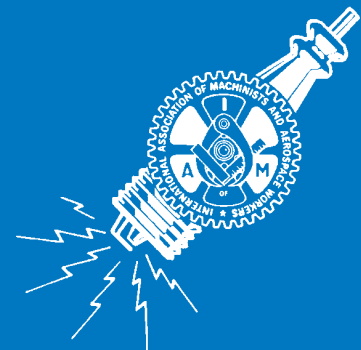


The IAM District 190 Sparkplug



VOL. 9 NO. 6

October/November 2007

Serving the Active and Retired Members of IAM District Lodge 190

State can't find solutions; maybe presidential candidates can

Health care remains top agenda item

Health care reform in California may be stalled for another year as last minute negotiations between the state legislature and Governor Schwarzenegger seem to have fallen apart.

On September 10, 2007, both the State Senate and the Assembly passed AB-8, the labor-backed health care reform legislation. This important bill would have established a minimum standard, like the minimum wage, for employer health care spending. It also would have addressed the out-of-control growth of health care costs.

No simple solutions for legislature or labor

But that didn't work for Governor Schwarzenegger, who threatened to veto AB-8. Instead, he called for a special session of the Legislature to come up with a compromise bill that would deal with everything but the funding mechanism, which the Governor wanted to put before the voters.

After the Legislature adjourned their regular session on September 14, they came back for a one-month special session to deal with two issues: water and health care. Unfortunately, as *The Sparkplug* goes to press, the unions of the California Labor Federation are debating whether they can support either the health care compromise bill or the options on the table to fund it.

While Schwarzenegger was initially willing to put a health care tax on the ballot, his most recent funding scheme is to lease out the Cali-

fornia lottery. The legislature, on the other hand, feels that all employers should pay their part—either by providing health insurance for their employees or by paying into a state fund. Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez pushed for the legislation to include employer mandates so that some coverage expansion could be ensured even if voters reject the ballot measure.

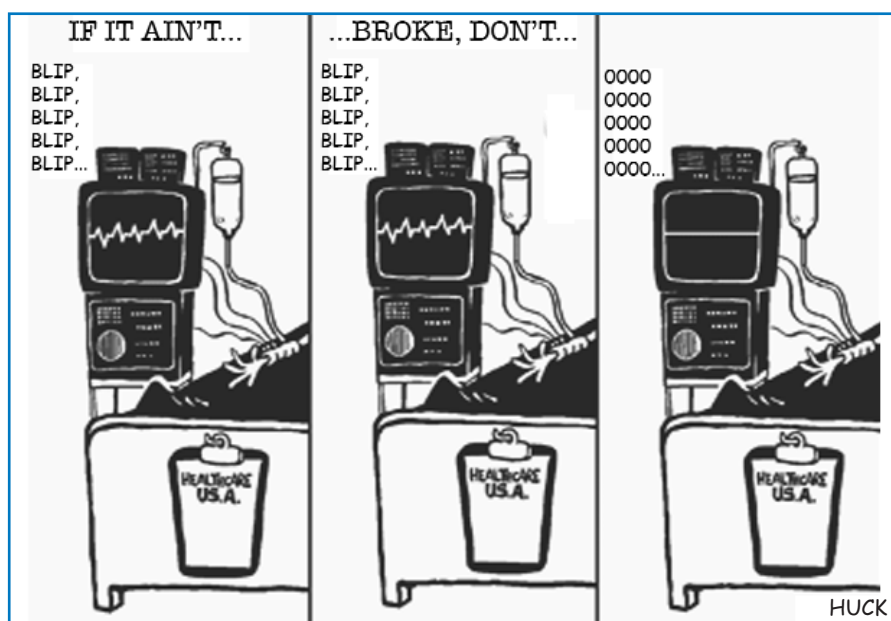
Then the plan hit a new snag. President Bush's veto of the bill to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) cut off another portion of the proposed funding package.

At presstime, it's unclear if the Governor and Legislature will reach agreement on how to structure or fund health care reform and whether unions can back their plan. According to California Labor Federation Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski, the plan we see now "leaves the middle class in the cold." It's not a plan that labor will support.

Labor's principles for health care

Union leadership recognizes that the employer-based health care system that we've been living with for 60 years is broken. Those who have insurance coverage find their costs increasing exponentially to cover the millions of uninsured. People who lose their jobs or work for themselves cannot get insurance.

Unions backed AB-8 because the bill addressed several important concerns. It:



- created rules to rein in health insurers,
- ensured that employers and the government joined workers in paying for health care,
- increased the number of Californians with health insurance, and
- slowed the rapidly climbing cost of health care.

Union leadership is determined to fix our broken health care system—as a benefit to our own members, to our employers and to all Californians. However, California IAM lead-

ers along with the California Labor Federation will oppose any compromise plans that don't meet the principles described above.

In addition, they will carefully evaluate the health care proposals of the presidential candidates and encourage members to do the same.

The Presidential Primary will be held on February 5, 2008. See brief descriptions of the candidates' plans on page 8.

It's not just your imagination!

