

# The IAM District 190 Sparkplug



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Serving the Active and Retired Members of IAM District Lodge 190

## Economy set to go green

Responding to the worst economic decline since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Obama Administration has promised to reignite the industrial fires of the U.S. economy and to some degree, world economies, by creating a new “green economy.” The administration has proposed legislative mandates, incentives, and large infusions of capital into green research and development, national infrastructure improvements, energy efficiency programs, and green jobs training.

“We have to lay a new foundation for growth,” President Barack Obama told the nation in April, “a foundation that will strengthen our economy and help us compete in the 21st century.” Obama has made “spending to promote renewable energy technologies that will generate jobs and an effort to shift the nation to a low-carbon economy” his top priority.

Congress is responding to his call, drafting the American Clean Energy and Security Act. When enacted, this bill will establish a green economy through national standards for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

An analysis by the Center for American Progress and the University of Massachusetts projects that the bill, combined with the clean-energy investments in the economic stimulus bill, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, could generate \$150 billion in annual public and private-sector clean-energy investments. This would create 1.7 million net new jobs.

“The nation that leads the world in creating new energy sources will be the nation that leads the 21st-century global economy,” President Obama said recently. Currently, Germany leads the world in clean-energy investments, particularly solar energy, with China coming in second.

### Timing is key

Along with the economic challenges, the U.S. must find ways to successfully manage the transformation from a predominantly carbon-intensive economy to becoming a predominantly clean-energy-based economy. This means cutting its consumption of traditional fossil fuels, the primary source of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) delivered into our atmosphere by human activity.

Over the last decade, Americans have witnessed what the U.S. looks like without clean energy policies: Electricity and gasoline prices have skyrocketed, fossil-fuel industries profited, pollution rose, and the economy veered from bubble to near bust. A global economy dependent on non-renewable resources, by definition, cannot be sustained indefinitely—even if pollution were not a concern.

So far, however, the rhetoric about economic stimulus and the green economy has moved

### GREEN SHOOTS



faster than the money. Compared to most government projects, the stimulus package was put on a fast track. The states needed to develop their “shovel-ready” projects within a few months and be prepared to get the money spent by 2011. To date, however, the stimulus money has not arrived, and those in construction looking forward to re-building roads, bridges, high-speed rail, solar schools, and a new electricity grid, are still waiting for the funds to start flowing.

### Ensuring that green jobs are good jobs

The definition of a green job is a family-supporting, career track job that directly contributes to preserving or enhancing environmental quality. Most green jobs are familiar jobs, repurposed and expanded through new investments in a low-carbon economy. The AFL-CIO and numerous local unions have been active in making green jobs policy, working to ensure that these are good jobs, and not green sweatshop jobs.

For instance, building wind farms creates demand for steel workers and long-haul freight shipping. Energy-efficiency retrofits for buildings require roofers and insulators. Increasing green manufacturing within the U.S. could provide thousands of jobs for machinists to run and maintain the equipment.

The Apollo Alliance, a coalition of labor, community and environment groups, reports that “Energy efficiency is far more labor intensive than energy generation, creating 21.5 jobs

for every \$1 million invested, compared to 11.5 jobs for new natural gas generation.” According to a study by Greenpeace International and the European Renewable Energy Council, building a green economy that would cut U.S. greenhouse emissions by 45% by 2030 would create 7.8 million more jobs than would be created by continuing going down the “business as usual” path.

### Buy new cars, help environment

Automakers and their unions have lobbied heavily for the incentives to help the auto industry boost sales and stabilize General Motors and Chrysler, which have received billions of dollars for government-led bankruptcies. In May, U.S. auto sales were 34 percent lower than a year ago and the industry expects to sell six million fewer vehicles in the U.S. in 2009 than were sold in 2007. Clearly, this impact is felt not only at auto and parts manufacturing plants across the nation, but also at dealerships right here in California. (See article on page 3).

In June, Congress passed the Cash for Guzzlers program as a way to boost auto sales while lowering gasoline use. Here’s how the program works: Car owners could get a voucher worth \$3,500 if they traded in a vehicle getting 18 miles per gallon or less for one getting at least 22 mpg. The voucher would grow to \$4,500 if the new car’s mileage was 10 mpg higher than the old vehicle.

Owners of sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks or minivans getting 18 mpg or less could receive a voucher for \$3,500 if their new truck or SUV got at least 2 mpg higher than their old vehicle. The voucher would increase to \$4,500 if the mileage of the new truck or SUV was at least 5 mpg higher than the older vehicle.

The program is aimed at replacing older vehicles — built in model year 1984 or later — and would not make financial sense for someone owning a vehicle with a trade-in value greater than \$3,500 or \$4,500.

The program has significant limitations, however. Critics claim that most of the qualifying vehicles would be at least 10 years old and owners of these vehicles would be less inclined to take on a new car payment or would be unable to afford a new vehicle.

Dealers hope it will be a valuable tool to lure more shoppers to their showrooms. Many intend to advertise heavily and combine the government plan with other incentives, providing some help at a time when the industry is struggling to sell cars.

“Anything to jump-start the economy,” Jason Robinson, a car salesman with AutoServ of Tilton, N.H. told the Associated Press. “There’s not much sense of urgency out in the market right now.”





UNION PEOPLE



The scholarship was presented on May 13 (L to R) Parents Donald and Leona Breck, Jennifer Breck, and IAM Western Territory Grand Lodge Rep Claudio Figueroa.

