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RANK & FILER



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January 2008 Edition

Local 1440

Letter from the President

Brothers and Sisters,

We are one month into this New Year and I feel very optimistic about the outcome of events that will occur during this wonderful year. I'm very excited and looking forward to seeing a new president elected to Washington who will be sensitive to the needs of working class Americans. I'm also looking forward to a productive year so we can once again attain a fair and equitable bargaining agreement later in the year. To accomplish both, we have to gear up and do the work that's necessary to attain those goals. We have the power and the momentum and we need to continue to create greater momentum to make both goals an actuality. We will be tested and these goals won't come easy but our persistence and hard work will be rewarding. Now what do we have to do from a local 1440's perspective to get this job done. First with regard to the elections, the democrats have three viable candidates that would serve us right in the White House. Even though, they all have similar views for fixing this broken down system, each have different points on how to resolve them, in a nut shell, union members should look at the records of these candidates to see who would best represent the interest of the union. Hilary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama do believe in union rights and the right to organize unions. The USW has endorsed John Edwards as has many other unions because they believe and I agree, his agenda most represents our needs. February 5th is Super Tuesday for about two dozen states including California. So I encourage you to VOTE and I recommend that you vote for Edwards.

Starting Monday January 28, I will join the basic steel presidents' committee conference call. USW Basic Steel

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.

Presidents from all over the country communicate all the issues concerning their locals and gather ideas on how to tackle this years bargaining agreement. These calls have already started and will continue until a labor agreement is attained. Lead negotiator Tom Conway has been involved in these conversations and is encouraging us to continue. As far as local 1440 are concerned and as I stated in my last rank and filer article, we will be discussing all bargaining issues at our union meetings. What I will say here is, we will be looking at array of local issues and will be discussing those issues with all of you sometime in late March and early April.

As I said, I am very optimistic about 2008. A change in the white house and a good contract will make it a great year.

In Solidarity,

Tony Tiscareno

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

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

**Our Next Meeting will be on
February 14th .**

7:30 PM at the Union Hall

After serious and cautious consideration...your contract of friendship has been renewed for the New Year 2008

It was a very hard decision to make.

So try not to screw it up!!!

My Wish for You in 2008

May peace break into your house and may thieves come to steal your debts.

May the pockets of your jeans become a magnet of \$100 bills.

May love stick to your face like Vaseline and may laughter assault your lips!

May your clothes smell of success like smoking tires and may happiness slap you across the face and may your tears be that of joy.

May the problems you had forget your home address.

In simple words.....

May 2008 be the best year of your life!!!!

Chairman of Drug & Alcohol Committee

ICD

As time quickly approaches for a new contract it is time for you to review your marketability. With the new job classifications the majority of us have gained new marketable skills. Quite a few of the production employees have been gaining maintenance skills. These new skills could be enhanced to bridge to a maintenance position, or even to obtaining a general contractors license from CSLS (Contractor State License Services) located in Concord. Are you operating a crane now, or possibly driving a tractor periodically? Why not transfer this understanding of heavy equipment dynamics to the operation of driving a truck? Obtain your Class A or B driving license from American Truck School located in Antioch.

Are you currently a craft employee? Consider obtaining your state contractors license, others have had considerable success. We have been recommending CSLS (Contractor State License Services), but you are free to choose your own schooling.

Are you currently working an office job? Upgrade your skills and learn the latest software.

These are only a few of the options open to you through ICD. Contact the learning center at 439-6189 for more information, or check out our new website at icdclasses.com.

Contracting Out Committee

Jim Harrington

Work: Ext. 6203 PL/TCM Mtce. Shop

Cell: (925)890-0828

Hall: 432-7396 (leave msg.)

Grievance Committee

Buzz Enea Jr. - Reliability – Chair

Jack Lenhart - Rolling

Dina Miller - Sheet

Frank Ochoa - Tin

Stephanie De La Rosa M&I

Call Hall at 432-7396 to get Grievance Person Phone Number.

