



DIGEST

Around and About

APCD engineer Norman Shaffer has won reelection to the general-employee seat on the County retirement board. Sam Matzkin, civil engineering associate, will fill the upcoming vacancy on the suggestion award board. More than 15,000 employees cast mail ballots, a record high. Final returns as counted last Wednesday (Nov. 26):

Retirement—Shaffer, 7,602; Ruth Coine, 3,551; George Flores, 1,808; Billy Pugh, 1,280; Elmore Fitzgerald, 1,055.

Suggestion award—Matzkin, 6,262; James Lancaster, 4,253; Terry De Wolfe, 2,472; Robert Kennard, 1,992.

THE COUNTY's system of determining patients' ability to pay for hospital treatment and of collecting the bills will be decentralized.

The Board of Supervisors voted approval last Tuesday (Nov. 25) of a recommendation from the CAO's management audit division that the bureau of medical social services, headquartered at County-USC Medical Center, be dismantled and that each hospital have its own office for financial screening and collections.

CAO Lin Hollinger said the central bureau will go out of business gradually as hospital offices come into operation.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE VOTING

A PRE-CHRISTMAS rush of elections is under way to choose negotiating representatives for some 7,000 County nurses, deputy sheriffs, guards, sanitarians and related classes.

Hospital workers will vote next Monday and Wednesday (Dec. 1, 3) to decide whether they want California Nurses association as their representative. No other organization is on the ballot. The registrar-recorder will operate polling places in seven hospitals—County-USC Medical Center, Harbor General, Long Beach, El Cerrito, Wesley, Rancho Los Amigos and Olive View. Other nurses will vote by mail ballots sent to their homes or delivered to their work places.

The employee relations commission has divided the nurses into two units, one of 1,969 non-supervisory nurses, the other of 758 supervisory nurse classes. The two units, if they vote for representation, will negotiate separate agreements with County management.

Two other elections will be conducted Dec. 1 and 3 for a unit of 350 sanitarians and public health investigators (a joint council of associations of public health engineers, investigators and sanitarians is unopposed on the ballot) and another unit of 62 dentists and hygienists (only the Los Angeles County Dental Personnel association is on the ballot).

Guards Have Choice

Mail ballots were sent last Tuesday (Nov. 25) to 258 County guards, asking them to choose whether they wish to be represented by LACEA Security Officers un-

ion, Local 602, or by AFSCME (or neither).

The ballots must be returned to the registrar-recorder's office by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9—which means they should be placed in the mail by next Thursday (Dec. 4) to make sure they will be received in time to be counted.

Contest for Deputies

A massive mail ballot will begin next Thursday (Dec. 4) among County peace officers, pitting LACEA against Los Angeles Coun-

(Continued on next page)

Engineers Take CAPE

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of Professional Employees (CAPE) awaits certification as the negotiating representative of four engineering units after winning decisively in four elections last week (Nov. 18, 19).

More than 3,000 employees were eligible to vote. Eighty-five percent of them did so.

As soon as the employee relations commission certifies the results as official, CAPE will be entitled to represent the four units of employees in negotiating pay and working conditions agreements with County management.

Registrar-recorder Ray Lee announced these results in the balloting:

Unit One—1,303 inspectors, engineering aids, surveying workers and other non-supervisory engineering technical employees. For CAPE, 703. For Los Angeles County Em-

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Volume 2 Number 20

All Suspensions Now Appealable

THE CIVIL service commission has agreed to hear an appeal from any employee who, for disciplinary reasons, has been suspended. The employee first, however, must attempt to settle his dispute through his de-

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partment's regular grievance procedure. The commission adopted the rule change Nov. 13 after both director of personnel Gordon Nesvig and spokesmen for the Los Angeles County Employees association endorsed it.

The commission had progressively liberalized its rule in recent years, first agreeing to hear appeals on suspensions of more than 15 days, then accepting cases of 10-day suspensions, and finally lowering the limit last April to suspensions of more than five days.

The altered section of Rule 19.01 now reads:
". . . After an employee has carried his appeal through his departmental grievance procedure and has been notified of the result, he may request a commission hearing . . . within ten business days of receipt of said notice. The commission shall determine whether the suspension is justified."

Unit Two—662 civil engineering assistants, APCD engineers and other non-supervisory professional engineering employees. For CAPE, 400. For LACEA, 137. Neither, 36. Total vote, 573 (86 percent).

Unit Three—416 survey chiefs, road foremen, planners, head inspectors, superintendents and other engineering technical supervisors. For CAPE, 316. For LACEA, 60. Neither, 10. Total vote, 386 (93 percent).

Unit Four—638 civil engineers and associates, architects and associates, and other supervisory professional engineering employees. For CAPE, 469. For LACEA, 100. Neither, 18. Total vote, 577 (90 percent).

Unit Five—638 civil engineers and associates, architects and associates, and other supervisory professional engineering employees. For CAPE, 469. For LACEA, 100. Neither, 18. Total vote, 577 (90 percent).

Unit Six—638 civil engineers and associates, architects and associates, and other supervisory professional engineering employees. For CAPE, 469. For LACEA, 100. Neither, 18. Total vote, 577 (90 percent).

Unit Seven—638 civil engineers and associates, architects and associates, and other supervisory professional engineering employees. For CAPE, 469. For LACEA, 100. Neither, 18. Total vote, 577 (90 percent).

Unit Eight—638 civil engineers and associates, architects and associates, and other supervisory professional engineering employees. For CAPE, 469. For LACEA, 100. Neither, 18. Total vote, 577 (90 percent).

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VOTING SEASON

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ty Professional Peace Officers association.

Two units are involved—one of 3,350 deputy sheriffs, D-A investigators and criminalists, the other unit of 860 supervisory deputy sheriffs, D-A supervisors and supervising criminalists.

Registrar-recorder Ray Lee urged that unit members mail their marked ballots to him by Dec. 12 to assure that, amid the crush of Christmas mail, the ballots are in his hands by the 5 p.m. Dec. 18 deadline.

Ag Inspectors on 16th
The smallest unit yet approved by the employee relations commission, one of 49 agricultural inspectors, will vote Dec. 16 for its negotiating representative. LACEA and AFSCME will appear on the ballot.

The men will vote at the agricultural commissioner's office, 808 North Spring street. Ballots will be counted at 2 p.m. that afternoon.

Judges Urge Efficiency

A NEW attempt to increase court efficiency gets under way next Thursday (Dec. 4) with the first meeting of the Bench and Bar Council of Los Angeles County.

Presiding judge Joseph Wapner and a committee of 15 other superior judges have invited 32 local bar associations, the state bar, the D-A's and public defender's offices to send representatives to the Thursday meeting.

Judge Wapner said the new council will invite and will propose ideas to improve the "policies, practices and procedures of the courts and attorneys practicing in them so as to save time and money for both taxpayers and litigants."

Garage Contract OK'd

THE BOARD of Supervisors has approved (Nov. 18) a \$2 million contract to build a new mechanical department garage and parking structure at Spring and Alpine streets north of Civic Center.

The four-level structure will replace the decrepit Figueroa street garage, soon to be demolished as part of Bunker Hill redevelopment.

When completed a year from now, the garage will house vehicle maintenance employees. The 360-car parking structure will also serve library employees from their new headquarters planned at 733 North Spring street.

The County retirement board is financing the garage construction.

County of Los Angeles

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