Local 1173 member's daughter wins scholarship

In May, Jennifer Breck won a 2009 IAM scholarship of \$1,000 per year. Jennifer is the daughter of Local Lodge 1173 member Donald J. Breck who works at the Toyota of Walnut Creek, Jennifer will be attending the University of New Mexico in the fall, majoring in biology. Her plan is to go to medical school to become a pediatrician. Third in her class at Ceres High School, Jennifer has been involved in several community and sports programs. In addition to the IAM scholarship, Jennifer has earned numerous other scholarships and awards.

"Local 1173 was pleased that Jennifer availed herself of this opportunity. We wish her luck in the future and hope that other members will look into the IAM scholarship opportunities for their kids," said Business Rep Rick Rodgers.

Congrats on completing apprenticeship



Local Lodge 93 Recording Secretary Mike Woitte (center) completed his apprenticeship in May. Here he picks up his IAM journeyman certificate and the congratulations of Local 93 President Harry Turner (L) and Machinists JATC Chair Hector Velez (R).

Teamster leader Chuck Mack steps down

After a career in the Teamsters that started in 1962, when he loaded and learned to drive a truck, and ended in May, when he retired as Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 70 in Oakland, President of Joint Council 7, and Western Region Vice-President, Chuck Mack bids farewell to his friends in the labor movement. As of June 1, he has taken on the position of Co-Chair of the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Fund, which requires him to give up all of his Teamster duties.

"Teamsters and Machinists work hand-in-hand across the state—they drive and we repair the vehicles," said DBR Jim Beno. "Over the years, we've had an excellent relationship with the Teamsters. This included an unwritten 'no-raid' pact, which has enabled us to quiet several potential disputes amicably. Chuck has been great to work with and I wish him the best in his new position."

Taking over many of Chuck's duties will be Rome Aloise, who is Secretary of Local 853 in San Leandro. "We've worked with Rome over the years locally, and it's also been quite positive. We look forward to extending that good relationship across the state."



Chuck Mack at the 2007 Waste Management lock-out rally

IAM Western Region VP Lee Pearson retires

Lee Pearson has served as General Vice President of the IAM for the Western Territory since 1992. On July 1, he'll be stepping down.

Pearson was born and raised in San Diego and joined the IAM in 1966 when he went to work at a small aerospace firm as a sheet metal mechanic and inspector. He immediately became active in Local 685, serving in many appointed and elected capacities including negotiating committee, chief steward, delegate to the district lodge, district vice president and Business Representative of IAM District 50.

Pearson was appointed to the IAM's national field staff as a Special Representative in 1981, and as a Grand Lodge Representative in 1986. In 1991, he served as the Administrative Assistant to General Vice President Justin Ostro, whom he succeeded by Executive Council appointment in 1992. He was re-elected to that post in 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2005.

Pearson's work in the IAM has



given him a broad base of experience in providing services for workers in the aerospace, electronics, machinery and manufacturing, trucking and mining industries. He was appointed the IAM's National Aerospace Coordinator for Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. In addition to those aerospace giants, he has worked with Greyhound, General Electric, Hughes, Westinghouse, International Harvester, and General Dynamics.

Pearson's tenure officially ends on June 30, and Gary Allen will take over the position on July 1. Most recently, Allen was Administrative Assistant to Pearson. He started his career in the union as a shop steward for Local 794 when he worked at General Electric in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"I've worked with both Lee and Gary for years," said Directing Business Rep Jim Beno. "Lee has been a strong leader and advocate for us in the west, and I wish him well in his retirement. I'm confident that we'll be in good hands with Gary as VP."

Passing of a Labor Movement Lion



**Jack Henning**  
California Labor Federation  
Executive Secretary-Emeritus  
1915-2009

Labor leader Jack Henning, the president of the California state AFL-CIO for 26 years, died at his home in San Francisco on June 4. He was 93 years old.

Henning helped lead the fight to allow farm workers and government employees the right to form unions and strike. Henning was a former U.S. undersecretary of labor and ambassador to New Zealand. He was among the first U.S. labor leaders to oppose racism as a workers' rights cause.

"Jack Henning was an iconic figure in the American labor movement," said Art Pulaschi, Executive Secretary Treasurer of the California Labor Federation. "He was an extraordinary man, with a brilliant mind and deep commitment to the working class."

"Jack was a tireless champion for working people. He led California with a strong spirit and fire that rallied people from all backgrounds and communities," said IAM General Vice President Lee Pearson. "He was a passionate speaker, and a true labor leader; he will be missed."

The IAM District 190

# Sparkplug

Debra Chaplan,  
Managing Editor

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AUTO NEWS

State of auto industry impacts California dealerships

The recent GM and Chrysler bankruptcies and the overall dismal state of the auto industry are having widespread impact on our members who work in dealerships across California.

Because so many Chrysler, Dodge and Pontiac dealerships have been shuttered over the past few years, when the company announced in May its plan to close a quarter of its shops, only 31 of these were in California, and only one was a union shop.

Serramonte Dodge in Colma, a union shop with a Local 1414 contract, was the one. Business Rep Pedro Mendez reports that this news isn't all bad. "They can't sell any more new cars, but they do plan to keep their service department open. And they plan to open new Mazda, Hyundai and Saturn franchises in the former Dodge space. Hopefully our members will be able to stay working."



The list of GM dealerships slated for closure was larger, and will impact more union shops. "On the one hand, Signer Buick-Cadillac in Fremont is closing. We had a long labor dispute with them in the mid-90s, and they have always been very

anti-union," explains Local 1546 Area Director Don Crosatto.

