The Pride
August - October 2010
The Home of High Performance / High Value Finishing Craft Workers
Inside The PRIDE

**Business Manager**
BM/ST Christopher focuses on Jobs and Rule #1

**Service**
Reminder of membership responsibility

**Member Spotlight**
Members recognized to be High Performance/High Value

**Job Profile**
Mills Medical Center in Burlingame nears completion

**Communications**
New Director Mike West is up for the challenge

**Organizing**
John Sherak reports on new opportunities created by Organizing

**Ask The BM/ST**
Doug answers questions from the field

**Local Union News**
Business Reps weigh in on Local issues
Greetings to all of my Brothers and Sisters throughout District Council 16. I hope this issue of The Pride has made its way into your home and finds you and your loved ones healthy and happy. I would first like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and re-electing me as your Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for another term. I truly appreciate the overwhelming support I receive from the members of District Council 16.

As I recently reviewed previous issues of The Pride, I am starting to feel like a broken record relating to you, once again, that these are not good economic times and that all of us are feeling the devastating effects of the current economy in the United States. But I must share with you that the effects of the economy and the lack of jobs and the resulting changes that are taking place within our Union is resulting in some very desperate behavior on the part of a very small fraction of our members as well as some of our employers. The reason I am so concerned regarding the desperate behavior is due mainly to the fact that the issue has significantly detracted from the Union’s ability to serve our members best interests in recent months.

Rule #1 at District Council 16 is, “the members best interests always comes first”.

Our mission at District Council 16 is very straight forward; put the membership first and do the right thing. Figuring out the right thing to do, in most situations, is usually fairly simple. I just have to ask, what best represents the interests of the membership in any given situation, it’s not rocket science. With the help of the membership and the entire leadership team here at District Council 16, we develop the answer to the question and then it is my responsibility to see that the resulting answer is carried out. Simply put, it is my job to carry out the actions required in order to serve the overall best interests of the membership.

The decision making process at District Council 16 is very inclusive and we take the process very seriously. The membership, Local Union Officers, Business Representatives, Local Union Delegates and the entire leadership team at District Council 16 weigh in on the issues and participate in the decision making process. These discussions mainly play out at the monthly Local Union meetings and the monthly District Council meetings which are attended by elected delegates from each Local Union. During the process we often make adjustments and even change our direction when presented with a superior argument, idea or plan. We encourage new ideas and debate and truly work hard to discern whether or not our decisions truly represent the best interests of the overall membership before we take any action. Trust me; it’s not an easy process. As you can imagine people can be very passionate about their beliefs, especially when their well being is at stake. Regardless of the
difficulty, we have determined that going through this process often yields a superior outcome than that which we initially intended and that is why we have adopted this inclusive process.

As the economy continues its decline we are experiencing increased unemployment. Those who are still working are working significantly fewer hours than previous years. Unfortunately, things do not appear to be getting any better in the near future. Given these facts we can expect continued pressure on our health & welfare funds as well as our pension funds. We are going to be forced to make difficult decisions in the near future as it relates to our benefits and how much we will pay for them. In the pursuit of answering these tough questions our District Council will engage the inclusive process I described above in order to insure that our decisions truly represent the best interests of the overall membership.

The desperate behavior I eluded to above usually occurs as a result of the personal effect that a particular decision has on just a few members. I do understand that some decisions are not going to be popular with all of the members and I expect some level of criticism and push back when someone feels aggrieved by a decision or action of the Council. However, when confronted I always take the time to explain the greater good that needs to be realized before we resort to tearing our own house down around us. In recent months the naysayers seem to be coming out of the woodwork and unfairly finding fault in the Council’s actions. A few of these self serving individuals have resorted to vicious personal attacks on the integrity of our Union and its leadership. Over the last several months these self serving attacks have significantly detracted from the District Councils ability to meet the day to day demands of serving the overall interests of the membership. This is unacceptable and I can no longer allow these selfish individuals behavior to stand in the way of serving the members interests. In times such as these I can no longer justify spending our limited time and resources defending our Union against internal attacks from a few self serving members. Rather, I will dedicate our limited time and resources focusing on creating job opportunities for our members by turning jobs around for our Union contractors, organizing new contractors that will offer more job opportunities for our members, helping our contractors secure bids through our Market Recovery Programs to put our members back to work and protecting our work jurisdiction from other predatory Unions.

I have come to realize that some members just seem to have a sense of entitlement and they feel that they owe no debt of gratitude to this Union for the job they have. I think we should all remember that the jobs we have today are not the result of our doing entirely. Most of the jobs we have today have been developed by the Union and its members since before most of us were even born and are a result of the blood, sweat and tears shed by generations of Union Members and Union Leaders who came before us.

Where would we be today if those who came before us tore this Union down instead of building it up?

I have lived my life and served this Union steadfast in my belief that leadership is not about doing what’s popular, it’s about doing what’s right. Rule #1 at District Council 16 is “the members best interests always comes first”. I have always felt that if we can’t justify what we are doing, then we shouldn’t be doing it. It is unfortunate that the pursuit of doing what’s right is often the most difficult path because of just a few selfish people. Nevertheless, I will guarantee you this, if doing what’s right is the most difficult path, I will take the most difficult path every time, regardless of the personal attacks that I or our Council may have to endure as a result. The membership of this Union deserves nothing less and I would rather lose my job for doing the right thing than keep it for doing the wrong thing. It is my hope that you find comfort in this as I do.

Fraternally,

Doug Christopher
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
District Council 16
As we keep moving forward in these tough times we should remember our responsibilities as members to ensure that we continue to benefit from the wages and conditions we fought so hard to get. With that being said, we all should make sure by making that daily commitment to maintain the integrity of those agreements we work under remains high priority. It is way too often that we spend time policing our own members in violations of the current agreements in which they work under when we should be focusing that time spent on gaining market share and enforcing contracts.

