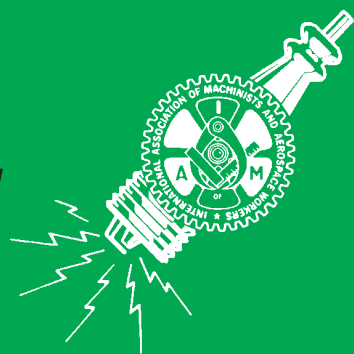


# The IAM District 190 Sparkplug



VOL. II NO. 6



December 2009/January 2010

Serving the Active and Retired Members of IAM District Lodge 190

## Labor's economic recovery agenda focuses on green job creation

The solution to California's unprecedented economic crisis can be summed up in three words: jobs, jobs, jobs. That was the message this week in Sacramento as hundreds of union members, leaders and national experts came together in Sacramento on December 2 for the first-of-its-kind Economic Recovery Summit. Their goal—to develop a new plan to rebuild California's economy, reinvigorate job growth, restore vital services and revive the middle class.

"It's time we prioritized investment in putting California back to work," said California Labor Federation Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski as he opened the day-long summit. "Each day we delay, families suffer, businesses close and our future as a state dims."

The summit focused on the enormous opportunities offered by emerging industries like green energy. "With the right vision, we can address climate change and energy independence in a way that creates new jobs today and builds new industries tomorrow," said U.C. Berkeley professor and labor expert Harley Shaiken.

With unemployment in California hitting a post-World War II record of 12.5 percent, summit participants said the state must act immediately to address the growing crisis. Currently, there's one job opening for every seven unemployed people, and approximately 22 percent of those who are working are considered "underemployed"—working part-time or with numerous furlough days.

### Labor proposes Economic Recovery Agenda

At the summit, California labor leaders unveiled a new five-point Economic Recovery

Agenda, highlighting areas that need to be addressed in order to get California's economy and workforce back on track:

**1 Rebuilding California's crumbling infrastructure**, which has been sorely neglected and is deteriorating due to severe budget cuts. Investing in projects like building a high-speed rail, retrofitting and weatherizing public buildings, creating a maritime highway, and expanding broadband access will create sustainable, year-round jobs, advance the public interest, and attract new businesses to California.

**2 Investing in a 21st century workforce**, which will provide businesses and government with a trained and skilled workforce ready to embrace the jobs of the future, while also providing today's workers with skills, good wages and benefits to grow and prosper tomorrow.

**3 Enacting a Middle Class Bill of Rights**, calling on the state to provide adequate funding for public safety, education, health-care and other vital services families depend on. A Middle Class Bill of Rights also demands that big corporations pay their fair share to ensure the revenue is available to provide the services that families need.

**4 Repairing the state's safety net**, which provides essential services to workers who have been laid off, injured or disabled, along with seniors, children and other vulnerable Californians.

**5 Developing and implementing a strong economic vision** for a sustainable economy that's based on rebuilding our middle class through good jobs and a voice at work. In addition to shoring up traditional sectors, California needs

to attract new and diverse enterprises, those that capitalize on the 21st century economy and new, green technologies.

Speakers at the summit focused not only on the urgency of solving California's jobs crisis, but also on union participation in green and other emerging industries.

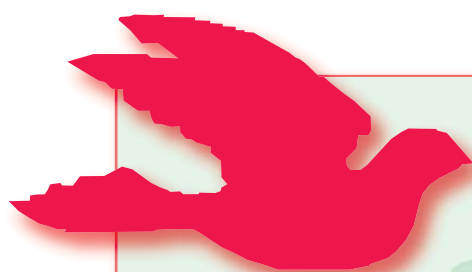
"California has been an innovative leader in investing green energy, but there's still a lot more that needs to be done," explained Elena Foshay of the Apollo Alliance. "By building green career pathways, we can ensure all Californians have the basic skills they need to enter the workforce, along with access to the necessary training to prepare them for new, clean energy jobs."

According to Greg LeRoy, Executive Director of Good Jobs First, green jobs aren't always good jobs, but unionization is a strong indicator of a good, green job. "To ensure that the future green jobs will benefit both workers and the economy, we need to restore workers' rights to form and join unions by passing the Employee Free Choice Act."

The summit was held the day before President Obama called a White House forum on job creation, that brought together economists, labor and business leaders to address the jobs crisis.

In an editorial to the *San Francisco Chronicle* on the day of the national forum, IAM President Tom Buffenbarger proposed an innovative idea President Obama should consider: "Hire the unemployed to renovate and reinvigorate America's industrial infrastructure."

Buffenbarger suggested that the President add three words to his iconic campaign slogan: 'Yes, we can—make it here.' It's a clarion call to action."



To all the active, retired & future members of the IAM

# Happy Holidays!

¡Felices Fiestas!

Feriados Felizes!

Bonnes Fêtes!

节日快乐

ਉਵਾਹ ਸਭਿਲ ਦਿ ਮੁਬਰਕਿਕ

From the officers and staff of District Lodge 190





# CELEBRATING AUTOMOTIVE CAREERS

**Apprentices complete training; proudly become journeyman mechanics**



The 2009 class of automotive apprentices from Locals 1173, 1546 and 1414 had their completion ceremony at Francesco's in Oakland on October 17. The class included seven automotive mechanics, seven heavy-duty mechanics, one maintenance mechanic and two auto-body and fender repairmen. Pictured above are most of the new journeymen, as well as instructors and members of the Joint Apprenticeship Committee. Congratulations one and all!

