From the Business Manager - Jack A. Buckhorn

THE HIDDEN AGENDA BEHIND PROP 75

Would you trust Wal-Mart to protect your paycheck? The authors of Proposition 75 want you to think they sponsored their ballot measure because they care about union members. They want you to believe that they—Governor Schwarzenegger’s closest corporate backers—are motivated by a desire to protect union members. They hope you won’t find out about the hidden agenda behind Prop 75.

The real agenda behind Prop 75? To silence our voice so corporations can have more control over government. Corporations already outspend unions by a margin of 24:1. Prop 75 would make this unfair imbalance even worse. It’s not about protecting workers. It’s about shuttering them up!

These Prop 75 funders are directly tied to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and his anti-union agenda. They are some of the Governor’s top donors, and include a major investment company that lobbied for pension privatization and one of the owners of Wal-Mart. In total, eight ultra-wealthy donors have bankrolled virtually the entire Proposition 75 campaign — hardly champions for workers’ rights.

Why are they trying to silence the voice of union members?
— It was unions who stopped Arnold when he tried to gut pensions and eliminate death benefits for family members of firefighters and police officers who die in the line of duty.
— It was unions who fought to stop Arnold’s cuts in education funding.
— It was unions who fought Arnold’s elimination of the right to a lunch break.

— It was unions who stopped Arnold from overturning hospital staffing ratios.

Schwarzenegger revealed his true agenda for the election when he told an audience, “This is a battle of the governor of the state of California against... unions.” Arnold and his allies are planning their second attempt at eliminating pensions again in 2006. That’s why they want to prevent unions from fighting back by passing Proposition 75. If they get their way, unions won’t be able to stop the Governor from reducing health care, attacking our lunch breaks or gutting pensions.

Unions will not be able to advocate against cuts in spending on our schools, our hospitals and our state infrastructure. Far from protecting the rights of teachers, nurses, firefighters and other union workers, Prop. 75 would reduce our ability to speak out when politicians do harm to our schools, hospitals and public safety. If Prop 75 passes it will not just hurt union members, but all Californians who depend on these vital services.

This is not the first attempt to silence labor’s voice. In 1998, former Republican Governor Pete Wilson sponsored a similar measure, Proposition 226. The proposition lost when voters learned the political agenda behind it. We can defeat Prop 75 too, but only if voters learn the truth about its hidden agenda. To do this, we will need your help between now and November 8 — Election Day. Please talk to your coworkers, friends and family about the hidden agenda behindArnold’s special election. We also need volunteers who are willing to contribute their voice, their sweet and their shoe leather to the NO on 75 campaign. Don’t let Arnold and his allies silence your voice — help defeat Proposition 75! Contact the union office for information on becoming campaign volunteers.

For more information on Prop 75 and the other special election initiatives visit www.calaborfed.org.

ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS!

General Meeting/2nd Thurs/7pm Eureka Unit Meeting/2nd Tues/7pm
The 9th District Softball Tournament was held in Pleasanton on August 20 & 21st. We didn’t place in the tournament but we had a great time.

Local Union 695 won the tournament, with Local 6 in second place. Next year’s tournament will be in Fresno for the 10th year reunion. The first tournament was held in Fresno ten years ago.

The following members were on our team, from left to right: Josh Glaze, Mike Stone, Patrick Wheeler, Vince Nawrocki, Steve Stobel, Carlos Tovar, Charlie O’Neil, Steve Lustenberger, Scott Martin, Brandon Taylor, Dan Howes. Thanks guys!

**REMINDEERS**

- Keep your address and phone number current with the union office. You may also provide us with your email address.
- Don’t let your dues get three months behind. Pay your dues on time so you don’t get charged the $30.00 reinstatement fee.
- Dues can be paid with visa/mastercard. This can be done online at our website, in person or over the phone.
- When registering on our website use your dues receipt card number when asked for your member number.
- Office hours are 8:00 am - Noon and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Dispatch office opens at 7:00 on days with jobs to dispatch.
- State Certification testing has been extended through December 31, 2005.

**Member Assistance Program (MAP)**

Please take advantage of the New Benefit of MAP. This program will provide member assistance care. Your eligible dependents and all household members are eligible for 3 free counseling sessions for each “incident” or problem that you may need help with. Just call PBH (PaciﬁcCare Behavioral Health) for pre-authorization prior to receiving any services. The PBH toll-free number is 877-225-2267. When calling, please mention you are a participant of the Redwood Empire Electrical Workers Health & Welfare Plan. This benefit is not available to retirees.

**STEVE STOBEL - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE**

The “Summer Rush” is over and the Books are gaining a few more members than we are dispatching. There are calls coming in, but not the volume of the past couple of months. The new referral has been in place for a little over two months and it has made our ‘out of work list’ into an ‘available for work list’.

Through the summer I had opportunities to talk to some of our traveling brothers and sisters. More than one member had not worked in their home state in more than five years! – and it wasn’t because they didn’t want to. The economy had become stagnant and their market share had dropped to almost single digits! We are very fortunate to have work here in our jurisdiction and in our neighboring locals. Let’s all remember to give our contracter’s ‘8 for 6’ everyday so we can maintain a bright work picture now and in the future.

There is a special election coming in Nov. ’05 that could effect all working men and women. An Alliance has been formed to inform all registered voters of the different aspects and affects of these propositions. John and I have been asking members for some volunteer help with phone banking and precinct walking, a couple of hours per member would be a huge help. If this is something that you could assist with, please call John or myself here at the Hall.

