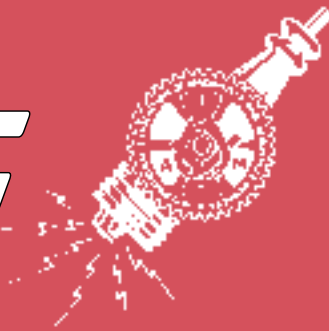


The IAM District 190

# SPARKPLUG



VOL. 28 NO. 2



APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2026

Serving the active and retired membership of IAM District Lodge 190

## Engines, Welding, and Opportunity: Inside a Student-Run Car Show

On May 2, students in the George Washington High School Auto Shop Program in San Francisco will host their fifth annual Car Show, a student-run event designed to raise critical funding and highlight the value of hands-on education in the automotive trades.

"This project was originally slated to take place on April 11, but heavy rain was forecast for that date. We had expected between 150 and 200 classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles, and hope that they'll all be able to make the new date," said Rich del Rosso, instructor and program coordinator.

The car show is more than a showcase of vehicles—it is an immersive learning experience for students. According to del Rosso, students play a central role in shaping the event, from judging to creating the awards. "The students come up with the categories—with my approval—and they are also the judges," he explained.

This year's categories include Best Ford/Chevy/Muscle Car, Best Lowrider, and Best Post-2000 vehicle, among a total of eight awards. What makes these awards especially meaningful is that students fabricate every trophy themselves. "They make all the trophies and awards from disassembled car parts—engines, transmissions, differentials—and weld them together," del Rosso said.

The event also highlights strong community and labor support. Bruce Keller, President of IAM Local 1414, will receive a student-made appreciation award, as the Local was instrumental in launching the program in 2012 and continues to provide significant support. IAM Western Territory Vice President Bobby Martinez and San

Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie are both scheduled to attend.

Funds raised during the event directly support the Auto Shop Program. "We expect to raise between \$8,000 and \$10,000," said del Rosso, "which is the majority of our program costs."

One notable improvement this year is increased recognition from city and local officials. "City officials are recognizing our auto shop as essential to the education of high school students," del Rosso said, noting that the Machinists Union has also provided expanded support, including a \$1,000 donation from the Western Region.

Students are deeply involved throughout the day. "This is a student-run event," del Rosso emphasized. "They are learning valuable business skills in addition to automotive, welding, and trade science." Students fabricated the top two raffle prizes—a V8 engine block coffee table and a V6 engine block end table—and will manage raffles, T-shirt and food sales, tours, registration, and event announcements.

IAM Local 1414 continues to play a key role, helping to fund and staff the event and supplying Car Show T-shirts. "Local 1414 members will assist with parking, registration, and sales during the show," del Rosso noted.

Attendees will also see a toolbox display, highlighting tool kits funded by Local 1414 for students

**Fifth Annual Car, Motorcycle and Truck Show**  
George Washington High School  
Only car show with a Golden Gate view!  
**Sat. May 2, 2026**  
**10AM to 3PM**  
FREE for spectators  
Benefiting the only High School Auto Shop in San Francisco  
The first 40 vehicle registrations receive a free event T-shirt!  
\$40 vehicle entry fee  
Lunch included  
\$45 day of show  
Proud partner with Local 1414  
Register now  
Gates open at 7 AM  
On campus of Washington High School  
600 32nd Ave., San Francisco

pursuing careers in the trade, along with scholarship information. Past events have even drawn appearances by former San Francisco Giants and NFL players, and this year's show will feature the students' EV kit car on display in the auto shop.

The Car Show reflects what the GW Auto Shop Program does best: putting students in the driver's seat, building real-world skills, and creating pathways into the skilled trades—one car, and one weld, at a time.

### From high school to career: GW auto shop grows mechanics

Piotr Sikorski's story highlights how foundational programs can transform lives and lead to rewarding careers. His journey from high school to a career in mechanics is a testament to the Auto Shop program at George Washington High School. "It played a direct role in shaping my career," Piotr recalls.

After finishing high school in 2016, Piotr continued his auto education at Skyline College for three semesters before being offered an IAM apprenticeship. Accepting was a decision he calls "the best of my life." He enrolled at Laney in March 2018 and earned his journeyman status by January 2025.

Today, Piotr works at MUNI's Woods Machine Shop, where he handles engines, trans-



In 2016, Piotr Sikorski (R) earned the Local 1414 toolbox, which Rich del Rosso presented.

missions, and fabrication. "We rebuild and overhaul components, motors, drive units, and more for MUNI buses," he explains.

Reflecting on his journey, Piotr emphasizes how pivotal the GW program was: "Before GW, I had never held a wrench and had zero interest or experience in anything mechanical. I joined because my older brother was involved."

He adds, "This is a career, not just a job. While many of my high school friends have tenuous work situations and student loans, at 28, I own a home and am vested in my pension."

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Retired and active members: Please write in if something in *The Sparkplug* makes you happy or mad or inspires you to action. All letters from members 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)  
mail: IAM District 190, 10260 MacArthur Ave., Oakland, CA 94621

### Get your IAM news on the web!



Visit the District 190 website at:

[iamdistrict190.org](http://iamdistrict190.org)

The International IAM website is at: [goiam.org](http://goiam.org)

Local Lodge websites:

Local 1101: [www.iamlocal1101.org](http://www.iamlocal1101.org)  
Local 1414: [facebook.com/IAMLOCAL1414/](https://facebook.com/IAMLOCAL1414/)

Twitter / X  
Union Organizer: @union1484

Facebook pages:  
Local 1101: [facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/)  
Search for IAMAW-Local 1101  
Local 1546: [facebook.com/iam1546](https://facebook.com/iam1546)

### The IAM District 190 SPARKPLUG

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

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

Postmaster: Send address corrections to The *Sparkplug*, 10260 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94605.