**Making the apprenticeship program hum**



For 62 years, the Auto Repair Trades Joint Apprenticeship Committee has brought together labor, management, community colleges and the State of California to offer three and four-year training and work experience programs in the many aspects of auto and truck repair. A reunion, of sorts, took place at this year's apprenticeship completion dinner with the attendance of staff and coordinators of the program over the last 30 years. (LtoR) Bob Pelleteire, Kathy Kennedy; Jon Fowkes; Karl Cortese, and Julie Quayle.

**Celebrating two retirements**




Two long-time Local 1546 members who had worked at Jim Doten Honda celebrated at a joint retirement party on October 23 at the Local 1546 Union Hall. Service writer Bill Mixsell started at Doten in 1984 as an Oldsmobile mechanic. Shop steward Nat Courtney began selling cars in 1974 and became a tech on the then-new Honda brand. Both played a major role in the 11-month strike when Doten was sold in 2005 and the new owners tried to bust the union. The event brought together many former co-workers who hadn't been heard from in some time, along with good friends and Berkeley community activists Harry Brill and Judy Shelton. The infamous inflatable rat was also in attendance. Everyone at the party took turns recalling funny stories that occurred while they worked at Jim Doten Honda. Congratulations to Bill and Nat!

### District 190 officers elected

Congratulations to the officers of District Lodge 190 who won election without opposition on at the District Delegates meeting on November 24, 2009. Their four-year terms run from January 2010-December 2013.

Directing Business Representative .....	James Beno
President .....	Joe Coy
Vice President.....	Ken Stoner
Secretary-Treasurer .....	William Schechter
Trustees .....	Susan Drost • David Baumann • Tom Myers



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I'd like to reply to a letter published in the last *Sparkplug* by Mr. Pete Sanchez. Do I understand you right that you believe Fox news is giving you the true picture of the health-care issue? You state that you have been a union member and leader for 30 years and have fought many battles defending unions. Then how can you not understand that Fox news is against unions; it is the voice of the extreme right; and its news is manipulated to fit those right-wing views.

For example, at a recent book signing by Mrs. Palin, the large crowd shown on Fox News was not from the book event; Fox news chose to show a crowd from last year's presidential race and claim it was now. You may know that Fox news' owner, Rupert Murdoch, has stated that the biggest enemy of the United States is organized labor.

Brothers and sisters, do not get brainwashed by the right-wing rhetoric on Fox news or on Limbaugh, Beck, Riley, and Savage. All they preach is hate and division.

*M. Pulchreiter, Retired*

If something in *The Sparkplug* makes you happy or mad or inspires you to action, write us a letter and we'll print it, space permitting. (Letters may be edited for length or grammar, but not for content.)


Letters may be submitted as follows:

**e-mail:** dchaplan@mindspring.com    **fax:** 510-288-1346


**mail:** IAM District 190, 7717 Oakport Drive, Oakland, CA 94621

The IAM District 190

# Sparkplug



Debra Chaplan,  
Managing Editor



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## ABOUT A SHOP

### Fixing the motors that power the San Francisco cable cars is an all-night adventure



Muni mechanics James Shi (13 years), Larry Lou (25 years) and Robert Fry (20 years)



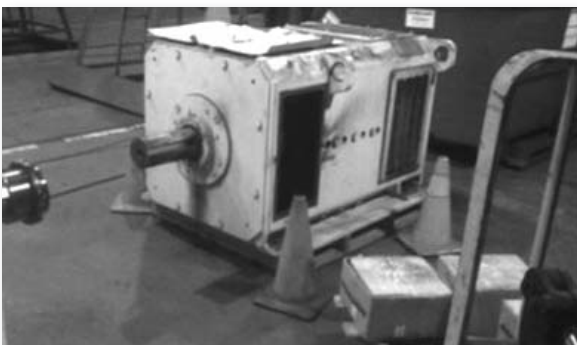
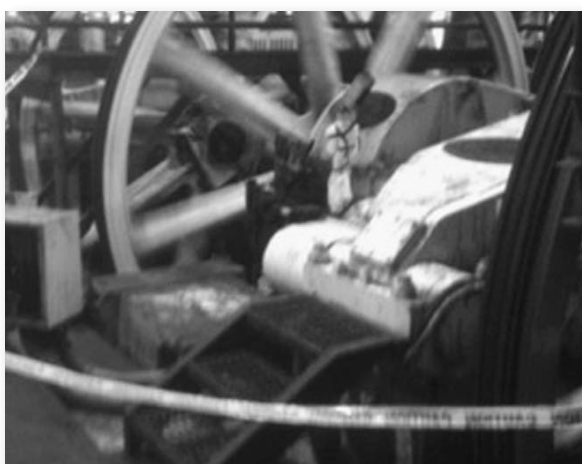
Ever wonder what happens when cable car motors break down? It takes several skilled Muni mechanics working all night to repair the motors that power San Francisco's cable cars. These long-time members of Local 1414 must learn the ins and outs of the unique 8000 pound, 13 KV, 550 horsepower electric motors well so they can make the repairs quickly.