Training plays such a vital role in how we achieve success as an organization we must as members take full advantage of the Apprenticeship program opportunities and the newly created STAR program. Even while the STAR program now entering its second year, is projected to be a huge success, we would have expected more participation. We encourage you to take full advantage of the classes that are available and visit the STAR website www.dc16star.org to obtain all the information you need. You know I have always felt that one of the greatest tools we have is an educated membership. It is our responsibility to gather the information being delivered at our local union meetings, delegate meetings and VAC events and to make sure it gets passed on correctly to our brothers and sisters on the jobsites and their homes. The cost of preparation and notification of special called meetings, bylaws, elections and other issues is being spoiled by the fact, we as members, are not turning out to attend these important meetings. There have been so many times that we as members show up to either wage allocation meetings or contract ratification meetings without the knowledge we should have, which sometimes leads to decisions we may not have made if we were more prepared. Maybe everybody doesn’t realize it because of work and family and just everyday business but it has been two years already (except painters—one year) into our current Master Agreements which all of them will expire and be renegotiated in 2011. We have to ask ourselves during the course of these 2 years and this upcoming year did we do everything that was available to us to make us that better craftsman for our contractors and to put us in a position to market ourselves to demand more. I want to believe our membership wants to and will do everything possible to be more successful and continue to raise the bar on the non-union competition to where they never will catch up. Even though it is hard to see the end of this hard economic tunnel we have been stuck in, we aren’t going anywhere and buildings will need to be built and High Performance/High Value tradesmen will be in demand once more and we will be prepared to respond.

I want to thank the Service Department here at District Council 16 for all that they do on a daily basis and remind them as BM/ST Doug Christopher reminds all of us every day “it’s all about the members”.

Fraternally,

Chris Christophersen
Director of Service
District Council 16
Local 1237’s members attended a training class in Sacramento by flooring manufacturer NORA. This training was found to be beneficial and valuable to those 14 members who were in attendance. This was an event sponsored by the STAR program.

A competent person scaffold, “train the trainer” class was held recently at the FTI training center in Hanover, Maryland. This class covers OSHA Sub Part (L), relating to scaffolds, boom lifts, scissors lifts, heck lifts, swing stages and other related equipment. Several District Council 16 Instructors were on hand for this valuable training.
Member Spotlight

Dave Christie

Local Union 12 would like to extend its congratulations to Dave Christie for making the “Member Spotlight”. Before Dave joined San Francisco’s Local Union 1235 back in 1987, he worked as a chef. Some of Dave’s friends were already in the trade and Dave decided to try out the floor covering industry for himself. Dave’s commitment to floor covering came early in his career when he won the Western Region Apprenticeship Contest in the “Combination Category” out of 25 contestants.

Dave is a certified mechanic in the installation of Forbo and Nora materials and also has his Master Mechanics Certificate in Armstrong. Dave exemplifies HIGH PERFORMANCE/HIGH VALUE on every project he is on, whether he is installing any type of carpet, linoleum, vct, laminate or heat welding. Dave is an active participant in VAC events as well as our Local Union meetings. We would also like to thank Dave’s family, wife Katie of twenty years, daughter Alexandria 14 years old and son Cole 6 years old for sharing their time with Dave and all of us at District Council 16. Dave, you are a great asset to the Floor Covering Industry, keep up the good work and we’ll see you soon.

Matt Egan

Matt Egan was born and raised in Santa Rosa, CA. He joined Local 83 in 1999 and began his Painters apprenticeship training. He completed his apprenticeship in 2002 to become a journeyman Painter. Matt is currently employed by Russell Hinton Painting, in San Francisco, as Painter/Foreman.

Matt has been involved with Local 83 for many years. He started out as Warden and currently is serving his second term as President of Local 83. He is also an active participant in the VAC program for our Council.

Matt has proudly completed his STAR training, and is qualified to attend the award event on September 11th.

When asked what the Union has meant to him Matt says, “It’s all about the training; professional quality training, from experienced Journeymen”.

Matt Egan exemplifies the “High Performance / High Value” qualities we should all strive for. We are proud of Matt as a District Council 16, Local 83 member.

This section is dedicated to all Brothers and Sisters
**Member Spotlight**

**Tim Deal**

Glaziers Local 169 President and District Council Delegate

Tim Deal started in the trade fresh out of high school in 1982. He followed in the footsteps of his father Chuck Deal who is currently enjoying retired life on his Glazier pension.

Tim’s son Brad has joined in the family occupation and is currently working his way through apprenticeship.

Tim has always been an active member in his Local Union and District Council, attending meetings and participating in events and activities to further the Union cause. His leadership skills are also evident in his work at the trade. He has spent most of the last decade working at or above the foreman level and is currently employed at Architectural Glass and Aluminum.

Tim also participated in the required training that qualified him in this year’s upcoming inaugural STAR awards. District Council 16’s innovative safety, skills and supervisory training rewards program.

Tim’s constant commitment to High Performance/High Value earned his selection for this issue’s Member Spotlight.

---

**Robert Ringor**

Local 1237 is proud to acknowledge Brother Robert Ringor. Robert resides in West Sacramento with his wife Lynn of 20 years and their two daughters Alyssa and Vanessa.

Robert is a proud Local 1237 member since 1990. Robert holds the position as a JATC instructor since 1996, has earned his teaching credentials and holds certifications in OSHA 500, Fork Lift, First Aid/CPR and Welding. He has the ability to educate and is proven to be a well rounded instructor and mentor.

Robert is a Member at Large on the Local’s Executive Board and serves as a DC-16 Delegate and Trustee.

In his spare time Brother Ringor is active with the River city Boosters Club, coaching volleyball for the West Sacramento City League.

Brother Ringor is highly respected as a District Council 16/Local 1237 member as well as a craftsman and is one of many examples of the High Performance/High Value member.

