Gillig manufactures transit buses in Hayward and have 60 Union Painters working on two shifts. Read more about the Automotive Painters of Local 1176 under Job Profiles.
Inside The PRIDE

4 Business Manager
Doug Christopher
Reflects on 2010 and
sets goals for 2011

6 Service
Chris meets with the
Golden Gate Bridge
Painters

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

10 Council News
Business Rep. writes
trustees about Health
and Welfare options

14 Job Profiles
Automotive Painters at
Gillig. Li Ka Shing Cen-
ter. Sutter Medical

16 Walter Cantrell
Scholarship opportu-
nity for dependents of
DC-16 members

18 Ask The BM/ST
Will we ever be able
to vote at any Local or
a central location?

19 Local Union News
Business Representatives report on Local
issues
I hope this first issue of The Pride for 2011 finds you and your family well. I for one cannot believe that the first decade of the 21st century is already behind us. Like I have done over the last several years, I will dedicate this first issue of The Pride for this year to a review of our past year and an outline of our goals for this year. We were all hopeful at the beginning of last year that it would turn out to be a good year. I don’t have to tell you that things did not come out that way. I am sure that we are all hopeful again this year that things do turn around and work will become plentiful again. I strongly believe that the significant changes to our health and pension plans that were brought about by the economic recession are behind us. I also believe that we will see work begin to rebound midway through this year but I would not go so far as to say that work is going to be plentiful.

I strongly believe that the significant changes to our health and pension plans that were brought about by the economic recession are behind us. Although 2010 was our most challenging year in many decades, we managed to move forward in many areas. Throughout 2010 we organized 35 new contractors; 5 drywall contractors, 6 floor covering contractors, 12 glazing contractors and 12 painting contractors. This brings our total number of newly organized contractors since 2002 to 416. I know 416 does not jive with last year’s reported total of 390 newly organized contractors when you add the 35 new contractors that we added this year. This is because I audited our organizing record which resulted in the removal of 9 contractors that we had erroneously listed from previous years. In 2010 our newly organized drywall contractors generated 139,341 additional hours, our newly organized floor covering contractors generated 282,067 additional hours, our newly organized glazing contractors generated 204,126 additional hours and our newly organized painting contractors generated 243,380 additional hours for a grand total of 868,914 additional hours for our members. These hour figures do not include December 2010 hours because they were not available at the time this article was written. In 2010 our Market Recovery Programs captured 50,267 floor covering hours, 71,742 glazing hours and 73,732 painting hours for a grand total of 195,741 market recovery hours. Between the hours generated by our newly organized contractors and the hours captured by our Market Recovery Programs, our members benefited from over 1,000,000 additional hours of work last year. That’s equivalent to full time employment for 500 members for the whole year. In 2010 we awarded five more scholarships to the children of our members under the Walter Cantrell Memorial Scholarship Fund. Our Volunteer Activist Committee (VAC) saw 1,047 of our members support 285 VAC activities throughout the District Council. 518 of our members qualified for VAC Membership by participating in three or more VAC activities, breaking all previous year’s records. In 2010 our STAR Program saw 237 of our members qualify to participate in our inaugural STAR Program raffle and share in approximately $500,000 worth of awards. Given the enormous challenges we all faced last year, we are very proud of the results that our Union showed and the value that those achievements brought home to our members and their families.
I know it’s hard to get excited about what we accomplished last year given what most of you are going through but I want to make the point that, as your representatives, we focus on what we can control and try not to get distracted by what we cannot control. Every shop we organize translates into more job opportunities and hours for our members. Every job we secure through our Market Recovery Programs translates into more jobs and hours for our members. We have well defined programs and the best craft workers in our industries, all of which helps us meet the challenges we will face this coming year. I know that many of you are very unhappy about the significant changes that have been made to our health and pension plans this past year. We, your representatives, just like you, are members of this Union and enjoy the same health and pension benefits that you do. We are equally affected by the significant changes that have occurred. Most, if not all, of the social and economic problems that have impacted our health and pension plans were caused by forces that were beyond our control. Nevertheless, the economic problems and their impacts were a reality that we as your representatives had to face. We had to get up every morning, put our pants on and go to work and face the challenges head on. We couldn’t allow ourselves to get frustrated, mad, throw our hands up and walk away while placing the blame on others. That would not have resolved the problems confronting our benefit plans and our members. We knew that the changes that we had to choose from were the best under the circumstances as we also knew that those choices were not going to be well received by our members. The biggest reality we had to come face to face with was the fact that just because we didn’t like the choices and knew that you wouldn’t like them either didn’t mean that the choices we made were not the best choices under the circumstances.

We have well defined programs and the best craft workers in our industries, all of which helps us meet the challenges we will face this coming year.

As a member of this Union, your commitment to High Performance/High Value also has a significant impact on our unions and our employers’ ability to generate additional employment opportunities and hours. Every action you take on the job site and at the Union hall has the capacity to affect who will capture the available construction projects; our employers or their non-union competitors. If you dedicate yourself to a High Performance/High Value work ethic on every jobsite and if we hold each other accountable to a higher standard, we can increase our employers’ competitive advantage. Our employers’ increased competitive advantage will allow them to secure more of the available work. Securing more of the available work translates into additional work opportunities and hours for us. It is a simple concept that is within our own control. We are all very well aware that there are those among us that are not performing at a High Performance/High Value level. The question is: are we going to continue to accept their lack of performance and the overall negative impact that it is having on all of us?