They have to. When one motor needs repair or maintenance, the whole system has to shut down. And that process usually starts between midnight and 1:00 a.m. Moving the motor back into place once the work has been completed is a precision job.

When not fixing, maintaining and setting up the motors, these mechanics machine parts on the tracks, turntables and cable cars.



Muni Mechanics Mike Barr (35 years) and Joe Solecito (23 years)



## WORKERS COMP

### You still have the right to predesignate your doctor—do it!

One of the few pro-labor aspects of the massive legislative changes in workers' compensation championed by the then new Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2004 was the preservation of the right to pre-designate a treating doctor in advance of an industrial or work injury.

Other than this key provision, SB899, to a large extent, hammered workers. This bill that overhauled workers' comp greatly reduced partial permanent disability benefits, among other egregious cuts. In addition, the bill made substantial

changes in medical control of treatment—who treats and how—including the addition of a Utilization Review (UR) system, wherein doctors are on contract to, controlled by or even owned by the insurance carrier's review companies. Often, these doctors never see the injured worker and yet can say yea or nay to a recommended treatment.

The ability to pre-designate your doctor, which was available to all Machinists covered by a collective bargaining agreement, was due to sunset or go away as of December

31, 2009. Fortunately, Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord), Chair of the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee, sponsored, got passed, and got signed a bill that keeps this provision in effect. SB186 extends the right to pre-designate one's treating doctor to all members governed by a collective bargaining agreement where the employer provides non-industrial group coverage. That means all machinist members continue to have the right to pre-designate their treating doctor.

The right is meaningless unless used. If you haven't done it, add to your New Year's resolution list the task of completing the simple one page pre-designation form with your employer. If they claim not to have the form, contact your local for it. Keep a copy for your own records, and begin the New Year knowing that if you get hurt, you can receive treatment from the physician you choose. For additional information contact your local.



## AROUND

## Local 93

## Burke holds steady

Members working at Burke Industries in San Jose recently approved a one year Extension of Agreement freezing wages, but including a lump sum signing bonus to offset the standard health and welfare increases.

## In talks

Business Rep Sam Saiu reports that negotiations are taking place with Sam Linder Cadillac-Honda in Salinas and with the Chemical Lime Company's

Natividad plant. In the new year, negotiations are scheduled to begin with World Technical Services, Inc. for members who work at the Vandenberg Satellite Tracking Station.

## Local 801

## It's cold in here

United Parcel Service in Sparks, NV, implemented a lockdown on their shop and warehouse thermostats, keeping the shop locked at 55°, and the warehouse at 45° occupied and 40° unoccupied. "The problem is, unless packages are

moving, they consider the warehouse unoccupied," explained Area Director Mark Martin. "The real temperatures are between 7 and 10 degrees colder."

Martin said that the Local has filed a grievance and unfair labor practice charges. "This issue effects workers at all UPS shops, but remember, it started in Nevada."

## Local 1101

## Lots of open contracts

Business Rep Richard Breckenridge reports that several employers are using the tough economic conditions to try to slash hard-won employee benefits.

For example, Coast Counties Trucks is looking to achieve 15% wage cuts (5% per year for three years) and wants to take away some holidays. And Frontier Ford is looking to move to flat rate, which is hard on the techs if the work is slow.

Talks are continuing at Bayshore International for the several locations across District 190; the Silicon Valley Auto Group is working on a wage opener and the members at Sunnyvale Body Shop should be voting on their new contract by Christmas time.

## Facebook time

Local 1101 is now on Facebook. "Become a fan, and we'll initiate discussions about the automotive trades," Breckenridge says. Go to: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and do a quick search for IAMAW Local 1101.

## Local 1173

## Good contracts still possible

The 10 technicians who work at Valley Waste Management in Walnut Creek recently ratified a new contract "and, in these times, this is a good deal," says Area Director Mark Hollibush.

The five-year deal provides for a 75¢ raise each year of the agreement. The employer will reimburse the technicians for their prescription safety glasses and will distribute overtime by seniority.

The employer will also continue to cover the majority of the monthly

health and welfare costs. After a long battle, the bargaining committee successfully attained strict medical co-pay caps that will guarantee that the employee's share of the medical costs remain affordable until the contract expires in August, 2014.

## Local 1584

## Raises not fruit pits

The 22 Local 1584 members will maintain the fruit pitting machinery at Atlas Pacific in Modesto unanimously voted to ratify a new three-year contract.

"They'll be getting wage increases of 85¢/hour in year one, 40¢ in year two and 35¢ in year three; an increase in the pension contribution that will rise to \$3.05/hour by the third year; and an increase in the health and welfare cap to \$1,200/month, which should cover any cost increases," explained Business Rep Chris Rasmussen, who also wanted to acknowledge and thank the organizing committee: Tom Swanger, Tim Ebert, Joshua Roderick

## Local 1596

## Contracts go around

Area Director Tom Brandon reports that the members at Van Bebbler Brothers in Petaluma voted 11-4 to accept a new three-year contract. The company will pay the health and welfare costs but wages will be frozen in year one with wage reopeners in the following years.