"On the other hand, Mazzei Pontiac-Cadillac-Buick-GMC in Antioch, a union shop, will be forced to shut its doors." Crosatto explained that a lot of dealerships had been

shrinking over the years, and Mazzei was down to seven people from it's high of about 20 techs. "We've been losing ones and twos every month at each shop, so when a shop finally closes, most of them were down to a skeleton crew."

Crosatto explains that the customer base for GM and Chrysler has been falling for the last half-dozen years. "We had 4-5 years of crappy sales, and then a year or two of horrible sales. Clearly the sales base has a direct impact on the service base—the fewer cars sold, the fewer that need servicing."

Speculating that if the auto industry does turn its business around, they'll have to open more dealerships, Crosatto explained that "there will be no dealer for Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep between San Jose and Petaluma, and only one GM dealerships on the 880 corridor between San Jose and Richmond. Buying a new car will be a very different experience in the future."

Need Information on your Machinists 401(k) Account?

Many people call the union with questions about the 401K accounts that they could get answered more easily online. The following information can be found by logging into your account online:

- Account Balance
- Transaction Information (Contributions, Distributions)
- Historical Information (Statements, Fund Prices)
- Request Email Statements (Available in Text or Quicken formats)
- Fund Information
- General Investing Information and More!!!

You can also enter transactions to transfer funds between Invest-

ment Options as well as update your address and email.

The information you will need to login is as follows:

URL: [www.kandg.com](http://www.kandg.com)  
ER/Plan Code: 226  
User ID: Your SSN (no dashes or spaces)  
PIN: #####

Your PIN is a unique five digit code that was provided to you when your account was established. If you do not have it or need to request a new one, just click on the "Forgot Your PIN" link from the login page to request it. You can also request a PIN by calling the Plan Administrator at (408) 298-1170 at extension 512.

Attention 10th Congressional District voters

(Contra Costa, and parts of Alameda, Solano and Sacramento Counties)

Your congressmember, Ellen Tauscher, was recently tapped to serve as President Obama's State Department as undersecretary for arms control and international security. After a long delay, she received Senate confirmation on June 25.

Once Tauscher officially resigns her seat, the Governor has 14 days to call a special election within a window of 112-126 days from the date of his announcement (most likely early to mid-November.) The primary will be set 56 days earlier.

"The California Conference of Machinists will support State Senator Mark DeSaulnier for the position," says Conference Director Tom Brandon. "We're taking our lead from the Locals in the area, and they believe that DeSaulnier has been a strong union advocate for years, as a county supervisor, in the Assembly and now in the Senate. Many good candidates have shown an interest in running, but he'd be an excellent choice."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We'll be glad to print "Letters" when we get them, but none were received this edition. If something in *The Sparkplug* makes you happy or mad or inspires you to action, write us a letter. All letters will be used, space permitting. They may be edited for length or grammar, but not for content.

Letters may be submitted as follows:  
e-mail: [dchaplan@mindspring.com](mailto:dchaplan@mindspring.com)  
fax: 510-288-1346  
mail: IAM District 190, 7717 Oakport Drive, Oakland, CA 94621

Guiding principles for health care reform

Health care reform is currently being debated in Congress. Following are some key principles that unions are adopting to ensure that any reforms truly address and solve the crisis.

By Richard Kirsch  
National Campaign Director of Health Care for America Now

Every 30 seconds, a hard-working American declares bankruptcy because he or she can't pay medical bills. More than 75 percent of the time, that person has health insurance.

Health insurance premiums have risen more than 1,000 percent since the insurance industry promised they would take care of us after they killed health care reform in 1993. Our wages, meanwhile, have only risen a small fraction of that, putting an impossible squeeze on working families everywhere.

Business has been feeling the pinch, as well. Health care costs

threaten to overwhelm profits, and as a result, some businesses have decided to drop or scale back health care benefits, leaving employees at the mercy of insurance companies on the individual market. Health care benefits have become key sticking points in negotiations between unions and business.

It's not hard to see that these rising health care costs are unsustainable and threaten to bring down not only our federal budget or individual families, but also our entire economy.

Health Care for America Now has developed four principles for real reform: choice, regulation, affordability and equality.

**Choice:** We will all have the

choice to keep the health insurance plan (and doctor) we have if we want, or choose a public health insurance option if we want. This protects us from being at the mercy of private insurance, as we have been for so long, and forces private insurance to compete, driving down costs for everyone.

**Regulation:** All insurance plans will be regulated, so they can no longer deny care for pre-existing conditions or engage in other bad practices, to make sure coverage is available to everyone. Insurance plans also will be required to offer a standard, comprehensive level of benefit to make sure we are getting what we pay for when we purchase

health insurance.

**Affordability:** Government, business and individuals will share responsibility for providing health insurance. Individuals will contribute based on their ability to pay, ensuring that insurance is affordable for all.

**Equality:** Provisions are needed to ensure that all of our communities, especially underserved communities, have equal access to health care that meets their needs.

Now is the time to pass these reforms, to give all of us the care we need and to bring down costs so health care doesn't overwhelm our personal bank accounts or our entire economy.

