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**January 15, 2026**

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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

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January 15, 2026

Alan Barcelona

CSLEA President

Hello CSLEA Members and happy new year!



### **Proposed State Spending Plan**

The Legislature is back in session and on Friday, January 9th, Governor Newsom released his spending plan for 2026/2027. The governor announced that the budget deficit California is facing is estimated at \$2.9 billion, far less than the \$18 billion deficit projected by the Legislative Analyst's Office in November.

The governor's \$348.9 billion budget proposal includes \$194.6 million in new public safety investments to "strengthen law enforcement, prevent crime, and keep communities safe."

We, along with our legislative and political consultants, are evaluating the proposed budget to identify items that might impact you and the important work you do for the State of California. We will be looking at how this budget proposal addresses items such as staffing, recruitment and retention, among other things. In May, the governor will issue a revision of his proposed budget based on more current revenue reports.

We have been working with State legislators and policy makers to press the importance of what our members do for the State of California and to stress improvements that need to be made.

We are also working very closely with our political consultant to interview candidates running for office this year and to identify those who are deserving of our support. These

will be candidates who value our members, the work that they do, and recognize where changes are needed to improve both our professional and personal lives.



### **PORAC's Fund-A-Hero Campaign for CSLEA ACWO Member**

Thank you to PORAC for recently promoting a Fund-A-Hero campaign for CSLEA and ACWO member Chad Volheim. CDFW Wildlife Officer Volheim is experiencing a challenging time with his health and we are grateful that PORAC looked into our request for possible assistance to help him and his family. You can find out more about Chad and the fundraising effort, [here](#).

### **Other Items of Interest**

Articles that may be of interest to you in our newsletter include:

[CSLEA Directors Hold 2026 First Quarter Board Meeting](#)

[LDF Trustees Authorize Appeal of Decision Denying Challenge to POST Decertification Action](#)

[CSLEA Welcomes 68 New Members December 29th Through January 10th](#)

I extend my wish to you and your family for a safe and healthy 2026 and thank you for your membership. Please contact us should you have any questions, comments or concerns.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Legislative Update by Shane LaVigne

LaVigne Strategies



### Budget Outlook

Governor Gavin Newsom kicked off the budget season on January 9 with the release of his proposed 2026–27 State Budget, striking a noticeably upbeat tone about California's fiscal condition. While independent analysts continue to raise concerns about longer-term deficits, the administration is framing the current outlook as stable and manageable.

The proposal outlines a roughly \$348 billion spending plan across all funds and assumes a relatively small \$2.9 billion budget gap. The Governor argues this shortfall is modest, particularly when viewed against recent revenue performance. Compared to assumptions made just a year ago, General Fund revenues are now projected to be approximately \$42 billion higher, largely due to strong personal income tax collections fueled by stock market growth and higher wages in the technology sector.

Unlike previous budget cycles marked by rapid spending growth, this proposal avoids launching major new programs. Instead, the administration emphasizes fiscal restraint, pointing to a balanced budget that relies on spending deferrals, limited reductions, and internal fund shifts rather than sweeping cuts. The Governor also highlights the state's reserve position, which is expected to total about \$23 billion in 2026–27, including roughly \$14.4 billion set aside in the Rainy-Day Fund.

[Read More](#)

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## CSLEA WORKING FOR YOU



### CSLEA Directors Hold 2026 First Quarter Board Meeting

*Special guests include Senator Kelly Seyarto, Assembly Member Michelle Rodriguez, and Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis*

SACRAMENTO – California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) officers and directors met at CSLEA headquarters on January 6, 2026 for their first quarter board meeting. In addition to receiving updates from consultants and staff, the board had the opportunity to hear presentations from special guests State Senator Kelly Seyarto, Assembly Member Michelle Rodriguez, and Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis.

"We were honored to speak with two of California's legislators and the Lt. Governor," said CSLEA President Alan Barcelona. "They updated us on issues and legislation that impact our membership focusing on labor, public safety, housing, insurance, taxes and affordability in California. We thank them for making themselves available to us and we appreciate their support of the work our members do. It is important that our elected officials know who we are and listen to our directors about the challenges our members are facing while working for, and living in, the State of California."

[Read More](#)

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**LDF Trustees Authorize Appeal of Decision Denying Challenge to POST Decertification Action**

*SB2 Audit Resulted in Revocation of Former Lottery Investigator's Peace Officer Status*



[Read Article](#)

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**CSLEA Welcomes 68 New Members December 29<sup>th</sup> Through January 10<sup>th</sup>**

CSLEA welcomes **68** new members in recent two-week time period

Congratulates **top-earning 2025 sponsors**



Reminds members, **\$100** is theirs when they sponsor the membership of any Bargaining Unit 7 non-member

SACRAMENTO – Understanding that joining their union is a very important step in their careers with the State of California, 68 state employees assigned to Bargaining Unit 7 became members of the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) during the two-week period December 29, 2025 through January 10, 2026.

