a man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other."

**--\*Abraham Lincoln\*--**

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- REPRESENTATION
- FURLOUGH
- GRIEVANCE
- IMPASSE
- INJUNCTION
- JUSTCAUSE
- MEDIATION
- PASTPRACTICE

*The answers shall be posted in next months newsletter*

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# EDCEA

## Membership Benefits

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