The entire staff at District Council 16 met on January 26th and established our goals for 2011.

The top goal will remain focusing our efforts on creating work opportunities and hours for our members. This is something that we can control and we have a proven track record that we can generate significant hours for our members through our efforts. We know that hours equal dollars for our members and their families. We also know that when our members are enjoying full employment their quality of life improves dramatically. Increasing hours also improves the health of our benefit plans, our Union, our State and our Country. That is why we put generating work opportunities and hours for our members at the top of our priority list every year. After discussing this matter thoroughly with the staff it has also been determined that I will be asking the Trustees and Delegates of District Council 16 to affect a 10% wage reduction for the entire staff in recognition of the economic suffering that our members are going through. To show our commitment to those same members, our Business Representatives and Organizers, which are salaried and not covered under a collective bargaining agreement, will be maintaining their work hours and work load so that there will be no reduction in essential services to our members. Our Secretarial staff, which are paid hourly and covered under a collective bargaining agreement, will reduce their work hours by 10% by finishing their work week at noon on Fridays. Our Business Representatives will step up and make every effort to maintain normal office hours on Friday afternoons when possible.

Fraternally,

Doug Christopher
As I am sitting here preparing for an upcoming meeting with the Golden Gate Bridge Painters it dawned on me that I should be sharing this information with all the membership. At the last General Convention and under the current Constitution of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Section 93 reads “all District Councils shall adopt and implement an approved form of administrative dues check off based on a percentage of wages earned”.

Effective March 12, 2010 the membership voted on and approved the current set of District Council 16 Bylaws in which Article 15.2 reads “All Local Unions shall establish for the payment of Administrative Dues Check off to District Council 16 that is hereby established at 3% of each member’s taxable net wage rate”.

So what does all this mean, it means that District Council 16 during the course of regular business abided by the rules set forth at our General Convention. For our Glazier and Floor Covering members this implementation of Dues Check Off was nothing new, those members have paid a percentage Dues Check Off since I can remember and as for the Painters and Drywall Finishing members they used to pay through a flat rate system until the current change and I would like to mention that the “over the counter dues” was lowered in most cases.

So here I am preparing for a meeting that the Golden Gate Bridge Painters have requested to discuss why they should not have to pay any Dues Check Off what so ever. First of all I challenge anybody to match the terms and conditions that have been negotiated by this District Council on behalf of those members and members before them. They are the highest paid Building Trades Craft currently working on that bridge and only second to the New York Bridge Painters in this International Union. They have had and utilized the same representation and benefits as our other members and currently we have started negotiations on their behalf.

So here we are, a small group of Painters on the bridge has threatened this entire membership with a decertification from the Painters Union when we implement the Administrative Dues Check Off on the Golden Gate Bridge. It seems that this group of Painters have forgotten about or don’t even care about the sacrifices generations of Union members before them made in order for them to enjoy the conditions they currently work under. It is a shame that the few members that are heading this decertification process are members that have been engaged or participated in this Union on a level that is not even measurable.

I promise this membership this, we as a Union have been here for over a hundred years and we will be here after this is over and will continue to fight for what we have and what we can gain in the future. We will use our biggest resource which is our members and all other resources to protect our jurisdiction on the Golden Gate Bridge. I look forward to working with the hard working dedicated members on the bridge and all of you.

Chris Christophersen
District Council 16 members came out in force to support Labor friendly candidates. We had very successful results here in California and Nevada. In other states with their new representatives in place there has already been a wave of proposed “right-to-work” legislation which we know is just a scam to undermine Unions.
Member Spotlight

Gus Cooksey

Local 1237 is proud to acknowledge Brother Ernie Gus Cooksey. He grew up in Fair Oaks and now resides in Sacramento with his wife Alesia of 22 years and their two daughters Amanda and Ashley and son Ethan. Gus is a proud Local 1237 member since October 1986. He began his career with and continues to be employed by B.T. Mancini. Two years after joining the company he was advanced to Journeyman status. Gus was responsible to oversee projects such as the Shriners Hospital, CSUS Activity Center, Valley Children’s Hospital in Fresno and recently the UC Davis Vet. Med. Project. He is currently the President of Local 1237 (2nd term) and held the position as trustee to the Local’s Executive Board.

Brother Cooksey serves on the Local’s Bylaws Committee and is an active VAC member.

In his spare time Brother Cooksey enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and backpacking.

Gus is highly respected as a person and 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 Council16/Local 1237 thanks you for all that you do.

Mike Delao

Mike Delao is a third generation Taper and was mentored by two craftsmen, Anthony Madieros, and Eric Delao, both members of Local 3.

Mike states that he used to not get involved, and when he did it was to complain about our Council and what the Union was not doing for him. Since then Mike has become involved and now realizes that he was wrong. Mike is now the VAC Coordinator for Local 3, and is driving out the membership in numbers, due to leading by example. Mike gives the credit to Carl “CJ” Jones, former Business Representative for Local 3, and Jazy Bonilla, the current Representative, for mentoring him and helping him to get involved.

