

Iron Workers
Union Local
378



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LOCAL LINE NEWSLETTER

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Business Manager's Report

by Emilio Rivera, Business Manager, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hello to all. I hope this letter finds you in good health.

This November, the Ironworkers will have a big fight ahead of us against Meg Whitman. She is not good for us or the labor movement. Let's show her that we will not stand by and let her take away union wages. Our industry will need your help to defeat her. Please get involved this year and vote with your pocket books. We cannot let her beat us! I know the Ironworkers and we will not go down without a fight.

Recently, we have hired our Political Coordinator, Mahdis Fathi who is very knowledgeable and experienced in the election process. She will be working with us to organize and assist our local union in the upcoming election. Please get involved with the upcoming phone

banks and precinct walks for this election. Letters will be sent out to our membership asking for election support.

Recently, our Pin Ceremony event was held on July 16th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord, CA. There were over 400 members in attendance. The ceremony was a great day for our local. Thank you to Richard Zampa Sr., Donald Zampa, and Fred Burton who assisted with the pin ceremony tremendously. Thank you for the blessings and invaluable words spoken at this year's event. Thank you to Suvan Karayek the bagpiper who played a lovely rendition of Amazing Grace. We apologize to those of you who wished to receive a different service pin. Please realize that our estimations were based on years of service on record. We are looking into alternate solutions for the next ceremony.

It is not news to any of us that the financial mess of last year has impacted all of our investments across the board. The financial information concerning the Pensions investment performance for the 2008-2009 plan year was forwarded to the benefits advisor and it was calculated that the Pension Plan has been classified from the "green" status of 80% funded (estimated) to the "yellow" status. This means that the fund is still solvent but that contribution increases will be necessary next year to keep the fund strong. There will be notices mailed to everyone, which is required by the Federal Government. These notices will use the term "endangered" to describe our Pension. The fund will continue to provide benefits and there is nothing to be worried about for now. There will be talk about what actions will be taken to correct the funding shortfall. These actions may include 3 different ways to go about it.

#1 Increase retirement age; Golden 85 increased to 90.

#2 Decrease the benefit \$105 credit down to possibly \$100/\$95/\$90 for future credits earned or increase the amount we put into the Pension with our hourly contribution. **The only solution to this problem Local 378 will support is the contribution increase.**

Another Trustees meeting will be held again later this month to discuss further details.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- On Saturday, September 11th, the annual Ironworkers picnic will be held at the Waterfront Park in Martinez so come out and enjoy the day with us.
- Open Enrollment will be held on Saturday, October 9th. This is a great opportunity to meet and talk to your health care providers. For the first 100 members and/or their spouse, Kaiser Permanente will provide free flu shots! As always, there will be food and drinks for everyone.

Best wishes your brother Ironworker, Emilio Rivera

President/Business Agents Report *By Bobby Lux*

Without a doubt, the 2010 mid-term elections held in November are critical to the interest of the members of Local 378.

In the state of California, the office of Governor is up for election and it is our responsibility as union members to ensure that the Democratic candidate is elected.

The Democratic candidate running for Governor of California is Jerry Brown. The Republican candidate is Meg Whitman.

Jerry Brown is running on a platform that supports the middle class agenda. Examples of this include a guarantee for good jobs, good schools and solid retirement plans.

On the other hand, Meg Whitman is running on a platform that supports the "Wall Street Agenda". For example, eliminate jobs, cut pensions and rollback your rights to overtime pay. Meg Whitman intends to spend \$150,000 million dollars to buy your vote.

As the President of Local 378, I challenge you to step up to the plate and contact your Business Representatives for events that support the upcoming elections. There will be phone banks, precinct walks, rallies and leaflet distribution that your time and energy will be needed for.

Together we can take back the Governor's office in Sacramento. Let's put California back on a path to prosperity. Let's win in 2010 and elect a Governor who supports Jobs and Families. Make sure you are registered to vote and VOTE FOR JERRY BROWN.

In closing, I would like to remind you and your family to attend the 2010 Annual Iron Workers Picnic held on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at the Martinez Waterfront Park. To purchase tickets for the picnic, please call the union hall.