Premiums rise three times faster than wages and inflation

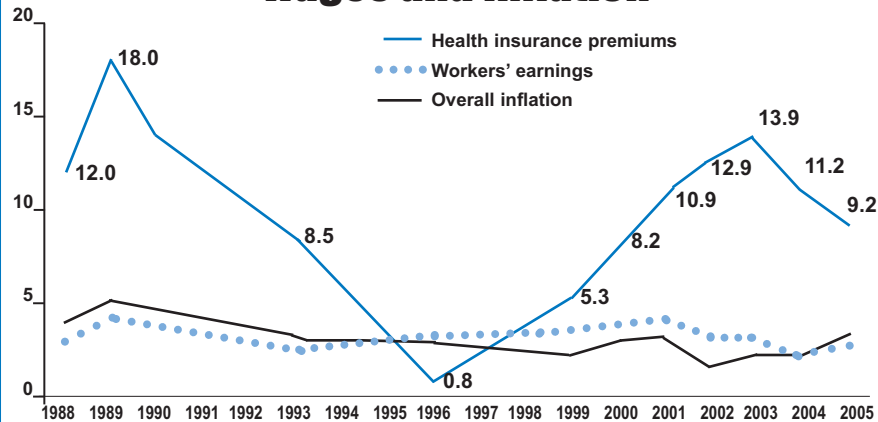


Chart: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Coverage Initiatives, September, 2006.

Are you really prepared to retire?

Former Area Director Vern Dutton recently called *The Sparkplug* to make sure that we warn members about how much money they'll need to cover their retiree health insurance costs.

"I really thought I was prepared, because I had worked for a union company and then for the IAM for nearly 30 years. But I was in for a shock," Dutton said. In the three years since he's retired, his health insurance has increased \$800 a month—\$500 a month in the last year alone.

"How do you budget for anything when you have an 89% increase in your premiums in just one year?" he asks.

The average IAM pensioner who is not yet covered by Medicare is currently paying about \$1,000/month for medical insurance (for themselves and their spouse)—and this is going up quickly. Medical costs eat up many retirees' entire pension checks.

District 190 is well aware of the problem and is working to address it. "The trustees on our health plan have requested bids from insurers for low, medium and high premium plans," explains DBR Jim Beno. "The problem is that all of the bids we've gotten so far are still prohibitively expensive." Beno adds that the fees are the highest for members who retire early and are not yet eligible for Medicare.

AB-8 would have ensured that early retirees and other Californians seeking health coverage as individuals would be guaranteed access to coverage—however, even this bill wouldn't have guaranteed cost controls.

Dutton's final advice to those considering retiring: "Before you pull that plug and retire, you have to know what the real costs are going to be. Honestly, I suggest that you consider staying on the job as long as you can or retire and find another job just to pay for your health care."

UNION PEOPLE



Seeley (L) joins Grizzlies in receiving first place team award

Local 653 member coaches winning team

Lodge 653 member Dirk Seeley is seen here with the California Grizzlies Gold Junior Rifle Team during the NRA awards ceremony at the National Championships held at Camp Perry, Ohio. The team is shown accepting the Fred Edgcomb Trophy, which is awarded to the first place junior team in the Rumbold Team Match. The Grizzlies won with a score of 1930-56X (out of a possible 2000).

The Rumbold is a match for teams with four firing members; the team may use a non-firing captain and coach.

Dirk said that coaching was simple because the kids are all very good shooters who are easy to work with. "I just tagged along to a National Championship due to their high level of skill and training."

Dirk, who serves on the Board of

Directors of both the California Grizzlies and the Coalinga Rifle Club, which also had a winning shooter, says that this has been a rewarding year for him and also a good year for California's competitive shooters.

IAM Local 1930 member joins U.S. Congress

IAM Local 1930 member and Long Beach Assemblywoman Laura Richardson became the newest member of the House of Representatives in September. Richardson will represent California's 37th Congressional District, which includes Long Beach, Carson, Compton and parts of Los Angeles.

Richardson, who has been an IAM member since 2000, won election to replace the late Democratic Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, who died of cancer in April. She had the strong support of Local 1484 and District 947.

Richardson, a former aide to Millender-McDonald, served on the Long Beach City Council until being elected to the State Assembly in November. On the City Council,



Laura Richardson puts IAM in Congress

Richardson advocated for the first ever \$50 million commitment for economic, open space and housing development and created critical outreach programs and events designed to motivate, inspire and empower city residents. Additionally, Richardson worked to bring the first bank to central Long Beach since the 1992 riots and is responsible for opening the first job training center for working families in the inner city.

"I got braces on my teeth because my mother was a member of a union," Richardson told the IAM. "I'm very grateful for the fact that we had that as a background because it enabled me to have better opportunities."

Richardson is not giving up her union card. She will serve on two House committees: Transportation and Science and Technology, so she will have numerous opportunities to work with and on behalf of her IAM brothers and sisters.

IAM supports members at Cape Canaveral



IAM staff and leaders break from their August meeting in Orlando, FL to picket with 500 members of Local 2061 who have not been able to get a fair contract with the United Space Alliance. At left, International President Tom Buffenbarger is on the line with District 190 staffers.

LETTERS TO & FROM THE EDITOR

Letter from the editor. . . .

When the *Sparkplug* first started as a District 190 publication almost ten years ago, I solicited "letters to the editor." I stopped that practice after about a year, however, because we hardly received any letters. While I was flattered that the few letters we got all praised the *Sparkplug* and thanked the district for making the publication available, very few letters addressed content or issues.

However, the last issue of the *Sparkplug* generated two valuable comments—and I appreciate the effort those members made to get their comments to my attention without a formal "letters" process.

The first was a written letter, which is reprinted on this page. The second was an anonymous but thoughtful phone message that, unfortunately, I can only paraphrase. It came from a member who wanted me to know that not all IAM members appreciate hunting or support the NRA's positions on guns and gun control and, in fact, he was offended by the picture of the hunter with his elk prize in the last issue.