District Council 16/Local 1237 thanks you for all that you do.
Aderholt Specialty

C & S Erectors

Guarantee Glass

Hoem Associates

Jerry Thompson & Sons Painting

Redwood Painting Co.
The New Mills Peninsula Medical facility is nearing completion in Burlingame. The $618 million hospital will replace the old seismically-unfit facility that has served patients since 1955. When completed, the medical center will be one of the strongest earthquake-safe structures on the West Coast, able to withstand a 8.5 magnitude earthquake. The old hospital, consisting of 11 buildings, will be torn down once all the medical offices, clinics and equipment are moved to the new hospital. The new hospital will have 241 private rooms, distributed nursing stations, nine surgery rooms and will be equipped with the latest medical technology. The facility is meant to be self-sustaining in case of any type of emergency. There are 50,000-gallon water tanks, a 40,000-gallon diesel tank to run three huge generators in case the power goes out.

All of our crafts are represented on this project by contractors signatory to District Council 16. In fact there are two Glazing contractors and two Painting contractors, as well as Drywall Finishers and Floor Coverers. This is a fine project representative of the High Performance/High Value craftsmanship of District Council 16 Members and their employers.
A retirement party was held on June 26th in honor of District Council 16 Business Representative Carl “CJ” Jones. Carl, who represented Local 3 for the past 7 years, has a passion for the Labor movement, and is recognized for his heart and determination when it comes to the membership of our Council. Many of Carl’s family, friends, and co-workers were present at the event. Several people spoke of Carl’s positive influence on them, and about his general good nature. We wish Carl and his family all the best in his retirement.

An award through the PATCH Foundation recently was given to the Mt. Eden High School vocal music program. With budget cuts becoming a given in Public Education here in California, they were very grateful to receive our assistance, and apply it to purchase things as simple as sheet music and other basics to run their program. Additionally, they were able to attend the Heritage Music Competition in Anaheim. They took first place in seven categories, as well as the overall sweepstakes trophy for their school. They have offered to come and sing for us at our Holiday event this winter, and will be providing tickets to all of their concerts and performances for the 2010-2011 season.
The VAC is doing good things in Sacramento. Locals 487, 1237 and 767 recently donated their labor to repair some finishes at the California Breeze girls Softball practice facility. The Breeze, a non-profit organization, has had several of our members daughters play for the team. Their mission is to provide the girls with an opportunity to eventually attain a college scholarship through advanced softball instruction.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars building in historic downtown Martinez was repainted as a community service project. Several members of Local 741 worked on the project. Contractors Redwood Painting and Brand Energy Services were involved, as well as Shell Refinery, and a network of community volunteers.

Above: Redwood Painters Steve Jackson, Ron Morgan and Leonard Perez

Left: Redwood Painters with Donna Mahoney
Local 567-Reno members are working on elementary schools installing a Forbo product as a wall covering. Both the Floor Coverers and the Painters have become proficient in this installation. Other crafts have not been as successful which reinforces, High Performance/High Value.

Below: DC-16 Representatives visit members on the job, who are glad to see them. Nevada has been hit very hard by construction unemployment.


Congratulations to Thomas L. Balistreri, Local Union 169, for winning the 2010 Western Regional A.L. “Mike” Monroe and Ralph D. Williams, III, Sports Scholarship. Pictured at Left is Thomas with Local 169 District Council 16 Business Representative Ron Kessler.
For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Mike West. I am the new Director of Communications for District Council 16. I am currently in my 28th year as a member of the IUPAT, first as a member of Glaziers Local 1621 for nearly 25 years, and currently I am a member of Glaziers Local 767. I worked in the field for 25 years, and I have been employed by our District Council since July of 2007 as an Organizer.

As an Organizer for District Council 16, I helped to initiate our Marketing and Business Development Department. This program uses the professional approach to quantify the many benefits associated with being signatory to District Council 16. We craft professional presentations and then practice delivering the message of High Performance/High Value. The program has proven to be a success and I will use many of those skills in my new position, as your Director of Communications. I plan to continue to stay involved with John Sherak and the Organizing department. As a matter of fact, all agents of our Council are Organizers, in addition to any other job title they may have. Our mission as stated in the oath of obligation that we have all taken to, “Organize the unorganized”, is alive and well here at District Council 16.

There are those who would like to label us as “Special Interests”, and associate our support for a certain candidate to a wedge issue that has nothing to do with our Union. To be clear, we support candidates from both sides of the isle, who support our interests as tradesmen and women firmly rooted in the middle class. We must not let any of the usual rhetoric undermine our goal of getting our members back to work and growing our market share.

We are currently in the process of developing a new website for our Council. This new site will have more up to date information, a fresh new look that will be more interactive and links to other sites related to our trades. I welcome the feedback of our membership on any subject which would better our Communications Department or the VAC program.

Mike West
District Council 16
Director of Communications
A seminar by Prominent Labor Law Attorney Richard McCracken was held at District Council 16’s Livermore office. Representatives and Organizers from District Councils 15, 16 and 36 as well as International representatives were on hand for this valuable training.

The training consisted of several key elements of non-picketing actions which we could use against our targets. The first step is the strategic research necessary to understand our target. Many examples were given of research methods and creative non-picketing actions. Just as important is to study the case law that pertains to Organizing and our First amendment rights under the constitution.

Our main goal at District Council 16 Organizing Department is to sign new contractors, and therefore create new work opportunities for our members. Our goal at the beginning of the year was to sign 40 new contractors, in spite of the worst economy in decades. To date, we have signed 27 new contractors. (8 Painting companies, 9 Glazing companies, 5 Floor Covering companies, 3 Drywall companies, 1 Parking and Highway company and VPN Management Company which will employ members of all the allied trades). These newly signed contractors have already generated thousands of hours in wages and benefits paid into our trust funds. This is the beginning of a relationship based on a three way partnership between the Member, the employer and the Union. Our commitment to High Performance/ High Value makes our employers profitable, and generates more work opportunities in the future.

