

Mark Valdez
President

RANK & FILER

Stephanie DeLaRosa
Recording Secretary

Marty Perez
Vice President

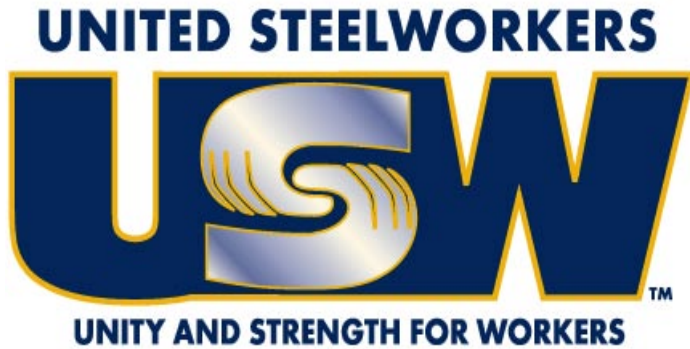


Linda Doppe
Financial Secretary

Buzz Enea Jr.
Treasurer

November 2011 Edition

Local 1440



HOW ARE WE DOING?

With the recent news about Occupy Wall Street and Occupy Oakland locally it is of interest to revisit some basic facts. How are we doing compared to other nations? Is “American Exceptionalism” objectively true or just another campaign slogan? Recently, Charles Blow, in the NY Times discussed a study done for the EU entitled “Social Justice” in the OECD – How do Member States Compare?”

The study looked at childhood and senior citizen poverty rates, income inequality, public spending per capita in early childhood education, and a health system rating. The results were discouraging to say the least. The US ranked 27th overall in developed world - behind Sweden, Britain, France, Slovakia, Canada, and Australia among others – and trailed 28 other countries in poverty rates. In income disparity – a major target of the 99% Movement - we were 28th trailing the Czech Republic, Britain and Ireland among 27 others.

There can be little doubt that “American exceptionalism”, while still a concept we hold near and dear, is more of a concept or goal these days than a reality. As the long arduous 2012 campaign season gears up, think about these numbers when “that candidate of that party”-you fill in the blank-starts pontificating about “despite our problems we are the greatest nation on earth” etc. in an attempt to fog over the issues and equate sincere skepticism of that claim with lack of patriotism. Make no mistake. The middle class is under severe attack. They want it **all**. There is class warfare. On us! Next month, more from the world of workers’ comp.

John Harrigan, Boxer & Gerson LLP, Oakland and Antioch 510-286-2944 or 925-754-9900; see www.boxerlaw.com and www.workerscompzone.com

George Miller Stands with Steelworkers

Congressman George Miller along with USW District 12 Director Bob LaVenture toured our plant on Monday, November 7th. The purpose was to focus attention on legislation that will bring a level playing field for American workers and manufacturers against low-priced imports from China. The bill, H.R. 639, the *Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act* would tackle China’s practice of manipulating their currency. The Chinese government holds down the value of its currency, allowing it to undercut similar products sold in the United States. China’s government also subsidizes many businesses creating even more of a disadvantage to US businesses



Rep. Miller at the exit pulpit of KMCAL

Imported Chinese steel made up to 28 percent of the west coast market share. The Currency Bill would put duties on imports to offset any undervalued currency.

The Republican leadership in the House has refused so far to hear this bill on the floor. The bill has already passed the Senate.

A rally that consisted of Steelworkers at the Learning Center followed the tour. Rep. Miller said that the passing of this bill could create about 1 to 1.5 million jobs.

Linda Doppe

Retirements October

Carl Cordy – 35 years service, worked as a Lead Operator in CSA

James Owens – 38 years service, worked as a Lead Operator CA Line

Lori Rich – 24 years service, worked as a Lead Operator CA Line

Congratulations and good luck to our Brothers and Sister on their retirement

It remains to be seen where the vibrant Occupy Movements will lead. It is clear, however, that business-as-usual is not providing for the vast majority of workers, particularly for vulnerable, marginalized populations such as low-wage and immigrant workers.

Further, as demonstrated by the hundreds of California workers who die on the job annually and the thousands more who are injured or suffer from chronic exposure to chemical, biological, or physical agents, it's just as clear that workplace safety and health protections remain as vital as ever.

With these and other workers in mind, WORKSAFE stands in solidarity with Occupy Oakland and all those demanding a just and equitable economy for the 99%.