Negotiations have begun with Genuine Motors in Novato, as the contract expires on December 31, 2009. Talks will begin soon at MGM Brakes.

And, the local settled a grievance with Petaluma Acquisitions on vacation accrual. "The company took away 44.25 hours instead of 1.27 hours over the allotment cap. We made it right," Brandon says.

## Local 2005

## More mechanics join up

As the year quickly comes to an end, Local 2005 is pleased to say that the campaign to sign up new members has

## Local 653

## Fresno employers do the right thing

Even with the economy as bad as it is, there are still good employers in Fresno who kept jobs waiting for two union brothers returning from Iraq. Local 653 Business Rep Tom Rotella was eager to give credit to a few employers who have done the right thing.

"I'm so proud of these guys putting it all on the line for us back here," said Tim Finegan, owner of Fresno Chrysler Jeep. "Holding Billy's spot is the right thing to do. I think it's wonderful what he's done, but crazy at the same time. Billy was one of the lucky ones; he made it home."

William (Billy) Scott, Body Shop Painter, said, "All too often, we heard news about the jobs crisis and the trouble with the big three; it's on our minds all the time. I did keep in contact by email with Tim and the company so knowing I had a job back home was

one less thing to worry about. I have nine years left on my duties in the Guard and may have to go back in 2011."

Richard Andres, a former Marine, believes in the motto Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful). Andres owns the Fresno Toyota Material Handling shop. When it came time for Adolfo (AJ) Jimenez to return from his second deployment to Iraq, he knew he didn't have to worry about his job being there. Richard's son and second in command, Stephen Andres, was at the shop to welcome AJ back. "I'm truly proud of AJ for what he has done for his country and company," Stephen said. "He comes back with the experience and the determination to get the job done. AJ's been with TMH for ten years and we welcome him home."



(L) AJ Jimenez and Steven Andres work together again at Fresno TMH; (R) Owner Tim Finegan, (left) and Body Shop Manager Chris Aguilar (right) welcome Billy Scott home to Fresno Chrysler.

## SHOP TALK: This holiday season, what are you thankful for?



Jeff Lilla  
El Cerrito Honda - 16 years  
Local 1546

"I'm thankful for my family and friends. And, of course, health is the number one thing."



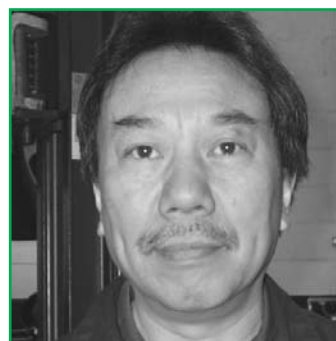
Steve Lee  
El Cerrito Honda - 12 years  
Local 1546

"What am I thankful for? Having a job right now. Things are tough everywhere."



Loring Drouillard  
El Cerrito Honda - 22 years  
Local 1546

"I'm thankful I have a job and I've got good health."



Dallas Yuen  
El Cerrito Honda - 13 years  
Local 1546

"I'm thankful that I have a job and am working, not unemployed. It's good that we're keeping busy and have a good product."



Danny Williams  
El Cerrito Honda - 8 years  
Local 1546

"I'm thankful for my 11-year-old daughter, who never ceases to amaze me. I'm not rich but am not starving either. I do non-profit work and am appreciative of a mindset to help kids find a better direction in life."



THE LOCALS



Hawgs for Dogs raises money for Guide Dogs of America the scenic way



Business Rep Dave Taylor guides the bikes into the parking area at the Trout Farm in Felton at the end of the run.



The 30-foot inflatable Guide Dog lets riders know they've reached their destination.

With about 90 folks participating, the West Coast Hawgs for Dogs 16th Annual Motorcycle Run on October 17 was a huge success. The ride began at San Jose Harley Davidson and followed a scenic route over the Pacific Coast mountains, along the

San Mateo County coastline and around Monterey Bay into Felton, a mountain community above Santa Cruz. Participants enjoyed a barbecue at the Trout Farm Inn, music by Georgi and the Rough Week, and prize drawings. This year's fund-raising

efforts culminated with Local 93 Business Representative Sam Saiu presenting a \$3,000 check to Guide Dogs of America (GDA) at the annual William Winpisinger GDA banquet in Las Vegas in November.

been quite successful. "We would like to extend special thanks to all of our loyal members and shop stewards for their effort in spreading the word that our union is here for them," says Business Rep Ralph Meraz. "With all of the building maintenance mechanics and most of the plant mechanics in all shifts, we are finally making headway with that group which had been reluctant to join. They are seeing the good that we do, not just for certain employees but for the entire collective bargaining unit. Welcome to our fight, it's been a long time coming."

Holiday celebration

Local 2005's Christmas Celebration and membership meeting will be on December 13 in Livingston. Join us for music, fun, and cheer! We will have an array of foods from Mexico, India, and the U.S. All IAM members are welcome.

Meraz to retire

The Local is sad to announce that Ralph Meraz, Business Representative and fearless leader, will be retiring at the end of December. Meraz was instrumental in bringing the independent workers local into the IAM family. We will miss him greatly and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Local 2182

Watchdogging the agreement

Local 2182 has had to file several grievances against the City of Sacramento for ignoring agreements they made in collective bargaining.