Mike has recently completed his first semester of Labor Studies at Laney college in Oakland. He also has ten certifications completed through STAR Program. Mike is definitely taking High Performance/High Value to a new level.

Mike has been with his wife Maricela since 1990, and has a 3 year old daughter Michaela Gloria Delao. When Mike is not so busy, he enjoys being with family, playing music at home or at a gig (cover band), or playing golf with his buddies.
Director of Organizing

John Sherak

DC 16 Organizing Department gets largest penalty assessment in our history.

Last March the Organizing Department filed a complaint against King’s Drywall Inc. on the Tecero South Student Housing Project out at UC Davis. The State did a full investigation concerning the payment of wages to the employees of King’s Drywall Inc. After nearly a year we finally received notice of the penalty assessment. The State found that King’s Drywall Inc. was not paying the proper prevailing wage and the correct overtime rates. They also failed to report the accurate number of workers on the required certified payroll records, and misclassified their workers. The total amount in wages and penalties came to $1,386,718.03.

As slow as the construction industry is, the Organizing Department has been incredibly busy dealing with new non-union companies that are coming out of the woodwork bidding on the same projects as our signatory employers. It has become increasingly more difficult for our employers to secure work with that many more bidders on each project. As you all know our Market Recovery Program is being utilized to its fullest. However, the competition is bidding so ridiculously low that they are driving the market even lower. It is more important now than ever to utilize coordinated targeting and go after the work that we have the best chance to secure. Coordinated targeting is when we offer Market Recovery funds for two or more of our crafts on one project. The best value to everyone is when we get all four of our crafts set up with Market Recovery on that particular project.

Organizing Update:

The Organzing Department has recently set its goals for 2011. Although our budget and staff have gotten smaller we continue to have success in spite of the worst economy in our history. For every contractor that we sign this translates into hours and opportunities for our members. This early in the year we have already secured; 80,000 hours for the Glaziers; 100,000 hours for the Painters; 32,000 hours for the Floor Covering; and have just launched the Market Recovery Program for the Drywall Finishers.

We are always looking for training opportunities for our staff and the membership. See the note above for a seminar on Labor Law.

John Sherak
Director of Organizing
District Council 16
Local Union Business Representative writes Trustees about Health and Welfare options.

Many of our Locals had feedback similar to the members of Local 507. Read this letter and the response from Business Manager Doug Christopher. Not only did James Hewett write the letter on behalf of his membership, he showed up at the delegates meeting last month with the questions from the membership and they were answered in person point by point by the Business Manager. James utilized all of the resources at his disposal to get his members questions answered both in person and in writing. This is a great example of how to navigate the structure at District Council 16.

Doug has made several trips to Local Union meetings in the last two months at the request of the membership. At first the members are angry because they are uninformed. Then they are educated about where this information can be found such as in previous articles in The Pride. As a matter of fact, there is no information revealed at these meetings which has not been presented at the delegates meetings or in the magazine. There is no excuse for being uninformed if you haven’t made the effort, or held your delegates accountable.
Reno, Nevada: Local 567 members are working on three Hotel Casino remodel projects which were originally scheduled to be performed non-union. Through early awareness of the projects, solid relationships between District Council 16 and its signatory employers, skillful negotiations on behalf of the leadership team at Local 567, and some Market Recovery funds, these projects were secured by our employers. This kind of partnership and foresight is what continues to develop work opportunities for the membership of District Council 16.
The format for this year’s Western Regional Conference was different than in years past. There were training opportunities for the Local Union trustees and our Business Representatives and Organizers. Taking advantage of this and other training opportunities is what defines us as High Performance/High Value.

General President Williams wears a Giants Jersey as a result of a bet with the DC-16 Leadership on the 2010 National League Championship Series against his Phillies. Above GP Williams states that “I never did fear the beard”. We are working on the details of a new wager on this year’s season series against the Phillies.
The Blame Game

For centuries now the favorite indoor sport of man has been laying the blame for whatever has gone wrong on the shoulders of someone else. It doesn’t make any difference what the mess is, those who went along when the going was good, are the first to blame and condemn someone else when things go wrong.

In the case of children they call this blame-gamer a “poor sport”. What should we call the adult who does exactly the same thing? It seems to me that these “Blame-Gamers” are really making a confession of inferiority and are admitting that they can be lead around by the nose, that they don’t think for themselves, that they are ignorant, or indifferent to what is going on around them. If they did see what was happening, that they either didn’t care or didn’t have the courage to do something about it. You will find that these “Blame-Gamers” are quick to condemn and then act in righteous indignation once there is a public scandal. (I would like to know what they were doing before it became public) If you look around you, you will find these same types of people in every group to which you belong—church, club, lodge or union. They complain and criticize—but what did they do to help make things right?

It is childish to blame a leader. A leader is the representative of those who put him in, and gave him power to act. Therefore no blame can be accepted from a free man or woman. Theirs is the responsibility of choice, and on them will rest the final blame.

I bet that some of you think I was speaking about you, or the outspoken minority of “Blame-Gamers” in your Local Union. The truth is that every Local has some members who are acting just as it is described above. The fact is that I didn’t even write the article above. I found it in an archived copy of “The Painter and Decorator” (today we call it the International Journal). These words were written by Ruth Taylor, and published in the August 1957 edition, and required almost no editing to be relevant today. As you can see human nature has not changed in the last 53 years. However, we can limit the amount of time we entertain these “Blame-Gamers”, and start helping come up with some real solutions.

