

The IAM District 190 Sparkplug



VOL. 8 NO. 4

June/July 2006

Serving the Active and Retired Members of IAM District Lodge I90



Left: Area Director Don Crosatto at a press conference with Berkeley Honda's owners and Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, announcing the new contract.

Right: 31 year member Nat Courtney collects the ballots; members who had worked at this dealership voted 14-1 to accept the new contract.

Berkeley Honda members win 10-month strike; dealership remains union, pension saved

After 10 grueling months, the giant 12-foot rat is no longer gracing Shattuck Avenue, Local 1546, Teamsters Local 78 and the owners of Berkeley Honda in Berkeley have finally reached a settlement. By a margin of 14-1, the members ratified a five-year contract with the dealership, on April 24 that enables them to keep their union and their pension.

The new agreement provides a wage package that is comparable to other Honda dealers in the area, includes the IAM National Pension Plan and the Machinists 401K, improves the Health and Welfare plan and includes return to work language that addresses all the striking workers. Some of the job classifications have been redefined and the company refused to adopt the apprenticeship program, but the company compromised on the union's drop dead issues, and that meant the union had to compromise on some of their concerns.

"The usual scenario, after such a long strike, is either settlement by the labor board or by litigation," said Area Director Don Crosatto when explaining the agreement to the techs and community members prior to the vote. "This victory could never have happened without the persistence of our members and the incredible support of the community."

The strike began in June 2005, after the dealership, formerly known as Jim Doten Honda, was sold and the new owners required employees to reapply for their jobs. While most were rehired, seven techs with the most seniority, including the shop steward, were not. The new owners also sought to scrap the employees'

defined-benefit pension plan.

The employees maintained the picket line for many months, but eventually had to find other jobs. Fortunately, Berkeley community members took up the mantle, organizing weekly pickets, pressuring local politicians and keeping a strong presence on the street. "Without Harry Brill, Judy Shelton, Jennifer Kidder

and the community, this might just have been another 'formerly union' dealership," said Crosatto.

At presstime, the first two techs, Curtis Ho and John McGlinchy, have gone back to work. While business at the shop had plunged by more than 70% during the strike, it's now in the interest of the union techs to bring customers back to Berkeley Honda,

so that more will be re-hired. The strikebreakers will be able to keep their positions, but they will have to join, or in one case, rejoin the union.

"We won," said Crosatto. "Some said we'd never have a union shop there again, but after 10 months, we got a union shop with a pension plan. This frees the rat for duty at another shop."

Contract talks start at Foster Farms

The talks, and perhaps the fight, is ramping up at Foster Farms in Livingston.

In September, a solid majority of the 2,400 employees at this Central Valley chicken processing plant voted to affiliate their independent union with IAM District 190. For months, the company refused to recognize the validity of the election, even though it was fully certified by the National Labor Relations Board. Finally, in April, a federal court in Fresno issued an injunction against the company, forcing them to the bargaining table.

The union and the company held their first bargaining session on May 9. District 190 Assistant Directing Business Rep Herman Howell and Local 2005 President Ralph Meraz are heading up the union bargaining team, which also includes Business Reps Jesse Juarez, Al Lopez, Pedro Mendez and a group of 17 employees who work in every area of the plant.

Foster Farms' team is headed up by Bruce Conhain, a legal consultant whose name is familiar to many Local 1101 members because he represented the South Bay Auto Dealers Association.

"We put forth 16 counter-proposals to the employers' last best and final offer, which is now over a year old," explains Howell. "When we met again on May 23, the company basically came in and said 'No, no, no, no, no' to every one of our proposals."



The union team at the bargaining table. (LtoR) Al Lopez, Jesse Juarez, Ralph Meraz, Herman Howell and Pedro Mendez.

The union is seeking to return to the employees the wages and contract language that the company took away three years ago, when the employees had voted to decertify their previous union. "We're looking for union security, a fair grievance procedure, and the return of wages the company took away," Howell says. "Foster Farms is trying to stack the deck against the union by including a 'loser pays all' grievance process and an open shop. If a union member in an open shop lost a grievance and had to pay, why would they ever stay in the union. Neither of those clauses are acceptable. We're sure not going for both!"

The union would prefer to create a partnership with the company to work in the best interests of the members. Instead, the company is working hard to frustrate and delay the process. "By playing lots of games with the union, the company is showing their employees how little they're valued," Howell added.

The next bargaining session is scheduled for June 12. At presstime, Local 2005 is holding meetings to update the members about what has transpired during

negotiations and describe the strategies the union plans to undertake.

"If we don't start to see some real progress," Howell said, "we'll take the message to the public, involve the larger community, and initiate a strategy to bring the company to its senses."



UNION PEOPLE

National Labor College opens opportunities for union members

The National Labor College is the only college in the world exclusively dedicated to educating union members, leaders, activists and staff. Originally founded in 1969 as the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, the center became the NLC in 1997, offering upper level degree completion programs for union members seeking to finish their college education.

NLC courses are primarily completed online but each semester includes a one-week on-campus component. This combination allows full-time workers with families maximum flexibility to schedule study time.

Located on a beautiful 47-acre campus in Silver Spring, Maryland, the NLC was founded to realize George Meany's vision that labor should have its own college—a national center that would provide continuous labor education for all union activists.

The NLC is in the final stages of a campus expansion and refurbishment to make room for increased enrollment and labor conferencing. The Lane Kirkland Center, expect-

ed to be completed this fall, will house state-of-the-art computer learning facilities, meeting rooms and an 8,000 square foot plenary room. In addition, the NLC is implementing a nationwide system of articulation agreements with union training programs and community colleges that will promote access to higher education to thousands of workers in professional and technical trades.