“We know that the decision to join CSLEA takes consideration and these 68 new members gave thought to their future and having a safety net in their careers,” said CSLEA President Alan Barcelona. “CSLEA provides many benefits and services, including a \$15,000 basic life insurance benefit. One benefit that I am very proud of and think is extremely valuable is being able to contact a CSLEA labor attorney with any questions or concerns related to work, not a labor *rep* but a labor *attorney*.”

[Read More](#)



### **CSLEA and ACWO Representatives Visit CDFW Cadets at Academy in Butte County**

OROVILLE – In an effort to introduce the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) and the Association of Wildlife Officers of California (ACWO) to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) warden cadets, CSLEA Chief Counsel Kasey Clark and ACWO President Trevor Pell conducted a new employee orientation at the CDFW Academy in Butte County on January 9, 2026. Also in attendance were CSLEA Membership Services Representative Marco Castro and ACWO Acting Vice President Max Roland.

The 44 cadets in attendance heard presentations about union representation and the CSLEA \$3 million Legal Defense Fund. In addition, CSLEA's benefits and services were discussed, along with additional benefits and services that CSLEA peace officer-members have with membership to PORAC.

[Read More](#)

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## **Cadet Rangers at Academy in Butte County Meet with Union Representatives**

BUTTE COUNTY- On December 29, 2025, California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) and State Parks Peace Officers Association (SPPOAC) representatives conducted a New Employee Orientation for 11 State Park peace officer ranger cadets at the academy at Butte College.



SPPOAC President Matt Yarbrough, CSLEA Chief Counsel Kasey Clark and Member Services Representative Marco Castro introduced themselves to the cadets and discussed the benefits and services associated with union membership including a \$15,000 life insurance benefit, immediate access to an attorney, a proven Legal Defense Fund (LDF), scholarships, and grievance and complaint representation.

[Read More](#)

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## **AFFILIATE NEWS**

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ACWO

**Support Needed for ACWO Member Chad Volheim**



*PORAC utilizes its “Fund a Hero” campaign*

CDFW officer and CSLEA/ACWO member Chad Volheim is currently in need of support as he is struggling with a debilitating illness and is presently unable to work as a result. PORAC is utilizing its Fund-a-Hero campaign to raise money for Officer Volheim and CSLEA and ACWO are extremely grateful. If you would like to learn more about what Chad and his family are going through and how you can help: [Support Chad Volheim: A Wildlife Officer’s Fight](#)

Please keep Chad and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



CABCA

**CABCA 2026 Scholarship Applications are now available**

[Read](#)



CAFDI

**CAFDI BOARD ELECTION RESULTS**

[Read](#)



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

# CONDUCTING COMPLEX CRIMINAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

**F**or the past 20 years, Kenneth Ehrman has served as an investigator with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Investigations Division. He is currently assigned to the Ventura Investigations Office and the Ventura County Auto Theft Task Force (VATF). Ehrman also serves as president of the Association of Motor Vehicle Investigators of California (AMVIC), Unit A vice president of the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA), treasurer/secretary of PORAC's Statewide Chapter and a member of the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Advisory Committee. In addition, he is the chairman of the CSLEA Public Safety Foundation, vice president of the California Law Enforcement Association (CLEA), and a trustee of the National Peace Officers and Hero's Rights Benefit Association (NPHBA).

#### What led you to a career in this classification?

I decided to apply for a job with DMV Investigations because I wanted a career that would provide me with an opportunity to work in a investigative classification with the less responsibilities to learn and develop as a law enforcement officer. I have spoken with several DMV investigators before applying for the job, and they all highly recommended the department. At the time, I had been working as a career, found of him for approximately five years, and decided I wanted to change careers.

#### What specific powers, duties and responsibilities are granted to your classification under PC 830.3?

DMV investigators conduct complex, sensitive and confidential investigations related to internal security, employee misconduct,

In this new series of profiles, we spotlight the wide variety of California peace officer classifications that are defined under Penal Code Section 830 and represented by PORAC.

