Member action helps drive 2014 election results

By Rich Fierro
Local 70 Co-Political Coordinator

The Officers and Officials of Local 70 spend a great amount of time monitoring local, statewide, and national elections. Why? Because politician’s decisions impact workers every day.

The last couple of years, Joint Council 7 has successfully sponsored worker-friendly legislation. In 2013, we were able to amend the “Enterprise Tax Zone” which had previously allowed companies to relocate and receive tax credits for displacing current employees. This year we led a broad coalition that pressured the Governor into signing AB 1897. This groundbreaking law which goes into effect on January 1, 2015 will make employers accountable for the abuse of “temporary workers.”

We applied these successes into local elections, specifically in the City of Oakland where we have had to battle the City Council time and again on worker issues like the garbage contracts and the Army Base Development Project.

To accomplish our goals, we restarted the Picketing, Organizing and Assessment Program in August. This program utilizes rank-and-file members to phone bank, precinct walk and post signs for the politicians we support. We also visited as many terminals as possible to register members to vote and to sign up for DRIVE. These tools are critical to the success of our political program. We will never have as much money as corporations do, but we do have more voters! Also, DRIVE is what enables us to educate and inform our members and contribute to the politicians we support.

We were involved in many races but Local 70’s focus was the Oakland Mayor’s race, Oakland City Council, Oakland School Board, and Alameda County Measure BB. We were successful in every race in Oakland!

How were we so successful? Through rank-and-file involvement! With all of the volunteers and picket duty hours contributed we:

- Delivered all the yard signs in Oakland for our endorsed candidate for Mayor (Libby Schaaf), and walked precincts for her and for endorsed City Council candidates in Oakland.
- Phone bank edevery Teamster member in Oakland and Berkeley with recommendations.
- Walked precincts for endorsed candidates in Newark.
- Hung door knockers for Measure BB.

- Walked precincts for Congressional Candidate Mike Honda and State Assembly Candidate Tim Sbranti.

As the coordinator of this year’s program, I was amazed at all the work our members accomplished and want to thank everyone for their efforts. Our work is just beginning. We did not prevail in all of our races and the national election results were dismal, but overall, we did very well in our local efforts.

We will restart our Voter Registration and DRIVE sign-up blitzes at the beginning of the new year. We are also going to continue to utilize the Picketing Program to stay active in Alameda County in numerous ways to make Teamsters Local 70 a valuable part of our communities.

If you would like to become more active in our political program or need more information please contact me at 510-673-0731.

Executive Board
Marty Frates .......... Secretary Treasurer
Dominic Chiovare .......... President
Jim Fried .......... Vice President
Ruben Bustillos .......... Recording Secretary
Rich Fierro .......... Trustee
Kelsey Frazier .......... Trustee
Mark Hawkins .......... Trustee

Business Agents
Bob Aiello
Lou Marchetti
Felix Martinez
Mike Garcia .......... Conductor
Ray Woodruff .......... Warden
Ed Williams .......... Sergeant-at-Arms
President’s Report

Dominic Chiovare

Updates from around the local

Organizing at Shred Works
Business Agents Lou Marchetti and Mark Hawkins have been busy holding organizing meetings with the workers from Shred Works in Oakland. After several meetings, the workers collectively decided that they wanted to join Local 70. Lou Marchetti and Mark Hawkins filed for an NLRB election on their behalf which was held on October 30th. The employees voted 14 to 6 in favor of the Union. Marchetti and Hawkins have sent the company a letter to start the negotiations process.

Organizing at Con-Way
Trustee Kelsey Frazier and Vice President Jim Fried are spearheading an organizing drive at Con-Way Freight in Hayward. It is early but interest is growing. Members who have leads or talk to Con-Way employees we can use your help. Please contact Kelsey or Jim.

Negotiating with Veritiv
Mark Hawkins and I will be in negotiations throughout November and December with Veritiv Livingston previously known as xpedx. New Company with new ownership!! We will keep you updated.

Why we take political action
Local 70’s Political Coordinators, Business Agent Lou Marchetti and Trustee Rich Fierro, along with the rest of the officers and officials have been working non-stop making sure our members are registered to vote and encouraging them to vote for the candidates who support labor. The politicians who are in office impact the wages, benefits and conditions of the workers.

One win, one loss on soda taxes
By Ruben Bustillos
Local 70 Recording-Secretary
In the last two editions of the Local 70 News, I reported on the fight to defeat Proposition D in Berkeley and E in San Francisco. These propositions would have added a tax to all sugar beverages and threatened our members’ jobs in the beverage industry.

I am disappointed to report that Proposition D in Berkeley passed by a 75% majority. Berkeley has become the first city in the U.S. to successfully pass a “sin” tax on sugar-sweetened beverages. Now let’s see if the City of Berkeley will allocate the monies raised by this tax to go toward education and the physical activities programs they were touting. Or, will they break their political promises and instead just sweeten the pot called the General Fund? We hope that the residents of Berkeley will hold their council members accountable.

I am glad to report that we were successful in defeating Proposition E in San Francisco. Although the proposition received 54.5% yes votes, this was not enough to meet the two-thirds requirement. With this defeat, the residents of San Francisco will not have to pay any new taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages and our jobs will be protected.