No Alibis Accepted- By Ruth Taylor- The Painter and Decorator- August 1957

On another note our new DC-16 website is up and running. I have been out on some of the jobs taking pictures and posting them on the photo gallery. If you have a question for the leadership of our Council, or have a story or profile suitable for The Pride or the website use the “Contact Us” tab on the website, and I will get back to you.

Mike West
Director of Communications
District Council 16
Gillig started building coaches in San Francisco in the late 1800’s. Their plant burned down in the 1906 earthquake and fire. They rebuilt and started manufacturing horseless carriages.

Gillig today has over 700 employees, 500 of which are Union with either the IUPAT or the Teamsters. They have work scheduled through April of 2012 at the Hayward plant, and turn out an average of 3 transit buses per day which are sent all around the country.

District Council 16 members and Gillig recently ratified a contract extension which will be in effect for the next 4 years. This is an example of a direct link between a legislative issue in the form of the Transportation Bill, and the members of the IUPAT.
The Li Ka Shing Center for Biomedical Teaching and Research in Berkeley has many proud District Council 16 members working on the project.

This quarter cover shot is from the Sutter Medical facility in Castro Valley. The unitized curtainwall and the panels are currently being installed by our Glaziers from two different shops. The Drywall finishing and the Painting are just getting under way, and the Floor Layer is not on site yet. This is another example of a project that is good with all of our crafts.
The Walter Cantrell Scholarship

Investing in our families future and education

See the following page for application, rules and guidelines

Five $2,000 Scholarships available

Application deadline is June 15, 2011

Winners will be announced in July of 2011
Walter Cantrell Scholarship

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for receipt of the Walter Cantrell Memorial Scholarship are as follows:

A) Applicants must be dependents (sons, daughters or legally adopted dependents) of any member who has remained in good standing as defined in the Constitution of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Constitution with IUPAT District Council 16 for a period of not less than one year.

B) Applicants must be under the age of 25 years, and must attend within one year of the date of award, a certified College, University, Vocational Tech/Trade School or other such institution of higher learning. Award winners must provide proof of enrollment in the qualifying institution of their choice within the period of one year of the award date, failure to do so will constitute a forfeit of the award.

Essay Process/Application Period

Scholarships will be awarded to eligible applicants based on the content of an essay to be written by each applicant. This essay will be written on a chosen subject matter as determined by the following process:

In the month of April in each year, all Board Members will submit a topic for essay consideration and the Chairman of the Board will choose from those the subject matter for the upcoming year’s essay. The essay topic and a scholarship application form will be provided to all requesting applications during the month of May in each year and essays will be accepted for consideration up to the postmarked date of June 15 in each year. All essays must be accompanied by the provided application form and this form must be completed in full. Essays are required to be no less than one thousand words without exceeding two thousand words and are to be typed or prepared using a legible word processing program (Microsoft Word or suitable alternate). Essays should not reference any personal relationships with members within District Council 16, Local Unions and Crafts. This years essay topic is: Considering that we supported Brown for Governor; what can our new Governor do to help create and maintain jobs and hours for District Council 16 members?

Any submittals not meeting the above requirements will be removed from consideration.

Exception: Persons who have received a previous award from the Walter Cantrell Scholarship Fund are not eligible for consideration.

Application Form

(Must be submitted with essay)

List the College, University, Vocational/Technical School or other institution of higher learning you are attending or planning to attend.

Briefly describe the course of study you intend to pursue and the educational goals you have established for yourself.

DC16 Local Union number of parent/guardian who is member

DC16 Member’s Name

Member’s Signature

Member’s SSN/SIN

Date
Great question Todd,  
I know many people are interested in the answer to this question because it has been asked so many times over the last several years. We have been very interested in allowing our membership to vote at any of our local union polling places including our council office, whichever is most convenient to each member, for many years. The logistical problem has always been controlling the voter eligibility list at multiple locations simultaneously. In the absence of sufficient control over the voter eligibility list, one voter could attempt and succeed in voting at more than one location, casting two or more votes in a single election. If this occurred, the entire election, which costs the union thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours to administer, would be spoiled and we would have to go through the whole process over again. The good news is technology has advanced to the point that we believe we will soon be able to publish our eligibility list on a secure shared web page where all judges at all polling places would be able to simultaneously work off the same eligibility list in real time. We are currently researching the technology and whether or not the United States Department of Labor, who regulates union elections, will allow us to conduct our elections in this manner. My guess is we should be able to implement such a voting system within the next couple of years so long as the technology and Department of Labor supports its implementation.

Doug Christopher

Editors Note: I met Todd on the Sutter Medical Project in Castro Valley. I usually ask the members if they have any questions for our Council leadership for this segment of the magazine. Todd beat me to it and asked this great question. I have been assigned to research the possibility of setting this voting system up as a step forward on this great idea. Ask your question under the “Contact Us” tab on the website. (www.dc16iupat.org) I will get back to you and forward your question to the correct department. If your question can benefit others it may be featured on this page.
Greetings Brothers and Sisters of Local 3,

My best wishes to you and your loved ones in this New Year. Last year was a tough one and this year no doubt, will be full of new challenges that will test our collective resolve as a Union.