For more information about the campaign, go to: [www.healthcare09.org](http://www.healthcare09.org)





Local 93

Catching some bounty

Business Rep Sammy Saiu announces the return of the organizing "Bounty Program." Members who provide organizing leads may win cash rewards ranging from \$25 up to \$1,000, depending on the size of the unit and the final outcome of the campaign. "If you know anybody who shows serious interest in getting union representation, give me their name and number so I can talk to them and follow-up," Saiu added.

Local 653

Welcome new members

Four employees at UPS Freight in Fresno voted to be represented by Local Lodge 653. Congratulations and welcome!

Busy keeping busy

Business Rep Tom Rotella reports that he will be very busy for the next several months in negotiations with Saturn of Fresno, Calaveras Materials, Fresno Chrysler, Hedrick's Collision, Freedom Ford and Elliot Manufacturing. "With the state of the economy we are doing everything we can to keep our members working," Rotella said.

Local 1101

Techs want a union

The five techs at Sunnyvale Hyundai decided they wanted union representation so they contacted Local 1101. Business Rep Richard Breckenridge responded and an organizing drive is under way, with the election scheduled for June 30.

"They all signed the organizing petition in mid-May and they seem to be holding strong," said Breckenridge. "The tech's initial concern was that the owner also leases a car lot in San Jose that doesn't currently have any techs, and they wanted some protection so he wouldn't bring in a new non-union crew. Amazingly, the company stipulated that both lots would

be covered. We're working with them and are optimistic."

DC Labor Board sends case back to judge

Back in 2007, the techs at Stevens Creek Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep decided they wanted union representation and they launched an organizing drive. The campaign started out strong, but fizzled when a union supporter was fired and the company committed numerous unfair labor practices.

Local 1101 filed charges with the Labor Board and eventually took the case to court. While the judge agreed that the company violated the law, instead of ordering that bargaining commence or a new election be held, he merely mandated the dealership to put up a poster.

The union appealed, and in June, the Labor Board in Washington, D.C. sent the case back to the judge with strict instructions that he review *all* of the evidence. Apparently, the Labor Board found additional unfair labor practices, and felt that the judge did not carefully look at the circumstances in which the employee had been fired.

"It's cool that the Labor Board did something right, for a change," said Breckenridge. "Hopefully, the judge will do the right thing this time."

Body Shop blues

Breckenridge reports that contract negotiations are open and ugly at the Sunnyvale Body Shop and the Cupertino Body Shop wants concessions. "This economy is hurting us all," he said.

Local 1414

No new news

Members who worked at Grace Honda went on strike last September and the strike is still ongoing. Area Director Tom Brandon reports that the union finally met with the owner after pushing for a meeting for more than six months, but no headway was made.

Bad news at SF Chronicle

Due to a severe reduction of advertising revenue and readership, the newspaper industry is in the same desperate straits as the auto industry. The industry is replying in numerous ways. The *San Francisco Chronicle* chose to outsource their printing and mailing facilities to a high-tech facility in Fremont called Transcontinental.

While the *Chronicle* claims that they gave the unionized crew an opportunity to apply for positions at the new company, apparently none have been hired. Several hundred members of Teamsters Local 853, which represents the mailers and drivers, began a picket on June 18 and are filing discrimination charges.

Twenty Machinist members have been laid off by the paper.

Keep the oil burning

The members at Ray Oil Burner in Richmond agreed to a one-year contract extension. "At this point, the owner only has one client, so if things are slow with that client, he lays the guys off for a while. Hopefully, we can keep going and things will turn around," said Business Rep Chris Rasmussen.

Local 1584

Contracts ahead

The members who work at General Chemical in Richmond just ratified a new three-year agreement. "For today

Local 1546

Steve Randall comes from a union family. "My whole family drove trucks. In fact, my grandfather was one of the first Teamster Local 70 members—he drove horse-drawn carts." Randall has always believed that belonging to the union enabled his family to have a decent living and secure family life. "I inherited the legacy."

Steve joined the IAM in 1974 and completed his apprenticeship at Central Chevrolet, where he worked for many years. Occasionally, during economic downturns, he found himself at non-union shops, but he says he always came back to union shops when he got the opportunity.

A year ago, he got that chance again—this time to work as the working foreman at the Melrose Body Shop in Oakland. "Basically even though the owner closed the dealership, he didn't want to close the shop, due to the unfunded pension liability. So he's given me a chance to rebuild the business," Randall explains. "And I'm glad to do it. If we can make this business a go, then I'll be in a position to bring more union members back to work."

Randall is now marketing, selling and working on cars. "We have some good accounts, but I'm working to get more. I really see the potential here, but this place hasn't been updated in 20 years, so we're playing catch-up." Randall works with a team of three—another painter/tech and the office manager/administrator. "We all do everything around here," he explains.

If you have a choice to make  
Member works to re

A quick google search shows body shops in the same area. Melrose Body Shop. The owner is non-union. "I'm trying to pull myself from the crowd. Spiffing



Steve Randall outside Melrose Body Shop, on International Blvd. in Oakland

SHOP TALK: Have you been impacted by the economic stimulus or the green economy?



Mike Carlton  
Cargill Salt  
Local 1584

"No—so far the country has gotten worse. I haven't seen the green do any good—yet, but I'm sure that in the long run, it'll be good."



Andrea Gorman  
Retired  
Local 1584

"The stimulus package helped several people I know. It was good timing and they were able to put it to good use. One person bought a washing machine so they wouldn't have to go to the laundromat any more."



