

# SEIU Local 620

## “AROUND THE LOCAL”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY WALTER C. HAMILTON

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#### Special points Of interest

- Who is your steward?
- Member Meeting Information
- New signs!

Local 620



Stronger Together

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Please Post

### When is a Tax Increase a Good Thing?

Local 620 members should know by now that the State Budget is projected to be over 23 Billion dollars in the red for the next fiscal year starting in July. What many of you may be wondering is how will this affect you and your families.

As it stands now Governor Gray Davis has demonstrated responsible leadership by proposing a balanced approach to the largest projected deficit California has ever faced. The public at large and SEIU members particularly have an interest in a “balanced approach”.

I define a balanced approach as one that does not rely upon simplistic thinking and smoke & mirrors tactics such as “there is too much government, cut back across the board” or “just increase revenue by increasing taxes”.

Neither approach is realistic in one of the largest economies on earth, the State of California in the year of 2002. A “balanced approach” then is one that looks realistically at where cuts can be made without losing vital public services and, yes, revenue increases where they can be realized fairly and without an excessive burden.

The Governor’s proposals to date have been to combine cuts of almost \$ 8 billion with almost \$4 Billion in revenue increases (VLF restoration) and \$ 11 Billion in loans, transfers etc.

While this is a balanced approach and Governor Davis deserves credit for showing the leadership to make his proposals known, it is an unpopular plan unlikely to be approved by the legislature.

The public is unhappy with cutting education, public health or public safety, mental health or child care but equally unhappy with the thought of Vehicle License Fees going back up to previous levels. Where then can revenues be increased which would be fair and not create an undue burden?

The State Income Tax is one place. Now hear me out before you assume you know what this means because most I have spoken to don’t understand the proposal. State Senator John Burton has a fair proposal before the legislature as we speak and it is one SEIU members should all get behind, in my opinion.

Let me explain. Senator Burrtion's proposal only affects the top 2% of taxpayers in California and even then it only restores the top tax rate to where it was back in 1971 when it was authored by Republican George Deukmejian and signed by Republican Ronald Reagan. Republican Governor Pete Wilson also reinstated it on a temporary basis (1991 – 1995) to help balance the state budget during the last recession.

Senator Burton’s bill would increase the tax rate for the people in California who benefit the most by our thriving economy, the very rich. Specifically, it would increase the top rate from the current 9.3% level to 10 % for those Californians earning more than \$130,000 per year or couples earning more than \$260,000 annually. It would also add another, top level of 11% for individuals earning greater than \$260,000 per year and couples making more than \$520,000 annually (after deductions).

This proposal is fair, would only restore the upper rate to where it previously was, has enjoyed bi-partisan (Democratic & Republican) support in the past and would bring in almost \$4 billion dollars a year to protect public education, public health, public safety, child care and all the vital services in our communities.

Do any of you really believe that an individual making more than \$130,000 a year, (after deductions mind you) could not afford to pay a little more to keep our economy healthy and our families safe? I believe they can. That is why I support a balanced approach with cuts in services balanced by fair increases in revenues. I support the Burton bill and ask that all Local

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*From Jude Garner, Steward Director*

**What can my employer do?** I seem to get this question in one form or another at every meeting or training session I go to. My best answer is to take the time to learn your contract and the rules and regulations concerning your job. This seems like a waste of time, but if you don't know the fine points of your contract you may be doing things that are not included in your job. There are a lot of items that management has rights over, such as your work schedule and hours, but your contract should cover such things as breaks, lunch time, sick leave, vacation leave, holidays. You need to know when you are working within the guidelines of your contract and when you are not. Employers aren't going to tell you all the provisions of your contract, you need to know them yourself. Knowledge is one of the best ways for a person to get ahead and taking the time to know your contract will give you a much better understanding of how your agency works and what is expected of you as an employee. If you do find that your employer is asking you to do something that is in violation of your contract, or if your working conditions are a health or safety issue, then contact your worksite steward and discuss the problem with them. The steward can contact management or a Field Representative and get the matter looked into. If you don't have a copy of your contract, contact your worksite steward or our office, and we'll get you a copy. You can contact me at [jude@seiulocal620.org](mailto:jude@seiulocal620.org).

## **INSURANCE NEWS FLASH**

Many Insurance Companies are leaving the State of California.

**We are here to remind you of one of your membership benefits**

presents:

**SEIU Local 620 Members**

**Group Insurance Discounts on:**

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  - ◆ Autos
  - ◆ Renters
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  - ◆ Condos
  - ◆ Boats
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*\*Payroll deduction is available\**

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**From George Green, Field Rep**

**From Bruce Corsaw, Field Rep**

**SEIU Local 620 Goes to Sacramento**

By: Bruce Corsaw

SEIU Local 620 members Mick Robinson, Muriel Jones, Bill Haro, Walter Kuhn and Susan Frederick along with SEIU staff Jude Garner and Bruce Corsaw lobbied State Legislators in Sacramento on June 6<sup>th</sup>. SEIU Local 399, 535, 620 and 998 joined with the SEIU State Council to lobby State Senators and Assembly Members to adopt a balance solution to the 2.4 billion State Budget crises.

SEIU Local 399, 535, 620 and 998 boarded a bus in Ventura, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Paso Robles for the trip to Sacramento. Arriving in Sacramento at 9:45am, we were met by Staff from SEIU State Council. After 1 hour briefing the 21 union members from the 4 Locals were divided into 4 groups and each group was assigned a floor of the Capital. Local 620 was assigned the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and given 29 State Legislators to meet with in regards to a balanced approach to the State Budget crisis. Our main talking point was to lobby the Legislators to restore the upper income tax bracket and reduce cuts to Social Services, which typically takes the brunt of budget cuts.