We know that a large percentage of union members—as many as 70% in

some unions—hunt and/or fish. It follows that more than 30% don't. My intent, in printing that picture, was not to promote hunting, but rather to showcase a member winning acclamation for doing something he loved.

Including members' stories has

always been the most exciting part of the *Sparkplug*. Frankly, few union newspapers do that. In fact, the thing I enjoy most about putting together the *Sparkplug* is visiting different shops every issue to compile the *Shoptalk* section. To date, we've featured the

Letter to the Editor

In your August/September issue, you asked, "What would you ask or tell President Bush?" I would love to look him in the eye, offer to shake his hand and congratulate him, and of course Karl Rove also, for doing more for the Democratic Party than any Democrat has ever done. The two of them have driven more people from the Republican Party and over to the Democratic Party than ever before in history. Of course, all the others in his circle who have contributed, are too many to list.

Robert Allen
Local 1484, Garden Grove

The IAM District 190
Sparkplug

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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



pictures and thoughts of close to 1,200 members.

As I prepare each issue, I also talk to the Business Reps to learn what's happening at the many shops represented by our 12 locals. They know that I'm always looking for good stories about our members.

In the past, I've covered members who competed in various sports, entered car shows, raised money for charities, volunteered, won awards, got involved in politics and published books. If you have a story that you think your fellow members might find of interest, contact your Business Rep or write me directly.

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor or story idea, the best way is to send it to me by e-mail or fax:

**dchaplan@mindspring.com or
510-288-1346 (fax)**

Space permitting, I will print all letters responding to content in the *Sparkplug* and/or will follow-up on issues that you think the District should know about. Be sure to tell me your name, Local Union number, employer, and the city where you live.

By Debra Chaplan
Managing Editor

UNION PEOPLE

Local 2005



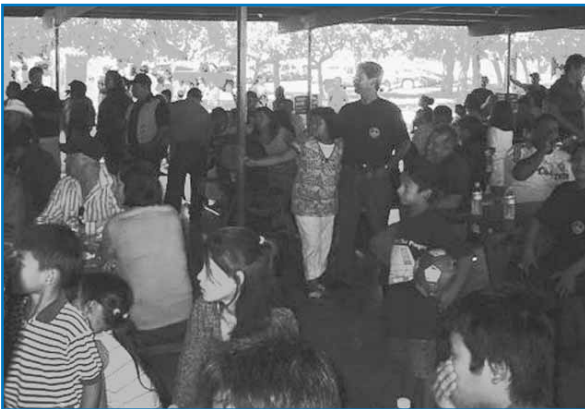
Membership and solidarity continue to grow

Local 2005 held a solidarity picnic on September 21 at Winton Park in the city of Winton. About 500 members came with their families for food, games, prizes, and a great day. "It was important for us to get together as a union family," said Business Rep Ralph Meraz.

The local is still working on reaching a 75% threshold in paid membership among Foster Farms employees by the end of the year, and Meraz says he's on target to reach that goal. "Events like this really help because our members will be inspired to talk up the union to workers who have not yet starting paying dues," Meraz added.

"The morale of our members is high. I—and our members—appreciate the support we're getting from District 190 and the business agents who come to Livingston for a week at a time. They know that the union's more than just me!"

Meraz explains that the company's attitude is also changing. "We don't have to argue about things so much because they do correct their mistakes."



Union pride at county fair



Lisa and Jeff Zavala brought their grandchildren Camrin and Mason to staff the AFL-CIO booth at the Stanislaus County Fair. "What a great way to meet other union members," Lisa said. "When they come by the booth and share their union pride with us and look on the back board to see their local number, it gives us all a great sense of a wholeness. When I left there, I felt gratitude that I, too, am a proud member of Local Lodge 1528."



Local 1173 officers and reps present Ken Martin with his Shop Steward of the Year plaque. (L to R) President Dennis Doyle, 2006 Shop Steward of the Year Steve Older, Rep Rick Rodgers, and Area Director Mark Hollibush.

Local 1173 honors its shop stewards

On September 22, more than 60 of Local 1173's shop stewards and reps from other IAM locals came to the Sheriff's Hall in Martinez for a dinner to honor their hard work over the past year.

The local was pleased to present its Shop Steward of the Year award to Ken Martin, from the Antioch Auto Center. "His store has had management turnover every 5 months or so, so he's constantly training the service managers

about the terms of the contract," said Business Rep Rick Rodgers. "He could be a business rep himself at this point, he knows his contract so well. This is a well-deserved honor."

Rick also wanted to give special thanks and kudos, on behalf of all the shop stewards and the local, to Executive Board member Bill Perreira and his wife Reba for providing the sound system and DJing the music at the dinner. "They do a fabulous job every year."



ORGANIZING WINS

District joins national effort

Across the nation, Aviation Flight Service Specialists employs about 1,200 pilot briefers to give flight data to private employers. Many of these workers contacted the IAM to join the union.

The company employs about 25 pilot briefers at the Oakland airport and Area Director Jesse Juarez is working closely with the Oakland group to win their support. Organizers across the nation hope to hold an election before Thanksgiving.

"These folks used to be employed in the federal sector, but now they are at-will employees working under a service contract with Lockheed Martin," Juarez explains. "The IAM has a positive relationship with Lockheed Martin in many of our organized shops, but that doesn't seem to stop the company from running an anti-union campaign. They just can't stay neutral. I guess that's part of the game."

Juarez says that one of their biggest issues is liability. "It's just not clear if they're indemnified if there's an accident. If something happens, they don't know if they'll be sued on a personal level or not."