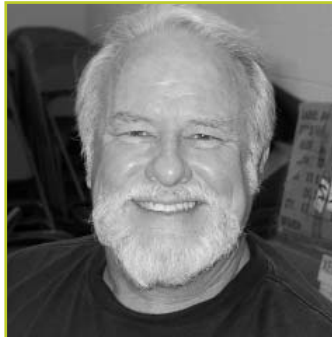
William Perreira  
Winters Chevrolet  
Local 1173

"I'm trying to get solar for my cabin in West Point, but I'm also off the grid, so I don't really have a choice. All my garden lighting is solar."



Daniel Borrero  
Retired  
Local 1584

"The green economy's an illusion. I can't see the stimulus package benefiting the people. It wasn't enough money and it's only temporary. If it had stimulated anything, we'd be off and running by now."



Steve Strom  
Retired  
Local 1173

"Now that I'm retired and home, I keep the air conditioning way down when it gets hot, I'm trying to get an electric lawn mower, and am driving less. I owe it all to having a good pension."



# THE LOCALS



economy, it wasn't bad," says Business Rep Chris Rasmussen. They got a 2% wage increase with a \$250 signing bonus in year one, and 2.5% increases for years two and three. Other than getting a \$10 increase in their safety shoe allowance, up to \$250/year, there were no other contract changes.

Rasmussen wanted to acknowledge and thank the members who worked as observers to the negotiations: Jon Becker, Jack Casarez, Jeff Armstrong, and Chuck Sheets.

Over at Continental Machine in Oakland, the members agreed to an 8-month extension under the old contract. This is a little shop," Rasmussen explained. "If things pick up, we'll go back to the table and look for some

increases. If not, we'll see where we go from there."

And the 22 people still working at ING/Niles Machine Shop in Livermore accepted a one-year agreement. "This company has already gone through massive layoffs," Rasmussen said. "We did a one-year agreement because of the economics, but nobody's happy with this deal. Everyone will keep their premium pay, but they'll be paying more for their health and welfare. I didn't want to talk about this one, but it's what's going on with the economy."

## Local 1596

### More contracts ahead

The 17 members at Bayshore Inter-

national in Rohnert Park agreed to a one-year deal that didn't include any increases.

The 33 members at Stero Company in Petaluma accepted got a new three year contract by a vote of 22-8. Nobody's thrilled with it.

Over at KVAL, Inc. in Petaluma, layoffs have left just ten members. A new contract is still pending.

The members at Donal have turned down three contracts, and at press time, voted to approve the fourth. "Each version of the contract has gotten a little bit better. Finally, number four was the magic number," said Area Director Tom Brandon. "The agreement will go through April 2011."

The union is getting ready to go into negotiations with Clover Stornetta Farms, also in Petaluma. "Now that the Teamsters are settled, we should be able to get a decent deal," Brandon added.

## Local 2005

### Even the chicken industry is slow

While Local 2005 members who work at Foster Farms haven't yet had to suffer layoffs, their hours have been getting cut. "Members who were used to working six days a week are now working five days a week with shorter hours," says Business Rep Ralph Meraz.

"Our problems stem from our economic condition," he explains. "The company is making many economic adjustments that affect employees financially. This includes cutting overtime, shortening work days, and utilizing more work weeks as allowed by our collective bargaining agreement. Some employees are taking home 25% less than their previous earning levels."

Meraz does report that the union's relationship with management continues to improve. "I'd say we're finally operating at a normal level."

Because union membership is not mandated for Foster Farms workers, the union is constantly running a membership drive to gain new members and

maintain their membership numbers. This effort is made all the more difficult due to a high turnover rate at the company, and members moving to other industries in an effort to make ends meet.

"We encourage our members to do all they can to keep their jobs, which often means keeping their composure when they have a problem at their job. We strongly urge members always to seek representation in any work dispute. These are dire times and the last thing our members need is to lose their jobs. They know we are here to help and fight for their rights," Meraz emphasizes.

## Multple Locals

### Getting a deal at UPS

The talks at UPS were moving ahead well, and when Area Director for Local 2182 Mark Martin and DBR Jim Beno were planning to attend the national talks in June in Fort Lauderdale, they were optimistic. That optimism has paidoff. The two have just returned to California with a tentative agreement in hand.

"We're in the process of setting up regional ratification meetings, as we've done before," said Beno. "We'll have an Oakland meeting for Locals 1546 and 1173, a San Jose meeting for Locals 1414, 1101 and 93. We'll have a Valley meeting for Locals 2182, 1528 and 653, and a Reno meeting for Local 801 members."

Beno encourages UPS members to pay attention to their business reps to find out the meeting dates. "It's important for members to attend so they can review the changes in the contract and ask their questions." The contract expires at the end of July.

is always better to choose union.

## Build a good union business

turned up more than 30 at Oakland zip code as a majority of these are like this place stand out up and making sure we



have good equipment is a good start, but it would also help if people knew that we're a union shop and they come here because of it," Randall says. "Unions provide the best training. You might be able to get the job done cheaper somewhere else, but if you want it done right, come here."

Randall explains that he was brought up to know that you should only patronize union shops, and look for the union bug, but today, that's much harder to do. He was recently inspired to try to find ways for unions to cross promote the services their members provide when shopping for a new roof. "My wife collected estimates from several companies, but only one had on its brochure 'We're union. All of our employees have worked here for at least 15 years.' That's the company I went with. If you have a choice to make, it's always better to choose union."

"If we're going to be the best paid, then we need to be the best. I think we are, but sometimes it means that we need to police ourselves to make sure we don't slack off. We bring skill and knoweldge and hopefully every union member is someone who works as hard at the business as if it were their own."