Debra Chaplan, Managing Editor

## UNION PEOPLE

### Welcome new Business Representative Jose Maravilla

District 190 is proud to welcome Jose Maravilla as its newest Business Representative, a role he officially stepped into on March 1. A longtime mechanic, union member, and shop steward, Jose brings deep experience, a strong union background, and a commitment to justice and fairness for working people.



Jose Maravilla, new Business Rep

Jose's union roots run deep. "I come from a union background—my parents were part of the UFW," he shared. "As a kid, I worked in the fields. We went on strike together." Those early experiences shaped his understanding of solidarity, sacrifice, and the importance of collective action.

Before entering the automotive trade, Jose faced tough choices at a young age. He recalls having "two options—continue working with my parents, which meant getting up at 3 am and going to summer school in the fields, or help my uncle at his shop fixing cars." He chose the latter, beginning a long career as a mechanic that led him to the union movement.

Jose worked for years in non-union shops and experienced firsthand the risks of standing up for workers without union protection. While at Salinas Valley Ford, he "nearly got fired for trying to unionize the shop." In 2014, he moved toward union work, eventually landing at Sunnyvale Ford, where he joined Local 1101 in 2015.

By 2017, Jose became a senior master technician and transmission specialist, and in 2018 he stepped up as a shop steward, and eventually Local 1101 Vice President. Since then, he has been deeply involved in grievances, arbitrations, and contract negotiations. One moment that stands out is an arbitration victory that brought a member back to work.

For Jose, the value of the union is clear. "The union truly makes an impact—job security and representation, the voice and safety it provides, and retirement with a pension," he said. "It also improves working conditions."

These principles motivated him to take on greater responsibility as a business rep. Jose will represent members across Local 1101, primarily those working in automotive, UPS, and forklift shops at 16 stores. He credits mentorship for helping him transition into the role.

"I wanted to stand up for workers who don't always have a voice," Jose said. "I want to be the leader members trust to be just and fair."

"We're pleased to have Jose serving our members and look forward to the leadership, passion, and experience he will bring," said District 190 Directing Business Rep Don Crosato.

### Local 1484 picnic celebrates service, solidarity, and support for GDA

More than 350 members of Local 1484, along with their families, and guests gathered at POA Park in Long Beach on March 7 for what turned out to be one of the most successful events in recent memory—a Service Pin Picnic that combined recognition, community, and fundraising in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Despite breezy conditions, the covered benches at the park provided the perfect venue for a relaxed and festive afternoon. The event honored long-time members receiving service award pins and celebrated the shared commitment that continues to define Local 1484.

The picnic also highlighted the vital partnership with Guide Dogs of America (GDA). Fourteen puppy raisers attended with their dogs in training, joined by the President of GDA, offering members a close-up look at the life-changing work being done every day.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Lynette Singleton and Jezzalyn Morales, who did an outstanding job organizing the event from start to finish. Their attention to detail helped make the day flow



seamlessly and ensured there was something for everyone—including a popular bouncy house that delighted the youngest attendees.

IAM Western Territory Vice President Bobby Martinez gave a keynote address; he attended along with members of his staff, Richard Suarez and Jimbo Watson. Their presence underscored the strong support from the IAM and added to the significance of the occasion.

In addition to celebrating service, the picnic helped raise funds for GDA. A raffle for flat-screen TVs, iPads, and Google watches raised nearly \$5,000, demonstrating the generosity of attendees and their dedication to the union and to GDA.

"The picnic brought together service, family, and purpose—and by every measure, it was one of our best events ever," said Area Director Kevin Kucera.



## UNION PEOPLE

### IAM California State Council gathers to build power for 2026 and beyond

By Shelley Kessler

Delegates from across the state came together in Sacramento on March 16 for the IAM California State Council Spring Conference, a one-day meeting focused on strengthening our union, mobilizing members, and preparing for the critical 2026 election cycle. The conference underscored a clear message: when IAM members are organized, engaged, and united, workers win.

The meeting opened with a keynote address from Brian Bryant, IAM International President, who called on leaders to recommit to listening to members and meeting them where they are. He emphasized that shop visits, meetings, and conferences are essential for understanding members' priorities and translating those concerns into action. "Members in California have always been on the front lines," Bryant said, praising the Council's work to engage working families and support pro-worker candidates.

Bryant spoke candidly about the stakes of the 2026 midterm elections, noting the growing gap between billionaires and working families, and reaffirmed the IAM's commitment to fighting for retirement security, fair trade policies, and dignity on the job. He emphasized that political engagement must be rooted in real issues that affect members' lives, not party labels.

The conference was presided over by Marty Martinez, President of the IAM California State Council, and Tom Brandon, Secretary-Treasurer. They guided delegates through council business,



Delegates to the 2026 IAM California State Conference

the endorsement process, and strategies to mobilize members for the upcoming elections. Martinez reminded attendees that IAM members show up every day to keep California moving, and it is time to ensure decision-makers in Sacramento and Washington recognize the strength and values of union members.