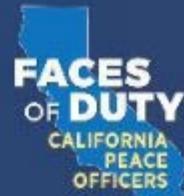


Former DMV Investigator Yessica Rodriguez with a suspect at the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility

Continued on page 30

**PORAC article featuring CSLEA Unit-A Vice President, AMVIC President and DMV Investigator Kenneth Ehrman (December 2025 issue)**

PC 830.1(B), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



# VARIED, COMPLEX INVESTIGATIONS KEEPING CALIFORNIANS SAFE

**S**pecial Agent Ben Greenhagen has 15 total years of law enforcement experience and is a nine-year veteran of the California Department of Justice (DOJ), where he previously worked for the Bureau of Firearms and is currently assigned to the Bureau of Gambling Control. He is the president of the Association of Special Agents (ASA-DOJ), an affiliate of the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA) that represents approximately 150 special agents and special agent supervisors working as the enforcement arm for the California Attorney General.



In this series of profiles, we spotlight the wide variety of California peace officer classifications that are defined under Penal Code section 830 and represented by PORAC.

#### What led you to a career in this classification?

After six years of working for a local sheriff's office, I decided to explore options that were more investigative-centered. I really had no knowledge of DOJ or what special agents did until a friend of mine who works for human resources recommended I look into it and apply. So I did. After learning there were so many different things that DOJ special agents do, I knew there would be lots of variety of assignments, if desired.

#### What specific powers, duties and responsibilities are granted to your classification under PC 830?

DOJ special agents have the same peace officer powers as the local deputy sheriff's and police. Due to the diverse nature of DOJ bureaus and units, special agents are empowered to conduct complex criminal and civil investigations including drug trafficking, human trafficking, financial crimes, public corruption, gang activity, firearms crimes and regulations, gambling crimes and regulations, medical and elder abuse, cybercrimes, officer-involved shootings resulting in the death of unarmed citizens, and more.

#### What specialized training or certifications are required for your job?

In my role with the Bureau of Gambling Control, there is no specific required training other than that of the POST requirements. We attend many trainings that relate to our assignment when we come across them, and we keep up to date with gambling crimes

*Continued on page 22*

**PORAC article featuring CSLEA Director, ASA-DOJ President and California DOJ Special Agent Ben Greenhagen (January 2026 issue)**

PORAC

**PORAC Monthly News Magazine**

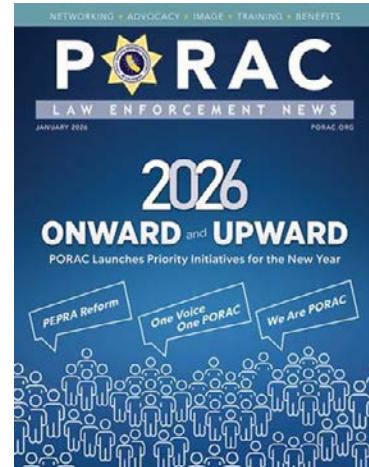
**January 2026**

[Articles](#)

[Flipbook](#)

[\*\*PORAC 2026 Scholarship Information\*\*](#)

**The deadline for submissions for the PORAC Scholarship is March 6, 2026**



NEWS FEED



## CDPH Warns Consumers Not to Eat TRE House Brand Magic Mushroom...

Per CDPH, TRE House Brands contain dangerous psychedelic compounds, putting consumers at risk of illness,...

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## Servers Cited for Selling Alcohol to Underage Decoy in Camarillo

"It's a simple act to ask for ID and to verify a customer's age. We hope that servers take the time to do this in order...

[Read More »](#)



## Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for 1984 Murder and Sex Assault

Shasta County DA's Office appreciative of assistance from California DOJ "A horrific crime solved, and the attacker sentence...

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## CDFW and DCC Assist HCSO with Service of Search Warrants

HUMBOLDT COUNTY – On December 16 and 17, 2025, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement...

[Read More »](#)



## CDPH and San Diego County Sheriff's Office Seize Pallets of Food Item...

VISTA – On December 17, 2025, investigators from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) an...

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## Ukiah Man Found Guilty of DUI

UKIAH – On December 18, 2025, a Mendocino County Superior Court jury found Brian Axel Martinez, 32, of Ukiah...

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## Getaway Driver in Violent Armed Robbery Spree Sentenced in SJ County

DA expresses gratitude to California Department of Justice (DOJ) firearms expert Ronald Welsh and cellular data...

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## “Operation Naughty or Nice” Leads to the Arrests of 21 Potential Sexual...

“Thank you to all the agencies and officers who participated in this operation in an effort to help protect ou...

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## Husband and Wife Plead to Charges for Operating an Illegal Fish Business O...

A CDFW investigation “This case demonstrates the value of tips from the public and how responsive CDFW office...

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## State Parks Responds to Report of Woman Swept into Ocean by Large Wave

“These calls can be very difficult for witnesses, citizens who attempted to help, and first responders. We are...