Company didn't keep promises

Employees at Henkel Aerospace Corporation in Bay Point contacted the IAM to see about joining the union.

"The Teamsters ran an organizing drive last year but, at the last minute, the employees voted to give the company another chance," Juarez says. "But as usual, the company didn't keep their promises."

This time around, workers at this adhesive manufacturer decided to try working with the IAM. "We're having regular meetings and things are going well but, of course, the company has started putting out their typical propaganda."



Local 653

Members pushed to walk the line in Fresno

On October 1, the 17 members of Local 653 who work at Commercial Manufacturing and Supply in Fresno went out on strike. "100% of our members are out on the line," says Business Rep Tom Rotella. "They're definitely a strong group."

The issue is wages and pension, Rotella explained. "There are a lot of food processing plants out here, and this company has been paying less than the area standard. Unfortunately, the company only offered 1/2%

increases, which wasn't even close to what our members were expecting."

Rotella says he hopes that they can get back to the table quickly and settle the contract but it's not looking so great. "The company's parting words were, 'Tell the bastards to go on strike—we'll see them in a month.' Our members proudly responded to that insult by writing "bastards united" their picket signs, and they plan to stay united until we have a decent contract."

Local 1173

No strike needed at Save Mart

After seven fairly grueling negotiation sessions, Save Mart presented a last, best and final offer, which the 11 members voted down unanimously. They also unanimously voted to strike, if the time came. But it didn't come.

"We fully anticipated a walkout," says Business Rep Rick Rodgers, "but instead we got a 38-month contract that included the largest raises ever, retained all of the pension contributions, and kept our AI health and welfare plan. Our members stood strong and got a contract they could ratify unanimously."

Contracts across Concord

Fourteen members at Niello Infiniti ratified a three-year contract in July that calls for \$1/hour per year in wage and benefit increases and solid improvements in language. "It's a very good contract for everybody," says Business Rep Rick Rodgers.

Unfortunately, business at Macy's Transmission has been so slow that the owner is hesitant to give raises at this time. "He's a good guy and he's trying," Rodgers says. "So we agreed to a one-year contract; wages are frozen but the company will pick up the health cost increases. Hopefully things will turn around in the coming year."

And over at Drito Brothers' Concord Nissan, 16 members unanimously ratified their new two-year contract in September. "Negotiations went well," explains Area Director Mark Hollibush. "Journeymen will get 80¢/hour for wages and benefits each year of the contract, service writers got some language improvements that they wanted and everyone got the AI Disability Plan as a new benefit."

Local 1414

Jobs at the drydock

B.A.E. Systems, a drydock facility in San Francisco with a Local 1414 contract, has jobs available. They repair and refurbish cruise ships as well as almost every other type of vessel.

The work performed ranges from equipment repair to welding, fabrication, machine shop work and a myriad of other tasks. Please contact Don Barbe at the Local 1414 office (650-341-2689) for details.

Success on successor language

Together with the San Mateo Central Labor Council and the Teamsters, Local 1414 members at South Bayside Waste Management Authority now have strong successor language in their contract, covering worker retention, and maintenance of wages and benefits. The Authority directs and regulates the collection of trash and recyclables throughout San Mateo County, and operates the transfer station in San Carlos.

Getting this language took more than a year of visits to City Councils within the Authority's jurisdiction coordinated by the San Mateo Labor Council. "Because of the recent Waste Management lockout in the East Bay, we are now working on satisfactory 'No Strike-No Lockout' provisions," added Business Rep Don Barbe.

Several settled agreements

Local 1414 has recently settled and executed successor contracts with Desoto Cab, Colma Buick-Pontiac-GMC, Saturn of Colma, Saturn Bay Body Shop, Serramonte Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge, and Acura of Serramonte.

Local 1484

Contract and solidarity at FlexiVan

The 12 members who work at FlexiVan in Wilmington ratified a new agreement on August 23. "I think everybody is very pleased with what we were able to get," says Business Rep Kevin Kucera.

"Our members at FlexiVan and ConGlobal are meeting with the Teamsters to help organize port drivers. The first step is to convince the port to redefine the drivers' status from independent contractor to employee status so they can be organized." Kucera adds that the Teamsters gave invaluable support to the ConGlobal strikers and the IAM wants to maintain that spirit of solidarity at the port by having members participate in mobilizations on this issue.

Labor Day in LA

"Never before have so many workers had so much at stake going into bargaining for new contracts," said Mary Ellen Durazo, Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles Labor Federation. Expiring contracts for more than 200,000 union members in the L.A. area was the theme of the 2007 Labor Day Parade, held in Wilmington on September 5.

Sponsored by the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition, the marchers went up Avalon Boulevard, passing Local 1484's office as they headed to the port. More than 3,000 union members and their families participated in the spirited event.

"The stakes are health care, pension, and staying in the middle class," said Kucera. "But, of course, it was also a day off. Sadly, the thing that may have made the most news was that union members were eating hot dogs."

SHOP TALK: The President says that he's confident in the economy. How confident are you?



Justin Williams
Caietti's Truck Repair
West Sac—Local 2182

"The job market's down, work is slow and everything in general is in a slump now. But, all these foreclosures do mean that I can think about buying a house, now."



Martin Ramirez
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"I think it should start climbing up. We've been down for the last two years. From my personal vantage point, things have been pretty good, but it can be better."