Delegates also heard from Robert "Bobby" Martinez, General Vice President for the Western Territory, who spoke about the real-world consequences of political decisions on prevailing wages, collective bargaining, apprenticeships, and health and safety protections. He emphasized that emerging issues like artificial intelligence must benefit workers by creating good jobs and training opportunities, and improving working conditions.

Additional remarks were delivered by Richard Johnsen, IAM Air Transport Territory General Vice President, who stressed the importance of member engagement for airline workers as collec-

tive bargaining rights and the right to strike remain under attack. Hasan Solomon, IAM National Legislative and Political Director, provided a sobering overview of the current political landscape, urging members to stay informed, reject distractions meant to divide working people, and organize around shared economic interests.

California state lobbyist Shane Gusman briefed delegates on key bills and advocacy opportunities ahead, while Bryan Stymacks, IAM Assistant Veterans Service Coordinator, highlighted the union's ongoing commitment to veterans and their families through one of the strongest support programs in the labor movement.

The conference concluded with delegates energized and ready to take the message back to their locals: organizing, listening, and standing together are the keys to winning better lives for working families in California and beyond.

### Twelfth Annual Lobster Feed raises funds for Guide Dogs of America

On February 21, several hundred Machinist members, their families, and friends gathered at the Machin-

ists Local 1781 Hall in Burlingame for the 12th Annual Lobster Feed to enjoy a great meal and raise funds for

Guide Dogs of America. Their goals were achieved—the meal, always a production for the staff to prepare,

was fantastic, the dogs were adorable, the event raised over \$15,000, and everyone had a wonderful time!



## AROUND THE LOCALS

### Local 653

#### Saving a life—it's what we do

In January, Jim Wooten, a sheet metal worker at SunMaid, suffered a heart attack while on the job. Fortunately, he was working with Jared Esquivel, who immediately noticed that something was wrong. Jared quickly radioed their lead, George Tuttle, for assistance. Together, Jared and George administered CPR to Jim, utilizing the training Sun-Maid had provided just the month prior. Thanks to their prompt action, Jim survived and is now at home recovering. Paramedics and doctors affirm that without Jared and George's quick CPR, Jim would not have made it.

Both SunMaid and Local 653 recognized the men for their quick action, reports Business Rep Jeremy Celaya. The Local's "Lifesaving Hero



Business Rep Jeremy Celaya presents awards to Jared Esquivel (L) and to George Tuttle (R).

Award" to George and Jared states:

"In proud recognition of your extraordinary courage, swift action, and unwavering commitment to protecting the lives of others. By performing lifesaving CPR during a medical emergency, you exemplified the true spirit of union solidarity—looking out for one another, standing strong in moments of crisis, and living the core values of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

"Because of your selfless response, a life was saved. Your union is proud to stand with you and honor your heroic actions. Service. Strength. Brotherhood."

### Local 653

#### Contracts coming due

Celaya says that he is preparing for contract negotiations with Fresno Unified School District, Hedrick's Chevrolet, Rutter Army, and G&H Diesel.

### Local 1101

#### Working Partners, USA

Working Partners, USA a non-profit community labor organization tied to the South Bay Labor Council in San Jose, is deeply committed to social advocacy and policy change. They promote worker rights through improving labor standards, addressing economic inequality, and fostering civic engagement. Recently, the organization underwent management changes and an internal reorganization to strengthen operations.

"Our aim was to negotiate a stronger contract," said Business Rep Pedro Gonzalez. "We wanted a contract that truly protects and benefits our members."

After months of negotiations, Working Partners secured a three-year contract for the 30-member bargaining unit with a 3% annual raise. More importantly, they significantly enhanced the agreement to reflect organizational changes. "What we ended up with feels like a new agreement," Pedro explained, noting the expansion from 12 pages to 35.

The contract includes stronger grievance and arbitration language, updated harassment and bullying policies, a new sabbatical policy, expanded telecommuting, AI and workload clauses, and a fourth vacation tier. They also added sick-time donation language so members can support one another.

After more than eight months of bargaining, the agreement was ratified in late February and took effect March 1.

Pedro praised the bargaining committee for their dedication, rec-

ognizing Neil Park McClintick, Jaria Jaug, Rebecca Armendariz, Cesar Palancares, Daniella Baldivia, and Zeenab Aneez. He also acknowledged the unit's resilience: "The members understood the importance of standing firm and knowing what the labor movement is about."

### Local 1173

#### MGM Brakes

The 45 members who manufacture air brakes at MGM Brakes in Cloverdale will see an 11.88% wage increase over the next three years. "We got that done in plenty of time," says Gagliardi. "It was a bit of a fight, but the company wanted to settle this contract." In addition to the wages, the contract includes other improvements, such as securing a bargaining unit member a seat on the Safety Committee, providing extra vacation time for long-term members, and finding a way to prevent the company from making temporary assignments to avoid promoting members. "The company started out offering less than \$.50 per year, so getting all that we did was very cool," Gagliardi adds.

#### Soscol Auto Body

This small shop with four members in Napa is in negotiations. "Everybody wants to get it done," Gagliardi says. She'll report back in the next issue.