Hollibush earns Bachelor of Arts at NLC

Mark Hollibush, Area Director for Local 1173, says he was on the 26-year college plan, but after two-and-a-half years of concentrated work at the National Labor College, he'll finally get his BA in Union Leadership and Administration in June.

"Doing the course work wasn't the hardest aspect of going to school," Hollibush says. "The challenge is having the discipline to make the time for it."

Having earned some credits from his apprenticeship and from college courses he took over the years, Hollibush only needed to earn 30 credits to finish his degree. "You do a lot of the work on-line. Each class requires several labor-oriented essays. You also have to go to Maryland to attend classes because you need 18 hours of contact with each of your teachers each semester," Hollibush says he was able to take some of his courses at the IAM's Winpisinger Center in Placid Harbor.

"I'm one of the last ones in my family to get my degree," Hollibush says. "It was a great experience. I'm glad I did it."

If you're interested in getting your college degree, and especially if you already have some credits under your belt, the IAM offers a few scholarships of \$1,000-\$1,500 each year that help cover room and board. Scholarship are also available from Union Plus. Information is available on the NLC website: www.georgemeany.org.

Classes and degrees

The NLC offers a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in various areas of labor studies and a Bachelor of Technical/Professional Studies degree. Master's degree programs in Public Administration and Legal and Ethical Studies are delivered by the University of Baltimore at the NLC George Meany campus. There are also other graduate degree opportunities.

The NLC also offers more than 70 week-long labor education classes in areas such as arbitration, organizing, negotiations, safety & health, union building and leadership development. Specialized certificates are available.

The NLC is designed for union members to take classes that enable them to be an integral part of building their union. Those same classes can start union members on the path to finishing the bachelor's degree they have always yearned for.

To learn more about the NLC and how to apply, go to www.georgemeany.org.

Local 1173's Joanne Stenger retires



Celebrating Joanne's retirement at the May 26th luncheon is (L to R) new Administrative Assistant Cindy Gagliardi, Area Director Mark Hollibush and Joanne Stenger.

After nine years work as Local 1173's secretary, Joanne Stenger retired on May 26.

Stenger says she came to Local 1173 as a temp, recruited for a two-to-three week position by her husband, who was a member. "At the time, it was slow at the computer company where I was working, so I thought, 'why not?' Now here I am, nine years later—my temporary nine year job!"

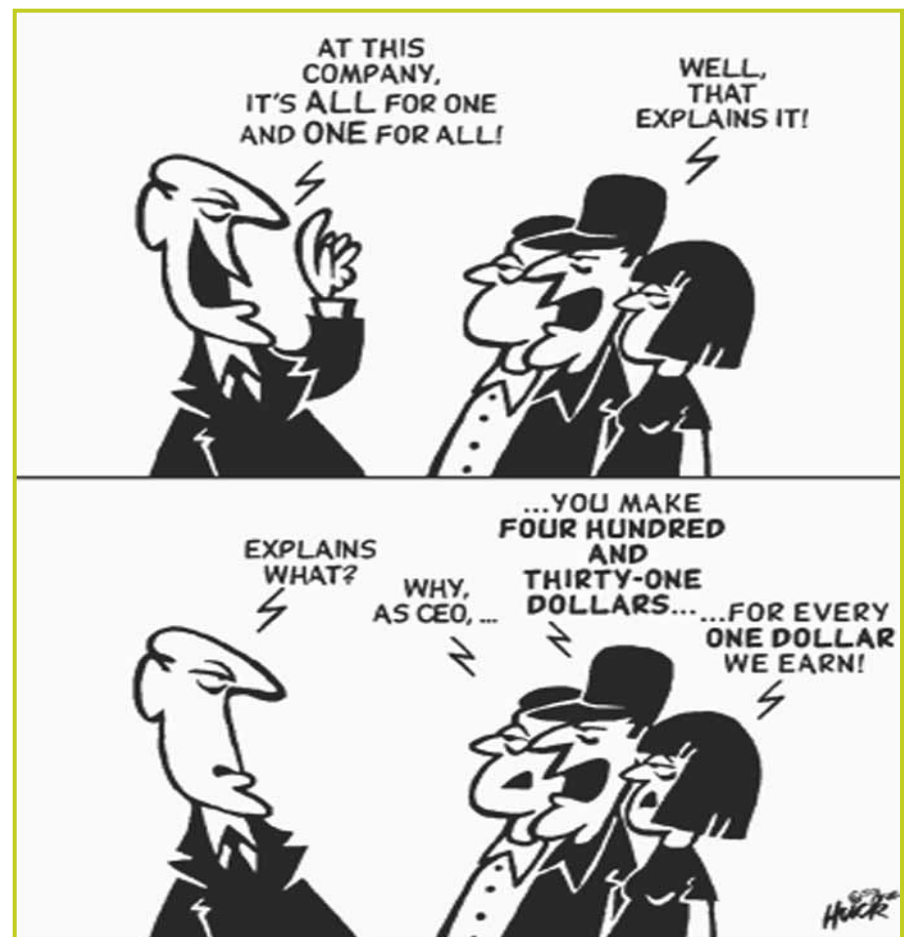
Stenger says that she has enjoyed working with the guys—"it's really a good group." But she's definitely looking forward to her retirement. "We have a few projects around the house. I'll quit typing and go motor-homing, and who knows what else."

"Joanne always thinks 'outside the box' so she was able to find

creative ways to simplify many of our office procedures," says Office Manager Rhonda Gonsalves. "I've learned a lot from her. Her expertise with computer systems has been a great asset to our local. I'm going to miss her laughter around the office; she has such a great sense of humor."

"We'll definitely miss her," says Area Director Mark Hollibush. "She's done excellent work for us and for our union. Joanne worked part-time, but her loyalty to the local, the members and the labor movement was full time."