WORKSAFE

SAFETY, HEALTH AND JUSTICE FOR WORKERS

WORKSAFE STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH OCCUPY OAKLAND

October 28, 2011

Tuesday's heavy-handed eviction of the Occupy Oakland encampment, and the violence directed at protestors in the hours that followed, has shocked our region, the nation, and the world. Dozens of cities in the U.S. and abroad are holding marches in solidarity with Oakland and vigils for Scott Olsen, the young marine who survived two tours in Iraq only to return home to be critically injured by the police while exercising his First Amendment rights in Oakland.

WORKSAFE joins with so many others in expressing this solidarity, both with the activists in the streets and the 99% of Americans they represent – those struggling to get by in this bruising economy, who want good, safe jobs at decent wages to provide for themselves and their loved ones, who demand a voice in their workplace and to receive the protections they deserve.

March 25th of this year marked the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Factory Fire, in which 146 people – overwhelmingly young immigrant women and girls – perished. Then, as now, forces aligned with the top tiers of the economic system – “the 1%,” in the language of the Occupy Movements – decried any regulations, even the most commonsense protections, claiming they would hinder the ability of businesses to succeed. Then, as now, workers and their allies knew this was false, and resisted. The Triangle Fire birthed the modern labor movement in the U.S.

UNION HALL NUMBERS

432-7396 ext.

Mark Valdez	President	303
Marty Perez	V.P./Wage-Rate	310
Linda Doppe	F.S./Benefits	302
Buzz Enea Jr	Chairman/Rel.	300
Steve Berendsen	Tin Grievance	306
Steph DeLaRosa	M & I Griev	308
Mike Orlando	Rolling Griev	305
Joe Perez	Sheet Griev	307
Andy Angelo	Contracting Out	309
Nick Garcia	Drug & Alcohol	311

Signed contributions are invited by Members of Local 1440. Other contributions may be accepted. All material is subject to general interest to the membership and space availability, and may not be returned. Articles, opinions expressed, and statements made are not necessarily the opinion or the policy of the Union. The union does not endorse any advertisers

Union Meeting

Our Union Meetings are held every
2nd Thursday of the month

Next Meeting will be on
December 8th

5:30 PM at the Union Hall
677 Cumberland Street
Pittsburg, CA

Your Wage Safety Representative's

Bill Halgas	439-6388
Bob Bedoya	430-6486
Tim Lear	439-6535
John Passur	439-6144

LOCAL 1440 CHRISTMAS PARTY



DECEMBER 16TH
11:00 AM TO 6:00 PM
AT THE UNION HALL

LOCAL'S WEBSITE



www.usw1440.com

ICD

Learning Advocates

Andy Angelo	Hamid Heydari
Milt Lea	Tim Lear
Jeanne Millecam	Bill Swenson
Bill Soltis	David Hall
Fernando Blanco	Javier Lopez
Joe Veronis	

ICD

OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 2



Learning Center
Room 1 & 2
7:30am – 2:00pm

Don't forget to come by and sign up for the drawing (ipad and Barnes & Noble tablets) at the Open House! If you are not able to attend, go to the ICD web site icdclasses.com and complete a survey to sign up for the drawing. Deadline to sign up online is Dec. 1st

Lunch will be served between 11am to 1pm -



After Thanksgiving

Meal Poem

I ate too much Turkey, I ate too much corn,
I ate too much pudding and pie.
I'm stuffed up with muffins and too much stuffing'
I'm probably going to die.

I piled up my plate and I ate and I ate.
But I wish I had known when to stop,
For I'm so crammed with yams, sauces,
gravies, and jams
That my buttons are starting to pop!

I'm full of tomatoes and French fried potatoes
My stomach is swollen and sore,
But there's still some dessert so I guess it won't hurt if
I eat just a little bit more!



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**
From USW 1440 and
Wage Safety Representatives

Turkey Raffle Winners

Bill Halgas
Tim Lear
Steve Berendsen
Richard Hodges
Jason Denny

Andy Angelo
Joe Perez
Sebastian Enea Jr
Buddy Serna
Mark Valdez



The C.A.A. Office Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	7:00 to 11:00 am.
Thursday	12:30 to 4:30 pm.
Friday	12:30 to 4:30 pm.

*The Drug & Alcohol
Committee
of Local 1440
Wishes all a Happy Safe
Thanksgiving*