#### Audi of Concord

Area Director Brian Fealy reports that, due to a court order, Local 1173 continues to negotiate with Audi of Concord for eight four-hour sessions a month, "but we haven't made any newsworthy breakthroughs."

#### Winter Honda

Winter Honda, a longstanding employer in Pittsburg, experienced a change in ownership this February. "Our bargaining unit includes over 50 members," such as technicians, parts department staff, and Service Advisors. "Although the new

owner, Ken Harvey Jr., isn't particularly union-friendly, he did rehire the majority of our members, which means the union still holds bargaining rights," Fealy notes. "We've met with our members and are gearing up to start bargaining for a new agreement in early April." Fealy feels confident that the bargaining unit is strong at this shop. "We believe we can succeed, but it will be a fight."

### Local 1414

#### SMART Train

Business Rep Cindy Gagliardi reports that on March 19, the 24 members at Sonoma-Marine Area Rail Transit (SMART) ratified a new three-year contract.

"A strike had been a possibility, but, for a lot of reasons, we didn't go there," Gagliardi says. In the end, the members accepted the 9% increase over three years that the company offered. Gagliardi says she filed an unfair labor practice charge with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) because the agency gave the union a bargaining date that was less than 30 days before the contract expired, even though the union opened the contract on time. "We may file more PERB charges if we can't negotiate for safety boots and glasses that we had all expected were part of the deal."

#### Magnussen's Toyota

Business representatives Jerry Gutierrez and Eric Banh spent about three months negotiating in good faith with Magnussen's Toyota in Palo Alto and finally reached a decent three-year deal. The raises were 4%, 3%, 2% for master technicians, and 3%, 2%, and 2% for the rest of the group. A new end-of-year bonus structure was added to this contract, in addition to their productivity bonus. Each service adviser received a \$1,000 ratification bonus.

"The members overwhelmingly ratified the contract in February. We're just waiting for it to get signed," says Banh.

The shop has about 20 members, including technicians and service advisers.

### Local 1484

#### Ports America

Talks with MTC/Ports America are about to start, and Area Director Kevin Kucera is getting ready. So far, he has held a shop meeting and rally with 51 members who are all waterfront mechanics – power, chassis, and refrigeration shops. At press time, more than 80% of the unit has completed written surveys. "We'll get to the table in May. I'm working on getting a schedule now," he says.

### Local 1528

#### Silgan Doherty

The union is currently negotiating on behalf of 70 members at Silgan Doherty, a can-making facility. "Negotiations for the contract that expired at the end of March have been a grind," reports Area Director Mark Martin. "We anticipate a fair agreement, but it's never easy at Silgan."

Martin explains that it took 20 proposals going back and forth when they settled the last contract two years ago. "This go-around, it's not quite that heavy, but it's still ridiculous how many times we have to go back and forth before we can end up with something reasonable. The company seems to like to move things a nickel at a time."

Martin believes the company may be looking to replace the company-sponsored health and welfare plans to coming back to the union-sponsored benefits because they've faced significant increases in their company plans. "That would be a good thing, but we'll see."

The Silgan Riverbank shop is "the mother ship where we have the most leverage," Martin says. "It sets the trends. The company will have a hard time giving us less at Doherty than they gave at Riverbank."

### Local 1546

#### California Waste Solutions

The four clerical workers at California Waste Solutions unanimously ratified their new contract.

"It took a lot of back and forth, but we finally settled on the wages, which include a 10% catch-up raise starting on July 1," says Business Rep Cindy Gagliardi says that in 2025, they went from 100 employees down to 35. But, this year, the tide has turned. "They're now very busy and are ramping up to bring everybody back who wants to return. They'll hire for any unfilled positions."

Cindy says the union and the members had been hopeful that the CHIPS law, passed under Biden, would have created a lot of business for this company, but that didn't happen. "Fortunately, now, we're just starting to see them really pick up." She adds, "We're bargaining with them next year, so the timing couldn't work out better."

#### Coast Counties

The bargaining unit at Coast Counties Truck and Equipment in San Leandro includes 30 machinists, painters, and Teamsters, and the group overwhelmingly ratified a new three-year contract in April.

"They'll get a 3% raise each year of the contract," says Pintos. "It's unusual—the owner likes to pay for performance, so while the wages in the contract are somewhat low, he pays almost everybody over scale. Their raises will be based on wages currently paid rather than what's written in the contract."

### Local 1584

#### Veriflo

Veriflo, a company in Richmond that makes valves and regulators to regulate gases and fluids for processes such as semiconductor manufacturing has seen plenty of ups and downs. Business Rep Cindy Gagliardi says that in 2025, they went from 100 employees down to 35. But, this year, the tide has turned. "They're now very busy and are ramping up to bring everybody back who wants to return. They'll hire for any unfilled positions."

Cindy says the union and the members had been hopeful that the CHIPS law, passed under Biden, would have created a lot of business for this company, but that didn't happen. "Fortunately, now, we're just starting to see them really pick up." She adds, "We're bargaining with them next year, so the timing couldn't work out better."

### Local 2182

#### City of Sacramento: Building Trades group

Forty-two IAM members work for the City of Sacramento Dept. of Utilities. These include machinists, machinist helpers, and generator techs. The bargaining unit, which includes several building trades unions has about 80 members in

total. After working without a contract for more than eight months, the group finally ratified a new three-year agreement in February.