"I don't know how it's going to turn out, but I'll know that I did everything in my power to make it happen," he says wistfully.

## the economy yet?



Scott Smith  
Moore Buick-Pontiac-GMC  
Local 1101

"The auto bailout has impacted my life because I work for a GM dealership. Some call it Government Motors now, so thank you for paying your taxes!"



Dennis Doyle  
Winter Honda  
Local 1173

"I can't say that it's affected me one way or the other, yet."



Al Andersen  
Sunnyvale VW  
Local 1101

"Sad but true—I can't think of any way it's helped yet or affected us."



Mark Reville  
Xtrada Recycling  
Local 1101

"I work for a recycling place; we recycle electronic scrap. Business was great until two weeks ago when it suddenly slowed down."



Robert Campbell  
Retired  
Local 2182

"Not me. In Sacramento, they're using the money for their own benefit, not to help the people."



## IN THE NEWS

### Big Lies About Health Care Reform

by Mike Hall, AFL-CIO Blog

In May, a fake group, Americans for Prosperity (AFP) launched a \$1.7 million TV ad campaign claiming we may all die if Obama's health care reform proposals are enacted. Their goal is to kill the public health insurance plan option that's a key part of President Obama's health care reform initiative.

The ads conjure up the boogey-man of a "government-run" health care system where patients will die as their cancerous tumors grow to fatal stages while they wait months to receive care. Scary stuff. Phony, but meant to scare us all.

A public health plan option has won the endorsement of major health care groups and many senators and representatives and is a key component of the AFL-CIO's health care reform principles.

It would provide workers who have private insurance and those without insurance a choice in coverage: Stay with their private plan or choose the public plan option. It would also provide some competition for an industry that has secured a near-monopoly of the market and recorded record profits, while we are paying more for less care.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that another group, Conservatives for Patients' Rights, is buying air time for a 30-minute Sunday morning infomercial featuring "horror stories" about the Canadian and British health care systems and warning the U.S. government is about to take over health care here.

Like AFP's campaign, that message doesn't even have a nodding acquaintance with the truth. But a key Republican strategist says the truth doesn't matter when it comes to fighting health care reform.

In an interview with *The New York Times*, conservative pollster Frank Luntz admitted that he would



continue raising the false specter of a "Washington takeover" of health care—whether or not that was Obama's actual proposal. "I'm not a policy person. I'm a language person," Luntz said.

The truth may set you free, but a big lie just might protect Big Health Insurance Companies' big profits.

### California Labor Commissioner Files Suit to Close 9 Carwash Operations

by Mike Hall, AFL-CIO Blog

The fight for justice, fair wages and safe working conditions for Southern California's carwash workers—carwasheros—received a boost June 2 when the California Labor Commissioner filed a lawsuit to close nine carwashes operating illegally.

Henry Huerta, director of the CLEAN Carwash Campaign, explained that two of the carwashes targeted in the lawsuit, Auto Spa Express and Melrose Car Wash, have been cited for numerous violations, including failure to register with the state as the Carwash Worker law requires, failure to pay minimum wage and overtime, child labor

violations and hazardous workplace conditions.

At Auto Spa Express, the carwash management also fired workers who supported efforts to organize a union with Carwash Workers Organizing Committee/United Steelworkers (CWOC/USW) and "blew the whistle" on health and safety hazards and wage violations at their workplace.

Meanwhile in Sacramento, the Carwash Worker law, set to expire at the end of the year, goes to the state Senate's Industrial Relations Committee, now that the Assembly has approved its reauthorization.

California leads the nation in the number of carwash operations. Carwash workers routinely work between 50 and 60 hours a week and average \$12,500 a year, with no benefits.

### Tell Bill O'Reilly to Buy USA-Made T-Shirts for His Patriot Store

by Tula Connell, AFL-CIO Blog and Firedoglake Blog

We heard Bill O'Reilly is having trouble finding American-made T-shirts to sell in his Patriot Store. We know he's heartbroken because,

after all, what good is a Patriot Store if its products are made in El Salvador or Haiti? (Especially if you're selling red, white and blue "American Patriot" T-shirts.)

We heard he can't find made-in-the-USA T-shirts because O'Reilly said so himself. In his "Mailbag" segment on May 22, O'Reilly took the following question from Stewart Hollins in Rio Rancho, NM: "Mr. O, great looking mugs. Terrific bold and fresh shirts. Where are the items made?"

And O'Reilly responded: "Mugs are made in the USA, Stewart. The shirts in Central America. We cannot get the volume of shirts we need made in America, sadly."

Actually, Bill, you can. And not only American-made, but union made. And there's nothing more patriotic than buying the products made by the heart of America's working middle class.

A spokeswoman from Image Pointe, based in Waterloo, Iowa, says the company has 40,000 T-shirts on hand, and another 200,000 easily accessible from their vendor. That's on hand, instant delivery. After that, the company can churn out 10,000 T-shirts a day. The shirts are made in places like Chicago, Pennsylvania, the Carolinas and San Francisco. That is, made in the USA. And all made by union members.

Not enough T-shirts there for you, Bill?

You can always supplement orders with K&R Industries in Chantilly, Va., where a spokeswoman says the company could provide any amount of American-made, union-made T-shirts needed. Just give them a heads up.

In the off-chance Bill O isn't a reader of the AFL-CIO Now blog, how about sending him a message and telling him his Patriot Store should carry American-made products? If he's a real patriot, he'll be happy you did.

