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September 2010 Edition

Local 1440

Contributions are invited by 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 advertiser

Congressmen George Miller and John Garamendi Tour UPI



Don Peacock with Congressmen Miller and Garamendi touring the DUO Mill



Local 1440 President Mark Valdez meets Congressman Miller

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

**Our Next Meeting will be on
October 14th
5:30 PM at the Union Hall
677 Cumberland St.
Pittsburg**



Richard Rios explaining PCM operations

LOCAL'S WEBSITE



www.usw1440.com

Grievance Committee

Buzz Enea Jr. - Chairman -Reliability
Mike Orlando - Rolling
Joe Perez Sheet
Steve Berendsen Tin
Stephanie De La Rosa M&I

Call Hall at 432-7396 for Grievance Person Phone No.

Contracting Out

Andy Angelo. - Chairman
Jim Gillespie - Assistant

**Labor endorsements for the
Fall Election**

Governor-----Jerry Brown (D)
 Lt. Governor-----Gavin Newsom (D)
 Attorney General-----Kamala Harris (D)
 Secretary of State-----Debra Bowen (D)
 Treasurer-----Bill Lockyear (D)
 Controller-----John Chiang (D)
 Superintendent of
 Public Instruction-----Tom Torlakson
 Insurance Commissioner-----Dave Jones (D)

U.S. Senator-----Barbara Boxer (D)

Congress
 District 7-----George Miller (D)
 District 10-----John Garamendi (D)
 District 11-----Jerry McNerney (D)

State Assembly
 District 11-----Susan Bonilla (D)

Ballot Measures
 Proposition 19-----Neutral
 Proposition 20-----NO
 Proposition 21-----YES
 Proposition 22-----Neutral
 Proposition 23-----NO
 Proposition 24-----YES
 Proposition 25-----YES
 Proposition 26-----NO
 Proposition 27-----YES

Here are some government agencies to protect your rights as workers. Here are the numbers for your information.

FEDERAL – EEOC – WWW.EEOC.GOV
 510-634-3230

STATE – FAIR EMPLOYMENT &
 HOUSING – 1-800-884-1684

NLRB – WWW.NLRB.GOV – 510-637-3300

OSHA – WWW.OHSA.GOV – 925-602-6517
 925-676-0227

ICD

Learning Advocates

Andy Angelo
 Hamid Heydari
 Milt Lea
 Tim Lear
 Jeanne Millecam
 Bill Swenson
 Bill Soltis

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

**RETIREMENTS
August**

Leland Smith – 23 years service, worked as a Crane Operator in the Sheet Warehouse.

Congratulations and good luck to our Brother on his retirement.

Tattle Tales

We have at least one in every department. How old are we people, 10? Unless someone is hurt or dying there's no need to tell your boss anything about anyone! I'm sure you think your pearls of wisdom you impart to the bosses will win you some brownie points. They are at the expense of your co-workers who need their jobs just as much as you need yours. Why would you want to get your Union Brother and Sister in trouble anyway?

Solidarity is not just a word it should mean the same thing to everybody. If you can't say anything nice don't say anything at all!

Here's a new concept let's try working together instead of against each other. Minding our own business instead of all the backstabbing. Try performing a random act of kindness towards someone. Never underestimate the power of one.

Tami Quezada

Social Security Disability - basics

In the case of a prolonged disability of you, your significant other, or relative, you should be advised that you may be entitled to Social Security Disability, commonly referred to as Title 2 Disability benefits of SSD.

A federal program administered by SSA (Social Security Administration), SSD benefits are available for those who have paid into the system - a formula is used that looks at earnings over 40 quarters (10 years) or less depending on age and work history - who have been or most likely will be out of work at least a year due to illness or accidental disability or both. Unlike workers' compensation, SSD is not limited to industrial conditions but takes into account all disabling conditions no matter what the causation.

Generally one must be out of work a minimum of one year to qualify but we typically have clients apply after 6 to 9 months after disability onset if it appears from the medical evidence that their disability will last 12 months or more. Some think one has to be permanently disabled. That is not the case. A "closed period" is sometimes available for those out of work 2 to 3 years for multiple surgeries or other health reasons.

After 2 years of eligibility one is entitled to Medicare which is very helpful as one may have run out of their group health coverage and not be able to afford ongoing COBRA coverage. By the time benefits are granted one may be approaching 2 years as it is retroactive to the onset date plus a 5 month wait period.

With workers' compensation benefits reduced and/or capped and with EDD/SDI (State of California disability benefits) limited to one year, SSD is an important benefit system to be aware of and make use of. More next time on what to do if you are denied.

John Harrigan, Boxer & Gerson LLP, Oakland and Antioch, 510-286-2944 or 925-754-9900. See www.Boxerlaw.com and www.WorkersCompZone.com



Safety Corner

Safety Topics for September

Safety should be a key topic when children return to school.

As a parent, your top priority is to keep your children safe. As September arrives, there is plenty for you to talk about with your children. After all, this is the month when many students return to school after a long summer break. By addressing safety with their children, parents can help to protect them from traffic accidents and abductions.

Stranger Danger

1. For the many children who walk to and from school each day, stranger abduction is a potential threat. We've all read stories of strangers luring young children into their cars. Many parents shudder when official notices from their school districts come home in their children's backpacks, warning them of a possible stranger-danger event in their neighborhood.

Parents' best move is to drill their children on the steps they should take if they are approached by a stranger. First, children should know that they should never enter a car not driven by a parent or sibling. Secondly, parents need to teach their children to run from strangers while shouting loudly. This will cause most perpetrators to flee the scene. Finally, parents should teach their children that if a stranger approaches them, they should seek out the nearest crossing guard, teacher or neighborhood parent they know.

Traffic Safety

2. Parents need to teach their children the basics of crossing the street safely, especially when their children are walking to school on their own for the first time. It's important, too, for them to instruct their children to carefully listen to their school crossing guards. They also need to teach them to look both ways when crossing unmonitored corners.

Bicycle Safety

3. Each September, many children ride their bicycles to school for the first time. Children should know the basics of bicycle safety such as riding with, not against, traffic. They should know to ride on the sides of streets, not in the sidewalk where they could injure other children or their parents. Parents should also make sure their children know to follow all stop signs and other traffic signals and, of course, to stop at every street corner, make sure no traffic is coming and then proceed quickly, but safely, across the street.

Your Wage Safety Representatives