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RANK & FILER



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March 2010 Edition

Local 1440

Financial Secretary's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On March 8th & 9th Ben Salazar and I attended Labor's Joint Legislative Conference in Sacramento. The workshops focused on California's budget crisis, training for the new economy, and corporate tax transparency and accountability. The workshop about corporate tax accountability (corporate welfare) explained corporations get tax credits and exemptions for state taxes. These tax breaks are given away with no accountability as to whether the money will help create or retain jobs in California. This has cost the state \$8.7 billion dollars in lost revenue and we don't know if it has created 1 job. The Governor would rather cut services and education to balance the budget, than get rid of these giveaways.

Health care reform has finally passed. I know some are unhappy to see it become law, some don't care, and many like me are unsure on exactly what it will do to fix our health care problems. What I do know that our health care system was broken and we couldn't continue to do nothing and hope it would improve on its own. That is idiotic, and we are not idiots, even though some would feed us lies and tell us it's the truth. I am still hoping that universal (single payer) health care will pass in California. Senate Bill SB810 (single payer health care) passed both the Senate and Assembly last year, but Arnold vetoed the bill. The bill was reintroduced this year, but if "Mega Bucks" Meg Whitman gets into office, we will never see any labor friendly bills signed into law.

One of our members was fired for doing her job the way she had performed it for 30 years. The procedure was changed, but NOT the SJP. A Union "brother" snatched her off to the manager instead of talking to her. This manager must have thought it

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

was time for her to end her career at UPI, because he gave her 3 - five (5) day reprimands. Did she deserve a reprimand? Maybe. Did she deserve to get fired? No. Did she perform her job in an unsafe manner? It has to be NO, or the SJP would have been modified. Was she a hard worker? Even the manager said, yes. Instead of having a 1-2 year battle with the company, She has decided to retire. So the manager got what he wanted. The snake in the grass Union "brother" got what he wanted. And she got to leave the company with 34 years of service and a kick in the ass out the door.

What have we learned? Don't be insubordinate. Do what your boss tells you, the company wants us to follow their directives, not to think or use our years of experience. Watch out for snakes, they maybe working right next to you, and we have a lot of snakes working throughout the plant. Even if you work hard and come to work everyday, if you screw up, so it seems, you will be slapped with a 5 day reprimand and fired.

Remember an injury to one, is an injury to all.

In solidarity,
Linda Doppe

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

**Our Next Meeting will be on
April 8th
5:30 PM at the Union Hall
677 Cumberland St.
Pittsburg**

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

PHILLIP MURRAY

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

USW District 12, Sub-District 1 (California) is offering eleven scholarships, each with the value of \$1500, for use in the freshman year at any accredited college or university in the US. Scholarships will be awarded in May 2010 by the Existence and Educational Council, USW District 12. Winners will be selected by Selection Committee composed of professional educators.

To be eligible, candidates must be either sons or daughters of active USW members or legal wards of active members, a high school graduate or is graduating from high school before July 1, 2010, and have a "B" average or better during their junior or senior year.

Applications are available at the Union Hall.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2010.

RETIREMENTS

February

Sally Sellers – 35 years of service, worked in Transportation Dept. on the Engine crew.

Steve Ferguson – 36 years of service, worked in Transportation Dept. on the Engine crew.

March

Marolyn Hink – 34 years of service, worked in Tin Warehouse as a Tractor Driver.

Memorial Day Massacre of 1937

At the **Memorial Day massacre of 1937**, police shot and killed ten demonstrators in Chicago, on May 30, 1937. The incident took place during the "Little Steel Strike" in the United States.

The incident arose after U.S. Steel signed a union contract, but smaller steel manufacturers (called 'Little Steel'), including Republic Steel, refused to do so. In protest, the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) called a strike. On Memorial Day, hundreds of sympathizers gathered at Sam's Place, headquarters of SWOC. As the crowd marched across the prairie towards the Republic Steel mill, a line of Chicago policeman blocked their path. When the foremost protestors argued their right to continue, police fired on the crowd. As the crowd fled, police bullets killed ten people.

Years later, one of the protesters, Mollie West, recalled a policeman yelling to her that day to, "Get off the field or I'll put a bullet in your back." No police were ever prosecuted.

Today, on the site of Sam's Place stands the union hall of the United Steelworkers Local 1010 and a memorial to the 10 people who died in 1937.

THOSE ARE MY RECORDS

In this age of demising privacy, injured workers are often concerned about the confidentiality of their medical records especially since the 2004 changes in the law giving employers and their MPN's (Medical Provider Networks) increased control over who treats. Recall that you retain your right to Pre-Designate your treating physician (See November 2009 issue of Rank and Filer) which should be exercised.

What has not changed is that privacy is such an important right in California that you have Constitutional protection under Article 1, section 1. It is up to YOU to decide who sees what medical record. Treating doctors are duty bound – even if, and especially if, selected by the employer to be part of an MPN, for instance – to keep your medical information confidential. Breach of doctor – patient privilege is a serious violation of medical ethics. Your treating doctor owes a duty to YOU, not to the employer. Only those with a legitimate need to know such as a claims adjuster, for instance, can be reported to as a disability status and the like. If you have to remind the doctor of that, do so. A medical management nurse hired by the insurance company or self-insured employer does NOT have the right to sit in on your medical appointments without your consent. If information is disclosed without your consent, without your having signed a HIPPA compliant release, you can sue the doctor for violating the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA). You can also report your doctor to the Medical Board for an ethics

violation should the release information without your consent.

If you have a industrial injury and, for some reason have not pre-designated and are therefore treating with a company selected doctor, carefully read any medical information release given to you to sign by anyone and cross out any irrelevant sections or language such as psychiatric records , or substance abuse records, or anything that you are not comfortable with. If you have a question, contact the undersigned or ask the requestor as to what they need the information for and why does it relate to your sore back wrist et cet.

John Harrigan, Boxer & Gerson LLP, Oakland and Antioch, 510-286-2944
or JHarrigan@Boxerlaw.com Also visit www.Boxerlaw.com

There are many government agencies to protect our rights as workers. Here are some 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