The Organizing Department has been working extremely hard on creating man hours for our brothers and sisters. One of the methods we use to generate hours is to “flip” projects from our non-union competition to our good Union shops. Most often due to labor law violations. This has generated thousands of additional man hours for our members, as well as taking that work away from our competitors.

We are utilizing the Market Recovery to its fullest. We have already secured another 103,000 Painter hours, 38,475 Floor Covering hours and 37,102 Glazing hours. The new District Council 16 Drywall Market Recovery Program is on schedule to open on September 1st, 2010.

John Sherak
Director of Organizing
District Council 16
Political News

District Council 16 members along with the Building Trades Council of Northern Nevada protesting our taxes going to out of area workers and contractors. Two meetings were scheduled with the University system since then to try and resolve the issues.

Left: Mo Hursh dressed as the Grim Reaper and Russ James as pall bearer lead the march up South Virginia Street.

Above: The crowd, including many members of DC 16, listen to speeches in support of local workers made by candidates and labor leaders.

Whitman Didn’t Care Enough About California to Vote

Meg Whitman’s spotty voting record in California has been the subject of numerous media reports. A Sacramento Bee expose found Whitman regularly skipped elections in California and several other states where she lived and worked.

She was only periodically registered to vote in California prior to 2002. After registering in San Mateo County in 2002, she missed voting in half of the elections held until 2007.

Meg Whitman did not vote in primary elections in 2004 or 2006, nor did she participate in the 2003 elections that recalled Governor Gray Davis and elected Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. In September 2009, Whitman called her voting record “unacceptable.” Whitman said that her failure to vote was “inexcusable,” but refused to answer questions about it.
Chris O’Flaherty-Local 567 Reno
Question: How can a young member get more involved in the Union?

BM/ST: Chris, It is not a matter of age. The answer is the same no matter how old you are and I am glad that you asked. First and foremost you can get involved in our Union by regularly attending your Monthly Local Union Meetings. That’s the first step in beginning to understand how our Union functions, what issues our Union is dealing with and how you might best lend your talents and abilities to our Union’s mission to serve the best interests of the membership. Additionally there are numerous opportunities to get involved with our Union through the Voluntary Activist Committee (VAC), including the opportunity to further develop your leadership skills by initiating and running your own activities. The last thought I would like to leave you with is however you decide to get involved it is most important to exemplify High Performance/High Value characteristics in all you do in association with getting involved with our Union. The actions of each and every one of us are a reflection on all of us and we all know that anything worth doing is worth doing right.

Ben Esparza-Local 12
Question: It’s too far for me to attend Local 12 Meetings. Can we get information on line or somehow participate over the internet?

BM/ST: Ben, Great question and very timely. I have come to realize that our Union is not going to be successful in keeping our membership informed relying solely on Regular Monthly Union Meetings. In today’s society we are so spread out and there is so much competition for our attention and time. I realize that if we truly want to keep our members informed we must expand our communication network. That is why I have tasked our Director of Communication with developing ways by which we can better communicate between us and our members. We are also developing a new website, which will help us improve communications in all areas. Mike is also now responsible for The Pride and is taking it to new levels to improve our communication with the membership. In fact “Ask the BM/ST” was Mike’s idea to help improve communication between the members and the leadership of District Council 16. So Ben, the answer to your question is yes and you should look forward to more developments in your ability to get information and communicate with our Union in the near future.

Notes: Ask the BM/ST questions, are those that when answered, will be relevant to many members of DC-16. Call the office at (925) 245-1080 to propose your question. Even if we don’t feature your question, I can either answer you directly, or get you in touch with the proper people to get your answer. Mike West- Director of Communications- District Council 16
Dear Brothers and Sisters of Local 12,

Being a Business Representative for District Council 16 is by far the most rewarding job I have ever had. During my tenure in this position I’ve attended classes with the National Labor Institute, Steward Training classes and several Leadership Training Series classes. The learning never stops. I’ve filed countless grievances and been to several arbitrations. All these things we do as Business Representatives are directed to the benefit of the membership. The number one overall rule of District Council 16 is “THE MEMBERS COME FIRST”. This rule is something we strive to achieve in our everyday business.

Some of the good things we do on behalf of you the members force us to make decisions that some of you don’t agree with. I’m OK with that, as long as I believe that it is the right thing to do. My job is to make sure that our Collective Bargaining Agreement is being upheld. This means we all must follow the rules and regulations. When I say we, I mean the employers, the rank and file and us as your Business Representatives. So when you see me out on the jobsite don’t be surprised if I ask to see your union cards, or your pay check stubs. It’s your duty under our Bylaws (Section 18.12) to comply with such requests. This is not intended to harass the members, but instead it is there to make sure the employers are doing their due diligence to pay the proper wages and benefits. I am also there to answer any questions you may have. If I don’t have an immediate answer I’ll let you know, but also know that I will do my best to get you that answer ASAP.

In closing I’d like to say, please honor the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Local and Council Bylaws. These are tools to help all of us maintain the HIGH PERFORMANCE/HIGH VALUE standard that epitomizes what we all stand for.

Fraternally,
Tony Tofani
Business Representative
Local Union 12, District Council 16

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Business Representative of Painters & Drywall Finishers Local 3. I worked in the field as a Painter for over two decades and enrolled in the Labor Studies program at Laney College in Oakland where I took night courses before becoming an Organizer with DC16 for the last 2 years. As many of you know by now former B.A. Carl Jones retired, and we at Local 3 and DC16 wish him and his family nothing but the best. As your new Business Representative I will work diligently to ensure that in these hard economic times you, the members, get every opportunity available to compete for work hours in our Industry.

