



DIGEST

Around and About

DETERMINED TO avoid a replay of last June's problem-plagued primary, the CAO and registrar-recorder are mobilizing an "army" of some 2,000 County employees for special duty election day and night, Nov. 3. They include 124 data processors and aides, 50 precinct trouble shooters in APCD radio cars, 140 deputy sheriffs to shuttle ballot boxes, 165 special telephone operators, 1,000 tally center workers recruited from 20 County departments, plus 500 registrar-recorder staffers.

THE PERSONNEL department's occupational health service this week began offering "bereavement counseling" to employees who have lost a close relative (husband, wife, child, brother, or sister). The weekly hour-long sessions of psychological counseling, held at the Hall of Administration, will continue from one to six weeks. Dr. Jean Felton, OHS director, said: "Studies show that during the bereavement period there is a higher incidence of emotional distress and physical disorders, and even mortality. We believe counseling will cut down these occurrences." Dr. Felton said employees may obtain detailed information about bereavement counseling by calling 625-3611, extension 65491 or 65994.

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WOULD-BE CAO'S FACE TEST

ELEVEN TOP County executives will go before a civil service examining board next Monday (Oct. 26) and Nov. 9, competing for a chance to succeed retiring chief administrative officer Lin Hollinger.

The six examiners will interview:

- Ted Durkee, assistant CAO
- Roy Hoover, director, urban affairs department
- Harry Hufford, chief, CAO's budget division
- Baldo Kristovich, public administrator-public guardian
- John Lambie, County engineer
- James Mize, executive officer, Board of Supervisors
- Irvin Morhar, road commissioner
- Ellis Murphy, director, public social services
- Gordon Nesvig, director of personnel
- Harold Ostly, treasurer-tax collector
- Arthur Will, director, real estate management and small craft harbors.

The civil service commission ruled that all eleven applicants meet its requirements for the promotional examination—five years of "progressively responsible administrative experience" including three years as a County department head or as a division chief (or higher) in the CAO's office.

The examining board will conduct its interviews Oct. 26 and will continue them Nov. 9, when it also

will examine any out-of-County applicants who meet the requirement of "chief administrator of a county of over 500,000 or a city of over 300,000."

The commission reported that direct mailings of letters and bulletins to 32 municipal officials across the country and to eight governmental associations, plus an Oct. 12 advertisement in the *Wall Street Journal*, had drawn several responses but few from applicants who met the minimum requirements. The commission had extended the open-exam filing deadline from Oct. 15 to Oct. 22 at the request of the Board of Supervisors.

The eleven County applicants have filed for both the promotional and open examinations, although each will undergo only one interview. The examining board will provide two lists to the Board of Supervisors after Nov. 9—one for results of the promotional competition, the other for the open exam. If the voters approve the County charter amendment creating a County chief executive Nov. 3, the Board will appoint him from the open, competitive list. (See Oct. 9 DIGEST for further details.)

The Board of Supervisors indicated at its Oct. 13 meeting that it will make the appointment only when all five supervisors are present. Executive officer Mize said that with Supervisor Burton Chace scheduled to be on vacation during November, the first full-board meeting will not take place before Dec. 1.

Hollinger has notified the Board he will leave his \$44,000-a-year post Dec. 11.

Health Plan Rates Climb

THE 23,000 County employees who subscribe to Blue Cross, Blue Shield, and Ross-Loos health plans face increased premiums under new contracts that will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval next Tuesday (Oct. 27). The contracts, if approved, will result in higher paycheck deductions beginning Nov. 10.

"Reason for the increases lies in medical costs that keep going up and up, and in County employees' ever increasing use of the plans' services," Gordon Nesvig, director of personnel, explained.

He said County contracts with the health plans provide that more than 90 percent of the total premiums County employees pay into the health plans must be used to pay claims for County employees' health care.

The new contracts do not affect premiums of the Kaiser Foundation health plan, which increased its rates last July 1.

Blue Cross

Subscribers to the Blue Cross "high option" plan will pay the

The Job Finder

THE DEPARTMENT of personnel announces that present County employees may apply for:

Helper, Painting (09082), \$575 to \$715 a month. One year's experience as painter or 600 hours of classroom instruction required.

The following positions are open both to County employees and qualified outsiders:

Keypunch Operator, \$486 to \$601 a month. Permanent (24831-63) or recurrent (24833-63) position. Various shifts. Performance test only.

Helper, Carpentry (10038), \$575 to \$715 a month. One year's experience in carpentry or 600 hours classroom instruction required.

Applicants may obtain further information by consulting departmental bulletin boards—or calling applications, department of personnel, 625-3611, extension 64391.

following premiums, under the proposed contract:

Coverage for the employee only, \$4.99 a month, an increase of \$3.49.

For the employee and one dependent, \$23.73 a month, an increase of \$8.43.

For employee and two or more dependents, \$27.40 a month, an increase of \$9.40.

Blue Shield

For the employee only, \$8.81 a month, an increase of \$2.66.

For the employee and one dependent, \$22.82 a month, an increase of \$4.87.

For the employee and two or more dependents, \$27.51 a month, an increase of \$5.61.

Ross-Loos

For the employee only, \$9.53 a month, an increase of \$2.66.

For the employee and one dependent, \$26.42 a month, an increase of \$4.63.

For the employee and two or more dependents, \$36.10 a month, an increase of \$5.91.

In addition to these payments, the County contributes \$8 a month toward an employee's premium.

The three renewed contracts run until next Aug. 31.

Two More Units Sign

UNITS OF superior court clerks and nonsupervisory appraisers have signed agreements on pay and working conditions with County management. Both signings took place Oct. 13. The documents were sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

The agreements, which do not alter pay scales adopted last July 1, cover some 170 superior court clerks, represented by AFSCME Local 575, and 450 nonsupervisory appraisers in the assessor's office, represented by California Association of Professional Employees.

Negotiations began this week with another CAPE-represented unit of supervisory appraisers.

8 Seek Seat on Retirement Board

COUNTY EMPLOYEES will receive ballots with their Nov. 10 paychecks, listing eight candidates for a seat on the County retirement board.

The marked ballots are due back in the registrar-recorder's office by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20.

The seven challengers seeking to unseat incumbent Richard Pachtman, deputy D-A, are Billy Archibald and Gideon May of the probation department; William Felder, Jr., of mechanical; George Franceschini and Sal Morales, engineer's department; Edward McGuinness, assessor's office; and Lawrence Nosco, South Bay municipal court.

Each candidate filed nominating petitions bearing 100 names or more.

The Pachtman seat is one of two on the seven-member board filled by votes of County employees who are general members of the retirement association. APCD engineer Norman Shaffer is the other general-member representative. The five remaining board members are sheriff's Capt. Luther Russell, elected by the safety members (firemen, foresters, deputy sheriffs, marshals, D-A investigators, life-guards); three citizens—Lauren Conley, Mary Ann Hollibaugh, Ray Cherry—appointed by the Board of Supervisors; and County treasurer Harold Ostly, ex-officio board member and its chairman.

The board administers the \$900 million County retirement fund.

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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