The economy has been brutal to all of us and our families. I have heard some of our members question as to why be in the Union. My answer to that is simple; history has shown that when workers band together work conditions and wages improve substantially.

It was during the Great Depression of the 1930’s that workers joined and organized themselves into Unions to the tune of millions. The workers of that generation understood that there is strength in numbers.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out the importance of getting a dispatch request from the employer and a work referral before going to the jobsite. These rules are in place for your protection and for good reason.

The contract for the Painters and Drywall Finishers will expire in the next few months, there will be a joint E-Board meeting of all the locals on February 3rd to start brain storming for the upcoming negotiations and remember United We Stand and Divided We Fall........

Thanks to member and VAC coordinator Mike Delao for doing a fantastic job of coordinating the VAC activities for our Local. Among other events the members of Local 3 have recently done some drywall finishing at the new apprenticeship school. Get active with Mike and the DC-16 VAC program.

Please make every effort to attend our Local Union meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm.

Jazy Bonilla
Painters & Allied Trades
Local 3

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Perhaps that is an overused saying, but it is profound to our circumstances today. We have just come from the brink of the worst economic disaster in most of our memories and not unlike the Great Depression, this was just as global a situation as it was back in 1929.

When I was at the IF back in November, I listened to an economist that made real good sense of what we are going through. This kind of economic collapse happened in 1840, 1877, and 1929. The world did not come to an end. That is not to say that there has not been some tragedy. Members have lost their homes and many have left the industry altogether. Those of us that have stayed continue to persevere and strive to make our lives better.

When economic disasters happen, businesses and workers alike pick themselves up from the ashes and innovate and grow. Look around us and notice that there are signs that we will be in an economic upturn soon. I’m seeing hospitals and bridges being built, tunnels being excavated, cars being manufactured, schools being refurbished, photovoltaic panels being installed in both homes and businesses, and green jobs coming on line every day. What does this have to do with us? The economic engine is gearing up and that will have a direct positive impact on us. When businesses recover and people have jobs and surplus money, they will spend it to improve their situation and improve their way of life. We will benefit from this, we always have.

Remember what we have gone through, and benefit from the fact that you have survived and will recover. You have also gained knowledge of how to tighten your belts and live within your means. As the economy recovers and grows, we will once again be able to lavish ourselves with the finer things society has to offer and we all will be better people for it.

Fraternally,

Gene Hopkins
Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Last year was a tough year for most of the country and many of us as well. Economic recovery seems to be occurring now, so our future prospects are improving. That being said, this is a contract negotiation year for our Glazier Master Agreement. This will undoubtedly be a hot topic on all of your jobsites. I strongly encourage everyone to come to Union meetings this year and share your thoughts and concerns as we work our way through this process. I also need to caution every member that although the Union has an excellent working relationship with the Glass Management Association, there are still those out there that will try to feed the rumor mill and negatively impact the negotiating process. Do not assist them by spreading the propaganda they will broadcast. Come to the meeting or drop by the office to stay informed and disregard those rumors that you hear on the jobsite. We look forward to successful negotiations and bringing you a contract proposal that has fair and equitable compensation for the demanding work you do every day.

On a personal note, Ron Kessler has been a member of Local 169 for 29 years and came to work for the Union full-time after spending 20 years in the field and serving on the Executive Board.

Ron has decided that it is time for him to hang up his tools and begin enjoying retired life with his beautiful wife Teri. He has set April as his last month on the job. Serving as your Business Representative has been a very rewarding and fulfilling experience for him and he says he will miss the daily interaction with the membership most of all. We are all very proud of the work he has done here and will miss him greatly. I hope you will see him on your job or drop by the hall and wish him well. We will keep you informed on plans for seeing him off appropriately as they develop.

Work safe, work hard and I’ll see you at the next Union meeting.

Joe Upchurch

Painters and Drywall Finishers
Local 83,

I hope that everyone had a good holiday season. Here’s hoping that this year will be better and far more prosperous for all.

With both the Painter and Drywall Finishers contracts ending (Painters ending May 31st and Drywall Finishers ending June 30th) every member needs to attend the Local meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6 pm. Find out what is happening and let your ideas and thoughts be known. I want to thank the members who have been participating in the meetings so far and giving their thoughts and proposals for these upcoming contracts. If you are an active Painter or Drywall Finisher, working or unemployed, pay attention because you will be voting on your contract before the expiration. You need to know that working or not, if a strike were to happen each member except retirees will report the first day to the Local for a roll call and receive assignment to shops for picketing. I cannot stress to you enough the importance of attending your Local meetings to make sure you have all the facts and are making an informed decision.

With the change in the Health Plan if you are not sure of your eligibility or how much money is in your account you can call me at Local 83, (707) 765-6870 and we will direct you to the Trust Fund to answer your questions. Make sure all your contact information at the Local is current. Many of you have received phone calls to come in and sign or complete a beneficiary card for your file.

Remember if you are referred to a job you must sign the referral. If you are unemployed you must sign the out of work list to be eligible for the request and referral and, as always, your dues must be current.

Work safe, attend your meetings and remember to exhibit “High Performance/High Value” in all that you do.