Good Luck, Work Safe

Bobby Lux

Business Agents Report *By Jason Gallia*

Hello everyone, hope everyone had a great 4th of July.

We have a big election in November that Union Labor must win. If you have relocated or plan to move soon, it is very important that you update your contact information at the hall and Trust Fund. We will need this information from you to get voter information out to our members before the election. We need your help at phone banks and precinct walks. For more information contact the hall.

Remember always carry your dues receipt.

Attend your Union Meetings and work safe.

Jason Gallia

Visit Your Local 378 Website

Please visit the Local 378 website at www.ironworkers378.org. You can find contact phone numbers for signatory contractors, check for community service, and a lot more helpful information. Also, become our fan at www.facebook.com search for us as: Ironworkers Local 378.

Business Agents Report *By Jeff McEuen*

Hello Brothers and Sisters.

Hope all of you had a great 4th of July holiday and things are going well for you and your families.

It looks like the work picture is picking up a little in our area. We have a few jobs that were good for us winding down like Solyndra and Valero but we have some others just starting up like the OI glass plant in Tracy, the Antioch Bridge retrofit and the Windmills near Rio Vista. It's also that time of year for the bleachers to change out at the Coliseum. The first change should be in the first weekend in August.

Another job we've been tracking and I've mentioned in other reports is the Russell Cities Power Plant a 600 mega watt facility to be located in Hayward that will create over 600 UNION JOBS. Well it looks like it's finally going to break ground, scheduled for dirt work to proceed on September 1st. That puts Iron Workers to work around the first part of 2011. I know that seems a long way off from now but considering this job has been on the books since 2001 its great news to me and for Local 378.

Just a reminder about our ANNUAL LOCAL 378 PICNIC, hope to see all 378 members (active and retired) at Martinez Waterfront Park on September 11th. Anyone interested in being in the 2nd Annual Ray Martin Horseshoe Tournament contact me and get signed up early. A \$5.00 buy in per person is required and teams will be drawn randomly. All proceeds go to the top three teams. GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS and a GOOD TIME.

Always fighting for you and your union,

Jeff McEuen

**STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
ENDORSEMENT FOR NOVEMBER STATE RACES**

Governor:	Jerry Brown
Lt. Governor:	Gavin Newsom
Controller:	John Chiang
Treasurer:	Bill Lockyer
Attorney General:	Kamala Harris
Insurance Commissioner:	Dave Jones
Superintendent of Public Instruction:	Tom Torlakson
Board of Equalization, Dist. 1:	Betty Yee
Board of Equalization, Dist. 2:	Chris Parker
Board of Equalization, Dist. 4:	Jerome Horton
Senate Dist. 12 (Merced):	Anna Caballero
Senate Dist. 15 (Santa Maria):	John Laird
Senate Dist. 34 (Santa Ana):	Lou Correa
Assembly District 5 (Sacramento):	Richard Pan
Assembly District 15 (San Ramon):	Joan Buchanan
Assembly District 36 (Lancaster):	Linda Jones
Assembly District 80 (El Centro):	Manuel Perez

The board also endorsed the \$11 billion water facilities bond that will appear on the November ballot.

Meg Whitman: more layoffs and jobs sent overseas?



Billionaire CEO Meg Whitman got rich laying off workers, sending jobs overseas and profiting from insider Wall Street deals.

Throughout her corporate career, Whitman boosted profits through layoffs and outsourcing – and got millions in bonuses. She sat on the board of Goldman Sachs, now under investigation for its role in the mortgage crisis.

Just like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Meg Whitman has no previous experience governing, not even at the local level. She cared so little about the issues facing California families that she failed to vote for 28 years. Now she is spending \$150 million to buy your vote.

Is Meg Whitman's record of layoffs and offshoring jobs the right choice for California?

What Meg Whitman said she would do as Governor:



Eliminate 40,000 jobs



Cut pensions



Roll back rights to overtime pay



More tax breaks to corporations and wealthy individuals

What does Jerry Brown's record mean for working families?



As Governor, Jerry Brown created 1.9 million good-paying jobs. He gave more than a million workers the right to bargain collectively for better wages and benefits.

Brown reduced taxes on the middle class, strengthened workers' comp and unemployment insurance and built the largest surplus in California history. And he refused to live in the governor's mansion, choosing instead to live in a small, one-bedroom apartment.