Joanne wanted the members to welcome Cindy Gagliardi, who has taken over the position of Administrative Assistant. Joanne started training Cindy in April, so she's fully up to speed.



The IAM District 190
Sparkplug

WICA
WESTERN LABOR COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION
ILCA
INTERNATIONAL LABOR COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

The Sparkplug (USPS 007966) is published bi-monthly by District Lodge 190, International Association of Machinists, Oakland, Calif., a non-profit organization. Periodicals postage paid at Oakland. Subscriptions are \$3 per year.

The Sparkplug is the official publication of District Lodge 190 and its affiliated local lodges and notification of any meeting or election in this paper shall constitute official notice per Article B, Section 4 of the IAMAW Constitution and Articles V and VII of District Lodge 190 By-Laws.

Postmaster: Send address corrections to: The Sparkplug, 7717 Oakport Street, Oakland, CA 94621.

Debra Chaplan, Managing Editor

UNION PEOPLE



After feeding the stewards and computerizing the office, Miller retires

After 37 years in the IAM, with 25 years as Local 1546's Secretary-Treasurer and 19 years in the same position with District 190, Bob Miller is planning to enjoy his good union pension for as long as he can.

Bob started his life in Oregon and spent his youth in Oklahoma and Kansas City, KS. He came to California in 1965 to look for the dream and create his future.

While waiting for the results of the civil service exam, Bob took a job as a welder at the Naval Shipyard at Hunter's Point and was there for four years. In 1969, he made his way to SeaLand to work as a mechanic and he joined Local 1546. He quickly started getting more involved in the union, as an executive board member, shop steward and conductor, working to increase his effectiveness in these positions by taking labor studies classes at UC Berkeley.

Bob was elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1546 in December 1981 and

of District 190 in 1986. He was re-elected to both positions until he retired in May, 2006.

"My work was the everyday business of running the labor union. That includes the payroll, the labor-management reporting, the collection of the dues and generally making sure that the operation of the financial office was run smoothly" Bob says.

"When I took over the office, we were on a rolodex card system. I helped put in the first computer system, which was one central CPU and dumb terminals on everybody's desk. We eventually went to PCs on everybody's desk and a big server." Bob says that keeping up with the technology changes so we could operate in an efficient business-like manner was his biggest challenge.

One of Bob's fondest memories of his work with the Local Lodge was feeding the stewards well. "I enjoyed cooking for the stewards on union meeting nights, so they could have a good meal, and wouldn't miss home cooked food. We

made lasagna, pork chops with mushrooms and gruyere cheese, meatloaf—try cooking meatloaf for 65 people. And we didn't get too many complaints!"

Bob says that it's been a privilege to work with the members of Local 1546 and District 190. "I thank each and every one of them for their support, because without it, I could not have done my job. The members and their families make this country run. They are what it's all about."

"I worked with some great people—Mike Day was the greatest. It was a tragedy to lose Mike. I also enjoyed working with Joe Bobo, and so many other people. I wish all of the present staff much luck in the future."

Bob says that he has no specific plans for his retirement. He's planning a trip across the country to see relatives and friends and he's thinking about school. "Many years ago, I wanted to get a law degree—maybe I'll do that. At least that's one of many possibilities."



Left photo: Local 1546 and District 190 current and retired office staff join Miller at his retirement luncheon May 11.

Right photo: (LtoR) Bill Schechter, who will take Bob's position at Local 1546, Bob Miller, and Bernie Tolentino celebrate Bob's retirement.

Local 1528 supports member's Legends racing drive

During the week, Ted Clement works as the lead electrician at Sardee Industries in Stockton, a company that builds machinery for the can and beverage industry. He's been an IAM Local 1528 member for 21 years, and he's gotten the Local to support his true passion—racing.

On the weekends, Clement gets the speed bug. "I drive a Legends Car. Well actually, I'm now the chief mechanic and my son Keith is the driver," Clement explains. His race car is a 5/8 scale fiberglass body replica of the original stock cars they used to race years ago. Manufactured by 600 Racing in Charlotte, NC, "It's almost a kit car," Clement says. "Mine is a 37 Chevy Sedan." Clement's car, racing as #8 this year, is currently a dark metallic blue with a fluorescent light blue interior. "Last year, it was Pepsi Can colors."

Clement started racing in the 1960s and 70s, driving his brother's race cars. "I always loved going fast. My brother decided it was safer for me to race than to be on the street." Now Clement says he and his son race with the Legends of the Pacific, which includes drivers from across the greater Bay Area. "We race all up



Ted Clement and his son Keith stand behind their Legends racing car.

and down the valley here, as far north as Shasta Speedway in Shasta, and as far south as Madera, including most of the little tracks in between. This season should have consisted of 22 races, but the first four were rained out."

Races range from 25-30 laps, from a 1/4 mile track to a 1/3 mile

track. The cars are rated for a top speed of 140 MPH. On a typical short track, you get 70+ mph down the straights, but then you have to slow to 40-45 mph to cut the turns. "You generally average about 60-65 mph. It's certainly fast enough to get your attention," Clement says.

Clement says he finished as high

as 11th in the standings in the old days, when he drove in the championship series. "This last season, I ended up 7th place overall."

When asked if the high price of gasoline has a negative impact on the sport, Clement is quick to explain. "The fortunate thing about this type of racing is that these cars are powered by motorcycle engine, "most of them have 1200cc or 1250cc Yamaha engines. You can do a whole evening of racing on one 5-gallon tank of gas. It's pretty economical to run," he says.