Fraternally,

Les Proteau
Regional Director DC 16
Local Union 83
Hello Again Brothers of Local 272,

Let’s try to start this article of on a couple of high notes. The Monterey / Santa Cruz Building Trades had filed a lawsuit about a year ago against the City of Marina and the Marina Heights Housing Project for not requiring prevailing wages. With that filing we also listed the East Garrison Project and a project on the Del Rey Oaks side of Ft. Ord. Well about six months ago the courts ruled in our favor. Marina Partners appealed, and the Building Trades won the appeal also.

The importance of this victory means that any work that comes up at Ft. Ord and goes through (FORA) (Ft. Ord Reuse Agency) has to be prevailing wage.

The Monterey Board of Supervisors approved the Marina Desalinization Plant. We have a training program in place with the Marina Coast Water District which should insure that the job should be 100% Union work.

There still seems to be a lot of questions with the changes to how our Medical Plan is going to work. If any of you out there have questions call me. If I don’t have the answers I will get them for you.

STAR, STAR, STAR, I can’t repeat this enough! Things have been slow out there, no doubt about it. It is going to take some time until we are going strong again. This is the perfect time to get your training in. When things break, we need to get out there and be the best that we can be, and that comes with training and knowledge.

Last but not least, it’s contract time this year. I need to hear from you what you would like to see in the upcoming agreements. I don’t want to hear “pie in the sky” talk but real input. Remember it’s our livelihood here. Let me know, whether it’s out on a jobsite, at the office or even a phone call. What you have to say is important.

Fraternally,

John Papa
District Council 16 Business Representative
IUPAT Local Union 272

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had a happy and safe new year! During the past year we have had to make tough decisions in regards to our pensions and our health and welfare. Believe me when I say that the Leadership of this District Council found no pleasure in delivering the message of the restructuring of our pensions and health and welfare programs. However the message was necessarily delivered in real time and I believe ultimately the results will make our programs stronger for our membership to enjoy.

What I want our Members to understand and I guess some of our Contractors also, is that the board of trustees that oversee these trusts are equally represented by both the Union and the contractors, and the reason for the restructuring of the trusts is not due to greed, the incompetence of the Union, to the members it serves, or to the contractors to which those members are employed. It is simply due to the fact that the contributing hours are down due to the worst economy most of us have ever seen.

Times like this cause relationships to be tested, trust seems to be clouded by doubt, and the truthful proven statements like, “strength in numbers”, seem to slide away to the falsehoods of I can do better by myself. The blaming game causes division, and division is not what we are about we are about strength in numbers, being united for better wages for our membership, better profits for our contractors, and overall a better way of life for everybody!

In closing I would like to thank everyone who became active in the VAC. This past year we increased our participation over 50% from last year! Again thanks to you and your families and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

I look forward to the year 2011 and facing the challenges it brings with you.

Sincerely,

Jeffery B Roberts
Business Representative
District Council 16
Local 294
Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

On Saturday April 30, 2011 we will be offering our second Survival Of The Fittest seminar in Sacramento, put on by the dynamic Mark Breslin. This is an all day session and is required if you plan to qualify for the annual STAR rewards event. I strongly urge Local 487 members contributing to the program to attend. The seminar will be held at our Union Hall and space will be limited so when you receive notice please get signed up immediately.

Local 487’s participation in Labors Election Effort was impressive and I would like to thank all of you who came out and phone banked, precinct walked, rallied and protested. Our Local received an accommodation from the Sacramento Central Labor Council and as I said in my letter to our membership urging support for Jerry Brown and laying out our political action schedule, that this kind of work could be very rewarding especially if our candidates win. Well many of them did including Governor Jerry Brown, Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, US Senator Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Assembly member Alyson Huber and many others. Great job and thank you to our political activists!

In 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreements for Painters and Drywall Finishers will expire, which means we will again be in negotiations. I will again hold special contract meetings prior to this process, this will give you an opportunity to express your views and add input. Please make an effort to attend and participate.

Member news: Bill Schroeder and Dale Harris have had surgery and are recovering. Patrick Tapp and his wife Tera have welcomed their new baby boy Logan into the world.

In Solidarity,

Steven L. Caster
Business Representative
District Council 16
Local Union 487
Dear Local 567 Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to begin by thanking all of the members and their families who participated in the VAC events last year. While most of our country had election results showing an anti-worker trend, Nevada and California resisted these forces. We are fortunate that Nevada will convene this year’s legislative session with the State Senate and the State Assembly both controlled by our pro-worker friends. Just as critical, we were able to deliver Washoe County to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid thereby guaranteeing his re-election. Senator Reid called me to give his thanks for all of the work we did to keep him in office.

Our organizing efforts are also continuing to pay off. Remodel projects at the Atlantis, Peppermill, and Silver Legacy Casinos were slated to be done non-union. We were able to intercede early and turn these remodels into Union projects. Many of our working members are currently at these projects. We will focus next on properties owned by Renown Medical Center. Renown has decided that it is appropriate to hire painters with no medical insurance to work on some of their facilities. We plan on informing the public of this short-sighted policy at the next opportunity. The latest contractor to become an organizing target is Highland Floors. After an intensive effort to organize this contractor from its management down, it is now time to use other methods to prevent them from unfairly competing against our contractors. Again, your involvement will be the key to our success.