"We negotiated paid time off in return for concessions, but now they won't let people take the time off," Area Director Mark Martin says.

"When it comes to sick leave and attendance issues, the city seems to think it's fair to implement a policy contrary to our contract and then punish members for crossing a line in the so-called policy," Martin says that after talking the issues to death with the city, the Local has filed formal grievances.

Fighting to keep good contract

When Pacific Material Handling

Solutions bought out the Teampower Clarklift dealer, Local 2182 was hopeful of getting a decent contract. However, negotiations have been tough.

The company is proposing to cut contract pay rates by more than \$2 and institute a three-year pay freeze. "We have been holding firm and are resolved to end the process with a fair agreement," says Martin. "This is the time when our members have to demonstrate

ORGANIZING WINS

Organizing the way it should be

The mechanics at First Student in Concord decided they wanted a union because they were unhappy with their health-care and wages. Relying on its "freedom of association" policy, the company let them hold an election without interference. "It was unique and quite refreshing," explains Area Director for Organizing Jesse Juarez. "It felt like having the Employee Free Choice Act in place. Once we notified the company that their workers wanted to organize, they respected the process."

Juarez says that even before the election was certified, the mechanics in San Jose decided, after seeing the Concord techs vote for the union, that they, too, wanted union representation. "It's been the same scenario," Juarez says with a smile. "The employer took a neutral position and didn't campaign against the union. I know people are supposed to have the right to join a union, but this is so different. Clear-

ly, when there's no pressure, people will join the union."

And in fact, both groups voted to join the IAM. The Concord group will be in Local 1173 and the San Jose group will be in Local 1101. "We look forward to getting a contract for these five new members."

Organizing in Paradise

The RNs and LVNs at SunBridge Care Facility in Paradise, CA decided they needed a union. While SEIU represents the aides and janitors at the facility, the nurses decided to pair up with Local 2182. "They face the typical issues of at-will employment and favoritism. But they have staffing ratio issues as well," says Area Director Mark Martin. "In their field, lives are at stake when the nurses have too many residents to care for."

Martin says that the campaign started with a lot of support. The election is slated for December 18th.



Jeff Sylvia  
El Cerrito Honda - 10 years  
Local 1546

"Can I get religious, here? I thank God for all the blessings we have, especially in hard times—a lot of people are out of work, and this business is in tough times. I'm also thankful that my family is in good health."



John Santander  
El Cerrito Honda - 14 years  
Local 1546

"Number one—I'm thankful for my family and my health. A close second is my job. Without it, I can't take care of my health or my family."



Lloyd Osborn  
El Cerrito Honda - 20 years  
Local 1546

"I'm thankful for my health and my family. I pay my mortgage, and am working to get back to Guam some day."



Nick Adranly  
El Cerrito Honda - 10 years  
Local 1546

"I'm thankful for a job and that we're keeping busy."



Gary Williams  
El Cerrito Honda - 22 years  
Local 1546

"I'm thankful to be working for Honda Motor Sports; this is a good product. I'm happy to have a job, my health and some good fishing. The economy may be down, but the fishing is good!"



## IN THE NEWS

### Paycheck deception is baaaaaack!

Here we go again. Well-funded right-wing radicals are sponsoring a proposition for the November 2010 ballot to silence the voices of union members and working families so that corporations can have more control over government.

Falsely dubbed “paycheck protection,” these deceptive propositions prohibit unions from spending money on political issues. Voters have roundly rejected similar measures in the past (Propositions 75 and 226) because they know the consequences of passing such measures would be dire.

Corporations already outspend unions by a margin of 24-1 on politics. If the business interests backing these types of propositions have their way, the already unfair imbalance will get even worse.

The “paycheck deception” ballot measures seek to stop unions from being able to advocate against drastic budget cuts to education, public safety and programs that seniors, kids and the disabled rely upon. Far from protecting the rights of teachers, nurses, firefighters and other union workers, these deceptive ballot measures would reduce our ability to speak out when politicians do harm to our schools, hospitals and public safety.

In the coming weeks, radical anti-government groups and their corporate backers will circulate petitions to qualify their ballot measure. **Don't sign the petition!**

By signing, you're just helping them get the measure on the ballot, which will cost unions millions of dollars to oppose and will distract our members from where they really need to focus—on getting a new governor into office.

We must waste no time in getting the word out about this latest dangerous, deceitful effort to silence our voice. Please start talking to your co-workers, friends and family about the hidden agenda behind this effort.



If we get the word out early, this measure will fail like those before it.

For more information, visit [www.calaborfed.org](http://www.calaborfed.org).

### Health-care in Senate's hands

For several years, the Machinists have educated, advocated, lobbied and demonstrated for health-care reform that ensures that all people in America have access to decent health-care, and that all employers offer insurance or pay into a public insurance pool. Good health-care reform that meets those goals would enable Teamster employers to compete with the non-union sector on a more level playing field.

Since President Obama came into office, reforming the health insurance system has been a top priority of his administration, and one that the Machinists have endorsed enthusiastically.

