

# PSEA & You

Summer 2011  
Active Members

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## PSEA Softball Tournament!

August 27 & 28 at the Twin Creeks  
Sports Complex in Sunnyvale

### PSEA Chairperson's Corner

Some of us may have started working with PG&E just yesterday, some five years ago, some twenty; others have worked thirty-five years or more with the company while others may have enjoyed the last ten years in retirement. The one true common bond we share is our "family spirit." PSEA provides a well needed balance of work and recreation in our lives. You can participate in countless activities, build relationships with your co-workers or keep up with old friends, and have a lot of fun along the way!

I have over 26 years of active participation in PSEA and am enjoying another wonderful year full of events and activities like picnics, concerts, tournaments, trips, golf outings, rafting trips, motorcycle rides, dinners, and holiday events. All arranged and run by PSEA Volunteers. These volunteers are PSEA members serving fellow PSEA members...

They are there for you!



Maureen Naish  
Chairperson, PSEA Board of Trustees

Volunteerism is a wonderful way of giving back, sharing time, and helping to balance the social aspects that are needed to keep the PSEA and PG&E family thriving.



It's that time of year again; Time to get your teams together, time to practice and time to have a blast at the annual PSEA Softball Tournament. Last year's tournament was a fantastic success and this year it should be even bigger and better! We already have C, D and Co-ed Division teams signed up, but don't wait to get your teams registered. The registration cut off date is August 12th! For more information [Click Here](#).



GENERAL OFFICE BASEBALL TEAM  
San Francisco Section Champions for 1937

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# YOUR CAMPS

Call now for reservations! There are still plenty of full week openings for this summer.

PSEA Camps offer you a camping experience in the great outdoors with many conveniences. Stay in comfortable, rustic cabins where you can enjoy the outdoor activities of hiking, swimming, fishing, volleyball, boating, and picnics; or use the camp as a base to explore the surrounding area. The tranquil settings, spectacular views, mountains, and lakes provide a perfect vacation environment.

## 2012 Reservations

The lottery for Camp Britton and Camp Wishon Motel & Cookhouse is October 1, 2011. For all other requests please call, email or request online beginning October 15, 2011. Contact the Camps Desk at (800) 272-7732, ext. 6266 or 925-246-6266 or by email at [DMM0@pge.com](mailto:DMM0@pge.com)



Camp Britton - Lake Britton



Camp DeSabra - Magalia



Camp Shasta - Burney



Camp Almanor - Canyon Dam



Camp Pit- Big Bend



Camp Wishon - Bass Lake



Camp Delmonte - Seaside / Monterey

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## Who Can Join PSEA??

Many members don't realize that PG&E Contractors as well as Parents, Siblings and Adult Children (21+) of current members can all get their own PSEA Associate Memberships! They can join our vision & dental plans, go to the beautiful camps and enjoy all the great PSEA group Discounts on tickets, home, auto and AD&D insurance! Let the contractors you work with know. Do you have family members that would like vision and dental coverage? Tell them too! For more information about Associate Membership contact Linda Newsone at 925-246-6289.

## Making Difficult Planning Easier

Planning ahead means that you—and the people you leave behind— will avoid emotional and financial stress later. PSEA and the Lifemark Group are pleased to offer our Bay Area and Sacramento members substantial discounts on products and services when arranging cemetery space or a funeral. You can get peace of mind and save up to 15%, just by being a member of PSEA. Call (510) 552-3151 to learn more.



Check out our members only  
Discounts page at [www.psea.info](http://www.psea.info)!



The Entertainment Capital of L.A..



# 2011 PSEA Golf Club



8/20/11 Eagle Valley East - Carson City  
8/21/11 Eagle Valley West - Carson City  
9/12/11 Lake Chabot - Oakland  
9/17/11 Sierra Meadows  
9/21/11 Dry Creek - Galt  
9/25/11 Turkey Creek - Lincoln

9/30/11 Callippe Reserve Pleasanton  
10/11/11 San Geronimo - San Geronimo  
10/16/11 Rancho Canada East - Carmel  
10/17/11 Poppy Hills - Pebble Beach  
10/21/11 Silverado S - Napa  
11/12/11 Eagle Springs - Friant  
11/18/11 Silverado N - Napa



Try our new Online Registration at  
[www.psea.info](http://www.psea.info) - Click on Get Golf!