For Clement, Legends racing is a family affair. "My brother Dave and his son Fred run a car. In fact, in 2004, Fred was the Rookie of the Year, and now he's a Pro Champion. My sister-in-law, Patty, is racing this year as well, as is their new son-in-law, David Ball.

In fact, Clement finds that all of the drivers consider themselves a big family. "We're out there pretty much every Saturday evening, with some Sundays. The drivers and their crew are all respectful and everybody helps everybody. We party together, have barbecues...it's just a lot of fun."



Local 653

Busy summer in Fresno

Many Local 653 members are gearing up for this summer's negotiations. "It will be a hot and busy next three months," says Business Rep Tom Rotella. Shops in negotiation now are Earthgrains, Zacky Farms' Fresno garage, Fresno Chrysler Jeep, G & H Diesel Repair and Calaveras Materials, Inc. Talks at Freedom Ford Truck Center will open at the end of June.

Rotella reports that a production plant in Madera is ripe for organizing. Sixty people work there currently and the plant is growing. "It looks good, but we'll keep it under wraps until there's some progress to report,"

Local 801

Termination at Fuel Farm

The union learned that LB&B in Fallon NV implemented a policy stating that an at-fault auto accident with damages that exceed \$500 is grounds for termination. "One of our members fell victim to this policy," say Area Director Mark Martin. "It looks like we'll have to arbitrate this one." Martin adds that Local 801 will be in negotiations with LB&B starting later this summer.

Local 1101

Contracts galore

Local 1101 has 10 contracts currently open for negotiations with more coming up this summer. These include a first contract with the recently-purchased Anderson Behel Porsche/Audi store and several truck shops and dealerships.

Solidarity at BMW & MINI of Mountain View

In April, the Teamsters who work at BMW & MINI of Mountain View were faced with a terrible contract proposal; Auto Nation, the corporate owner, proposed numerous take-aways including reductions in paid holidays and loss of

their current medical plan. In response, the Local 1101 members who also work at this dealership prepared to stand up with the Teamsters in solidarity.

"Our members united and voted to honor the Teamsters if they wished to strike the employer," says Business Rep Jim Schwantz. "Ultimately, the Teamsters never did go on strike, but the conviction of the IAM members working at that shop deserves to be recognized. Our members were willing to forego good wages to recognize the needs of their fellow co-workers."

Local 1173

Making good at Telfer Tank

When the four technicians at Telfer Tank Lines in Martinez unanimously ratified their new three-year contract in May, they got up to a \$2,000 signing bonus. They'll also get wage increases of \$2.05 for the first year, and \$1.00 for the next two years, and the company will pay all medical cost increases. They didn't get any money added to their pension contribution, but then it was already at \$826 per month.

"No doubt this is a good contract," says Area Director Mark Hollibush, "but these guys are making up for a not-so-good contract last time."

Concord Toyota gives back

In May, Local 1173 members at Concord Toyota received their first of several refunds to make up for a year of health and welfare overcharges. Members discovered that the company was charging them the non-union rate for their health and dental coverage which was \$10-\$30/week more than they should have been paying. After months of negotiations, Hollibush was successful in getting the company to start issuing refunds on a weekly basis.

However, while investigating these overcharges, Hollibush discovered that the company was making other unilateral changes to the coverage costing the members even more money. On June 5, the company agreed to give the members additional refunds of \$30-\$60/month, dating back to January 1.

State of flux at Albertsons

The Albertsons supermarket chain has been sold to Cerberus, a capital

management company. Hollibush met with the company and was told not to expect any immediate changes. The official transfer is expected to take place in mid-June.

Local 1414

Settling in SF

Close to 400 members of Local 1414 who work at the City and County of San Francisco finally have a new three-year contract that was achieved through a mediated settlement. The contract goes into effect July 1.

This large group includes mechanics, automotive machinists, body men and painters, and they work on buses, city cars, trucks, lawn mowers, tractors, street sweepers and any other city, county or MTA equipment.

"There was a pension takeaway in the last contract and the members had to start paying in," says Business Rep Art Gonzalez. "This time, we've put the money into wages, making it harder for the employer to take it away again. The raise they got this time should make up for the previous loss in their pension contribution."

Organizing Wins

Local 1414

SecTek: New unit, same company

Four SecTek, Inc. employees who work at Moffett Field on a service contract for NASA have voted to be represented by IAM Local 1414.

The Local already had a contract with SecTek, but over the last several months the company laid off most of the members, leaving only one person, a locksmith. The contract was due to expire, but with only one member, it didn't work to keep the union. "I discovered that SecTek actually had three other guys who work on the computers for the base," says Business Rep Pedro Mendez. "So I got them to sign cards and join with the locksmith to make a new unit. We held an NLRB election on May 12 and won with a unanimously vote."

Mendez reports that the NLRB certified the election, and he will send a letter to initiate negotiations

soon. "This is a service contract, based on whatever the company negotiates with the base. There's never been a problem with this in the past, but you never know."

Local 1173

Parts people at Bill Brandt Ford vote for union

The parts department employees at Bill Brandt Ford in Brentwood unanimously voted to join with the technicians at that dealership to be represented by Local 1173. The vote in this six-person unit was 5-0. Management had challenged including the assistant parts manager—who would have been the final 'yes' vote—as part of the unit. After the election, the company withdrew its challenge.

Negotiations began in May. "The company is seeking a separate contract for the parts department employees, even though we have an existing contract for the mechanics," explains Area Director Jesse

Juarez. "It's taking more time than what the law says."

The employees' union because the employer is going sky-high.

"We won't like this work but they put us through a campaign," Juan says. "The employees' union is for the employees' behalf of the union."

Juarez was won by the parts department unanimous vote. "It's a fair fight," he says. "It's a fair fight," he says.

SHOP TALK: What impact does the price of gas have on your life, job?