The current system is unsustainable. Approximately 20% of premium costs paid by union benefit plans cover the more than 46 million uninsured, who are often forced to use hospital emergency rooms for routine care. Non-union employers who pay low wages and don't cover health benefits can underbid union employers for the same work. All too many people lose their insurance coverage when they're laid off and

can't get new coverage due to the expense, or the fact that they have a “pre-existing condition.”

The House of Representatives passed a decent, though not perfect bill. It includes a public option—meant to be a lower cost plan that will force the private insurers to offer competitive pricing—as well as guarantees that all people must have access to insurance. And, according to the Congressional Budget Office, it will reduce the federal deficit over the next decade.

Now it's up to the Senate to pass a bill. While a majority of Senators support the major elements of the House bill, Senate rules enable opponents to require a 60-vote margin to even debate the bill. At presstime, the Senate doesn't have the votes necessary to move from the debate stage into the voting stage.

Currently, the proposed Senate health-care reform bill includes a public option. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill would provide health insurance to 31 million more people, and would reduce the federal deficit by \$130 billion over ten years.

Unfortunately, this bill also includes a new tax on “cadillac” health plans. For the first time, the federal government would tax benefits, including many union plans.

“Taxing the benefits hard-won by union members is the wrong way to finance health-care,” says AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka. “We need to mobilize our members to eliminate this provision from the bill.”

Call Senators Feinstein and Boxer today at (877) 323-5246 and urge them to remove the excise tax on benefits for working families from the health-care reform bill.

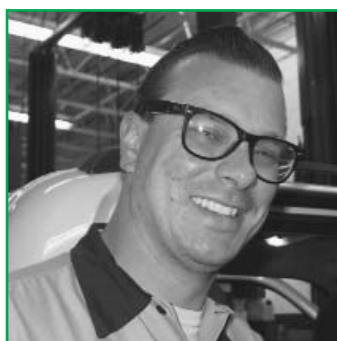
### Underreporting accidents, illnesses impacts workers

At the request of the House Education and Labor subcommittee, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report in November that uncovered incentives for employers and workers to under-report illness not only adversely impacts the accuracy of data that the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) uses to target unsafe workplaces, but also has put pressure on health professionals to change diagnoses or provide insufficient treatments.

“This report confirms that when it comes to the documenting of workplace injuries, we can't just take employers at their word. The system, to this point has been all too easy to game,” said Sen. Patty Murray, chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety.

The GAO is recommending that OSHA (1) require inspectors to interview workers during records audits, and substitute other workers when those initially selected are unavailable; (2) minimize the time between the date injuries and illnesses are recorded by employers and the date they are audited; (3) update the list of high hazard industries used to select worksites for records audits; and (4) increase education and training to help employers better understand the record-keeping requirements. OSHA agreed with these recommendations.

## SHOP TALK: This holiday season, what are you thankful for?



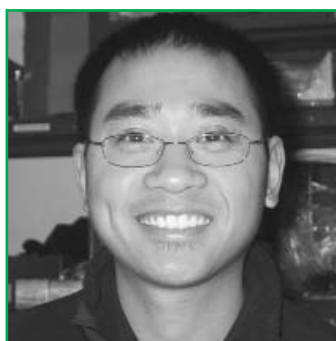
**Ron Newgard**  
El Cerrito Honda - 5 months  
Local 1546

“The way things have been going, I'm thankful for having a job.”



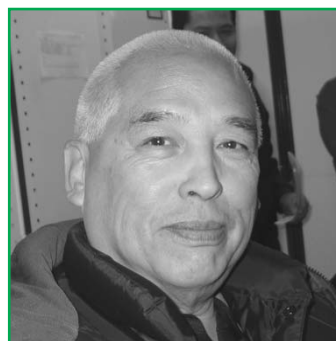
**Bob Petersen**  
El Cerrito Honda - 22 years  
Local 1546

“I'm thankful to have a job, especially with the holiday season coming up. There are a lot of people out of work right now.”



**Kim Saechao**  
El Cerrito Honda - 8 years  
Local 1546

“I'm thankful I have a job still. And also for my two kids—they're newbies, one is two and the other is one.”



**Joe Pang**  
El Cerrito Honda - 24 years  
Local 1546

“I'm thankful for my health and my family's health. I'm still employed and I get to see another sunrise. I feel lucky we're still working.”



**Cesar Cortez**  
El Cerrito Honda - 10 years  
Local 1546

“I'm thankful for my health, my family and obviously that we're still open and I have a job.”



New funds to train workers in diesel repair

The College of Alameda Diesel Training program has received several federal grants from the Departments of Labor, Transportation and Energy to increase the training they offer to displaced workers and returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. “The union, the Community College and the IAM Joint Apprenticeship Training Center are involved in all of it,” says Instructor Scott Albright.

“This is part of the President’s green initiative—training people on new diesel clean air technology,” Albright explains. “The course combines getting a commercial drivers’ license and diesel preventive maintenance. We emphasize servicing diesel particulate filters so folks can become entry-level mechanics.” Albright adds that many of these jobs will be union-related. “Unions are getting involved to make sure that we’re doing everything we can for the community.”