Kevin Corbett
Caietti's Truck Repair
West Sac—Local 2182

"Nothing seems to be going right lately. All I can say is, as long as Hilary doesn't get in, we're okay, because I saw what her old man did."



Perry Key
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"Not! I think there's too much going on in the world. Until the Iraq war is taken care of, nothing else will be taken care of."



Greg Lyons
Caietti's Truck Repair
West Sac—Local 2182

"The shop's not as busy as usual—folks are holding off on normal repairs because of high fuel prices. The stock market went up when they dropped the interest rates—that was encouraging."



Devin
Riverview
West Sac—

"Hey, I'm ar so I can say fident. I can moan, but it anything."

THE LOCALS



Local 1528

Good deal in Stockton

Local 1528 members at Calaveras Materials in Stockton ratified a new 3-year contract with favorable terms. They'll be getting \$1/hour per contract year for wages and pension and will split any increases in health and welfare costs on a 90/10 basis.

Local 1546

Some things never end

"The saga at PMMC definitely continues," says Area Director Don Crosatto. "Having the NLRB rule against them was just the first step. We just had another hearing, and then we'll go to trial. This thing has got a long way to go."

Crosatto reports that the Local will probably have to haul Broadway VW back into court for all the unfair labor practices they've committed. "We're still meeting and haven't filed yet—but stay tuned."

Strike vote at Waste Management

Although the Waste Management lock-out of the Teamsters is long over, the IAM members who work there are still in need of their own contract. "So far, we've had a bunch of meetings and mediation, but we haven't gotten anywhere," explains Crosatto. "Our members passed a strike vote by 61-0, so clearly they're prepared to do what it takes if the company refuses to come to its senses."

Bad start with new employer

Connell Chrysler in Oakland was sold and the new management took over on August 30, but relations are not yet smooth. Local 1546 has already filed unfair labor practice charges.

"This feels similar to what happened at Berkeley Honda," Crosatto says. "We've made two demands to bargain but the new owners don't even answer our letters. They hired back a majority of the old crew, which means they're supposed to bargain. At the same time, they fired two of our top guys. It would be so much easier on everyone if they would just follow the law."

More new contracts

Six members at Harbor Reefer in Oakland have a new four-year contract that includes a wage increase of 3.5% each year, maintenance of benefits on health and welfare for the first year with a 10% cap on increases for the following three years, and a rollover into the pension. Pension contributions will reach at least \$683 by the end of the contract. They also negotiated a shoe allowance and they traded in two sick days for personal days. "The

members turned down the first contract," explains Business Rep Garry Horrocks. "I'm sure they're happy they held out."

Over at Livermore Software Technology, members ratified a 4-year contract with 4% increases each year and maintenance of benefits on their health and welfare.

Boss gets it: Union jobs are good value

When Norman Young set up the R Mechanic Service Center in Livermore, he was interested in having his motor home repair facility be a union shop. He contacted Local 1546, and Business Rep Robby Pintos worked with him to create a contract.

"Negotiations were going great, but then he started getting cold feet," Pintos reported. He finally signed in September and the new three-year agreement started on October 1. The new union members get wage increases, a grievance process, health coverage and the AI pension—with contributions starting at \$250/month and going up \$50 each year.

"Young is looking to make his facility grow and he understands the value of having good union jobs and members to make that happen," Pintos added.

Local 1596

Contract success and challenges

Members who work at Syar Industries, in both Healdsburg and Napa shops have ratified a new four-year agreement. Area Director Tom Brandon says that they'll get \$2.08/hour each year for wages and benefits.

Brandon adds that he's kept AMAC's contract on hold to see if the union can help bring more business to the company. "The IAM recently honored Union Solutions for organizing a major pharmaceutical company that utilizes plastic bottles. We're seeing if we can get AMAC to bid on making those bottles so our

members can stay busy," Brandon said.

Jobs in Rohnert Park

Tom Brandon reports that Bayshore International in Rohnert Park is looking for truck mechanics, and are willing to train auto mechanics to do the work. For more information or to be referred to the facility, contact Brandon at 707-795-0086.

Local 2182

Silver lining at Hubacher?

Hubacher Cadillac is going through major changes, including getting rid of their Land Rover division and closing their body shop. "This will result in the permanent layoff of 14 members," reports Area Director Mark Martin. "We were able to negotiate a continuation of health care until the end of the year for those guys."

Martin adds that with Land Rover gone, the dealership now has an opportunity to pick up Buick, Pontiac, GMC and Saab for that same location. "At the end of the day, we may end up with a larger bargaining unit, but now, our concern is for those members who are immediately impacted. We hope, in the end, that it becomes a stronger franchise."

Capitol Machine is shining star

In one of Local 2182's "Shining Star contracts," the five members at Capitol Machine in Sacramento ratified a five-year contract that includes wage increases of 50¢/hour for the first two years, and then 60¢ for years three to five, the IAM Pension Plan starting at a 50¢/hour contribution and going up to \$1.75 by year five and full maintenance of benefits for their health and welfare. "They should all be like this," said Mark Martin.



Local 1528

First spaghetti feed is a winner!

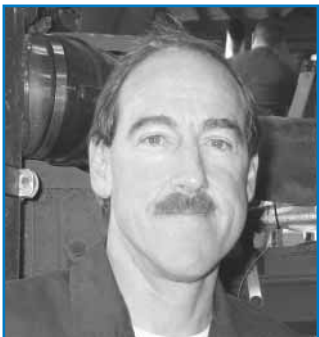
Local 1528's retirees sponsored their first Spaghetti Feed on Saturday, August 11 at Local 1528's Modesto hall. All reports are that the food was delicious and the event was a great success. Retirees were especially pleased to host GVP Lee Pearson (4th from left) and International Rep Matt McKinnon (left) at the event.