"Even with the city's budget being in dire straits, the city finally stepped up and provided some real resources for a contract. Besides getting retroactive pay to July of 2025 and many language improvements, long-time members will get a new perk of longevity pay; by July 2027, employees with more than 17 years of service will see a 3% bonus applied to their wages," Martin explains.

#### City of Sacramento: Fleet Mechanics Group

The 54 mechanics who work for the City of Sacramento's Fleet group ratified a two-year agreement in January that included a \$1,175 signing bonus in year one and a 2% general wage increase in year two. Because they were also able to secure health and welfare rates that provided them out-of-pocket savings, they became the first bargaining unit to agree to the terms offered by the City.

However, since then, the City has offered a much better deal to the other bargaining units that had held out. "Fortunately," says Business Rep Paul Abarca, "the City has reached out to us to offer the same deal to our unit. The members met in early April and voted to accept the improved offer with a three-year agreement."

#### Ralph Panella Leasing

Abarca says that in March, the four members at this Stockton shop ratified a new three-year agreement that gives them 3% per year, while maintaining their Plan A Health & Welfare benefits.

#### Brooks Body Shop

The members at this eight-person shop in Manteca ratified a new one-year agreement in March reports Abarca. They'll get a \$1/hour general wage increase and a significant improvement in the employer's 401(k) contribution.

### Locals 653, 1528, & 2182

#### JM Equipment

Sixty-eight members work for JM Equipment at shops in Fresno, Manteca, Patterson, and West Sacramento. In July 2025, the company was sold to BMH Equipment LLC. Business Reps Paul Abarca (Locals 1528 and 2182) and Jeremy Celaya (Local 653) led the negotiations with BMH and presented the new company's first offer for a successor agreement to the members for ratification.

However, this isn't a happily-ever-after story yet. The members rejected the proposed contract, with 66% voting no. More to come soon.

### Local 2182

#### Major Victory at Lodi Waste Management: Five-Year Contract Delivers Big Gains



The members at Lodi Waste Management are pleased with their new contract.

The members at Lodi Waste Management have achieved a major win with the ratification of a new five-year contract that delivers significant wage increases, stronger retirement benefits, and important workplace improvements. The agreement, ratified in March by the 41 members, reflects years of organizing, unity, and perseverance.

Asst. Directing Business Rep Mark Martin announced that the contract includes an over 28% increase in pay over five years, translating to a \$10 per hour wage increase, along with \$2.60 more per hour in employer contributions to the 401(k) over the life of the agreement.

#### Strength Through Unity

This contract victory came on the heels of a hard-fought NLRB decertification election, where members voted by more than 80% to maintain their union representation. "The members stood together and decisively rejected the decert attempt, clearing

the way for strong negotiations," said Martin.

By the end of the contract, driver wages will reach \$44.50 per hour, up from \$22 when members first organized; the Utility Spotter goes from \$12.07 pre-union to 35.75 at end of contract, and the Equipment Operator jumps from \$17.06 to \$35.75—proof that organizing delivers real results.

#### A Steward's Perspective

Shop Steward John Sauseda, a 34-year veteran driver at the facility and a three-time member of the negotiating team, emphasized the importance of experience, solidarity, and trust in the process.

John reflected on earlier organizing efforts and the role

strong leadership played in finally securing lasting representation. "We brought the union in 2015 after previous attempts failed due to union busters using scare tactics," he said. "IAM organizer Jesse Juarez knew how to work the situation and helped us get organized."

John says that with so many senior drivers in Lodi, it's a premier site. "We run the facility. The company brings in managers-in-training so they can see how the operation is supposed to run."

#### Looking Ahead

Both leaders stressed that the success of this contract is rooted in mutual trust—between members, leadership, and the union.

"Trust in our system and in each other is vital," John said. "We always know where we stand with Mark, and we appreciate the support from the Machinists who always have our backs."

John adds that the talks are mostly about language – job security, seniority. The last two were about bringing us up to speed in terms of money. "We're always on the heels of Stockton, but we're catching up. "It's never enough money," John added, "but we're heading in the right direction. Our members deserve this progress, and we're proud of what we've accomplished together."

With their ratification vote, members agree that this agreement represents meaningful progress and sets the stage for continued gains.



John Sauseda  
Shop Steward at W/M

# IN THE NEWS

## US labor unions gear up to fight against Trump's 'Billionaire First' agenda

President Trump's latest budget proposal would cut the Department of Labor's current \$13.3 billion budget by 26 percent, resulting in agencies like OSHA, Wage and Hour, and MSHA each losing tens of millions of dollars. Similar to last year's proposal to reduce the budget to \$8.8 billion, the 2027 budget includes many of the same controversial provisions that were rejected in the spending bill passed earlier this year, such as eliminating the Job Corps, a program that provides vocational training for low-income youth. Most of the reductions would come from the Department's personnel compensation budget.

—Maya Levkovitz, *Onlabor.org*

## Unions fight Trump's union-busting

In a statement marking the one-year anniversary of President Trump's executive order stripping federal workers of collective bargaining rights, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler condemned the move as "the single biggest act of union-busting in our country's history." She said the order silenced workers who provide essential services, including nurses, food safety inspectors, and emergency responders.

The Trump administration later expanded the order and canceled union contracts for hundreds of thousands of federal workers, explicitly stating it was intended to suppress worker opposition to administration policies. Shuler said the labor movement has fought back through lawsuits, organizing, and winning some contracts back, while also helping pass the Protect America's Workforce Act in the House.