## SHOP TALK: What about the economic stimulus/green economy?



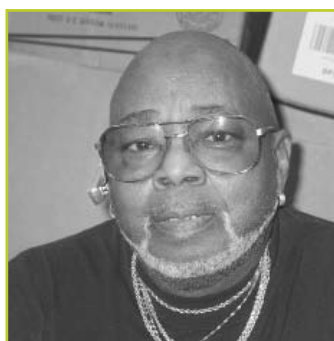
Michael Woitte  
Burke Industries  
Local 93

"To be truthful, no, I haven't really seen any impact. I live in the hills, so I have my own water."



George Campbell  
Retired  
Local 2182

"I don't know. I haven't seen anything that's helped."



Fred Shackelfoot  
Retired  
Local 93

"No. I don't think I've seen any impact yet."



Catherine Litel  
International Paper  
Local 1528

"No—so far, I haven't seen any impact. Our company is going more toward recycled products, so I know it'll get to us soon."



Bill Senter  
Northrup Grumman  
Local 93

"I don't see any impact from either one of them in our area."



UNION NOTICES



25th Annual  
Michael J. Day Memorial  
Guide Dogs of America  
Charity Golf Tournament

Friday, August 28, 2009

Alameda Municipal Golf Course

1 Club House Memorial Drive, Alameda (South Course)  
Sign-In: 9:00 a.m. • Shotgun Start: 11:00 a.m.

Francesco’s Restaurant

Pardee & Hegenberger, Oakland  
No-Host Cocktail Party: 4:30 p.m. Dinner: 5:30 p.m.  
Entry Fee: \$300 per person/  
\$1,200 foursome  
Includes: Greens fee, golf balls, tee prizes, awards dinner

Celebrate the silver anniversary of one of the  
nation’s longest running union charity tournaments!

Official Notice  
Local 93 Members

Bylaws Amendments

The first reading to amend the Local Lodge 93 By-Laws will be held at the regular meeting of the Local Lodge, on July 14 at the union office. The second reading and vote will be held at the August 11 meeting of the Local Lodge at the union office.  
Amendments are needed to reflect the change from being an unaffiliated Local Lodge to being an affiliate of Automotive Trades District Lodge 190, to benchmark the 2009 monthly dues rates, and to insure compliance with changes to the IAM Constitution.

Time to update your tool inventory

As the economy takes a nose-dive, several members have reported that their tool supply is diminishing. “When there’s a downturn, thefts go up,” explained DBR Jim Beno. While our union contracts and state law both call for full insurance protection for stolen tools, insurance companies will only reimburse for tools that were itemized on an inventory.  
In accordance with most union contracts, a primary requirement is that each member submit a complete and updated inventory to their employer. “We recently had a grievance over a guy who got tools

stolen and didn’t have an inventory list. He knew what was missing, but couldn’t prove it. We couldn’t do anything for him.”  
Check your inventory and make sure it’s up to date. If you’ve bought new tools, make sure that your inventory is regularly updated. Contact your business rep for blank inventory forms. It’s a good idea to photograph your tool box, and the contents of each drawer, but be aware that photos are **not** a substitute for the written inventory list. Keep a copy at home in a safe place and give a copy to your employer.

Official Notice  
Local 1528 Members

Official notice of nominations and election of Local  
1528 delegates to the Stanislaus and  
San Joaquin Central Labor Councils

At our regular meeting on Wednesday August 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., nominations will be taken for the position of Delegate to the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Central Labor Councils.  
Election of delegates will be held at the first regular meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2009. Polls will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
The following election regulations will be observed:  
**Absentee Ballots:** Members who reside in outlying district more than 25 miles from the balloting place, members who are ill and confined under orders of a physician, and members temporarily absent from the city, may be furnished absentee ballots. Any member entitled to receive an absentee ballot shall make written request to the Recording Secretary of Local Lodge 1528 by delivering or mailing such request not later than ten (10) days before the election.  
**Qualification to become a candidate for election:** In accordance with Local Lodge By-laws Article H Section 1 (b), to be eligible a member shall attend at least six (6) of the regular local lodge meetings held during a twelve (12) month period ending the date of close of nominations.  
**Qualifications to vote:** Only members of the Local Lodge who are in good standing and free from delinquency of any nature shall be allowed to vote.

SHOP TALK: What about the economic stimulus/green economy?



Vern Streeter  
Roland J. Lobaugh Inc.  
Local 1414

“No. I’m in manufacturing and it’s horrible. Very little has gotten to the shop floor where the work is getting done. Maybe the CEOs are getting something, but there’s nothing trickling down.”



George Hobbs  
Retired  
Local 2182

“I just tighten my belt here and there, like everybody else. Fortunately, I’m retired and the house is paid for. I maintain well.”



Dave Baumann  
Murray’s Truck & Auto  
Local 1414

“I work for an independent shop. The commercial work we do has slowed down with the economy. Our commercial clients are laying off people, so there’s less work for us. It doesn’t seem like we’re any better off with the stimulus package.”



Joe Coy  
Retired  
Local 1546

“The economy has affected us all, drastically, but I haven’t seen much from the stimulus package. Out in San Joaquin County, we’re already at 14% unemployment and more layoffs are coming—especially in the schools.”



Affordable health care for kids

**Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan** is an affordable health plan that may be right for your children. You can give your children the health care they need for just \$8 or \$15 per child, per month, for up to three children, depending on your family size and income.