SEIU is asking for Legislators to support SB1255 sponsored by State Senator Burton, which will reinstate the “Millionaire Tax” first introduced by Governor Ronald Reagan. SB1255 will reinstate 10% and 11% tax rates for high-income Californians. SB1255, if passed, will only effect 2.4% of Californians. It will increase the tax rate from 9.3% to 10% for individuals making \$130,000 and \$260,000 for married couples. The 11% tax rate will effect individuals making \$260,000 and \$520,000 for married couples. If passed SB1255 will save \$3.1 billion dollars that can be used to offset cuts to essential local government programs. What we want is **“Fair Taxes – Not Unfair Cuts”**.

It is not too late to get involved, there are over 10,000 jobs at risk statewide. It is important that Californians contact the Governor office and their local elected representative to the State Senate and Assembly to ask for their support in regards to SB1255 and a balanced approach to the California Budget Crisis. If you need assistance with contact information or you want to volunteer your services to this campaign please contact your Local 620 Representative or call SEIU Local 620 at (805) 963-0601.

**Stand Up For Local Government Services  
Fair Taxes – Not Unfair Cuts**

**Union Meeting Schedule**

City of Santa Barbara Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and meeting flyers are sent out one week prior to the meeting.

County of Santa Barbara Meetings are scheduled the second Thursday of each month and meeting flyers are sent out one week prior to the meeting.

Executive Board meetings are held the 4th Saturday of each month. The time and location of the meetings are set a year in advance. Call the office for a time and place.

Please watch for the flyers and newsletters and plan to attend.

**Steward Training—10:00 AM until 12:00 PM**  
**Saturday, July 13, 2002, Santa Maria**  
**Saturday, August 10, 2002, Santa Barbara**  
**Saturday, September 14, 2002, San Luis Obispo**  
**Saturday, October 12, 2002, Santa Maria**  
Flyers are being sent out prior to each training.



Organizing Department  
Court Campaign

**Hun Taing, Organizing Director**

Once upon a time in a worksite not so far away ... court employees wanted the right to bargain, to ensure justice and dignity in the workplace, to have a say in their future and to organize a strong united workforce.

Talking with workers in other departments and worksites, court employees found that many shared similar concerns about the workplace, including wages, safety, accountability and benefits. Two years later, after much discussion and reflection, the majority of court workers realized that their union activist co-workers have been making sense all along.

Beyond the important contribution of court employees such as-- transcribing court proceedings, like the discrimination lawsuit against the Santa Barbara Police Department and the David Attias case, processing restraining orders to protect women and children, mediating unhappy clients with DUIs, trouble shooting stubborn computers and crunching numbers--court employees live a relatively normal life outside their work.

Some, married with kids scramble to make it to soccer, baseball or dance practices while others, whose kids are grown, are enjoying the empty nest at home. Some, single or live with their partners, try to survive and have fun in this high priced culture of Santa Barbara. Yet, others are single parents whose ability to attend work is dependent on the health of their family members. Further, some single parents cannot afford health care or childcare for their children. These are just a few life circumstances of the court workers working in Santa Barbara County.

The Union isn't just about the workplace. When you secure justice and dignity on the job, people can afford to live a more fulfilling life with their family, loved ones, and their communities. The union is not only building a stronger and more conscious workforce but also stronger and happier families and communities.

...

***Check out the new signs at both offices!***

***We've got new signs out front with the updated logo and the new slogan "Stronger Together".***

***Thanks to Field Rep. Bruce Corsaw and Sign Here in Paso Robles for their great work!***



*(Continued from page 1)*

*From the Executive Director*

620 members who agree contact our legislative delegation and let them know you expect them to provide leadership to move California ahead by a balanced approach to our problems. Restore the top tax brackets.

You can contact our elected representatives at the following numbers:

Jack O’Connell’s numbers here

Hannah Beth Jackson’s numbers here

Abel Maldanno’s numbers here

**Member is Physical Support  
Employee of the Year**

Harold Martz, Senior Custodian at Monarch School in Los Osos was made Physical Support Employee of the Year.

Harold has been with the San Luis Coastal School District for over 16 years and a long time member of Local 620.

***Congratulations, Harold on a job well done!***

***Local 620 in action!!!!***



*We are Always  
updating our data  
base. Please return  
the Member Change  
Form to our Santa  
Barbara Office*

If any information has  
changed:  
New Address?  
New E-mail Address?  
Name Change?  
New Job Location?  
New Job Classification?  
New Home Phone?  
New Work Phone?  
New Beneficiary?

MEMBER CHANGE FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ H Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ W Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_, CA Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Beneficiary : \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter : (Place X next to your Chapter)

Air Pollution Control Dist  
 Arroyo Grande City  
 Atascadero City  
 Cambria Community Service Dist  
 Carpinteria City  
 Goleta Water Dist  
 Grover Beach City  
 Isla Vista Recreation & Parks Dist  
 Morro Bay City  
 Paso Robles City

Pismo Beach City  
 Port San Luis Harbor  
 San Luis Coastal Schools  
 Santa Maria Cemetery Dist  
 Santa Maria City  
 Santa Barbara County  
 Santa Barbara City "General"  
 Santa Barbara City "TAP"  
 Retired Chapter