Thank You
APPRENTICESHIP DISPATCH

There is a new procedure in place implemented by the JATC for job training assignments:

- All 5th year apprentices will be placed for training assignments by the IBEW #551 dispatcher. Calls for a 5th year apprentice should be directed to the union office (707)-542-3505.
- All other apprentices (1st thru 4th year) will be placed for employment by JATC Training Director Bill Campbell (707)-523-3837.
- Apprentices will be divided into two categories which are as follows:
  - Lower Period Apprentices (1st and 2nd year) and;
  - Upper Period Apprentices (3rd and 4th year).
- Calls may be made for an upper or lower bracket apprentice only.
- Apprentices will be placed for training assignments on a first-in-first out basis.

This procedure is in effect. Should you have any questions, please contact the JATC Training Director, Bill Campbell at 707-523-3837.

JOHN MCENTAGART - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are all well and I hope you all had a profitable summer. We had a very busy season and enjoyed full employment in our local. We are currently gearing up for the Special Election that the Governor has called for in November and we are asking all members for help in defeating the propositions that are going to be on the ballot. We have been asked to phone bank on certain nights and that will continue up until the election and by the time this newsletter has gone out we will have completed our first evening of phone banking.

A major part of being involved in a successful Union is participation. All Union members should feel the need to help in some way. There are many ways to help OUR local thrive. We won’t survive if we keep saying “I can’t do that!” or “I don’t have time for that” or “It’s not going to do any good anyway”. Maybe it won’t do any good but one thing is for sure, we have to try if we want to keep the current wages and conditions that we have now.

On the organizing front we are going to resume our talks with several contractors we were talking to before the busy season hit. Jack, along with Local 180 and Local 340 are still trying to work out the details regarding the Area Wide Residential Agreement and I’m looking forward to bringing that to some of our open shop contractors. It’s a very user friendly contract and should help some of our contractors look to recapture the Residential market.

We still need help in identifying the jobs in our jurisdiction. If you see a project, please write down the address and the name of the General Contractor and relay that information to us. That’s how we, collectively, will know what’s going on in our jurisdiction.

That’s all for now, above all be safe out there.

VARIABLE PENSION PLAN

Variable pension forms have been mailed out. If you elect to change your pension contribution you must have the form back in this office no later than October 1st. If you have any questions, please call this office.

HERMAN MARCHBANKS - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Here it is the end of summer, where has the time gone? I hope that all have enjoyed it, and those members that wanted to work were able to work. Most of all the Eureka members have had work this summer, and some jobs will be going on through the winter.

The waterfront has called for an apprentice and it is going along well. They are currently using two of our electrical journeymen and they will be adding one apprentice soon. We have a union contractor, working under Granite Construction, and they too have asked for an apprentice. We are working to make this happen.

Thanks to our Compliance officer, Andre Gardner, who has worked with us on violations of the non-union contractors in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. So far, violations ranging from misclassification of workers, to not working apprentices on jobs, to not putting the company names on their trucks. These violations are on four of the non-union contractors in Eureka.

We have finally gotten a settlement against the Ryan Company on the Humboldt State University (HSU) infrastructure job. Sally Riley has been a great help working with HSU on bidding procedures, and is currently working with HSU on this. She too has been helping IBEW with both Eureka and Crescent City and the way they handle and award bids. Thank you Sally for the time you have spent on this. It will eventually pay off.
PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE

The proposed Bylaws change will be discussed and voted on at the next general membership meeting to be held on Thursday, October 13, 2005.

Article X Assessment-Admission Fees-Dues

Section 3 The admission fees shall be:
(a) A’ Membership
   Journeyman Wireman $100
   Residential Wireman $100

(delete) Apprentice-50% of the corresponding journeyman classification

(add) Apprentice $100

(delete) <Section 5 Upon becoming a Journeyman, an Apprentice shall pay any difference in admission fee between Journeyman and Apprentice prevailing at the time he/she became an apprentice.>

(rename Section 5)

Section 6 (a) Inside: Basic Dues Working Dues

All classifications $2 plus 4.25% of gross wages
Inside Apprentices $2 plus 2.25% of gross wages

(delete) - Residential $2 plus 2.25% of gross wages

(add) - Residential $2 plus 6% of gross wages

Sound and Communications $2 plus wage rate X 160 X 1.25% 1/

1/ Members employed under the terms of the Sound and Communications Agreement shall pay working dues of the hourly rate X 160 X 1.25%. This shall apply to all members employed 40 hours or more each month.

Example: Senior Tech Hourly Rate $30.62 X 160 X 1.25% = $61.24 per month.

(b), (c), (d) & (e) no change

Respectfully submitted by,
Jack A. Buckhorn

KNOW YOUR AGREEMENT

It has come to our attention that members are working as foreman but not getting paid foreman wages. Your employer is obligated to pay foreman wages to you if you are working in the capacity of foreman. Please read your agreement and know the rules. ARTICLE III, Section 3.10 refers to the ratio of foreman to journeymen. If you have any questions about the agreement, please call one of your union representatives.

Our Local 551 Retirees Club donated $100.00 to the Salvation Army to aide in the relief of Hurricane Katrina victims. Please call Otis Harmon Retiree Club President for information regarding the club @ 707-579-3301. The Retiree Club meets at 12:30 pm, 2nd Tuesday of the month at Cocoa’s Restaurant on Farmers Lane.

Local 551 membership has sent a check in the amount of $10,175.00 to the American Red Cross through the IBEW Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

MORTONS WARM SPRINGS

Thanks to all the members and their families who attended our picnic at Mortons. A great time was had by all.

Thank you also to picnic chairman, Steve Stobel for doing a great job!

Pictured from left is Bruce Stephens, Jennifer Greenwood, and Mike Haddix. Thank you Mike for providing the instruments.

We had 112 members, family & friends attend and we hope to see even more members and retirees at our next picnic!