I would like to close with a note of hope. Several of our contractors have reported the good news of having more jobs on their books this year and seeing more jobs to bid on. While we expect our area’s economic recovery will be a slow one, there are some signs that 2011 could be the year that marks our turnaround.

Fraternally,

Todd Koch
Regional Director
District Council 16
Local 567

Members of Local 507,

With all the bad economic news out there, I will try and stay positive. The STAR program year ends June 30, 2011. For all members wishing to qualify for the event it is necessary to get those classes in and keep yourself safe from injury. The importance of keeping your skills up is paramount to finding employment and staying employed. If you keep your certifications current for Lead, Sand Blasting, CPR, and such your options for working increase. There is a new class schedule on-line and at your local office.

The new wage schedules are now in effect and we all have felt the change in contribution to Health and Welfare. What you might not all know is, all of your children now have coverage through the age of 26. Another change has allowed the apprentices who work for the non-union on public works jobs to maintain their coverage by purchasing it with their wages. Some of you had questions that you wanted me to ask the trustees and I did. In fact, my letter and the Business Manager/Secretary Treasurers’ response is currently on our District Council website (www.dc16iupat.org) under headline news.

Everyone's Master Contract is up either June 1, 2011 or July 1, 2011. Now is the time to write down your ideas and get them to your business representative. Any changes need to be given to him in writing so as to make sure your voice is heard. After the agreement is negotiated, you will vote yes or no, but will not be able to change what was negotiated.

This year our VAC involvement has increased to the point of 45 members qualifying. Now I am asking for those 45 members to recruit one member this year and help that member qualify. We will help our community, affect politics and make this UNION great. Stay involved it is YOUR UNION. We will SURVIVE TOGETHER!

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

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and hope everyone had safe and happy holidays. In 2010 there were many changes and challenges for us the members. The members have always risen to the call, and did so again when they were called on. We all know some decisions haven’t been easy, and neither was the choice to make them. The fact is when something comes up you have choices to make. The reason for some of the changes was beyond our control, but we made them and will learn to accept them. This year we will likely have more and when they come up we will look them face on and deal with them as they come.

I would like to thank all the members who participated in the VAC last year. We made the difference in the District 10 race for Supervisor in San Francisco. This is one of many examples of the results our VAC did accomplish. I know it’s nice to be recognized, but the real reward was to help your Union, and its members.

The new class schedule for the STAR program is out, and I encourage all of you to sign-up for the classes. The requirements for the many certifications we need are offered in these classes, and that could be the difference in getting a job. The Welding class and the Hoist/ Rigging class are some that help us protect our work. The better trained we are the better the opportunities for employment. The requirement for STAR hasn’t changed from last year. The training year ends on June 30th, 2011.

The Glaziers contract expires on June 30th, 2011. We have a few monthly meetings before this time, and I hope to see many of you at a meeting to discuss what’s important to you. The contract has the terms and conditions on our ability to earn our livelihoods so, why wouldn’t you want to be part of them? The members before us have laid the foundation, now it’s our turn to keep building on it for the present and future.

Work Safe,
Mark Shelley
District Council 16
Local 718

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Local 741 would like to thank all the members and their families who gave up their time to volunteer in the 2010 midterm elections. We fought hard campaigns and won a vast majority of them. In the 7th Congressional District we had the new Tea Party candidate versus Congressman George Miller. Congressman Miller has been our congressman as long as I can remember and is one of the most powerful people in Washington. He is also Labor’s biggest friend and supporter! So when we got the call from the Building Trades that the Tea Party was giving him a hard time, we stepped up and filled the rest of his Town Hall Meetings with friendly Union members and their families. The Tea Party fanatics tried to intimidate us, but we showed them that you can’t push around hard working Union construction workers.

In the 11th Congressional District we had a candidate trying to take out Labor favorite Jerry McNerney. (In spite of a defeat in last year’s 10th Congressional Special Election by Congressman John Garamendi, this candidate and all his anti-union special interest friends poured money into the campaign.) We countered with boots on the ground! We walked door to door and called Union friendly homes getting out our vote and we made the difference. The vote was so close that at one point victory was declared and the opposition candidate went to Washington for congressional orientation. But, when the official results were tallied, Congressman McNerney had won by a few hundred UNION votes.

We fight so hard on these campaigns because our existence depends on it. Candidates whose stated position is the destruction of all Unions represent the rich and the corporations who think only of the bottom line. To them Labor is only a cost of doing business. The less Labor cost, the more money they make.

Fraternally,
Richard E Kennessey
Business Representative
District Council 16
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank every Local 767 member who made it out to our January meeting. We had a good turnout, and I feel Glaziers Local 767 will continue to move forward. We have had some major changes in our Local to deal with, and I feel that the better the participation, the better the outcome.

I would like to thank the past members of the 767 Executive Board, for their service, and congratulate the new Board Members. Congratulations to; President: Dennis Orozco; Trustee: Ben Petersen; Members at Large: Alex Beltran and Mike Greenlee. I believe these changes to be positive and look forward to working with these gentlemen.

As we all know this is a contract year. We have some committees to form, so we need good solid participation from both Local 767 Executive Board and membership.