One of the ways this can be done is to closely monitor Project Labor Agreements in Alameda County. I will work to make sure that the contract language is strictly abided by. Be sure and register on the out of work list. This will ensure that members are dispatched and receive their share of work hours.

I also want to encourage our members to take full advantage of the STAR program. Enhance your skill level and value to your employer by taking these classes for Journeymen and Apprentices.

Thanks to Instructor Chris Fallon for doing a terrific job with his apprentices who painted several rooms at the Labor Temple in Oakland. Chris and the apprentices are a testament to the High Performance/High Value ethic we should all have as our ultimate goal.

This year’s theme at the 17th Annual Labor Fest is, “Put the Struggle Back in Labor”. For more info contact: www.laborfest.net or Email:laborfest@laborfest.net (415) 642-8066. The next few years will be full of challenges and opportunities so let’s roll up our sleeves and work to strengthen our collective power.

In Solidarity,
Jazy Bonilla
Business Representative
DC16 Local 3
Thank you to all members of Local 83 for allowing me to represent you for the next four years. I take great pride in our Local, our District Council and our International. Under the Leadership of Business Manager Doug Christopher and his team, our Union will be stronger and more effective than ever.

The members of Local 83 have also voted in a new Executive Board for the next 3 years. Our newly elected and re-elected officers, many trusted veterans, have volunteered their time for years to help make a difference at Local 83. Re-elected, unopposed, is returning President Matt Egan. Our new Vice President is Eric Challe. Bruce Bonnett is our returning Financial Secretary / Treasurer. Our new Recording Secretary (former VP) is Kerstin McConihe and our three Trustees are, re-elected, Anthony Augusto and Howard E. Howard and new Trustee Jeff Eachus. John Rodriguez was re-elected as Warden. All the Officers of Local 83 are looking forward to serving and supporting the members so please come to the meetings and be involved in the decision making and running of Local 83.

Thanks to the VAC members who worked in precinct walks and phone banking. Michael Allen won the primary in his bid for State Assembly. Pamela Torliatt was the top vote getter for Supervisor in District 2 but will be in a runoff in November. Mike Maguire won Supervisor in District 5. For the first time in recent memory there could be a Labor Friendly Majority in the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. This is great news for Union Members. The general election in November will need continued support and involvement from Local 83 members. Contact me at Local 83 for information on how to help these Labor candidates get elected, or if you need to get registered to vote. Our Union is supporting Barbara Boxer in her re-election bid for Senate and Jerry Brown in his election bid for Governor.

Respectfully,

Les Proteau
Regional Director
DC 16 Local 83

I also wanted to remind everyone that our first ever STAR awards celebration is being held September 11 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. If you did not qualify by participating in the STAR training, then you have missed out on chances at winning new trucks, boats, TV’s and other awards. Your Union brothers and sisters that did qualify thank you.

We are in the middle of a busy year for political action. In addition to the gubernatorial election, we have other local, statewide and national offices at stake in this fall’s election. If you aren’t a member of the Volunteer Activist Committee, I urge you to get involved in the VAC, and help to make sure we get elected officials in office this year that have OUR interests at heart. The VAC also has events which are not Politically related such as community service and Labor donation activities.

Please remember that we all gave an oath of obligation to, “whenever and wherever possible purchase strictly Union made goods and services.” This along with honoring all pickets, strikes, and boycotts, help keep us and our Brothers and Sisters strong in the Labor Movement. Work safe, work hard and I’ll see you at the next union meeting.

Local 169
Members of Local 272,

I would like to start off by thanking those members who voted in June for Doug Christopher and his slate of Service Representatives. Our Judge, Jimmy Newton and the two Tellers, Marvin Hall and Tony Sabatino did a great job.

As of July 1, 2010, the over the counter dues have changed from $40.00 to $25.00 per month. This coupled with the new 272 Bylaws that are going to be strictly enforced, state that you have to pay quarterly in advance or be fined $25.00. So please keep up on your dues.

The STAR event will be on September 11, this year. Congratulations to those that qualified to attend the event. For the rest that never attended a STAR upgrade class, consider getting involved. This can only benefit you, making you more knowledgeable and valuable.

Within the last year or so there have been a few instances where members have had inconsistencies with reported hours, especially when working for an out of town contractor. When these things occur you need to contact me immediately. Secondly, I cannot do a thing without check stubs. Without them I have no verification of hours in which to go by. Lastly, I implore each of you to keep a log book. It may seem like a hassle, but it is easy. A small pocket calendar with a job name and how many hours worked. Keep it in your lunch box or car. This may help in the event that you don’t have check stubs. For your sake, get into the habit.

If you are laid off please notify the hall. Call weekly, to maintain your spot on the out of work list. I have a few apprentices dispatched at this time to non union contractors working public works. This gains us access and valuable information that we use in our organizing efforts. So please stay in contact with the hall, we are here for you, the member.

Fraternally,

John Papa
District Council 16 Service Representative
IUPAT Local Union 272

Hello Members,

Well the primaries are done and the General Election is set, now it’s time to focus on the General Election. As you all know Jerry Brown won the Democratic Primary and will be facing Meg Whitman for the privilege of becoming the next Governor of the State of California. I would like to inform you of some of the Republican Nominees plans for the working people in the State of California. First of all Meg wants to cut 30,000 jobs from the State’s workforce. Meg has also promised to personally bank roll a new campaign to roll back Union Rights. She has spoken to eliminate the 8 hour work day and to end guaranteed meal breaks and vows to fight Project Labor Agreements.