## Join today to receive all these NCGA Benefits!

- ✓ Discounted Golf Access
- ✓ Free Clinics
- ✓ Discounted Merchandise
- ✓ Hotel Discounts
- ✓ NCGA Golf Magazine
- ✓ Rules & Competitions
- ✓ Official Handicap Index
- ✓ Golf Industry Services
- ✓ Members-Only Outings at Private Resort/Golf Courses

Visit [www.psea.info](http://www.psea.info) for more information or call 925-246-6264

**PSEA Day October 15, 2011 \$43.00**



All Day Admission to the park – Free parking - free ticket to Holiday in the Park in December. Park Hours are 12:00pm to 10:00pm. Grove Hours are 12:00pm to 3:00pm

All you can eat meal: Chicken & Beef Fajitas, Hot Dogs, Beans, Rice, Guacamole, Cheese, Sour Cream, Chips, Churros and Ice Cream Sandwiches. Meal Time: 12:30pm – 3:00pm.

**TICKET ORDER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Last 4 digits of Social \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Number of parking tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Check Enclosed \_\_\_ CU Transfer SAV \_\_\_ Chk \_\_\_ MM \_\_\_ Credit Card VISA , MC, Discover

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Sec Code \_\_\_\_\_

LAST DAY TO ORDER TICKETS TO BE MAILED IS OCTOBER 7, 2011. There will be no will-call at the park.

Fax order to 925-246-6230 or Call in order to 925-246-6225

**THREE WORLDS, ONE KINGDOM!**

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# SmartMeter™ & Disneyland Tickets!

What do SmartMeter™ Devices, PSEA, and Disneyland all have in common?

Nothing really—until we created the SmartMeter™ Disneyland Contest for PSEA members. The winner will receive two free tickets to Disneyland—and the rules are simple. Every PSEA Active member can enter by filling in the short questionnaire below on PG&E's SmartMeter™ Program, using the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) as a study guide. Entries with correct answers will be entered into a drawing for the free tickets. Get your form in early, because we'll be holding the drawing and announcing winners August 26th!

As you prepare for the contest, we hope you'll also use these FAQs to learn more about the SmartMeter™ program. As you know, PG&E is upgrading 10 million customer meters to SmartMeter™ technology as part of the California's effort to create a smarter, more efficient energy grid. Equipped with information and facts, you can help your family, friends and neighbors recognize the benefits that SmartMeter™ technology offers to PG&E's customers today—and understand its importance to our energy future.

## Fast Facts about SmartMeter™ Benefits

PG&E's SmartMeter™ program is part of a statewide effort approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to upgrade the state's energy infrastructure with automated metering technology for all Californians. SmartMeter™ technology gives customers greater control over their energy usage and costs, and will allow them to:

- View and track their hourly energy usage online
- Receive notification when they're moving into higher-priced tiers using Energy Alerts
- Take advantage of SmartMeter™-enabled pricing programs, including SmartRate™
- Obtain more timely power restoration in the event of an outage
- Start service more quickly from PG&E when they move

## Frequently asked questions

### Are the meters accurate?

Yes. In 2010, the CPUC commissioned a study by an independent evaluator and found that 100 percent of SmartMeter™ devices tested were recording energy usage accurately. In addition, all associated software/billing systems are consistent with industry standards, and estimated bills have dropped by two-thirds when compared to our traditional manual meter reading approach.

### Why were there so many high bill complaints?

The independent study also investigated the bills of customers who stated their costs had gone up. It identified many contributing factors, including increased energy use caused by a heat wave; increased energy use from changes like room and pool additions; some customers "dropping off" low-income programs; and previously scheduled rate increases taking effect. The report also found that some old analog meters had degraded, so when the new SmartMeter™ device was installed, it was recording accurate energy use. If a customer has a question on their bill, they can get answers by contacting the SmartMeter™ hotline at **1-866-743-0263**.

### Are there more rate increases coming?

A settlement agreement of Phase 1 of PG&E's General Rate Case (GRC) is currently before the CPUC, and will be decided in early 2011. PG&E is proposing to substantially reduce the Tier 4 and Tier 5 rates, while moderately increasing the Tier 3 rate. We anticipate a decision on our tier flattening proposal in May 2011, as part of the second phase of our rate case. This is not related to the SmartMeter™ program; however, rate changes may occur as customers receive their new SmartMeter™ devices, causing some confusion. For more information on PG&E's GRC, visit [www.pge.com/rates](http://www.pge.com/rates).

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## What happens if a customer refuses installation?

As part of a customer's acceptance of the terms of energy service, the customer also agrees and accepts that the utility will be given access to the utility's equipment, including the meter. We understand some customers have concerns about SmartMeter™ devices. But we have found that when we inform people about the program and show how they can cut their energy usage and save money, most people are more comfortable with having a SmartMeter™ installed on their home. Consistent with state law, we plan to complete our deployment in our service area by 2012.