As Attorney General, Jerry Brown took on corporations that cheated their workers out of pay and benefits. He sued Wall Street bankers who ruined family mortgages and fought big oil companies.

Jerry Brown knows how to do the job. We need an experienced leader to help steer California through this economic crisis.

What Jerry Brown Will Do as Governor:

- Create Good-Paying Jobs in California**
- Take on Corporations that Cheat Workers**
- Make Big Corporations and Wall Street Pay Their Fair Share**

DID YOU KNOW?

PENSION

The length of your membership does not determine your pension credits. The pension plan year runs from June 1 to May 31 each year, and in order to gain a pension credit you must work 1400 hours in the plan year for a pension credit.

If you became a member of the Iron Workers prior to May 31, 1998, you would have to have 10 years of pension credits to be vested. If you became a member of the Iron Workers June 1, 1998 or after you would have to have 5 years of pension credits to be vested.

During the time that you are vesting in the pension plan and you suffer a break in service (No hours reported on your behalf), you may lose the pension credits that you have accumulated if your break is longer than the pension credits you have. Two years of no contributions is considered a permanent break in service and you would lose the time that you have contributed unless you can close the gap. If you are out on disability for any reason, it is important that when you send in a Certificate of Disability that you request that a copy of the certificate is also sent to the Pension Department of the Trust Fund. This certificate can help you close breaks in service.

The Husband-and Wife Pension provide, that after the member's death, the surviving spouse will receive monthly benefits for the rest of his or her lifetime. There are three different types of Husband-and Wife pensions and they are as follows:

- 50% Husband and Wife with a factor of 92% if your wife is the same age as you.
- 75% Husband and Wife with a factor of 88% if your wife is the same age as you.
- 100% Husband and Wife with a factor of 85% if your wife is the same age as you.

If you have been quoted a pension of about \$929.96 the sample of a pension amount and how the breakdowns will work are as follows:

1. 50% your monthly payment would be \$855.56 per month and if you decease prior to your wife she would receive \$427.78 per month after your death.
2. 75% your monthly payment would be \$818.36 per month and if you decease prior to your wife she would receive \$613.77 per month after your death.
3. 100% your monthly payment would be \$790.47 per month and if you decease prior to your wife she would receive \$790.47 per month after your death.

If at any time your martial status changes, you should notify the Trust Fund and supply them with copies of your marriage license and or divorce decree which addresses your pension and annuity.

IRONWORKERS LOCAL 378 PICNIC

The Local 378 picnic will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2010.

Location: Waterfront Park in Martinez, CA

The tickets are on Sale at the Union Hall Only. 707-746-6100

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Pension Credits

To receive one (1) full pension credit, a Participant must work 1400 hours within a plan year. The plan year runs June 1 to May 31 of each year. If employed after 1998 it takes 5 years to be vested in the pension plan. Prior to 1998 you have to have 10 year of pension credits to be vested.

A Participant must work at least 350 hours in Covered Employment to receive 1/12th of a Future Service Credit for each 117 hour worked. This means that if the Participant works more than 1400 hours in a Plan Year, he may receive more than one Future Service Credit in a Plan Year. (Example: A member has worked a total of 1564 hours in a year. He would receive 1 pension credit and 1/12th of a pension credit in the next plan year.)

If you are not vested in the pension and you incur a break in service, you could lose your pension. (Example: You have 4 years of pension credits. You decide to do something else for a while, or you are off due to an injury. No hours are reported for you for 5 years. This is considered a permanent break in service and you would lose the 4 years of pension credits.) If you are injured, it is very important that you get a "Certificate of Disability" from the Trust Fund or from the Union Hall and have your doctor fill it out. When you send it to the Trust Fund enclose a note to them stating that you want a copy sent to the pension department. This "Certificate of Disability" could close a break in service for you.

HONORARY WITHDRAWAL

If a member takes an Honorary Withdrawal he would need to be current with his membership dues first.

If the member is only going to be gone for 6 (six) months there is no advantage to him taking a Withdrawal, as when a member returns from a Withdrawal he would pay a \$200.00 Withdrawal card deposit and 3 (three) months dues at the time of his return. Six months dues for the year 2010 is \$237.00 and to come back after 6 (six) month from a Withdrawal would cost \$318.50. It would cost the member an additional \$81.50 for the six months they were out.