D&A Committee

Nick Garcia

Phone: 872-1799

Mark Creel

Phone: 439-6146

Wage & Rate Committee

Marty Perez

Home: 439-9178

Work: 439-6447

Inner contentment is the main thing. Do not give up your basic needs; we all have the right to the basic minimum. We need it to live and we should make sure we have it. If that means protest, then let's protest. If we have to strike, then let's go on strike.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

RETIREMENTS

December

Sue Bookout – 30 years service, worked as a Spares Attendant in Spares.

Congratulations and good luck to our Sister on her retirement.

CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION POSITIONS ON FEBRUARY, 2008 BALLOT MEASURES

WWW.CALABORFED.ORG

California Labor Federation Position on Prop. 91 **NO**

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PROTECTION ACT (Proposition 91)

_ Due to the passage of Proposition 1A, proponents of Proposition 91 agree that this initiative is no longer necessary.

California Labor Federation Position on Prop. 92 **YES**

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE (Proposition 92)

_ This initiative would give every Californian the chance to go to college by lowering fees.

_ In 2004, when the Legislature hiked fees to \$26 per unit, over 300,000 fewer students enrolled in community colleges. Proposition 92 would reduce community college attendance fees to \$15 per unit, ensuring that community college is accessible and affordable.

_ Prop 92 also limits the rise in future fees, ensures stable funding for our community colleges, and guarantees that the community college system stays independent from state politics.

_ Community colleges help improve the economy – for every \$1 the state spends on community colleges, \$3 are returned back to the state through increased wages, as students see their wages almost double soon after completing a vocational degree or certificate.

California Labor Federation Position on Prop. 93 **YES**

TERM LIMITS AND LEGISLATIVE REFORM ACT (Proposition 93)

_ This initiative strikes a reasonable balance between the need to elect new people with fresh ideas, and the need for experienced legislators with the knowledge and expertise to solve the complex problems facing our state.

California Labor Federation Position on Props. 94-97 **NO**

REFERENDA ON GAMING COMPACTS, (Propositions 94-97)

_ California's unions have strongly opposed these gaming compacts since they were proposed in 2006.

_ Under tribal law, casino workers on Indian reservations **have no enforceable right to organize a union unless it is specified in the gaming compacts.**

_ These four gaming compacts **do not include provisions to protect the rights of workers,** which is why labor will continue to oppose these compacts as referenda.

_ There is no more important issue to workers than the right to organize and collectively bargain for fair wages and improved working conditions.



John Edwards is the **RIGHT FIT** for Steelworkers.

On Jobs and the Economy

Beginning with the passage of NAFTA in 1993 politicians in Washington have approved a series of trade agreements that allowed cheap foreign goods to flood our country while American jobs and industries were sent overseas, forcing the closure of factories that we built and maintained. We believe these policies must be changed and John Edwards agrees with us.

“In the 1990s we didn’t get universal health care, which we did need, and we did get NAFTA, which we didn’t need. Until now the question has been, ‘Is this trade deal good for corporate profits?’ In my administration the question will be, ‘Is the trade deal good for jobs and working middle class Americans?’” “When I am President of the United States we are going to end this business of giving tax breaks and tax incentives to American companies that are picking up and going overseas and taking their jobs with them.”—John Edwards

Union Movement

We believe that the economy, health care and caring for our families are the most important concerns for working people. The well-being of the American worker has not been first on the agenda in Washington, D.C., for a long time. We have placed a distant third to the interests of the corporate and financial elite, and we believe it’s time to support the candidate who speaks clearly and honestly to our issues. John Edwards is the candidate who shares our background and our beliefs and who will have working men and women at his side in November.

“I want to make sure that America understands what the union movement has meant to this country, what it has meant to helping lift millions of families out of poverty,...what it has meant to the economic security of our country, and how it is critical that we grow the union movement in America if we want to strengthen the middle class.” —John Edwards

Health Care

Health care costs continue to rise and year after year we see more of our hard won increases being allocated to pay for benefit expenses instead of going on the check. Our union has fought to control those costs and preserve our health care benefits but we can’t do it alone. John Edwards understands what this means to us and has presented a detailed plan to fix the problem.

“We have a dysfunctional health care system in America. It does not work.” “You should not be negotiating about health care. We ought to get health care off the table and the only answer to this is truly mandated-by-law, universal health care for every man, woman and child in America. There’s no excuse for politicians in Washington having health care when America has no health care.” —John Edwards