*Can your child join?*  
Your child can join Child Health Plan if he or she:

- Is under 19 years of age (birth through age 18) and is not currently insured.
- Is **not** eligible for government health care coverage, such as Medi-Cal, California Children’s Services (CCS) or Healthy Families.
- Does **not** have health care coverage that is paid for, in any part, by an employer.
- Is in a family within our income guidelines. See the Eligibility Guidelines flyer for more details.

For more information contact your local union for an enrollment packet.

ATPA

ASSOCIATED  
THIRD  
PARTY  
ADMINISTRATORS

ATPA is the  
administrator for the  
Automotive Industries  
Health & Welfare and Pension Trust  
Funds.

Contact us at 510-836-2484

Moving?  
Or to report a member recently deceased...

Send the mailing label on this newspaper to your local union office.  
See Calendar on page 8 for your local union’s address.

UNION MEETINGS		
<div>District Lodge 190</div> <div>7717 Oakport Street Oakland, CA 94621 510-632-3661</div>	<div>Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month June 23 • July 28 • August 25</div> <div>Executive Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m. General Delegates’ Meeting: 7:00 p.m.</div>	<div>Local 1484</div> <div>1261 Avalon Blvd. Wilmington, CA 90744 310-835-6688</div> <div>Executive Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month June 18 • July 16 • August 20 General Membership Meeting: 6:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month June 2 • July 7 • August 4 Retirees’ Club: 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month: June 17 • July 15 • August 19</div>
<div>Local 93</div> <div>2102 Almaden Rd., #105 San Jose, CA 95125 408-723-4900</div> <div>Note: Office hours are now 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office remains open during lunch.</div>	<div>Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month June 9 • July 14 • August 11</div> <div>Grievance Committee: 4:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting: 5:00 p.m. Membership Meeting: 5:30 p.m.</div>	<div>Local 1528</div> <div>713 16th Street Modesto, CA 95354 209-529-9210</div> <div>Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month June 3 • July 1 • August 5 Executive Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Women’s Committee Meeting: Please contact local 1528 for times and dates of monthly meetings Retiree’s Club: 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month: June 17 • July 15 • August 19 Narcotics Anonymous: 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Tuesday</div>
<div>Local 653</div> <div>544 West Olive, Fresno, CA 93728 559-264-2815</div>	<div>Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month June 17 • July 15 • August 19</div> <div>Executive Board Meeting: 5:00 p.m. Membership Meeting: 5:30 p.m.</div>	<div>Local 1546</div> <div>10260 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94605 510-638-6705</div> <div>Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month June 2 • July 7 • August 4 General Membership Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Member Education Meeting: 5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m. on the Thursday preceding membership meeting July 2 • July 30 • August 27 Retiree Club Pot Luck Luncheon: 12 noon on the first Wednesday of each month June 3 • July 1 • August 5 Alcoholics Anonymous: 9 a.m. every Saturday</div>
<div>Local 801</div> <div>7717 Oakport Street, Oakland, CA 94621 800-655-2182</div>	<div>Meetings are the third Thursday of the month June 18 • July 16 • August 20</div> <div>Membership Meeting: 4:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Carpenters’ Hall, in Reno.</div>	<div>Local 1584</div> <div>8130 Baldwin Street Oakland, CA 94621 510-635-2064</div> <div>Meetings are the third Thursday of the month June 18 • July 16 • August 20 Membership Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m. Retirees’ Club: 12:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month: June 2 • July 7 • August 4</div>
<div>Local 1101</div> <div>2102 Almaden Rd., #105 San Jose, CA 95125 408-723-4900</div> <div>Note: Office hours are now 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office remains open during lunch.</div>	<div>Meetings are the second Thursday of the month June 11 • July 9 • August 13</div> <div>Executive Board Meeting: 5:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting: 6:30 p.m.</div>	<div>Local 1596</div> <div>4210 Petaluma Blvd. No. Petaluma, CA 94952 707-795-0085</div> <div>Meetings are the third Tuesday of the month June 16 • July 21 • August 18 Executive Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Membership Meeting: 7:00 p.m.</div>
<div>Local 1173</div> <div>1900 Bates Ave., # H Concord, CA 94520 925-687-6421</div>	<div>Executive Board Meeting: 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month June 11 • July 9 • August 13 Membership/Shop Stewards’ Meeting: 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month June 18 • July 16 • August 20</div>	<div>Local 2005</div> <div>416 Main Street Livingston, CA 95334 209-394-7822</div> <div>Meetings are held last Sunday of the month at the Veterans Memorial Hall: 1605 7th Street, Livingston, CA 95334. June 28 • July 26 • August 30 • Spanish @ 1:00 p.m. • English &amp; Punjabi @ 2:00 p.m.</div>
<div>Local 1414</div> <div>150 South Blvd. San Mateo, CA 94402 650-341-2689</div>	<div>Shop Stewards’ Meeting: 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month June 4 • July 2 • August 6 Executive Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month June 11 • July 9 • August 13 General Membership Meeting: 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month June 18 • July 16 • August 20 Retirees’ Club: 11:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of March, June, Sept., Dec. All are welcome! June 3 • September 2 • December 2</div>	<div>Local 2182</div> <div>967 Venture Court, Sacramento, CA 95825 800-458-9200</div> <div>Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month June 9 • July 14 • August 11 Executive Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Retirees’ Club - VISTA CLUB: 11:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month June 17 • July 15 • August 19</div>