If the member were going to be out longer than 9 months, it would be beneficial to the member to take a Withdrawal.

How does the Honorary Withdrawal affect the member's California Pension?

Basically, there is no advantage and the only affect to pension would be if the member were out for 2 (two) years or more, he would then have a break in service and could possibly suffer when he retired.

If a member has not vested prior to taking a Withdrawal and he was out longer than 2 (two) years, he would lose the time that he had already accumulated. In other words, he would not be eligible for a pension and would have to start over to vest.

Additionally, when a member takes a withdrawal, it would stop the member's medical benefits immediately.

How does the Honorary Withdrawal affect the member's International membership?

When a member takes an Honorary Withdrawal it in effect stops his membership. If the member came back and worked only 4 years he would not qualify for Honorary Membership and would not be able to lower his monthly dues to \$8.40 per month if he were injured and unable to work. He would continue to pay full Journeyman dues.

How does Honorary Withdrawal affect Lifetime Membership?

When a member takes an Honorary Withdrawal he would have to be a member again for 20 continuous years to qualify for the Lifetime Disability Membership and be on social security, or he would have to be a member for 25 continuous years to qualify for a Lifetime Old Age Membership. So in essence he would have lost out on becoming a Lifetime member if he takes an Honorary Withdrawal.

A friendly reminder to the members who mail in their dues payments: PLEASE write your book number on the check or on the envelope when you mail in your payments. This will ensure that the amount is posted to the correct member; as there may be members with similar names.

IN MEMORIUM

We were notified of the following deaths since our last Local Line. Our fellow Iron Workers will be sorely missed.

Clarence Anderson	Book# 536227	Passed 5/2/10	Age 91
Jack Self	Book# 475540	Passed 6/6/10	Age 84
William Bowles	Book# 734527	Passed 6/25/10	Age 84

2010



IPAL

Iron Workers Political Action League PRESIDENT'S CLUB

James Ashcroft	Jesse Esquivel Jr.	Robert Lux	Jose Rosas
Leonard Scott Barnes	Richard Foltz	Michael Matich	Larry Rostron
Cecil Bindrum	Jason Gallia	Kenneth D. Miller	Giovanni Ruiz-Medina
Doug Boyum	Jackie Gann	Jeff McEuen	Bruce Scott
Henry Brown	Jarrett Gann	Marco A. Perez Munoz	Victor Self
William Butler	Steven Grogan	Michael Newlin	John Spinola
Guy "Sherman" Clark	Keith Hunter	Gilbert Peralta	Greg Sullivan
Brian Colombo	David Hutton	James K. Pruet	Dean Van Pelt
Jose Luis Contreras-Hernandez	Gary Johnson	Retiree's Association	Richard Wagner
Luis F Cortes Cortes	Kevin Kennedy	Emilio Rivera	Lynn Yost
Deryl Damboise	Fredrick Kaddu	Emilio Rivera Jr.	Donald Zampa
Roger DeRossette	William Kniffin Jr.	Jose Rivera	Richard E. Zampa
Chris Derrico	Jason Lindsey	Nicolas Rivera	Richard L. Zampa
Anthony Doria			

CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY

Do you know what a Certificate of Disability can do for you when you are injured and off work?

1. **It freezes the hours in your hour bank and extends your medical benefits for you and your family.** The length of time your medical benefits are extended depends on the time you are off. Your doctor should put an estimated date that you can return to work. If you are off longer, the doctor can fill out another certificate and this will extend the benefits again.

2. **It can close any gap in your pension credit hours when you retire.** When you retire and you have a gap, it can cost you money on your monthly pension check. If you have a Certificate of Disability on file, it will close any gap and insure that you will not lose any monthly benefit that you are entitled to.

You can file a Certificate of Disability for any injury, whether it is work related or personal. It is best to file the certificate at the time of your disability, as when years pass, we forget who the doctor was, or the doctor retires and we are unable to find them. This may not sound important to you when you are young and many years from retirement, however, it could cost you money when you do choose to retire.

A Certificate of Disability is very important.