The labor movement is now urging the Senate to pass the bill and says it will continue organizing and electing leaders who support workers over "billionaire bosses." "We will put our solidarity into action," Shuler said. "We will continue to fight. And we will win."

—AFL-CIO Blog

## Union growth in California

California unions added 108,000 new members between 2024 and 2025, according to the California Federation of Labor Unions.

—California Federation of Labor Unions

## Workers vs. big tech: Labor's message to Newsom on AI

The California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO sent a resounding message to California Gov. Gavin Newsom and every other politician considering running for pres-



ident in 2028: Stand with working people over billionaires, and fight for common-sense guardrails for artificial intelligence.

Joining President Lorena Gonzalez of the California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO on Wednesday were National President Liz Shuler of the AFL-CIO, President Yvonne T. Brooks of the Georgia AFL-CIO, President Charlie Wishman of the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Susie Martinez of the Nevada State AFL-CIO and President Braxton Winston II of the North Carolina State AFL-CIO, as well as President Chris Hannan of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California.

California is at the cutting edge of technology adaptation and the artificial intelligence revolution. And so it falls to California to lead the nation, not just in innovation, but in achieving protections for workers against the worst excesses of AI. Whether it is Big Tech surveillance of workers or outright job replacement, these state and national leaders showed a united front in calling on Gov. Newsom and other potential 2028 candidates to work with Labor on this critical issue affecting workers in every sector.

"I'm frustrated with a governor who's more interested in his Big Tech billionaire friends than working people," said Lorena Gonzalez, President of the California Federation of Labor Unions. "It's time to bring workers and their representatives to the table."

"Union members' anxiety on AI isn't just an issue of new technology and changes to the nature of work — it's an example of Big Tech billionaires continuing to reap profits off the backs of working people," said Chrissy Lynch, President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. "Advances in productivity cannot be a trade-off for workers' privacy or job security. States like California and Massachusetts have a real opportunity to lead on a worker-first framework and counter the Big Tech-fueled corruption and privatization coming out of

Washington."

Labor sent a strong message that no matter where Governor Newsom goes in this country, working people will expect him to step up and take action on the existential threat to workers that is AI.

—California Federation of Labor Unions

## UFW president: 'We do not condone the actions of César Chávez'

United Farm Workers (UFW) President Teresa Romero said the rape allegations against the late César Chávez were "very difficult to hear" and not something the organization expected. Chávez, a renowned labor leader, was accused in a *New York Times* investigation of sexually assaulting three women, including two daughters of union leaders. The long-rumored allegations sparked a backlash, with calls to remove the Chavez name from public places. The UFW itself boycotted several commemoration events.

Romero urged respect for the women and emphasized the union's efforts to support survivors by creating safe spaces for them to come forward. Despite the allegations, the UFW continues its legal battles over farmworker wages, challenging policy proposals to lower wages for H-2A workers, mainly from Mexico.

Besides the women alleging assault by Chávez when they were young teens, Chávez's organizing partner, Dolores Huerta, also accused him of twice raping her, resulting in two children that she gave up for adoption. She had been reluctant to speak up previously because she didn't want to contribute to harming the farmworkers' movement, to which she had devoted her life.

Romero, the first Latina to lead the United Farm Workers, stated the union is working on a safe, independent system for victims to seek help, emphasizing respect and understanding for those affected. "We're here to respect them and to under-

stand that this is very difficult for them," she said.

Cal Matters

## California labor leaders push for corporate tax hike

California labor leaders are launching a renewed campaign to raise taxes on large corporations, arguing that businesses are profiting while public services face increasing financial strain. Major unions are backing a multi-year effort called UnRig California, which aims to boost corporate tax contributions and protect funding for programs such as health care and food assistance.

The push follows last year's decision by the Legislature, at Gov. Gavin Newsom's urging, to freeze enrollment of undocumented immigrants in the state's health care program amid budget pressures tied to federal cuts. Since then, progressive lawmakers have promoted revenue-raising proposals to close budget deficits without reducing services, including measures targeting offshore corporations and real estate investment groups.

At a recent rally organized by SEIU California, labor leaders endorsed legislation that would tighten the tax code for multinational corporations and impose fees on companies whose low wages force workers to rely on state benefit programs like Medi-Cal and CalFresh. Assemblymember Mia Bonta, D-Alameda, has introduced a bill that could serve as a vehicle for the policy. Supporters estimate that closing offshore tax loopholes could raise up to \$3 billion, while fees on companies benefiting from public assistance could generate as much as \$17 billion annually.

Union leaders framed the current tax system as unfair, with SEIU Local 2015 President Arnulfo De La Cruz calling it "socialism for the rich, and capitalism for the workers." The coalition backing the campaign includes the California Teachers Association, United Domestic Workers, and the California Labor Federation, giving the effort significant political influence.

Polling suggests Californians broadly support taxing wealthy individuals and corporations to preserve social programs, even as many feel overburdened by high living costs. Still, opposition remains strong. Business groups argue that higher corporate taxes will raise prices, cost jobs, or drive companies out of the state.

Gov. Newsom has expressed skepticism toward new revenue measures, and any tax increase would require a two-thirds vote in the Legislature, leaving the campaign's path forward uncertain.