Jose Ayala
Journeyman Body Shop,
Hedrick's Chevy—Local 653

"I don't drive as much in general, and on our vacation, we'll fly instead of drive. We need to start using local supplies and stop relying on outside oil. Maybe we can trade with Mexico for gas and not for workers."



Charles Allison
Body Shop, Hedrick's
Chevy—Local 653

"I don't get out much or drive much, so it doesn't impact me directly too much. But the oil companies are definitely ripping us off!"



Sam Torres
Journeyman Tech, Hedrick's
Chevy—Local 653

"I have second thoughts before making trips—I try to carefully plan my daily drive. I'm lucky I don't have car payments. Yes, the oil companies should be taxed accordingly."



Cal LeDuc
Journeyman Tech, Hedrick's
Chevy—Local 653

"The high prices are impacting me a lot. It takes more money to get to work so I stay home more. I canceled my summer vacation plans. They should be able to lower prices; we have local resources to use. They should put more taxes on the high profit of oil companies."



Mike Juarez
Journeyman Tech, Hedrick's
Chevy—Local 653

"I don't drive around the week to save money. I go dirt racing that's not going to race in the dirt."

THE LOCALS



In addition, certain classifications got premiums for doing specific jobs, such as Muni mechanics who work on anything exceeding one ton, and city employees doing auxiliary work. There were also language improvements for payment of licenses, and lead pay on the MTA side.

Local 1546

Trials in East Bay

Negotiations have continued with the East Bay Motor Car Dealers' Association, and slight improvements have even been in evidence. "We're still analyzing it but we're a long way off from having anything to vote on," says Area Director Crosatto. After a six-month investigation, the NLRB issued a complaint against all of the East Bay dealers for unilaterally implementing changes in the working conditions, such as cutting the pay for parts people and cutting the pension contribution down to almost nothing. As a result of the investigation, The Ford Store goes to trial on June 5 and the other dealers have an August trial date. "The Ford Store just unilaterally

announced on November 29 that they'd cease making the \$465 negotiated contribution as of December 28. It's just not legal to eliminate the pension, in the midst of negotiations, without having reached impasse on any subject," Crosatto explains. In addition to the legal issue, the AI Pension Fund has started to put The Ford Store into collection. The NLRB anticipates a two-week trial. "If the Board succeeds in restoring the conditions of the old contract, that will mean back pay for those who lost money, restoration of holidays that were taken away, and bringing the pension back to its prior level," Crosatto says. **Mother's Cookies crumbles** On May 31, Mother's Cookies closed the Oakland bakery and distribution site where the company got its start 92 years ago. The work will be shifted to Canada and Ohio. In all, about 150 Bakers, 50 Teamsters and 17 Machinists will lose their jobs. "We were under contract with this company for many years and generally had a good relationship," says Don

Crosatto. "The workers will all get a severance package and, in fact, many of our members have found jobs at Svenhardts in Oakland, Coca Cola in San Leandro and San Francisco French Bread. **Local 1596** **Novato Toyota members switch Locals** The 14 members at Novato Toyota voted in May to transfer their membership from Local 1414 to Local 1596. "Most of the people live in Sonoma County, so by switching to this Local, they can attend meetings closer to home rather than having to drive to San Mateo," said Area Director Tom Brandon. "We are pleased to welcome these members into our Local." At the same time, they voted to ratify a one-year contract with the dealership. **Small carrots at North Bay Nissan** In a 7-3 vote, the 10 members who work at North Bay Nissan in Petaluma voted to accept a three-year contract that Brandon says took two years to

negotiate. The agreement calls for small raises and the company will pay for health insurance. However, they reduced the pension contribution to \$25/month, moving those dollars into a company 401K plan. "They increased the total retirement contribution by \$35, which was the carrot to entice members leave the pension plan," Brandon adds. **Wages raised in Solano** The 17 members who work at the Solano County Office of Education voted on their wage reopener in March. The new deal takes effect in June and is retroactive to last July. "We got improvements in wages and health insurance caps, and additional longevity pay," explains Brandon **Local 2182** **Slow responses at AMR** Local 2182 and Local 1546 are in coordinated bargaining with American Medical Response for their members in Sacramento and San Leandro. The talks are "active and making some progress, but the going is slow," reports Business Rep Skip Hatch. "The company wants many language changes. Some make sense, but we're looking at others cautiously." The contract expired in February.

Delivering grievance settlements took a while

A Board of Adjustment was held in Sacramento in May to finally settle subcontracting grievances with UPS. At the end of the day, the Board decided that the company owed more than 60 hours of pay to members in Stockton and West Sacramento. On another front, DBR Jim Beno and UPS' Frank Maxwell reached agreement on most of the "old PE" grievances from 2003, 2004 and 2005 in West Sacramento. Agreements on the remaining PE grievances from that time period should soon be complete. "So all West Sacto PE mechanics: Hold on!" says Skip Hatch. "I know it has been a long time coming but you will receive justice and some money soon."

The key to a strong union is ORGANIZING and you can help keep District 190 strong!

Do you know people who work in your industry but don't have a union? Talk to people in non-union shops about the benefits of having a contract, a grievance procedure, a pension and good union benefits. If they're interested, ask if one of our organizers can call them. (Remind them that the call will be completely confidential.) YOUR Name: _____ Where you work: _____ Your phone number: _____ ORGANIZING LEAD'S Name: _____ Company: _____ Home or cell phone Number: _____ Best time to be reached: _____ Please return this form to: District 190, 7717 Oakport St., Oakland, CA 94621. (Feel free to copy this form, or put the info on your own paper.)

Gas, vacation plans? What can be done about the high prices?