I would like to encourage every member to stay in touch with the District Council 16 staff. With the current status of the economy, communication is key. We want to know about every project you know about. The non-union is out there, and because of trickery and or cheating they might slip under the radar. This is a good sign that we should be monitoring those jobs more closely. So if you’re driving around during any day of the week and see a project with any of our four (4) crafts working, make a mental note, or even better write it down on a note pad or piece of paper and get the information to us.

One of my goals for 2011 is to get out there and talk to the membership more on a one on one level. If you happen see me on your site, come talk to me, tell me your concerns. Let me know what you see happening on your jobsite. It just might help us to grow throughout this New Year.

Fraternally,

Tom Whetstone
Business Representative
District Council 16
Local 767

To Local Union 913 Members,

The current Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Union and Management for Drywall Finishers will terminate June 30, 2011. The Agreement for the Painters will end May 31, 2011.

I imagine this will be a pivotal negotiation due to the depressed economic climate and the continuing lack of employment for Union members. I am asking that in the weeks ahead please communicate to me, either at the regular Union meeting or through personal contact, your thoughts regarding what issues you would like to see discussed during the negotiation process. If the work picture for you has been sporadic, what message would you like conveyed on your behalf? Issues regarding money, benefits, employment and retirement are critical to all of us. I would like to take your thoughts and share them with representatives from other Locals when negotiations begin. I am asking that you please take this matter seriously and give careful thought to the ideas you want brought to the table. I believe the only way we can achieve what is best for everyone is through the collective collaboration of ideas which affect us all. Please do not demonstrate an attitude of indifference at this critical time. Please don’t be a spectator or observer, but an active participant. The success or failure of this endeavor depends on you. I look forward to hearing your comments in the weeks ahead.

Continuing with one of the ideas in the message expressed above, please remember to attend the Local Union 913 regular meeting. It is held the first Wednesday, of each month, at the Union Hall, at 6:00 P.M. Your attendance allows you to stay informed. Information is knowledge and that is a powerful weapon when bringing about change. Your attendance is encouraged and appreciated.

Until we speak, continue to forge ahead.

Fraternally,

James Ruigomez
Business Representative
Local Union 913
Dear Members,

Congratulations to those who made membership to the Volunteer Activist Committee, 2010 is the best turn out the Local has produced to date. We hope to see more membership involvement in 2011.

A number of the members have expressed opinions as to the state of the Pension and Health and Welfare. The lack of hours has put the Trust Funds in a position where increases and plan changes are necessary. Even though you may not agree with the Trustees decisions, the changes are for the survival of the plans.

One issue that needs to be addressed is when an employer does not remit payment for fringe benefits to the Trust Funds on the member’s behalf. When an employer becomes delinquent in payment a 48 Hour notice is served to the employer. There are times we have to withdraw the employees until such time the employer has made full payment or arranged for stipulated payments. We are bound by the agreements to take this action; usually the employer makes payment or arrangements in a short period of time and removal of manpower is not necessary. We need your support at these times instead of some of the members thinking our Local or Council is not looking out for the best interest of the membership. These Agreements are put in place to protect the membership.

Beginning in January, notices will be sent to your employer of the changes in Union dues and begin deducting the right amount. Remember that those dues are being sent directly to the District Council and not to the Local office; in return the District Council sends a portion back to the Local to run our office.

Letters were sent out in January about the over the counter dues of $25.00 that you will be sending to the Local office to pay for your per capita to the International. That amount you pay on your own directly to this office. The employer won’t be deducting that amount from your checks. Remember if that’s not paid, after 3 months you will be suspended and removed from your job. Please don’t forget, if you have any questions, please call the office.

Local 1176 meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 pm. Come to the meetings and stay informed on what’s happening in our Local.

For the members that want to join the VAC, please contact the Local Union so we can register you for upcoming events that our Local and our District Council has registered. It would be great to have our Local Union showing support for the VAC program.

Jose Santana
District Council 16
Local 1176
Members of Local 1621,

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and want to wish you all a Happy New Year! 2011 will continue to bring us some challenges. Our work picture is slow, and the recovery process is going to take longer than anticipated. However, this is a new beginning and there are several positive steps and resources available for you to take advantage of.

Training, training, training will put you ahead of the game! Our District Council 16 STAR Program is the perfect opportunity for you to advance your skills and obtain High Performance/High Value for your employers. Classes are ongoing and schedules for each quarter may be viewed on the website - www.dc16star.org. There are OSHA classes, Lifts, Booms, and Welding.

Often when we are out of work, we lose contact with our brothers, sisters, and our Union. District Council 16 VAC (Volunteer Activist Committee) is a great way to reconnect and give back. Learn about this and upcoming events on our DC 16 website – www.dc16iupat.org. Members are encouraged to bring their ideas and desires for any VAC event. Another way to keep in touch is to attend your Local Union meetings. Ours is the third Tuesday of every month, at 6:30 pm in the Boardroom at the Local’s Hall. This is a great way to see your co-workers and stay abreast of what is happening. You may even make a contact that can lead to possible employment.

I have spoken with many of you regarding our employment downturn. Other advice I can offer you is to make a resume. List your experience, skills, qualifications and attributes. Go down with your resume to the shops and put your face in front of the hiring folks. Visit jobsites and show you are ready to go to work right now. In these trying times, the more you have to offer, the better the chance of gaining employment. I am here to assist you in any way that I can. Call me anytime.

Fraternally,
Stephen Huckaby
Business Representative