

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

I wish that I was writing you this letter with better news, but all I have to report is that the state of the economy is not a good one for the construction industry. It is one of the most affected by the down turn of the economy. We have lost many projects and not many more have started up. We do have work coming up on the Antioch Bridge, the windmills, and several P.L.A.'s throughout the Bay Area that I signed early this year.

We still have debit cards for those that want to get their TWIC card reimbursed. To date we have reimbursed 275 of our members. Yes that is right, you go get

the card, pay for it and when you get it you can bring it to the union along with your receipt and we will reimburse you \$132.50. We have also put on several BATT classes this year. There is no better time than now to take those classes at the apprenticeship. The school is there for everyone to use whether you need to practice tying rods or tying knots or just brush up on your torch cutting. We have the best apprenticeship school in the District Council so make good use of it.

We are still looking for your email address. As you know email is better than snail mail so don't forget to give us yours.

Also, we had 55 members of our local give to the IPAL President's Club last year. Don't you think it's time for you to give to the IPAL President's Club?

Your Brother Ironworker
Emilio Rivera

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 for 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.

As you can see a Certificate of Disability is very important.

President/Business Agents Report *By Bobby Lux*

By now I am sure you all have received the letter dated January 27, 2010 from the District Council notifying you that the current Master Labor Agreement has been extended through June 30, 2011. The District Council did this because they believe it is in the best interest of the industry to maintain the status quo at this time.

On another note, I want to personally thank the members of the Local for their joint effort at continuing to support the political arm of our organization. In 2009 members attended City Council meetings, participated in precinct walks and staffed multiple phone banks. The efforts of the members were essential in establishing positive relationships with Local and Federal Politicians; efforts that help secure future Project Labor Agreements.

2010 brings Local 378 continued challenges with respects to the economy, however, one thing that is certain about the Ironworkers is that we believe as an organization that no challenge is to great.

GOOD LUCK, WORK SAFE,

Bobby Lux

Business Agents Report *By Jason Gallia*

Hello to all,

I hope everyone and their families had a great President's day weekend.

The 4th Annual Iron Workers Fishing Trip will be held on July 3, 2010, on The New Easy Rider and will be located at the Berkeley Marina. Depending on the fishing, we will fish for halibut, rock cod, ling cod and bass. Salmon season is still undecided. Last year Rich Peacock caught a big ling cod that weighed in at 18 pounds and Rich took home the \$250.00 jackpot. Everyone had a great time. The cost will be \$40.00 per person and there are rod rentals available on the boat if needed. For more information on the fishing trip just call the hall and ask for Jason.

Remember always pay your dues, carry your dues receipt at all times and work safe.

Jason Gallia

2010



IPAL

**Iron Workers Political Action League
PRESIDENT'S CLUB**

James Ashcroft
Leonard Scott Barnes
Henry Brown
Roger DeRossette
Jason Gallia
Jason Lindsey

Robert Lux
Jeff McEuen
James K. Pruett
Retiree's Association
Emilio Rivera
Emilio Rivera Jr.

Giovanni Ruiz-Medina
Greg Sullivan
Richard Wagner
Richard E. Zampa
Richard L. Zampa

Business Agents Report *By Jeff McEuen*

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Can you believe 2010 is here? When I first started in the Iron Workers the year 2000 seemed to be way off in the future. Now here we are living in the future, but we seem to be operating in the past. What I mean by this is, we always have to be looking at new ways of updating old power generating plants by building newer, more energy efficient ones. The Russell City Energy Center to be located in Hayward is one of those energy efficient plants I'm referring to. This power plant will be powered by cleaner burning natural gas. It has the latest technology and will be 40% more fuel efficient and will be 90% cleaner than older power plants operating today. This plant could start construction this year, but if the environmentalists have their say without any opposition it will get stalled again. This project was first proposed back in 2001. This goes to show you just how effective those environmentalists are in slowing down projects. It's time to show up in big numbers when this gets brought before the Hayward City Council for the final blessing. I will keep you informed of the date.

If this project gets off the ground this year and I sincerely hope it does, it will create 650 UNION construction jobs. It will also generate much needed revenue for the City of Hayward. Even at this rate it will take 3 years to come on line. This is why we as a society that is dependent on electricity need to act more quickly in getting these projects pushed through and getting those old energy deficient plants off line. The time is NOW to take an ACTIVE part in your future. We have to let people know what our work is and what we are about and what we are willing to do to sustain our way of life. So when you volunteer your time to put up a fight for UNION RIGHTS be sure you use the time to where it will be the best benefit to LOCAL 378 and its' members.

REMEMBER: PICKET DUTY IS NOT PICNIC DUTY.

Always fighting for you and your union.

Jeff McEuen

TRUST FUND

It is important that you contact the Trust Fund for any of the following reasons:

1. Pension (Information on retirement). The Local can request your pension credit hours for you, however, we are unable to provide any more information on retirement and these questions should be asked directly from the Trust Fund as this is what they are paid to administer.
2. Health and Welfare (Information on your medical benefits) All information on new changes to your medical and drug plans are kept directly at the Trust Fund, and you should contact them first.
3. Annuity (Information on your balance). We cannot request this information for you.
4. Vacation (Information on vacation payouts). If you do not receive your vacation check the first place that you should call is the Trust Fund. This is where your checks are mailed from and we do not have the information at the Local.

If for some reason you do not get your questions answered in a satisfactory manner you can then contact the Local and speak with Emilio Rivera.

Always remember to keep copies of everything that you send to the Trust Fund in case it gets lost in the mail, and always request the name of the person you speak with for your records.

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 pays 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 it 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 the pension would be if the member were out for 2 (two) years, or more, he would than have a break in service and could possible suffer when he retires.

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.

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.

RETIREES KORNER *by Dick Zampa Sr.*

Hi Guys,

Our next Retiree Association meeting will be held Wednesday, April 7, 2010. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

At the February Retiree meeting the rivet drawing had grown to a whopping \$217 and the brother whose name was drawn was not present so at the April meeting the drawing will be upwards of \$250 depending on the attendance. You must be a paid-up member of the Retirees and be present to win it. As you are aware, beginning this year if your name is drawn and you are not present you get a \$25 consolation prize.

The Local union is planning a Pin Ceremony this year sometime in late June or July. (No date set as yet). With that in mind, we have canceled the Wednesday, June 2 meeting in order to have a meeting a day or two prior to the Pin Ceremony to accommodate many of our retirees from out of state or out of the area. This will give them a chance to attend the Retirees meeting. Mark your calendar and keep June and July clear at this time.

Again, we ask all retiring Iron Workers from Local 378, young and old to join our Association. We always get an update from Business Manager and Trustee Emilio Rivera and President/Business Agent Bob Lux. The meetings are short and informational, and the coffee and donuts are great, supplied by your Local Union. If you have an e-mail address, make sure both the Local Union office and the Retirees Association has it. Thanks.

See you there on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 10 a.m. at the Union Hall.

Dick Zampa Sr.