Johnson
Tech, Hedrick's
Local 653
and much during
money for the
racing a lot and
change—I love
"



Abel Contreras
Journeyman Tech, Hedrick's
Chevy—Local 653
"I spend quite a bit driving to work,
because my commute from Visalia
is 45 miles each way. I won't go
anywhere this year on vacation. I
think there should be price controls
on gas and the tax rate on the oil
companies needs to be higher."



Randy Katich
Journeyman Tech, Hedrick's
Chevy—Local 653
"Our spending on gas is cutting
into other things in our budget, like
dining out and going to movies.
We won't be taking long driving
vacations this summer. The
American public needs to get peo-
ple together to let the oil compa-
nies and the government know we
are upset about the gas problem."



Rolland Lee
Journeyman Parts, Hedrick's
Chevy—Local 653
"I commute about 100 miles a day
which costs about \$270 a week
just to come to work. I have
changed my driving habits. I try to
make all my driving count so I
don't waste gas. That means bet-
ter planning and consolidating driv-
ing times."



Rick Mayer
Journeyman Tech, Hedrick's
Chevy—Local 653
"I'm driving less to save money for
the weekends, and we'll drive a lot
less this summer; we plan to stay
local. I think we should all boycott
the pumps for a day to send a
message."



UNION NOTICES & UPCOMING EVENTS



**4th Annual
Fighting Machinists Local 1173
Poker Run**

Sunday @ August 20

**Sign-in @ 8:30 a.m.
Run Starts @ 10 a.m.**

Join us for a scenic ride through the Delta

Sign in at Local 1173: 1900 Bates Ave., Concord
All motorcycles (not just Harleys)
60-mile run (up the Delta and back)
Includes pins (for first 100 sign-ups) coffee & donuts in the a.m. and afternoon meal. Also, 4 Trophies & Raffle.
\$25 CONTRIBUTION PER PERSON
(Proceeds benefit Guide Dogs of America & MNPL)
For more information: 925-687-6421

Notice to Local 653 Members

EXECUTIVE BOARD OPENINGS—LOCAL LODGE 653
PRESIDENT, RECORDING SECRETARY &
DISTRICT LODGE DELEGATES
Nominations will be held during the regular monthly meeting of Local Lodge 653 on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at 5:30 pm.
The election, if needed, will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 as per the Local Lodge Bylaws.
Local Lodge 653 meeting times have changed; please make a note. Membership meetings are held the third Wednesday each month at 5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm. All Local Lodge meetings are held at the Machinists Union Hall in Fresno. See the calendar on page 8 for upcoming meeting dates.

Moving?

Send the mailing label on this newspaper to your Local Union office.
See Calendar on Page 8 for your local union's address.

Notice to Local 1101 Members

In 2006, Local 1101 will be holding its nominations and election for officers. Following are the available positions as well as the qualifications to run for office:
1) Officer positions are President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Secretary Treasurer and Conductor/Sentinel, three Trustees and three Auditors.
2) The Executive Board consists of eight additional members, who must also be elected.
3) The term of office for all of the above-named positions is for a period of three years. To be eligible for office, a member must be in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to the nomination.
4) A member must have attended at least 50% of the general membership meetings one year prior to the nominations. Also, a member must be actively employed for six months prior to the nomination. Nominations are held at the general membership meeting in November. The election for the positions is at the December general membership meeting.
5) New officers will be sworn in to office in the month of January.



**ASSOCIATED
THIRD PARTY
ADMINISTRATORS**

ATPA is the administrator for the Automotive Industries Health & Welfare and Pension Trust Funds.
Contact us at 510-836-2484

SHOP TALK: What impact does the high price of gas have on your life?



Javier De La Fuente
Shipping, Hedrick's Chevy
Local 653

"The out-of-pocket expenses are very high—I have two cars and drive the one that gets the best MPG. I'm thinking of letting my lawn die so I don't have to buy gas for the lawn mower. War, flood, hurricane, shortages—there's always a new excuse for why the price goes up."



Rick Mathers
Parts, Hedrick's Chevy
Local 653

"Mostly, I try to cut back on unnecessary driving. I'm lucky I only live two miles from work. I'm getting my bicycle back out so I can ride it to work. Maybe I'll save gas and get healthier."



Bob Henry
Fresno School Tool Repair
Dept.—Local 653

"I went back to riding my motorcycle. Gas and food are all going up, so no trips this year. They need to stop the price going up at the pump so fast—the gas stations are pumping the old gas that cost them less last week! Don't increase taxes on the oil companies—they'll just pass it on to us!"



Larry Hawk
Journeyman Tech, Fresno
School District—Local 653

"I'm going to alternative modes of transportation, like the bus and motorcycle. I think all we can do is boycott the pumps, but the oil companies do need to pay their fair share of taxes."

LABOR NEWS

Arnold's short-term minimum wage fix

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state legislature agree on one thing: the state's minimum wage should be raised from its current level of \$6.75. However, while both propose a \$1-an-hour increase over two years, that's where the governor's proposal ends. The legislature would protect the increase from losing its value to inflation by tying it to the cost of living (a move known as "indexing").

Schwarzenegger vetoed two minimum wage raises in 2004 and 2005 because they included indexing. He argues that instituting automatic increases would be a hardship for businesses.