[Read More »](#)



## ABC Agents and Clovis Police Arrest Two Suspects for Furnishing Alcohol to...

“All of us can do our part to keep members of our community safe by not furnishing alcohol to those under the ag...

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## ABC Agents and Redding PD Arrest Three Following Drug Investigation at...

REDDING – On January 8, 2026, California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) agents and officers from the...

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**VICTIMS**



MIRA ALEENA PEREZ  
BORN 1995

NIKKO LEE PEREZ  
BORN 1996

NIKKO LEE PEREZ  
BORN 1997

**Yolo County Jury Convicts Man for Murdering His Infant Children**

Work at California DOJ Lab Leads to Resolution of Cold Case Murders "The latest technology and the scientific wor..."

[Read More »](#)



**Pollution Case Investigated by CDFW OSPR Settled in Colusa County**

"It takes education, tips from the public, response and enforcement, to protect California's valued and precious natural..."

[Read More »](#)



**California ABC Agents Team with SLO PD to Target Underage Drinking**

"This was no doubt a long day and we appreciate the efforts of SLO PD and California ABC agents. And kudos to th..."

[Read More »](#)

## CSLEA LEGAL

### Our Legal Team

We employ a staff of five attorneys. Our mission is to defend Unit 7 members in disciplinary proceedings and to enforce the collective bargaining agreement between CSLEA and the State of California.

[Meet the Team](#)



### The CSLEA Legal Division

Each member of the CSLEA Legal staff has been designated as a principle point of contact for job classifications and representation issues. Email [contactus@cslea.com](mailto:contactus@cslea.com) to learn who

your individual point of contact is. If your contact is unavailable, any of our available attorneys can assist you

[To learn more about CSLEA's Legal Division](#)

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### **[KNOW YOUR RIGHTS VIDEOS](#)**

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BU-7 Member Pension Information Featuring CSLEA Legal Counsel Ryan Navarre

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### **THE CSLEA ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP GUIDE**

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### **CSLEA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

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## The CSLEA Sponsorship Program

Earn \$100 for each new member you sponsor

- Encourage membership
- Have new member list you as their sponsor on membership application
- CSLEA sends you \$100!

[LEARN MORE](#)