—Sacramento Bee

# FROM THE TRUST FUND



## Time to get your physical exam

To enable members to receive a lower calendar-year deductible, in 2023, the Board of Trustees instituted an annual physical exam requirement for those on self-funded medical plans offered by the Automotive Industries Welfare Plan. The participant and their spouse or domestic partner (if applicable) who get an annual physical exam will be moved to the lower deductible level along with all dependent children. The physical exam can be taken any time before the end of the 2026 calendar year (December 31).

Plan Option	Annual Calendar Year Deductible	2027 Deductible IF you and your Spouse/Registered Domestic Partner receive a physical exam in 2026	2027 Deductible IF you and your Spouse/Reg Domestic Partner do NOT receive a physical exam in 2026
Plan A	\$400/individual or \$800/family	\$200/individual or \$400/family	\$400/individual or \$800/family
Plan C	\$1,000/individual or \$2,000/family	\$500/individual or \$1,000/family	\$1,000/individual or \$2,000/family

You'll have to submit a Physical Exam Certification Form. A separate form must be submitted for you and your spouse or domestic partner (if applicable) to reduce your deductible for the 2027 calendar year. Forms have been mailed or may be obtained online at [www.aitrustfunds.org](http://www.aitrustfunds.org).

If you have questions about what deductible level you are in, please contact the Trust Fund Office at 800-635-3105 or by email at [AISupport@hsba.com](mailto:AISupport@hsba.com).

## Voluntary Wellness Program available

The Fund has a voluntary wellness program available to all participants and eligible spouses in the Automotive Industries Welfare Fund. The program is administered according to federal rules permitting employer-sponsored wellness programs that seek to improve employee health or prevent disease, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and others.

Employees who choose to participate in the wellness program will receive an incentive of a lower annual deductible. If you choose to participate in the wellness program, however, you will be

asked to have a complete physical exam during Calendar Year 2026. Although you are not required to have the physical exam, only employees who do so will receive lower deductible in 2027.

The information from your physical exam will be used to provide you with information to help you understand your current health and potential risks.

## Protections from Disclosure of Medical Information

We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your personally identifiable health information. Although the wellness program and Automotive Industries Welfare Fund may use aggregate information it collects to design a program based on identified health risks in the workplace, the Fund will never disclose any of your personal information either publicly, or to the employer, except as necessary to respond to a request from you for a reasonable accommodation needed to participate in the wellness program, or as expressly permitted by law. Medical information that personally identifies you that is provided in connection with the wellness program will not be provided to your supervisors or managers and may never be used to make decisions regarding your employment.

Your health information will not be sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disclosed except to the extent permitted by law to carry out specific activities related to the wellness program, and you will not be asked or required to waive the confidentiality of your health information as a condition of participating in the wellness program or receiving an incentive. Anyone who receives your information for purposes of providing you services as part of the wellness program will abide by the same confidentiality requirements. The only individual(s) who will receive your personally identifiable health information is the Fund in order to provide you with your decreased deductible under the wellness program.

In addition, all medical information obtained through the wellness program will be maintained separate from your personnel records, information stored electronically will be encrypted, and no information you provide as part of the wellness program will be used in making any employment decision. Appropriate precautions will be taken to avoid any data breach, and in the event a data breach occurs involving information

you provide in connection with the wellness program, we will notify you immediately. You may not be discriminated against in employment because of the medical information you provide as part of participating in the wellness program, nor may you be subjected to retaliation if you choose not to participate. If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, or about protections against discrimination and retaliation, please contact the Fund Office at 800-635-3105 or by email at [AISupport@hsba.com](mailto:AISupport@hsba.com).

## We're here to help

1-888-690-1349  
<https://hmc.personaladvantage.com>

- Stress
- Parenting
- Aging
- Grief/Loss
- Anxiety
- Relationships
- Adoption
- Estate planning
- Bankruptcy
- Immigration
- Child custody

- Real estate
- Criminal issues
- Tenant's rights
- Divorce
- Family
- Marriage
- Work issues
- Alcohol/Drug issues
- Finances
- Depression

you provide in connection with the wellness program, we will notify you immediately.

You may not be discriminated against in employment because of the medical information you provide as part of participating in the wellness program, nor may you be subjected to retaliation if you choose not to participate.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, or about protections against discrimination and retaliation, please contact the Fund Office at 800-635-3105 or by email at [AISupport@hsba.com](mailto:AISupport@hsba.com).

## Pension Plan Searching for Former Participants

About 2,000 participants are entitled to receive a pension payment under the Automotive Industries Pension Plan but have not made application for their money. If you know someone who used to work in the industry during the 1970s or 1980s, is over age 65, and is not receiving a pension payment from the Trust Fund, they could be missing out on a monthly payment from the Plan. Have them contact the Trust Fund Office at 800-635-3105 for a review of their work history to see if they are eligible.