While Meg was the CEO of eBay she boosted the profits of an already profitable company by laying people off and putting them on the street and shipping nearly 40% of eBay’s work force overseas. There is the fight we have Brothers and Sisters! We must stand up in the coming months and fight to get Jerry Brown elected! Meg Whitman is counting on working peoples morale to be low due to the current economy, therefore, having no energy to stand up to her all the while throwing her money around to get elected. It is for all of this that I ask each and every one of you to get involved in any upcoming V.A.C. events to get Jerry Brown elected so that we may protect everything that we have fought so hard to get.

As I am writing we have 20 Members who are taking the 24 hour lead course being instructed by Ron Johnson and Fernando Gonzalez of the District Council 16 J.A.T.C. I would like to thank those members and instructors for taking weekend time away from their families for training in order to further our mission of HIGH PERFORMANCE/HIGH VALUE. I would also like to thank everybody in District Council 16 who got out and voted in our election. See you at the next Union Meeting!

Fraternally,

Jeff Roberts
Business Representative
District Council 16
Local 294
Dear Brothers and Sisters of Local 376,

Hope to find you all in good health. As I write this article numerous calls have been received due to the change in dues check off. The change for the Painters was an additional 58 cents per hour worked. The change for drywall was an additional 78 cents per hour worked. This equates to 3% of your taxable net wage. The amounts of dues check off are now uniform throughout DC 16 for all crafts. The International mandates this system for dues collection. This is contained in your Local Union Bylaws and your District Council Bylaws. The change also allows your Local Union to lower monthly over the counter dues for this Local to $27.00 per month advance dues structure, beginning July 1st 2010, or $81.00 per quarter.

The Local Union meetings are the best place to keep informed and reasonably debate these issues. I realize these meetings may not be convenient to attend at all times, but you have to realize that when there is poor attendance a few decide for all. This has been apparent in the last wage allocation, bylaws vote and District Council 16 elections.

Let me take this opportunity to inform you that there will be a new secretary working at this Local. Please extend your good will as she becomes familiar with the office. Let me also take this time to thank Genie Whaley for all her years of dedicated service to the Local and the members.

In closing, these tough times are not the results of the Union. The commitment of this Local and at the direction the District Council are to utilize all resources to create jobs, hours worked and secure market share for the members.

Thank you all for your support and hope to see you at the next local meeting.

Respectfully,

Haden Blaylock
Regional Director Local 376
District Council 16

Members of Local 487,

Congratulations are in order for Local 487’s Officers who were elected at our special called meeting in May. President: Ken Gordon, Vice President: Gabe Waterman, Recording Secretary: Gary Whittaker, Financial Secretary: Jon Soderman, Treasurer: Tom Herlache, Warden: Mike Panell, Trustees: Julius Story, Conrad Jiminez, and James Rasmussen. Elected as delegates to District Council 16, were Ken Gordon, Jon Soderman, James Rasmussen and Steve Caster. District Council wide re-elected to the office of Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer again, was Doug Christopher. Brother Christopher will be serving his second full term as the leader of our District Council. The members of our organization clearly recognize the accomplishments of our leadership and have put their trust in him for what will now be a four year term.

Brothers Bruce Beard and Bob Lofing have retired as officers of Local 487. Both have served us for many years and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their dedication and selfless service to our Local Union. Your Local Union Executive Board and attending membership decided to recognize Bruce and Bob at our July meeting and we served dinner in their honor.

The STAR Training Schedule for the next training cycle is now available. You can check it out online at www.dc16star.org or pick one up at the Union Hall. There are some excellent opportunities to improve your skill set and attain certifications as we all strive to be a High Performance/High Value Trade Union.

As promised with the changes to our District Council and Local Union Bylaws, effective July 1, 2010, over the counter Union Dues for Journeyman and Apprentices will now be $84.00 per quarter.

In Solidarity,

Steven L. Caster
Business Representative
District Council 16, Local 487
Members of Local 507,

On June 12, 2010, Local 507 had their election of officers. The outcome is Business Representative, James Hewett. The Executive Board is: Will Barajas as President, Frank Hewett as Vice President, Kenny Gee as Financial Secretary, Jorge Jacquez as Recording Secretary, Steve Reyes as Treasurer, Octavio Loya as Trustee, Charles Castro as a Trustee, Jose Espinosa as a Trustee, Claude Stockstill as Warden, Elias Barajas as an E-Board Member at Large, and Jorge Bettencourt as an E-Board Member at Large.

The new Local 507 Bylaws are now in place and the over the counter quarterly dues have been reduced since July 1, 2010. Check with the office to make sure of the amount due for those of you who are due credit for months in advance paid at the old rate. Another big change to the Bylaws is it is now mandatory to come in and sign for all work referrals.

If you have qualified, the first STAR event will be on September 11, 2010. If you have not qualified for STAR, the new year is running from July 1st through June 30th, 2011. The new STAR schedule of classes is available at the office. Get involved in YOUR UNION!

Well, it is that time of the year! Local 507 is having its picnic again. On September 25, 2010, all current members are invited to Coyote Ranch. Due to the high demand, sign-ups will be strict. Sign-up will be at the office from September 1 - 17, 2010. Remember you must sign for the number of dependents you will bring. Extra tickets can be bought for the cost to the Local. There will be a door prize and a raffle ticket for all members. There will be gifts for the children until all are given out. The early bird raffle will be at 11:00 a.m. Do not be late or you will miss it. Picnic hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Food and fun will be had by all who attend.

James Hewett
Regional Director
DC 16 IUPAT
Painters & Tapers Local 507

Dear Local 567 Brothers and Sisters,

With the ratification of the Floor Coverers new master agreement and with the Drywall Finishers wage allocation, these two groups have taken care of their pension deficit reduction. The Painters and Paperhangers will be voting in November on their January 2011 wage allocation and funding their pension deficit reduction of $1.05/hour.