Confident are you?



Wilson Trucks Int'l Local 2182

American I feel con-bitch and won't do



Victor Hobbs Omega Tank & Truck West Sac—Local 2182

"It's been a scary summer. The economy really sucks now. It's so slow—it's like winter slow. We had to lay off a few people."



Lorenzo Romo Riverview Trucks Int'l West Sac—Local 2182

"I'm not confident at all. He's made mistake after mistake. He's taking health insurance from kids but doesn't want to cut the war."



Dennis Close Omega Tank & Truck West Sac—Local 2182

"Not very. They say the housing market is the lowest it's been in 12 years—that's not rosy, and they talk about it getting worse for a year. More trucks are on the road, but nobody's bringing work."



Eric Bettendorf Riverview Trucks Int'l West Sac—Local 2182

"Not very. The housing market and the market in general are slow. Construction is slow."



Brandon Bradbury Pan Pacific Cement West Sac—Local 2182

"I'm confident enough to know that I've got a job and a house—it's good enough to keep on going."



IN THE NEWS

Is union membership a sign of terrorism?

Under a new agreement between the European Union and the U.S., airlines flying from Europe to the U.S. will be required to provide background information on travelers including: "racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, **trade union membership**" and data about an individual's health, traveling partners and sexual orientation.

The *Washington Post* reported in August that the information will be retained for 15 years by the Department of Homeland Security and can be shared with other government agencies and nations. "Even a request for a king-size bed at a hotel could be noted in the database."

Apparently, when civil libertarians on both sides of the Atlantic complained, the Bush administration threatened to turn back flights from Europe if the deal was not approved.

—By Mike Hall, *AFL-CIO Now*

RESPECT Act would overturn bad NLRB decisions

The "Re-Empowerment of Skilled and Professional Employees and Construction and Tradesworkers Act" passed the House Education and Labor Committee by a vote of 26-20 on September 19.

Known as the RESPECT Act, the bill would overturn last fall's anti-union decisions by the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB ruled in the so-called "Kentucky River" decisions that employers could reclassify many employees as "supervisors," depriving them of the right to organize and bargain collectively.

These rulings decreed that skilled and professional workers who direct a coworker on a single task just 10 percent of the workday could be considered supervisors—even if they have no authority to discipline, reward, promote, hire or fire employees.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Robert Andrews, D-NJ, now goes to the full House for a vote. If it passes, it goes to the Senate.

"The passage of the RESPECT Act will overturn the misguided decision of the NLRB in the Kentucky River trilogy and restore the law back to Congress' original intent," said Andrews.

He said it will "protect the right to organize and collectively bargain for millions of American workers."

—From *AFL-CIO Now*

NLRB takes away even more organizing rights

The National Labor Relations Board is at it again. Instead of protecting workers' freedom to join a union, the board ruled Sept. 28 that even if employers voluntarily recognize a

union based on union authorization cards (also known as card-check), anti-union employees can petition for an NLRB decertification election at any time. Just 30 percent of the employees need to sign the petition for the decertification election.

In a ringing dissent, NLRB members Wilma Liebman and Dennis Walsh said the decision "cuts voluntary recognition off at the knees."

They add that "the majority's decision...subjects the will of the majority to that of a 30 percent minority. Today's decision...undercuts the process of voluntary recognition as a legitimate mechanism for implementing employee free choice and promoting the practice of collective bargaining."

The case stems from an agreement by Dana Corp. and Metaldyne

Corp. with the UAW not to interfere in workers' efforts to form a union and to recognize the union if a majority of workers have signed union authorization cards. After the union was recognized, employees in each unit filed a petition seeking a decertification election.

—by James Parks, *AFL-CIO Now*

Congress acts to protect popcorn workers

Ignoring the mounting evidence that an artificial flavoring used in microwave popcorn and other processed foods causes a deadly lung disease among workers who produce the products, the Bush administration turned down a petition for an emergency temporary standard to protect workers.

The next day, on Sept. 26, the U.S. House stepped in and voted, 260-154, for a bill that requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an emergency standard limiting workers' exposure to the chemical, diacetyl.

The butter-flavored additive can cause bronchiolitis obliterans, a severe illness known as "popcorn lung." Popcorn lung has been tied to three deaths and serious illness in at least 200 people. So far, doctors have not found a way to reverse the symptoms. A lung transplant is the only option after the symptoms set in.

This summer, the first case of popcorn lung in a consumer was identified.

"Seven years after the first cases of popcorn lung were identified, it is stunning that OSHA has failed to protect American workers from this horrible disease," said Rep. George Miller, author of HR 2693. "The cost of the Bush administration's failure to act can be measured in the number of workers who have avoidably grown ill or died."

—by Mike Hall, *AFL-CIO Now*

You Are Invited To Local 1484's 12th Annual Machinists' Union Waterfront Family Christmas Bowling for Fun Night!



Date: Saturday, December 1, 2007

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Fountain Valley Bowl
17110 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley
(At Warner & Brookhurst)

Cost: \$20 per person (No Refunds).

Covers 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, food, soft drinks and lots o' fun.

\$10 Gift Exchange: If you'd like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$10.

The event is open to all. We encourage you to come and bring your family, friends, co-workers, brothers, sisters and neighbors. All are welcome! We have reserved 30 bowling lanes (120 person limit). This isn't a tournament; you don't have to be an expert bowler or even a decent bowler to have fun.