With the recently-announced Spring 2010 closure of the NUMMI plant in Fremont and the stoppage of a big expansion project at Chevron in Richmond, at least 8,500 people in the Bay Area are being displaced

from what they thought were good jobs. Add to this the returning veterans, the hard-core unemployed, and the young people who haven’t yet found jobs, and there’s a large pool of people to train.

“We have a lot of hope,” Albright adds. “We just need to put some wheels on these ideas to get them going.” Albright says that his program is developing new ‘green’ courses, including working on hybrid electric cars and utilizing water-based paints for auto body repair.”

“When this training project gets rolling, we’ll concentrate on contacting employers,” Albright adds. “I’m not sure how many jobs are out there; we need some economic turnabout for more jobs to come around.”

Albright has been a diesel instructor at the College of Alameda for eight years having previously taught at Chabot and Las Positas Colleges. He joined Local 1546 in 1979 as a parts counterman at Grand Auto, became a service advisor and then a mechanic at several dealerships. He recently joined the statewide Career Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee and will be on the Peralta Colleges CTE Committee as well.



# UNION NOTICES



Local 1546 Members and Spouses

## PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

Are you thinking about retiring in the next few years?  
If so, this seminar will answer all your questions about pension and retiree medical coverage.

**Saturday, January 9, 2010 • 9:00 a.m.**  
**Local 1546, 10260 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland**

Spouses welcome  
Includes continental breakfast  
Space is limited • First come—first served

**Note:** if you feel you have an unusual or complicated question, please get it to your Business Rep ahead of time so our advisors have time to research the answer.

**Please RSVP to Tanya or Yolanda at  
510-638-6705 by January 5**

### Reminder to techs: take inventory

Don't forget to update the tool list kept by your employer and add any new tools that you got this year. A current list is important in case anything happens and you need insurance coverage.

### 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.



### ASSOCIATED THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS

Contact us at 510-836-2484

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

### 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 January 6, 2010 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, February 3, 2010. 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 districts 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: This holiday season, what are you thankful for?



**Paul Forte**  
El Cerrito Honda - 22 years  
Local 1546

“With the current economic conditions, I’m thankful to be employed. And that I have my health.”



**Wayne Rosemont**  
El Cerrito Honda - 11 years  
Local 1546

“I’m thankful for lots of things—my family, my health, working here, having a job...”



**Durell Vibat**  
El Cerrito Honda - 3 years  
Local 1546

“I’m thankful for my family and friends—I have good people around me.”



**Eric Tern**  
El Cerrito Honda - 3 years  
Local 1546

“I’m thankful for my job!”



**Michelle Fisher**  
El Cerrito Honda - 16 years  
Local 1546

“I’m thankful for my kids—they’re the ones I work for.”

### Donate tools for vocational school in Kenya

What began during a dinner conversation in 2005 has evolved into a full-scale effort to improve the lives of young adults in Musoli, in western Kenya—and you can help.

Fr. Boniface Silayo, a Kenyan priest, was on sabbatical at the Berkeley Jesuit School of Theology when he befriended East Bay resident, Teresa Picchi. Fr. Boniface shared his vision of starting a school in his impoverished community to teach young adults skills that would enable them to be self-reliant. Teresa, along with labor lawyer Dan Altemus and other friends decided to help Fr. Boniface with this endeavor.

They started by sending used computers and sewing machines to the St. Teresa Technical School. Then they set up a non-profit corporation called **East Bay for East Africa** and have been raising money and tools ever since to buy land, build the school, and offer courses in auto mechanics, welding, carpentry, agronomy and animal husbandry.

The school will utilize any tools or equipment you can donate so that they can offer hands-on experience to the students. Donations may be left at the Local 1546 union hall in Oakland. “It would be great if we could fill a container to bring over there,” said Area Director Don Crosatto.

For more info about the project, go to: [www.eastbayforeastafrica.com](http://www.eastbayforeastafrica.com)

### 2010 IAM Scholarship Competition

**Amounts of the Awards:** Awards to members are \$2,000 per academic year. Awards to children of members are \$1,000 per academic year. These awards are granted for a specific period from one to four years to enable the member to earn a Bachelor’s degree or a two-year vocational/technical certification.

**Eligibility for Competition:** Applicants must be an IAM member (or the child of an IAM member) having two years of continuous good-standing membership up to and including the closing date of the competition plus meet additional requirements as specified in the scholarship pamphlet.

**How to Apply:** There are three different application packets: one for members, one for children of members, and one for vocational/technical school. Application packets for the 2010 competition may be found at: [www.goiam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/scholarship](http://www.goiam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/scholarship) or by writing to: IAM Scholarship Program, 9000 Machinists Place, Room 117, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687 Use a coupon from the IAM Journal (summer or fall issues) if possible.