In the last issue of the Pride, I wrote about an issue at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino. I am pleased to report to you that the issue has been resolved by the signing of a contract to do this work with our employer, C & C Flooring. This project will bring many months of work to our members. We recently also discovered that Dennis Banks Construction was using non-union contractors to do our work at the Grand Sierra Resort. Our friends at the Washoe County Democratic Party cancelled two events at that property in support of us. US Senator Harry Reid moved the Women’s Summit 2010, with First Lady Michele Obama, from the Grand Sierra Resort in support of us. Several unions from Nevada and California followed their examples by cancelling conventions there. After all of these actions by our friends, the Grand Sierra Resort decided to meet with us and we came to a resolution. Thanks again to Senator Reid for standing by our members during these tough times.

We have members currently working on the Washoe County School District remodeling projects. These projects are funded by a Washoe County School Bond. When this Bond shows up on the ballot in 2012, it will be very important for us to get it renewed. As you can see, your involvement in the political process directly affects your job.

The Labor 2010 campaign will start up at the end of July. We expect that many of the members of District Council 16 will again be active in this campaign. Stay involved with your Volunteer Activist Committee (VAC).

Todd Koch
Regional Director DC-16
Local 567
Hello All,

Summer is upon us and I hope you have had an opportunity to spend sometime with your friends and family. The holidays during the summer months are a time to enjoy ourselves with our families because during the work week we spend a lot of time away from those we are working so hard for. During those days when together, we seem to forget about work, the commute and the long hours. So I say to you, enjoy those times with them you all have deserved it.

We have some new members on the E- Board and I welcome them. I would also like to thank those who served on the last board for their time and commitment. I would be remised if I didn’t give Steve Zuniga big thanks, for he served over 30 years on the Executive Board. Serving on the board has its responsibility, but also its rewards knowing you were part of the leadership of the Local.

The work picture is still slow. There will be some large projects coming to life toward the end of the year. The shops that do the TI work seem to be holding their own, with some new projects and more bidding activity. The public works that has kept many of our shops going is still moving forward, but it is more competitive than ever. Our members now more than ever have to be High Performance/High Value to give our employers the bidding difference over the non-union shops competing for our work. So like they say “Give them 8 for 8 and do it right the first time, it’s the only time we get paid to do it.”

There is a new STAR class schedule is out starting July 1st thru September 2010 at the hall or on the website www.dci6star.org. To qualify for the awards event, the contributing hours worked was lowered to 500 hours from 800 hours. The 2010 STAR event is schedule for September 11, 2010. There will be a lot of VAC events in the near future and I hope to see many of you at them.

Work Safe,
Mark Shelley
Local Union 718

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of Local 741,

Local 741 has had its nominations and elections for Local and District Council Officers and is ready to move forward with District Council 16’s progressive agenda for the future. Under the leadership of BM/ST Doug Christopher we are #1 in trying to create jobs and hours. We are vigorously enforcing Project Labor Agreements, out of area language and jurisdictional language to squeeze every hour out of every project. We are creating jobs with a strategic use of Market Recovery funds. This means getting the most hours for the least amount of Market Recovery money.

We have an aggressive Organizing strategy that includes Local 741’s favorite, Shakir Villalobos, (Apprenticeship Instructor) and now District Council 16 Organizer. We are obligated to use any and every means available to us to achieve our Organizing goals.

For those of you wondering about the annual 376&741 picnic, bad news, we had to cancel. Rankin Park was not available this year and we could not find a cost effective venue to replace it. Executive Boards for both locals decided it was best to postpone the event until next year. Mid-term elections are right around the corner. The local politicians appreciate all the “boots on the ground” that Local 741 and District Council 16 provides. In order to maintain our reputation as movers and shakers and to keep the political gains captured in the last elections, we will need Local 741 members to step up this election season and volunteer for phone banks and walking precincts. To achieve our goals we need a concerted effort from all our members. I strongly encourage all members to attend the local meeting, 6:00 PM, the second Tuesday of every month and get involved.

Thank you,
Richard E Kennessey
Business Representative
Local 741
District Council 16
Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to introduce myself. I am Tom Whetstone, the new Business Representative for Local 767, (Glaziers in Sacramento). I am a family man and have been a 767 member for 16 years. I would like to thank all of you that made it out on Saturday June 12, to vote. I know that on such a nice day it was tough to make it, but all in all we had a good turnout.

With all the changes here at Local 767, it is real important not to lose sight of what is really important. High Performance/High Value. Attend your Local Union meetings the second Tuesday of every month to stay up on what is happening at the Local level.

Our VAC (Volunteer Activist Committee) gives you an opportunity to get involved. It is important to give back to the community, and to stay active politically. Remember, just three VAC events and you get invited to the big dinner and raffle in Livermore. It is a worthwhile trip.

I would like to say the work picture is looking good, but it’s just not the case. The Architectural Glass & Aluminum and Bagatelos projects at the airport are moving along well. AGA also has the California State Lottery Building downtown. More info about the Lottery building as it becomes available. In order to receive a dispatch, you must be registered on the out of work list. If you are out of work, make sure you call in and keep your contact information current. I keep running into situations like numbers being changed or voice mailboxes being full. Also, once you do find work, you need to come in and sign your dispatch. An employer can ask for you by name by submitting a request in writing to the Local. Remember also that just about all jobs these days require some sort of a pre-hire drug test.

As always, I hope everyone’s families are doing well.

Fraternally,
Tom Whetstone
Business Representative
District Council 16
Local 767

Greetings to All Members of Local Union 913,

I hope that you and your families are well and enjoying the summer season.

Recently, in sponsorship with the San Francisco Building Trades Council, Local Union 913 has been given the opportunity to accept an intern from the San Francisco Unified School District’s Construction Internship program. This worthwhile program is intended to interest students in careers in the construction industry by providing them with a direct acquaintance, to the work, within safety and legal parameters. The recent decline and instability in the current market, and its impact coupled with the retirement of some of the current workforce, it is essential that the Union provides an opportunity to educate these students who may be drawn to employment careers in the construction field. The intern’s name is James Liang. I have been assigned to educate him on three specific topics. I have chosen the following: National Labor Relations Act, National Labor Relations Board and Davis-Bacon (prevailing wages). These topics are important because The Act governs all workers’ rights, The Board enforces them and Davis-Bacon sets the wages.