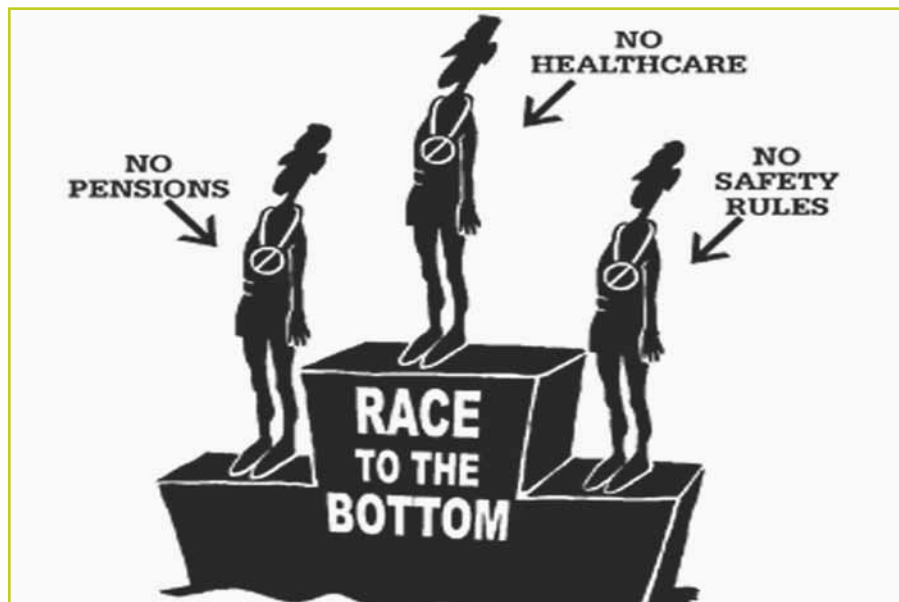
Legislators counter that indexing is especially important to avoid making the minimum wage a political football every year. Due to annual wrangling, the wage has not been raised since 2001, and millions of people across the state are suffering as a result.

Lawmakers approved the increase and indexing in May. The governor has until September to sign or veto them—again.

43 Senators Now Back Workers' Freedom to Form Unions

The effort to pass legislation to strengthen workers' freedom to choose union representation continues to build. Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) agreed this week to co-sponsor the Employee Free Choice Act, bringing the number of co-sponsors to 43 in the Senate and 216 in the U.S. House.

In April 2005, a bipartisan coalition reintroduced the Employee Free Choice Act. The Act would require employers to recognize a union after a majority of employees signs authorization cards. It also would provide for mediation and arbitration



of first-contract disputes and authorize stronger penalties for violations of labor laws when workers seek to form unions.

Even though some 57 million workers say they would join a union, according to research by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, employers routinely mount vicious anti-union campaigns and use the federal union elections process to coerce workers to vote against the union.

Last year, researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago reported that when faced with organizing drives, 30% of employers fire pro-union workers, 49% threaten to close a worksite if the union prevails and 51% coerce workers into opposing unions with bribery or favoritism.

Despite support from 259 members of Congress, Republican leaders aren't likely to allow a vote on the Employee Free Choice Act even if it does gain majority support.

Profits, prices, CEO pay fuel outrage at Exxon meeting

Angered by retired Chief Executive Lee Raymond's gaudy \$400 million retirement package, shareholders at Exxon Mobil's annual meeting adopted a resolution—over the objections of Exxon's board of

directors—calling for directors to get a majority of votes to win a spot on the board.

Officials believe it is the first time in Exxon's history that shareholders have adopted a resolution over the objection of the company's board. It is also a clear sign of the growing outrage over gas prices hovering at over \$3 a gallon in the face of record profits and corporate compensation by oil companies.

While the average price for a gallon of gas fell 2.5 cents to \$2.87 at the end of May, gas prices are still 77 cents higher than they were a year ago. Exxon, meanwhile, pulled in a record \$36 billion profit in 2005.

Traditional Pension Best Bet for Safe Retirement

As Congress considers legislation that could drive many employers to drop traditional pension plans, a new report shows those plans offer millions of workers their best hope for a secure retirement.

In *Future Retirement Income Security Needs Defined Benefit Pensions*, Notre Dame economics professor Teresa Ghilarducci says defined-benefit plans, which guarantee a monthly payment amount to each retiree, provide a safer retirement than defined-contribution

plans such as 401(k)s, which shift the risk of retirement savings to workers. The report was prepared for the Center for American Progress.

The Bush administration has proposed legislation that would require employers with traditional defined-benefit plans to have enough money on hand now to pay benefits for all retirees and future retirees instead of being able to spread the costs over several years as is now the case.

The bill is designed to help the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), the agency that insures defined-benefit plans, overcome a \$23 billion deficit. But union leaders and pension experts say the legislation would create excuses for companies to back out of traditional pensions and force workers to assume more of their retirement costs.

Already, several bankrupt airlines have dropped their traditional pensions, claiming they cost too much. In the first week of 2006, IBM, Sears, Verizon Communications and more than 67 other companies froze or closed their defined-benefit plans to newly-hired workers.

However, Ghilarducci says many employers continue to offer defined-benefit plans, including most Fortune 500 companies, public-sector employers and new small professional firms, schools and hospitals. Defined-benefit plans, she says, have important benefits:

- Every eligible worker is automatically covered;
- Defined-benefit plans are professionally invested, substantially reducing the risk of workers making unwise investment decisions.
- Defined-benefit plans have a long time horizon, allowing them to ride out bad market performance and thus reducing market risk.
- Employers can use traditional pensions to attract and retain highly skilled workers.

—from *AFL-CIO Now* (blog.afcio.org)
James Parks

SHOP TALK: What impact does the high price of gas have on your life?

George Robles
Welder, Elliott MFG
Local 653

"I've got less money for food and entertainment. I don't travel so that's not an impact. They need to lower the state and federal taxes on fuel at the pumps. The oil companies won't really pay the taxes; they'll just pass it back to us."



Dan Denbner
Machinist, Peerless Pump
Local 653

"I'm outraged. Wages are not keeping up. How can you negotiate decent three-year contracts with the state of the state changing so fast. I'd car pool but my co-workers all live in different directions. No vacation this year—sorry, kids! The government should adjust taxes for killer profits."