**Is the radio frequency from a SmartMeter™ a health hazard?** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted limits for radio transmitters of all types, and SmartMeter™ devices operate far below the limit. They transmit intermittently for a total of about 45 seconds a day, and outside of those 45 seconds, the meter is not transmitting any radio frequency. Studies show that it would take 1,000 years of living with a SmartMeter™ device to get the same exposure a typical cell phone user does in just one month. Many organizations and agencies, including the World Health Organization, confirm there is no persuasive evidence that low levels of radio frequency exposure cause any adverse health effects. The California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) also released a preliminary report stating that SmartMeter™ devices, whether standing alone, in clusters, or in combination with other household electronic devices, do not pose a serious health risk of harm; and there is no evidence that additional standards are needed to protect the public from SmartMeter™ devices. The 2011 CCST key report findings are clear: decades of scientific research confirm that SmartMeter™ devices do not pose any known health risk. For a list of third-party resources on radio frequency, visit [www.pge.com/rf](http://www.pge.com/rf).

**Will SmartMeter™ technology interfere with other electronics?** Our current-generation SmartMeter™ devices are designed to not interfere with other consumer electronics. With previous-generation SmartMeter™ devices, interference was reported with garage doors, ceiling fans, baby monitors and motion detectors. These earlier devices have been replaced with newer meters that address the issues. We encourage customers who feel they are experiencing interference issues to call the SmartMeter™ hotline at **1-866-743-0263** so we can investigate.

**Is the SmartMeter™ network secure?** An independent study concluded that PG&E has developed a cyber security framework that meets Smart Grid industry system security requirements. PG&E takes extensive measures to ensure the integrity of our control systems and to protect customers and their data. In addition, we require our vendors to meet strict security guidelines and work quickly if any potential security issues arise.

## Are all the meter readers losing their jobs?

The company has been working closely with our meter readers to provide the necessary training and job placement assistance to enable them to find other positions in the company. We've also ensured that every regular status meter reader has a job at PG&E if he or she wants one, as long as they are mobile and test qualified. The vast majority of PG&E meter readers in the field today are contractors that have been hired through our union partner, IBEW Local 1245.

## Resources for customers:

SmartMeter™ hotline: **1-866-743-0263**.

PG&E's SmartMeter™ web site: [www.pge.com/smartmeter](http://www.pge.com/smartmeter).

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(Cut here)

SmartMeter™ Disneyland Contest Entry Form  
Please cut out and return to:  
PSEA 1390 Willow Pass Rd. Ste. 240 Concord, CA 94520

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number

\_\_\_\_\_

PSEA number

1. What percentage of SmartMeter™ devices accurately recorded energy usage when tested by an independent evaluator in 2010? \_\_\_\_\_%
2. Once connected to the system, electric SmartMeter™ devices allow customers to view and track their hourly energy use online. True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
3. SmartMeter™ technology will let customers take advantage new rates, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Studies show that it would take \_\_\_\_\_ years of living with a SmartMeter™ device to get the same exposure level that a typical cell phone user does in just one month.



# *PSEA'S ANNUAL BOT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT*

*SANTA CRUZ  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2011*

*Lunch will be provided for all players!*



\$150.00 PER TEAM BEFORE 9/1/11  
\$180.00 PER TEAM AFTER 9/1/11  
ENTRY DEADLINE – SEPTEMBER 16, 2011  
contact Dena @ 8-246-6266 or 925-246-6266  
or email @ [dmm0@pge.com](mailto:dmm0@pge.com)

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*Don't Forget!*

# PSEA Board Of Trustees Events!

*Volleyball*



*PSEA Day*



*October 15, 2011*

*September 24, 2011*

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## PSEA Office Contacts

**President - Doug Chadbourne**

1-800-272-7732 ext. 6224

Fax: 925-246-6230

DCC5@pge.com

**Camps - Dena Marchini**

1-800-272-7732 ext. 6266

Fax: 925-246-6230

DMM0@pge.com

**Office Manager - Jeffrey Wagner**

1-800-272-7732 ext. 6205

Fax: 925-246-6230

J3WZ@pge.com

**Retiree Benefits - Nour Sayegh**

1-800-272-7732 ext. 6212

Fax: 925-246-6230

NNS8@pge.com

**Active Member Benefits - Linda Newsone**

1-800-272-7732 ext. 6289

Fax: 925-246-6230

LCN3@pge.com

**Accounts Receivable - Jenese Beck**

1-800-272-7732, ext. 6206

Fax: 925-246-6230

JIBQ@pge.com

**Tickets - Gail Fottrell**

1-800-272-7732 ext. 6225

Fax: 925-246-6230

GLFB@pge.com

**Accountant - Andrea Koppel**

1-800-272-7732, ext. 6290

Fax: 925-246-6230

ARKC@pge.com

**PSEA Office Address:**

**Pacific Service Employees Association**

**1390 Willow Pass Road, Suite #240 Concord, CA 94520**