

# PSEA & You

## Spring/Summer 2011 Retiree & Associate Members

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### Announcing our New Long Term Care Insurance!

#### 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 looking forward to 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.

Did you know that 70% of Americans over the age of 65, on average, will require at least some type of long-term care services during their lifetime? And 56% of couples spend their income down to the poverty level after one spouse has spent six months in a nursing home? That's why PSEA has partnered with Long Term Care Solutions to offer extremely competitive rates for this important coverage. For more information, please visit the Benefits section of our website at [www.psea.info](http://www.psea.info) or call (877) 286-2852.



### Dental & Vision Enrollment Dates

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Ameritas, Delta Dental and VSP vision plans enrollment periods will open in May! We have four dental plans and three vision plans to give you the choice of which plans best fit your needs.

2011 Enrollment Periods	Effective Dates
5/1 to 6/10/2011	7/1/2011
8/1 to 9/09/2011	10/1/2011

For further information, please review our website, [PSEA.info](http://PSEA.info) or contact Nour Sayegh at (800) 272-7732, ext. 6212 or 925-246-6212.

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# YOUR CAMPS

Call now for reservations! There are still plenty of full week openings for this summer. On May 1st you can call in for summer partial requests. Our Camp Pit Fisherman's Special are the weeks of April 23, April 30, September 10 and



September 17. Only \$150 for the whole week! We also need work parties for deep cleaning cabins and raking leaves in April & May. For details, 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).

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



The Entertainment Capital of L.A..



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## Retiree / Associate AD&D has Free Identity Theft Assistance

AD&D insurance is simple, affordable and effective. PSEA Accidental Death & Dismemberment coverage now includes Free Identity Theft Assistance, Travel Assistance and other benefits!

For further information, please review our website, [PSEA.info](http://PSEA.info) or contact Nour Sayegh at (800) 272-7732, ext. 6212 or 925-246-6212.



## Making Difficult Planning Easier

Planning ahead means that you—and the people you will leave behind—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.



# 2011 PSEA Golf Club

- 3/14/11 Roddy Ranch - Antioch
- 3/19/11 Sherwood Forest - Sanger
- 3/23/11 Manteca Municipal Golf Course - Manteca
- 3/26/11 Monarch Bay - San Leandro
- 4/4/11 Spring Creek CC - Stockton - Kick Off
- 4/12/11 Blue Rock Springs East - Vallejo
- 4/13/11 Micke Grove - Lodi
- 4/16/11 Pheasant Run - Chowchilla
- 4/30/11 Boundary Oak - Walnut Creek
- 5/7/11 Trinitas - Valley Springs
- 5/11/11 Brookside - Stockton
- 5/21/11 Yocha de he - Brooks
- 6/3/11 Hiddenbrooke - Vallejo
- 6/11/11 Eagle Springs - Friant
- 6/14/11 Napa Golf Club - Kennedy Park - Napa
- 6/25/11 Avilla Beach
- 6/26/11 Monarch Dunes
- 7/5/11 Poppy Ridge - Livermore
- 7/9/11 Crystal Springs - Burlingame
- 7/16/11 Dark Horse - Auburn
- 7/19/11 Shadow Springs - Brentwood
- 7/30/11 Discovery Bay - Discovery Bay
- 8/2/11 Ancil Hoffman - Carmichael
- 8/7/11 Saddle Creek - Copperopolis
- 8/8/11 Greenhorn Creek - Angels Camp
- 8/9/11 Peacock Gap - San Rafael
- 8/13/11 Auburn CC - Auburn
- 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

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# PSEA Board of Trustees



## Crab Feed

Saturday, May 7

12 noon

Albion River Campground

<http://www.albionrivercampground.com>



34500 Highway 1  
P.O. Box 217  
Albion, CA 95410  
(707) 937-0606



\$20 per person

\$25 per person after March 31

Some tables available, please bring your own tables and chairs.

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Send this portion with your payment to: *(Make Checks Payable to PSEA)*

PSEA 1390 Willow Pass Rd Ste 240, Concord CA 94520

or fax your order to 925-246-6230

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

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 digits of soc. \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: Check \_\_\_\_\_ CU Transfer: sav \_\_\_\_\_ mm \_\_\_\_\_ chk \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

MC \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_



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# SmartMeter™ & Disneyland Tickets!

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

Nothing really—until we created the SmartMeter™ Disneyland Contest for PSEA Retirees. The winner will receive two free tickets to Disneyland—and the rules are simple. Every PSEA retiree 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 April 15th!

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](tel: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/smartermeter](http://www.pge.com/smartermeter).

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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.



**Your 2011 Hosts,  
Retired Employee Trustees,  
Paul Velasco and Annette Primus  
Welcome You to PSEA's 29th Annual**



**PSEA / PG&E RETIRED EMPLOYEE REUNION PICNIC!**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.  
MICKE GROVE PARK, LODI, CA (DELTA SHELTER)**

**\$15.00 PSEA MEMBER/GUEST or \$20.00 Non-MEMBER**



**FEAST ON  
GREAT FOOD & BEVERAGES**  
Beef Tri Tip and Barbecued Chicken,  
Potato Salad, Beans, Rolls,  
Ice Cream, Coffee, Water,  
Soda, Beer & Wine!!  
  
CATERED BY:  
McDaniels BBQ Unlimited & Catering

**GREAT RAFFLE  
PRIZES AND A  
WONDERFUL  
DOOR PRIZE!!**



**Donate your old  
prescription  
glasses for  
those in need  
and receive a  
free raffle ticket  
for each pair!**



**DON'T FORGET OUR "FAMOUS" SALAMI WHEEL!!**

**FROM HWY 99**  
Take Armstrong Road Exit  
Go West to Micke Grove Road  
Turn left to Micke Grove Park

**FROM I-5**  
Take 8 Mile Road Exit  
Go East to Micke Grove Road  
Turn Left to Micke Grove Park

**RESERVATION COUPON**

Please return with check **NO LATER THAN: MAY 31, 2011**

Questions?? Please contact PSEA at: (800) 272-7732 ext. 6212

Print Name of Retired Member \_\_\_\_\_ SS # \_\_\_\_\_

Print Spouse or Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Print Additional Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Home E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Members at \$15.00 and \_\_\_\_\_ Nonmembers at \$20.00 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ CU Transfer \_\_\_\_\_ Sav \_\_\_\_\_ CHK \_\_\_\_\_ MM \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

3 digit security # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail coupon to PSEA 1390 Willow Pass Road, Suite 240, Concord CA 94520

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# Board Of Trustees PSEA Days!



California's  
**Great America**  
Cedar Fair Entertainment Company.

*May 14, 2011*



*June 25, 2011*



*October 15, 2011*

For details call 1-800-272-7732 ext. 6225



1390 Willow Pass Road  
Suite #240  
Concord, CA 94520

PSEA  
& You