David Aguilar
Journeyman Tech, Fresno
Fire Dept.—Local 653

"I lost 50 pounds by not eating so I could buy gas! We'll be making alternative plans with kid this summer. I think that all we can do is write the government about price gouging and tell them to tax corporate profits."



Hector Gonzales
Welder, Commercial MFG.
Local 653

"I go to work and then back home. I go to the Union meeting once a month, and that's all. I'll definitely be doing less driving this summer. It does seem like the more we complain, the more the gas goes up. Should they tax the oil companies? Hell, yes!"



22nd Annual
Michael J. Day Memorial
Guide Dogs of America
Charity Golf Tournament

Friday, August 25, 2006
Alameda Municipal Golf Course
1 Club House Memorial Drive, Alameda

Sign-In: 9:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start: 11:00 a.m. (South Course)
No-Host Cocktail Party: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.

Francesco’s Restaurant
Pardee & Hegenberger, Oakland
Entry Fee: \$300 per person/\$1,200 foursome
Includes: Greens fee, golf cart, special gift,
golf balls, tee prizes, awards dinner

District Lodge 190’s
Directing Business Rep
Jim Beno
has been chosen to
receive the 2006 GDA
Gift of Sight Award.
Let’s help Jim make the
largest contribution ever
from this event when he
goes to Las Vegas to
accept his award.!

For more information:
510-635-2060



UNION MEETINGS



District Lodge 190 7717 Oakport Street Oakland, CA 94621 510-632-3661	Executive Board Meeting <i>Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.</i> June 27 • July 25 • August 22 General Delegates’ Meeting <i>Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.</i> June 27 • July 25 • August 22
Local 653 544 West Olive, Fresno, CA 93728 559-264-2815	Executive Board Meeting <i>Third Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.</i> June 21 • July 19 • August 16 Membership Meeting <i>Third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</i> June 21 • July 19 • August 16
Local 801 7717 Oakport Street, Oakland, CA 94621 800-655-2182	Membership Meeting <i>Third Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m.</i> June 15 • July 20 • August 17 <i>Meetings are held at the Carpenters’ Hall, in Reno.</i>
Local 1101 3777 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 320 Santa Clara, CA 95051 408-551-2280 <i>All meetings are held at the above address. Check union office for room.</i>	Executive Board Meeting <i>Second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</i> June 8 • July 13 • August 10 General Membership Meeting <i>Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.</i> June 8 • July 13 • August 10
Local 1173 1900 Bates Ave., # H Concord, CA 94520 925-687-6421	Executive Board Meeting <i>Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.</i> June 8 • July 13 • August 10 Membership/Shop Stewards’ Meeting <i>Third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.</i> June 15 • July 20 • August 17
Local 1414 150 South Blvd. San Mateo, CA 94402 650-341-2689	Shop Stewards’ Meeting <i>First Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.</i> June 1 • July 6 • August 3 Executive Board Meeting <i>Second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.</i> June 8 • July 13 • August 10 General Membership Meeting <i>Third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.</i> June 15 • July 20 • August 17 Retirees’ Club <i>First Wednesday of June, Sept., Dec., March at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome!</i> June 7 • September 6 • December 6
Local 1484 1261 Avalon Blvd. Wilmington, CA 90744 310-835-6688	Executive Board Meeting <i>Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.</i> June 15 • July 20 • August 17 General Membership Meeting <i>First Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.</i> June 6 • July 11 • August 1 Retirees’ Club <i>Third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.</i> June 21 • No meeting in July or August • Sept. 20

Local 1528 713 16th Street Modesto, CA 95354 209-529-9210	Executive Board Meeting <i>First Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</i> June 7 • July 5 • August 2 General Membership Meeting <i>First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.</i> June 7 • July 5 • August 2 Women’s Committee Meeting <i>Fourth Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m.</i> June 25 • July 23 • August 27
Local 1546 10260 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94605 510-638-6705	General Membership Meeting <i>First Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.</i> June 6 • July 11 • August 1 Shop Stewards’ Meeting <i>First Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</i> June 6 • July 11 • August 1 Executive Board Meeting <i>Thursday preceding membership meeting at 6:30 p.m.</i> June 1 • July 6 • July 27 Retiree Club Pot Luck Luncheon <i>First Wednesday of each month at 12 noon</i> June 7 • July 5 • August 2 Alcoholics Anonymous: Every Saturday, 9 a.m.
Local 1584 8130 Baldwin Street Oakland, CA 94621 510-635-2064	Membership Meeting <i>Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.</i> June 15 • July 20 • August 17 Executive Board Meeting <i>Preceding Monday at 7:00 p.m.</i> June 12 • July 17 • August 14 Retirees’ Club <i>First Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m.</i> June 6 • July 4??? • August 1
Local 1596 4210 Petaluma Blvd. No. Petaluma, CA 94952 707-795-0085	Membership Meeting <i>Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.</i> June 20 • July 18 • August 15 Executive Board Meeting <i>Third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.</i> June 20 • July 18 • August 15
Local 2005 416 Main Street Livingston, CA 95334 209-394-7822	<i>Meetings of the general membership are held at the Livingston Portuguese Hall, usually on the Second or Third Sunday of the month.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• English & Punjabi—at 1:00 p.m.• Spanish & Portuguese—at 2:30 p.m. Check with the Local office to find out the meeting schedule.
Local 2182 967 Venture Court, Sacramento, CA 95825 800-458-9200	Executive Board Meeting <i>Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.</i> June 13 • July 11 • August 8 General Membership Meeting <i>Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.</i> June 13 • July 11 • August 8 Retirees’ Club - VISTA CLUB <i>Third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m.</i> June 21 • July 19 • August 16