Reservations and payment should be sent to Frank Honratto or Maria Suarez at the Union Hall ASAP (1216 Avalon Blvd, Wilmington, CA 90744). This is a popular event and tickets are expected to go quickly.

For more info: Contact Entertainment/Community Service Coordinator Frank Honoratto at (562) 805-1008 or Maria Suarez, Al Lopez, Kevin Kucera at (310) 835-6688

SHOP TALK: Are you as confident as the President is on the economy?



Chris Bohanan
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"Not at all. The way work is going, you can't predict anything. We're busy one minute and not the next."



Glenn Stevens
Omega Tank & Truck
West Sac—Local 2182

"I don't pay attention to the economy or politics. I just try to work hard and stay happy!"



Cowboy Purewal
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"I'm not confident at all—not with the price of gas going up."



Steve Anderson
Pan Pacific Cement
West Sac—Local 2182

"No. Confidence is an illusion. At any point, there are dudes with PhDs in Economics on opposite sides of the question. Confidence depends on your perspective."



Mike Williams
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"It'll be fine. Lowering the interest rates will definitely jump start things, and give the boost we need to stem the foreclosures. A lot of people were living way over their heads."

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Nominations and Election of Officers, Executive Board Members, Audit Committee Members & Delegate Positions

Local Lodge 1173

Nominations: Thursday, November 15, 2007, shall be held at the regular Membership/Shop Stewards' Meeting. Nomination of Officers, Executive Board Members, Audit Committee and Delegates to California Conference of Machinists will be held at Local Lodge 1173 Headquarters, 1900 Bates Avenue, Suite H, Concord, California.

Election: Thursday, December 20, 2007, shall be held at the regular Membership/Shop Stewards' meeting.

A voting booth shall be maintained at the Local Lodge Union Hall from the hours of 8:00 a.m. until the close of regular order of business.

Absentee ballots: See rules for eligibility and how to apply for an absentee ballot in the box below.

Local Lodge 1414

Consistent with the IAM Constitution and Local Lodge Bylaws, your Local Lodge Officers, Trustees, Executive Board, and Delegates (except District Lodge Delegates) positions are open for elections as follows:

Nominations: Nominations for these positions were held at the Regular Membership Meeting on September 20, 2007.

Election: The elections shall be conducted from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at your Union Hall. Please contact Local 1414 for more information.

Local Lodge 1596

Nominations: Tuesday, November 20, 2007, shall be held at the regular Membership Meeting. Nomination of Officers, Executive Board Members, Audit Committee and Delegates to California Conference of Machinists will be held at Local Lodge 1596, 4210 Petaluma Blvd. No., Petaluma, California.

Election: Tuesday, December 18, 2007, shall be held at the regular Membership/Shop Stewards' meeting.

A voting booth shall be maintained at the Local Lodge Union Hall from the hours of 8:00 a.m. until the close of regular order of business.

Absentee ballots: See rules for eligibility and how to apply for an absentee ballot in the box below.

To get an absentee ballot for your Local Lodge election

Eligibility: In accordance with Election of Officers, Article II, Section 3 of the IAM Constitution, members who reside in outlying districts more than 25 miles from the designated balloting place, members who are either confined because of verified illness or on leave qualifying under U.S. and Canadian family leave laws, or on vacation, or on official IAM business approved by the Local

Lodge, District Lodge, or Grand Lodge, or on an employer travel assignment, or reserve military leave, as the case may be, shall be furnished absentee ballots.

Any member entitled to vote by absentee ballot must request a ballot in writing (see below).

The Request for Absentee Ballot must be delivered to the Recording

Secretary of your Local Lodge in person or by mail no later than thirty (30) days prior to the election.

Completed Absentee Ballots must be received by the Local Lodge:

Local 1173: prior to closing of the voting booth on December 20, 2007.

Local 1414: prior to closing of the voting booth on October 18, 2007.

Local 1596: prior to closing of the voting booth on December 18, 2007.

Your written request for absentee ballot must be mailed to your local union (see addresses on page 8), and include the following:

"Please send me an absentee ballot."

Name • Address • City/State/Zip • Book # • Your signature
You must also include the reason you are making the request.



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 1173 Members

In accordance with Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution and Article E of the local lodge bylaws, there shall be a general membership meeting held for the purpose of voting on the proposed local lodge dues rates for 2008. The membership meeting will be held on December 20, 2007 6:30 p.m. at Local Lodge 1173. Only members present and in good standing will be eligible to vote.

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

SHOP TALK: Are you as confident as the President is on the economy?



Mike Baker
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"I'm not in a panic about the economy. What happened to the housing market is a shame. People got high hopes and dreams, but others making false promises were allowed to do that."



Denis Scully
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"The American dollar is not worth anything against the Euro or the English currency. I can say 'that's great' because I'm English! The economy may be going down here, but it's a great place to live."



Nacho Gomez
Pan Pacific Cement
West Sac—Local 2182

"The concrete and cement industry is very slow—no houses are being built. We're worried, especially with winter coming up."



Joe Lima
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"It remains to be seen. Who's economy is he talking about—his economy is probably just fine. But gas prices are hurting ours."



Steve Tealdi
Riverview Trucks Int'l
West Sac—Local 2182

"I'm confident. I have nothing negative to say. We have plenty of work. I'd like to see gas prices and health care costs down. Other than that, opportunities abound."

