**Presidents letter**

It is with a heavy heart we have to announce that our District Director Bob LaVenture passed away on November 13th. Bob has been a major voice in the USW since 1970 and was very strong fighter for the working people. It was announced on November 15th that Gaylan Prescott will be the acting District 12 Director. Gaylan previously has been the Assistant to the Director for the International and has big shoes to fill.

Steve Berendsen and myself were in attendance at the Rapid Response Conference the last week of October. During that time, we learned about some new legislature that is being pushed for the protection against Work place violence in the medical field and the new NAFTA trade agreement that we were asking to hold their vote on. That way we can make sure there more “Buy American” and workers right language put in the bill. We will have more information as it is released and where they stand in the House and Senate in the near future. Whileat the conference we were able to talk with 9 different Representatives of California and discussed the future of UPI and the issues we have been facing with trade and economics in California.

There have been some questions on the Maintenance incentive increase that hopefully this will answer. The increase was handled through the Wage and Rate committee and was not negotiated during contract talks. Our committee has been working on this issue since 2015. Some might remember there was a committee put together to find out where our maintenance employees wage scale compared to the others in our county. The work done during the previous committee laid the path to get this achieved so we can try to maintain and acquire more skilled MTM and MTE trades workers. In the last 10 years we have lost more Trades employees than UPI has been able to hire due to retirement and people leaving to other facilities.

Lastly the Union Christmas party has been set for December 20 and the next union meeting has been voted to be moved to the same date. I Hope all Union Members will be able to make it to the party. Like in the past it promises to be a great time filled holiday spirit and food. Negotiations are scheduled to start back up November 20th so look out for emailed updates on how things are going. **If you have not signed up for these, I encourage you to do so. The update emails are a great way to receive quick up to date credible information**. Any questions, concerns or comments please email me at Salazar.usw1440@gmail.com

**In Solidarity, Ben Salazar**



Submit your email to receive Contract updates

and other important notifications.

* Go to: **uswlocals.org/local-1440**
* Click on the link “stay updated”
* Fill out the form and Submit.

Steelworkers' nonpartisan grassroots education, communication, and action program that

provides the necessary structure to inform every USW member about pending legislation concerning labor and work-

related issues. Rapid Response provides opportunity for all USW members to have a strong voice and an active part in the government decisions and legislative actions that affect them, their families, their contracts, and their communities.

You can only Reap what you Sow. Put in what you want out! If you would like to help, get more involved, or just see what is going on out in the world. Come to a meeting, look at our local or the Rapid Response Website. Recently our own President and Financial Secretary went on a mission to lobby a few acts to better our world. Ben and Steve along with many others from USW worked for the following Acts:

**The Butch Act of 2019 (H.R. 397/s.2254)**

Multi-Employer Pension Aid Necessary

**The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 1309/s.851)**

Protection Our Workers from Violence on the Job

**The Protection the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474/S.664)**

Restoring Workers’ Fundamental Rights

**Rapid Response**



Please join us at the next meeting on

**December 11Th @ 4pm**.

Dec.14 is fast approaching and we are still about $7,000 short of our $50,000 goal for Women of Steel Veterans project. We will have a **50/50 raffle** (50% to the winner and 50% to the WOS Veterans project) We will be selling raffle tickets staring Nov19 and will sell thru Dec 6. The winning ticket will be pulled on Dec 7th. **Tickets are $1 each or 8 for $5.** If you would like to buy tickets please see Steph in the Lab.

Text or call 925-812-3627. This is for an awesome cause Thank you!

In Solidarity, Steph De La Rosa

**Wage Safety**

**WHAT DO I DO IN AN EMERGENCY?**

Do I wait until something happens and then listen to the radio or TV to find out? Do I pack up all my valuables and leave? Do I call everyone I know to find out what they are doing or what they are doing? Do I ask for recommendations on social media? No, no, no and no!

We live in a state that is prone to earthquakes and fires so we should always be prepared. But what can we do to be prepared? Here are some helpful things we can do ahead of any emergency from the American Red Cross and Cal OES.

Have a plan and stick to the plan. The plan should be known to all in the household. A suggestion is to have the plan posted somewhere where all can see it; a refrigerator is a great place since we are all drawn to it on a daily basis. What should this plan include?

1. Listen to the local radio stations, TV stations or even a NOAA radio for the latest information in regards to situation
2. Be ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice
3. Check your emergency kit on a regular basis and replace items as they expire or in short supply, especially medication and medical supplies.
4. Have a friend or relative out of the area that all can check in with
5. Have a friend or family member that you can possibly stay with until the emergency is over or know where the emergency shelters are
6. Have your pets ready to, food, water and leashes or cages to help control them
7. Have your important papers in one location
8. Dress appropriately, if for fires, wear cotton/wool clothing, nothing polyester, long pants and long shirts. If other type of disaster, wear clothing appropriate for the conditions. Warm clothes in the winter, cool clothes in the summer
9. Have an emergency supply of water, a gallon a day per person per day
10. Have a fully charged call phone and a fully charged portable charger
11. Be aware that land lines and cell towers can be down
12. Only use the phones to call 911 as what available lines there are will be very busy
13. Texting is usually better then calling

For more information on what to do, look at the American Red Cross website, NOAA for weather information, Cal OES for local information, or type in your browser “emergency preparedness for the home” and several links will come up. Safety is not only at work but at home. A big part of being safe is to be prepared and have a plan and then work that plan!

**In Solidarity, Your Wage Safety Reps**

**The union would like to show respect to our lost brothers and sisters.**

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that District 12 Director Bob LaVenture passed away. Bob joined the labor movement in 1970 when he went to work at an International Harvester Waukesha, Wis., as a member of Local 3740. He served many roles, including trustee, local union steward, vice president and president. Bob moved to Concord, Calif., in 1993 and then to Oklahoma in 1998 as a USW International staff rep. He became District 12 Director in 2009.

Bob was good friend who touched many lives. He will be sorely missed.

**A Union is more than a job and coworkers it’s a Family.**



Union Meetings Are Held the 2nd Thursday Of Every Month. Our Next Meeting Will Be

**Thurs, Dec. 20th**

5:30PM At the Union Hall

677 Cumberland Street

Pittsburg, CA 94565

Phone: 925-432-7396

unity****strength****respect****united****steelworkers