Automotive Industries (AI) Trust Fund Office:  
800-635-3105 • [www.AITrustFunds.org](http://www.AITrustFunds.org)

### Mother's Day

**Chocolates**  
• Ghiradelli • Hershey's • Russel Stover • See's Candies

**Flowers**  
• Albertsons • Costco • Gelson's • Pavilions • Ralphs • Safeway • Vons  
• 25% discount on Teleflora (for Union Plus members)

### Father's Day

**Health & beauty products**  
Dove Beauty Bar/skin care • Caress skin care • L'Oréal Paris • Revlon

**Cookware and Grilling**  
Thermador grills • Weber grills • All-Clad • Anchor Hocking • Cutco knives • Fiesta tableware • KitchenAid • Durex • Maverick barbecue tools • Igloo coolers

### Union Buying Guides for Mother's Day and Father's Day

**Clothing and Accessories**  
Carhartt • New England Shirt Co • Joseph Abboud • Southwick • Naturalizer Shoes • Nunn Bush Shoes • Red Wing Shoes • Timex watches • Union Boot Pro • Art Craft Leather • Horween Leather Co. • Danner shoes • Air Step Shoes • Wage's Silversmiths custom silver belt buckles

**Tools**  
Armstrong • Stanley/Black & Decker • Klein Tools • Lawn-Boy

**Sporting Equipment**  
NordicTrack • American Athletic/Russell Brands • MacGregor Golf clubs • Standard Golf • Top-Flite golf balls

## MOVING?

Or need to report a member recently deceased...

Send the mailing label on this newspaper to your local union office. Please note: Even if you send your notice to the Pension Fund or the Health & Welfare Trust, that won't change your address as the union has it. Be sure to contact your local union!

See calendar below for your local's address.

## Note about union meetings

Most union meetings are now being held in person, but since the heat of the pandemic, others are hybrid, meaning you may attend on Zoom (or similar) video-conferencing program. If you wish to attend online, check with your local to ensure you have the web address and are properly registered.

## FAST FACTS

**\$20,100,000,000,000**

The combined wealth of the world's 3,428 billionaires.



Their fortunes have expanded by \$4 trillion since last year.

Source: Forbes, March 10, 2026

## IN THE NEWS

### DISTRICT LODGE 190

10260 MacArthur Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94605  
510-632-3661

**Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month**

April 28 • May 26 • June 23

**Executive Board Meeting:** 6:30 p.m.

**General Delegates' Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

### LOCAL 1484

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

**Executive Board Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month

April 16 • May 21 • June 18

**General Membership Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month

April 7 • May 5 • June 2

**Retirees' Club:** 12:30 p.m. Meets quarterly on the third Wednesday of the month:

June 17 • September 16 •

December holiday luncheon TBD.

### LOCAL 653

5726 E. Shields Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727  
559-264-2815

**Meetings are generally the third Wednesday of the month**

April 15 • May 20 • June 17

**Executive Board Meeting:** 5:00 p.m.

**Membership Meeting:** 5:30 p.m.

Note: Per the bylaws, the Nov. and Dec. meetings are held on the second Wednesdays. Meetings are held in person and on zoom. If you plan to attend in person, please RSVP so staff can ensure there's enough food. If you want to attend on zoom, send a personal email to iamaw653@comcast.net. Be sure to provide your first and last name and the shop you work at in the email.

### LOCAL 1528

713 16th Street  
Modesto, CA 95354  
209-529-9210  
machinists2182@gmail.com

**Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month**

April 1 • May 6 • June 3

**Executive Board Meeting:** 6:00 p.m.

**General Membership Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

April 1 • May 6 • June 3

**Narcotics Anonymous:** 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Tuesday

### LOCAL 801

10260 MacArthur Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94605

**Meetings are the third Thursday of the month**

April 16 • May 21 • June 18

**Membership Meeting:** 4:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Carpenters' Hall, in Reno.

### LOCAL 1546

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

**Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month**

April 7 • May 5 • June 2

**General Membership Meeting & E Board Meetings:** 5:30 p.m.

### LOCAL 1101

2102 Almaden Rd., #105  
San Jose, CA 95125  
408-440-8716

**Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month**

April 14 • May 12 • June 9

**Executive Board Meeting:** 5:00 p.m.

**General Membership Meeting:** 5:30 p.m.

Meetings will be held on the Bluejeans App for the foreseeable future. Email: aab1101@att.net to learn how to join in.

Meetings are hybrid - you can join in person or on zoom. Email zr1zo6r@sbcglobal.net to learn how to join in on zoom.

### LOCAL 1173

1900 Bates Ave., # H  
Concord, CA 94520  
925-687-6421  
LL1173@sbcglobal.net

**Executive Board Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month

April 9 • May 14 • June 11

**Membership/Shop Stewards' Meeting:** 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month

April 9 • May 14 • June 11

Meetings will be held on zoom and in person at the Concord office. Contact Cindy at 925-687-6421 for zoom address and passcode.

### LOCAL 1584

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

**Meetings are the third Thursday of the month**

April 16 • May 21 • June 18

**Membership Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

**Executive Board Meeting:** 6:00 p.m.

Meetings will be hybrid (in person and on zoom) for the foreseeable future. Email Tom.Swanger@atlaspace.com to learn how to join in on zoom.

### LOCAL 1414

150 South Boulevard  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
650-341-2689

**Executive Board Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month

April 9 • May 14 • June 11

**General Membership Meeting:** 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month via Zoom. Please contact the office for the meeting link.

April 16 • May 21 • June 18

**Retirees' Club:** 11:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of March, June, Sept., Dec. All are welcome!

June 3 • September 2 • December 2

### LOCAL 2182

967 Venture Court  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
916-929-1040

**Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month**

April 14 • May 12 • June 9

**Executive Board Meeting:** 6:00 p.m.

**General Membership Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

For dues questions, call Kimberlee Gutierrez at (510) 244-3304 or email machinists2182@gmail.com