Presidential candidates' "Plans" for health care reform

DEMOCRATS

NY Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton: A new "Health Choices Menu" of private insurance options and public care options similar to Medicare. Includes a refundable tax credit to working families to buy health coverage so that premiums do not exceed a percentage of family income and a health care tax credit for small businesses.

Former NC Sen. John Edwards: Health care reform plan built around an "individual mandate" that would require all Americans to buy health insurance. To make insurance more affordable, he would require businesses and other employers to help cover their employees or help finance insurance. He also would expand Medicaid and SCHIP.

Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich: National health insurance program covering medical, dental,

mental health and long-term care for all, including prescription drugs.

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama: Plan would require employers to share costs of insuring workers and ensure all children are covered. No mandate that everyone must have insurance. Offer coverage similar to that in plan for federal employees.

NM Gov. Bill Richardson: Tax breaks for businesses and for people who pay for their own coverage. Lower the eligibility age for Medicare to 55 and expand programs for poor and children.

REPUBLICANS

Former NY Mayor Rudy Giuliani: Income tax deduction of \$7,500 per taxpayer to defray insurance costs. Tax credit for poorer workers to supplement Medicaid and employer contributions, as part of "market-driven" expansion of affordable cover-

age. Expanded use of health savings accounts.

Former Ark. Gov. Mike Huckabee: Health care should stay in the hands of the private sector, but thinks improvements can be made to bring down costs, with an emphasis on preventative care.

Arizona Sen. John McCain: No specific health care proposals yet, but his web site details ideas for funding and expanding veterans' health care.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney: The health care system should be overhauled through plans tailored to individual states, not through a federal government takeover. Use federal reimbursements to help low-income people buy insurance at a lower cost.

Former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson: "Market-driven" expansion of affordable coverage.

—From Association of Health Care Journalists



UNION MEETINGS



District Lodge 190

7717 Oakport Street
Oakland, CA 94621
510-632-3661

Executive Board Meeting

Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
October 23 • November 27 • December 18

General Delegates' Meeting

Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
October 23 • November 27 • December 18
(Note date changes due to holidays)

Local 653

544 West Olive,
Fresno, CA 93728
559-264-2815

Executive Board Meeting

Third Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.
October 17 • November 14 • December 19

Membership Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.
October 17 • November 14 • December 19

Local 801

7717 Oakport Street,
Oakland, CA 94621
800-655-2182

Membership Meeting

Third Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m.
October 18 • November 29 • December 19
Meetings are held at the Carpenters' Hall, in Reno.

Local 1101

3777 Stevens Creek
Blvd., Suite 320
Santa Clara, CA 95051
408-551-2280

Executive Board Meeting

Second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.
October 11 • November 13 • December 11

General Membership Meeting

Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
October 11 • November 13 • December 11
Check at union office for meeting room.

Note change in office hours:

Mon-Thurs: 7:30a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday: 7:30a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Local 1173

1900 Bates Ave., # H
Concord, CA 94520
925-687-6421

Executive Board Meeting

Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
October 11 • November 13 • December 11

Membership/Shop Stewards' Meeting

Third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
October 18 • November 29 • December 19

Local 1414

150 South Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94402
650-341-2689

Shop Stewards' Meeting

First Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
October 4 • November 1 • December 6

Executive Board Meeting

Second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
October 11 • November 13 • December 11

General Membership Meeting

Third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
October 18 • November 29 • December 19

Retirees' Club

First Wednesday of June, Sept., Dec., March
at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome!
December 5

Local 1484

1261 Avalon Blvd.
Wilmington, CA 90744
310-835-6688

Executive Board Meeting

Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
October 18 • November 29 • December 19

General Membership Meeting

First Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
October 2 • November 6 • December 4

Retirees' Club

Third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.
October 17 • November 21 • December 19

Local 1528

713 16th Street
Modesto, CA 95354
209-529-9210

Executive Board Meeting

First Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
October 3 • November 7 • December 5

General Membership Meeting

First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
October 3 • November 7 • December 5

Women's Committee Meeting

Please contact local 1528 for times and dates of
monthly Women's committee meetings

Retiree's Club

Third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

October 17 • November 21 • December 19

Narcotics Anonymous: Every Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Local 1546

10260 MacArthur Blvd.,
Oakland, CA 94605
510-638-6705

General Membership Meeting

First Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
October 2 • November 6 • December 4

Shop Stewards' Meeting

First Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.
October 2 • November 6 • December 4

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday preceding membership meeting at 6:30 p.m.
November 1 • November 29

Retiree Club Pot Luck Luncheon

First Wednesday of each month at 12 noon
October 3 • November 7 • December 5

Alcoholics Anonymous: Every Saturday, 9 a.m.

Local 1584

8130 Baldwin Street
Oakland, CA 94621
510-635-2064

Membership Meeting

Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
October 18 • November 29 • December 19

Executive Board Meeting

Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
October 18 • November 29 • December 19

Retirees' Club

First Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m.
October 2 • November 6 • December 4

Local 1596

4210 Petaluma Blvd. No.
Petaluma, CA 94952
707-795-0085

Membership Meeting

Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
October 16 • November 20 • December 18

Executive Board Meeting

Third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
October 16 • November 20 • December 18

Local 2005

416 Main Street
Livingston, CA 95334
209-394-7822

Meetings of the general membership are held at the
Livingston Portuguese Hall, usually on the Second
or Third Sunday of the month.

- 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

Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
October 9 • November 13 • December 11

General Membership Meeting

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
October 9 • November 13 • December 11

Retirees' Club - VISTA CLUB

Third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m.
October 17 • November 21 • December 19