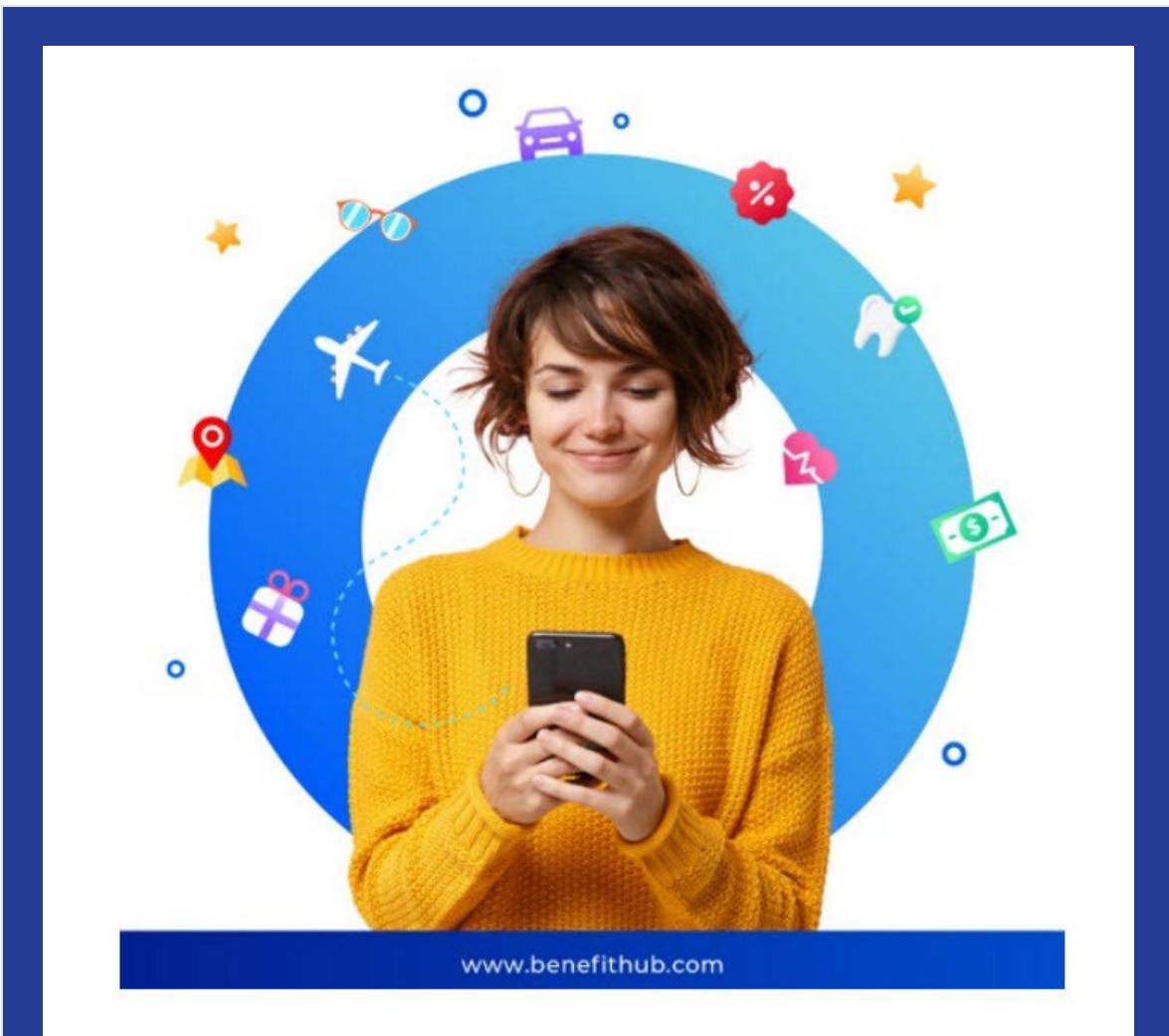
### The CSLEA Sponsorship Program

The CSLEA Sponsorship Program could very well put a smile on your face and money in your pocket! For our members who understand the importance of union membership, in protecting pensions, bargaining power and career insurance - keep talking, keep sponsoring, because the benefit of signing up members is \$100. If you've never sponsored a new member but want to know how, keep reading! **Earn \$100 for each new member you sponsor.**

[Read More](#)

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ADDITIONAL CSLEA INFO



CSLEA's Exclusive Member Discounts Program has a new look.

Haven't enrolled in the program yet? Check it out, [here](#).



**CSLEA Foundation**

**Consumer Protection &  
Public Safety**

[To Learn More](#)

**CSLEA Exclusive Member**

**Discounts Program**

[To Learn More](#)

**CSLEA is a Member  
Association of PORAC**

[To Learn More](#)

## CSLEA's Mobile App

CSLEA's Mobile App is available at Google Play and the Apple Store.

The app can help you access everything CSLEA including:

- the CSLEA LDF hotline
- contacting CSLEA
- membership benefits and information
- the Unit 7 contract
- keeping up-to-date with CSLEA news
- knowing your CSLEA board of directors
- CSLEA attorneys who represent you
- accessing CSLEA.com and social media
- updating your member contact info

The app is a great way to stay in touch with your union and for your union to stay in touch with you! Be sure to allow push notifications as well and CSLEA will notify you of important events and information.





# Insurance Coverage at CSLEA Membership Rates! Learn more.



myers | stevens | toohey

As a member of CSLEA,  
you have a \$15,000 Life Insurance Benefit.  
To Update Beneficiary Information:

Contact: Maritza Torres

Executive Assistant  
Myers-Stevens & Toohey & Co., Inc.  
800-827-4695 ext. 633

[mtorres@myers-stevens.com](mailto:mtorres@myers-stevens.com)

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**Allstate.**  
You're in good hands.

**CSLEA MEMBERS**

**Additional Member Benefits**

**Allstate Benefits**

***Workers compensation has reduction of benefits after 22 day elimination period.***

***No California SDI, only NDI (starting @\$135 per week).***

***Leave time is valuable, don't use it all before you get benefits.***

**24 Hour paycheck protection for Accident and Sickness  
and Cancer Insurance**

Benefits paid from day one for accident, day seven for illness. Plans are through payroll deduction and are portable; they go with you if you change jobs or retire and you retain the same group rate.

***Accident and Sickness Coverage Highlights:***

On and Off Job Accident Disability Income coverage      No Medical Exams Required

Covers Dislocations/Fractures, Ambulance & Expenses   Up to \$60,000 accidental death insurance

Maternity Disability Income available (ask agent)      Benefits paid after tax, when you need income

***Cancer and Specified Disease Protection Coverage Highlights:***

Progressive benefit at initial internal cancer diagnosis   No Medical Exams required

Annual benefits for treatment (i.e. radiation & Chemo)   Bone Marrow Transplant

Wellness Benefit pays for annual checkups      Hospital and Intensive Care Benefits

For more information contact Jay McDonnell at 760-734-4402

Or email [jaymcdonnell@msn.com](mailto:jaymcdonnell@msn.com)



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