**Deadline:** The deadline to submit the completed application form is **February 26, 2010.**

UNION MEETINGS		
<div><h4>District Lodge I90</h4><p>7717 Oakport Street Oakland, CA 94621 510-632-3661</p></div>	<div><p><i>Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month</i> December 16* • January 26 • February 23</p><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>General Delegates’ Meeting:</b> 7:00 p.m.</p><p><b>Note:</b> Change of December meeting date due to holidays.</p></div>	<div><h4>Local I484</h4><p>1261 Avalon Blvd. Wilmington, CA 90744 310-835-6688</p></div> <div><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month December 17 • January 21 • February 18</p><p><b>General Membership Meeting:</b> 6:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month December 1 • January 5 • February 2</p><p><b>Retirees’ Club:</b> 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month: December 16 • January 20 • February 17</p></div>
<div><h4>Local 93</h4><p>2102 Almaden Rd., #105 San Jose, CA 95125 408-723-4900</p></div>	<div><p><i>Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month</i> December 8 • January 12 • February 9</p><p><b>Grievance Committee:</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 5:00 p.m. <b>Membership Meeting:</b> 5:30 p.m.</p><p><b>Note:</b> Office hours are now 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office remains open during lunch.</p></div>	<div><h4>Local I528</h4><p>713 16th Street Modesto, CA 95354 209-529-9210</p></div> <div><p><i>Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month</i> December 2 • January 6 • February 3</p><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>General Membership Meeting:</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Women’s Committee Meeting:</b> Please contact local 1528 for times and dates of monthly meetings <b>Retiree’s Club:</b> 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month: December 16 • January 20 • February 17</p><p><b>Narcotics Anonymous:</b> 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Tuesday</p></div>
<div><h4>Local 653</h4><p>544 West Olive, Fresno, CA 93728</p></div>	<div><p><i>Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month</i> December 16 • January 20 • February 17</p><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 5:00 p.m. <b>Membership Meeting:</b> 5:30 p.m.</p><p><b>* Please note:</b> In November, the E Board and Membership Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month.</p></div>	<div><h4>Local I546</h4><p>10260 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94605 510-638-6705</p></div> <div><p><i>Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month</i> December 1 • January 5 • February 2</p><p><b>General Membership Meeting:</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Member Education Meeting:</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:30 p.m. on the Thursday preceding membership meeting December 29 • January 28 • February 25</p><p><b>Retiree Club Pot Luck Luncheon:</b> 12 noon on the first Wednesday of each month December 2 • January 6 • February 3</p><p><b>Alcoholics Anonymous:</b> 9 a.m. every Saturday</p></div>
<div><h4>Local 80I</h4><p>7717 Oakport Street, Oakland, CA 94621 800-655-2182</p></div>	<div><p><i>Meetings are the third Thursday of the month</i> December 17 • January 21 • February 18</p><p><b>Membership Meeting:</b> 4:00 p.m.</p><p><i>Meetings are held at the Carpenters’ Hall, in Reno.</i></p></div>	<div><h4>Local I584</h4><p>8130 Baldwin Street Oakland, CA 94621 510-635-2064</p></div> <div><p><i>Meetings are the third Thursday of the month</i> December 17 • January 21 • February 18</p><p><b>Membership Meeting:</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Retirees’ Club:</b> 12:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month: December 1 • January 5 • February 2</p></div>
<div><h4>Local I10I</h4><p>2102 Almaden Rd., #105 San Jose, CA 95125 408-723-4900</p></div>	<div><p><i>Meetings are the second Thursday of the month</i> December 10 • January 14 • February 11</p><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>General Membership Meeting:</b> 6:30 p.m.</p><p><b>Note:</b> Office hours are now 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office remains open during lunch.</p></div>	<div><h4>Local I596</h4><p>4210 Petaluma Blvd. No. Petaluma, CA 94952 707-795-0086</p></div> <div><p><i>Meetings are the third Tuesday of the month</i> December 15 • January 19 • February 16</p><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Membership Meeting:</b> 7:00 p.m.</p></div>
<div><h4>Local I173</h4><p>1900 Bates Ave., # H Concord, CA 94520 925-687-6421</p></div>	<div><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month December 10 • January 14 • February 11</p><p><b>Membership/Shop Stewards’ Meeting:</b> 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month December 17 • January 21 • February 18</p></div>	<div><h4>Local 2005</h4><p>416 Main Street Livingston, CA 95334 209-394-7822</p></div> <div><p><i>Meetings are held last Sunday of the month</i> at the Veterans Memorial Hall: 1605 7th Street, Livingston, CA 95334. December 27 • January 31 • February 28</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spanish @ 1:00 p.m.</li><li>English &amp; Punjabi @ 2:00 p.m.</li></ul></div>
<div><h4>Local I4I4</h4><p>150 South Blvd. San Mateo, CA 94402 650-341-2689</p></div>	<div><p><b>Shop Stewards’ Meeting:</b> 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month December 3 • January 7 • February 4</p><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month December 10 • January 14 • February 11</p><p><b>General Membership Meeting:</b> 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month December 17 • January 21 • February 18</p><p><b>Retirees’ Club:</b> 11:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of March, June, Sept., Dec. All are welcome! December 2 • March 3 • June 2 • September 1</p></div>	<div><h4>Local 2I82</h4><p>967 Venture Court, Sacramento, CA 95825 800-458-9200</p></div> <div><p><i>Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month</i> December 8 • January 12 • February 9</p><p><b>Executive Board Meeting:</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>General Membership Meeting:</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Retirees’ Club - VISTA CLUB:</b> 11:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month December 16 • January 20 • February 17</p></div>