Effective, July 1, 2010, dues for journeymen and apprentices will be decreased to $25.00 for both classifications. This will be due in quarterly payments of $75.00. All payments must be made at the beginning of the quarter for the entire quarter. No more single monthly payments will be accepted.

Please remember, the Union meeting is the first Wednesday of each month, at 6:00 P.M., at 555 DeHaro Street, #280B, San Francisco, California. You are encouraged to attend and stay informed.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Mike Walsh and his wife, on the recent birth of a baby girl Giovanna Walsh.

Fraternally,
James Ruigomez
Business Representative
Local Union 913
Members of Local 1176,

First of all I would like to thank all the members for an outstanding job at the Nummi plant, the job is coming to an end, please make sure you sign the out of work sheet at the office, if work is available you will be called by the order of your name on the list. I would like to personally thank John Rehlis for his job as shop steward at the plant, good job.

The City of Sacramento and Local 1176 representing the Specialty Painters have come to a tentative agreement for three years. This agreement still has to be ratified by the membership.

Parking and Highway members have their agreement up, and the owners asked for a sixty day extension. I will be coming by to talk with the members.

For the members at Kelly Moore paint factory I will start negotiating with the company on medical issues and an increase, if any, beginning in August. I will keep the members informed as to the progress of the negotiations.

Congratulations to the Executive Board for being elected to another three year term. I expect you will continue to do a great job as you have in the past, Thank You.

Remember meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Labor Temple in Oakland. Please make every effort to attend and get involved.

Jose Santana
Local 1176
District Council 16

DC 16/ L.U. 1237 Members,

We want to express our appreciation to the members who participated in the Sacramento Area Addendum Contract Negotiations as the Advisory Committee. The input they shared on your behalf helped ratify an Addendum that is agreeable to both the members and the Employers. At the final ratification vote we believe the membership cast their vote acknowledging the current state of the economy that both the members and our employer partners are suffering through. With the term of the Addendum (14 months) and an improved economy, we hope to be in a better position to negotiate future contracts that includes wage and benefit compensation.

Copies of the Sacramento Area Addendum, Bylaws and the STAR schedules are available for you at the Union hall.

We thank those of you who participated in the Volunteer Activist Committee (VAC) during the primary election. We will again be asking you to be part of the process of helping in the November General Election. Our Constitution (Section 129) states that the Local Union shall adopt and promote policy to encourage participation by its membership in all local, State and Provincial and National Elections. If you really want a change then we encourage you to be involved in the shaping of our future. High Performance/High Value not only applies in the field, it applies to everything we do from voting and attending Union meetings to community outreach.

We welcome our new additions to the Local’s Executive Board. Brother John Harris as Trustee, Brother Paul Pronovost as Warden, and Brother Frank Candelaria as Member at Large. Thanks to Brothers Chris Rutter and Tim Duran for their time and dedication to the Executive Board.

Congratulations to Brother Jason Joren and his wife Maria on the arrival of their baby girl Kristina Rose born on June 12, 2010.

Vince Echeverria
Regional Director
District Council 16
Dear Members:

All of you should have received by mail a copy of our Local’s revised Bylaws. They were modified to be in accordance with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Constitution and the Bylaws of District Council 16. These were approved by GST George Galis on May 10, 2010.

Please take the time to read and review these, as each member is required to abide by them. I would like to highlight a few of the key items for you.

Article XIII – Dues, Fees, and Assessments:

All Regular member dues over the counter have been reduced to be in line with the per capita tax payment our local sends out. Owner Member dues have increased to $100.00 per month, $300.00 per quarter. Quarterly dues payments late fees have changed. The late fee is now $5.00 per month for every month payment is late. (maximum of $15.00)

Every member is now required to pay Organizing Dues and Unity Action Dues in addition to Dues Check Off.

Article XVIII – General Trade Rules- Referral System Procedures:

Please make sure you familiarize yourself with this section. The main item I would like to direct your attention to is #31. Which states that it is the sole responsibility of each member that is currently unemployed and wishes to make themselves available for work MUST place themselves on our Local’s out of work list. Simply put, if you are not on the out of work list, we cannot dispatch you. The member is also required to call at the beginning of every month to continue to stay on the list.

Congratulations to the Local 1621 Softball team who won their division at Twin Creeks Softball Complex.

Fraternally,

Steve Huckaby
Business Representative
District Council 16
Local 1621
The Labor Movement:

In honor of those who came before us. We owe you a debt of gratitude which can only be repaid by continuing to work hard, promoting our International Union, and supporting our District Council in its efforts to organize, maintain our jurisdiction, and otherwise provide fair representation to all of the members of District Council 16.
District Council 16
2705 Constitution Drive
Livermore, CA 94551

Awards Event
Sept. 11, 2010

Prizes Include:
5 Chevy Trucks
2 Harley Davidsons
Fishing Boat
Family Boat
3 ATV/Quads
4 Vacation Cruises
30 LED TV’s
100 Cash Prizes
10 Kennedy Tool Boxes
& More

ALL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WILL SOON BE RECEIVING THEIR INVITATIONS IN THE MAIL. THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY (WIFE&KIDS) ONLY. THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED SHOULD VISIT THE STAR WEBSITE (www.dc16star.org) FOR CONFIRMATION OF THEIR AWARD ELIGIBILITY. ANY MEMBER WHO BELIEVES THEY HAVE MET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND IS NOT LISTED SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE STAR OFFICE @ 510-782 STAR.