These type of measures that are regressive taxes, like this sugar tax, will not be the last assault on workers in the beverage industry. Other cities are sure to follow the path of Berkeley and try to fill their coffers at the expense of workers and residents.

Business Agent Lou Marchetti and I had told the American Beverage Association, the group that ran the campaign against the sugar taxes, that they needed to put the face of the workers—our members—in the forefront of the campaign, especially in a city like Berkeley. Local 70 has won many campaigns and has the skills and knowledge that are necessary to do it. Unfortunately, our advice fell on deaf ears.

The soda industry provides about 700 jobs to Local 70 members and the industry is under attack. What was lost in the discussion around these propositions is the jobs that will be impacted. We cannot forget that just one law—deregulation—destroyed the freight industry. We must preserve these jobs and the industry for those who follow behind us so they, too, can have good middle class jobs with good benefits and great contracts. We always need to be diligent and pro-active in our fight to protect good Teamster jobs.

A special thanks to the Seven-Up company. They sent their entire West Bay Merchandising Team to a day of action in San Francisco. We only wish Coca-Cola and Pepsi would have been as pro-active in allowing their workers to participate in such events.

Reminder
The next membership meeting is Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Why we take political action
Local 70’s Political Coordinators, Business Agent Lou Marchetti and Trustee Rich Fierro, along with the rest of the officers and officials have been working non-stop making sure our members are registered to vote and encouraging them to vote for the candidates who support labor. The politicians who are in office impact the wages, benefits and conditions of the workers.

Business Agent Lou Marchetti and I will be in negotiations throughout November and December with Veritiv Livingston previously known as xpedx. New Company with new ownership!! We will keep you updated.

Shop Steward Appreciation Breakfast
On October 18, 2014, Local 70 held its annual Steward Appreciation breakfast at the Moose Lodge in Castro Valley. This annual event is the Local’s chance to thank our Shop Stewards for all their hard work, day-in and day-out.

International Vice President Rome Aloise was the guest speaker. He reported on the ongoing organizing efforts and the importance of being involved in the political process.

Vice-President Jim Fried coordinated the event and said “the best part of my job as Vice-President is working with the Shop Stewards. Any way I can assist our hard-working Shop Stewards, by giving them the tools they need to better represent the members and make their jobs easier, is worth it.”

Lon Ward
Mike Garcia
Nick Radke
Brooks Cote
Darryl Deloney with Jim Fried
Joel Jimenez
Robert Alameda
Roberto Navarette
Steve Imburgia
Vice-President Jim Fried presented each of the stewards with a Local 70 leather briefcase for their hard work.
Local 70 takes stand opposing ILWU Local 6’s strike at Waste Management

On October 24, ILWU Local 6 took their members out on strike at Waste Management for six days. This was an unfortunate event that should not have happened. As a result, I wrote a letter to Mayor-Elect Libby Schaff and the City Council of Oakland explaining our position. Here’s some of what I said:

“...A strike should be the last thing a union does without having a conversation with the Mayor and City Council to provide the issues and to give fair warning to the residents of Oakland. Local 70 did not support this strike...”

Here’s the back story. ILWU Local 6 has three contracts with Waste Management: clerical, landfill and recycling. The clerical contract had been expired for more than 18 months and the landfill contract for over 24 months.

Local 70 and Joint Council 7 got involved in these negotiations and played a huge role helping the ILWU reach tentative agreement in both contracts. While the leadership of ILWU Local 6 recommended a NO vote, Local 70, Joint Council 7 and the ILWU Local 6 Negotiating Committee recommended a YES vote and both contracts were ratified by a margin of 111 to 6.

In fact, as I told Schaff in no uncertain terms, “We support the workers but do not support the Local’s leadership, who, in our opinion, was irresponsible in the representation of their members.”

What was the reason for the strike? On October 23, 2014, ILWU Local 6 held a stop work meeting at Waste Management. The company told them to wait until lunch or the afternoon break, but they refused and pulled their members off the job. When the meeting was over the company sent the employees home for the day because the recycling line had been shut down. The employees were told to report to work the next day. That night, the ILWU left their members a phone message stating they would strike at 4:00 a.m. the following morning.

There were no discussions with the Teamsters.

ILIWU Local 6 failed to ask for strike sanction from either Teamsters Joint Council 7 or the Central Labor Council until after they started the strike. Local 70 would not have approved a strike sanction unless there was a legitimate issue. As I told Schaff, “The irresponsible act by ILWU Local 6 leadership to strike because they instructed their members to walk off the job is not acceptable to us. The leadership of Local 6 is using their members as pawns for reasons I don’t understand. Our members were put in a difficult position to cross the picket lines of their friends and co-workers for no reason.

When the Federal Mediator entered the negotiations, it was clear that Waste Management’s contract offer exceeded the requirements of the City of Oakland.

We did not like the position that the leadership of ILWU Local 6 put Local 70 and our members in and we do not appreciate their attempt to use us to withhold service to Oakland residents for no good reason. The Officers and Officials of Teamsters Local 70 have a job to do and we did it!

Oakland elections go well

Local 70 candidate for Mayor of Oakland Libby Schaff won by a large margin. As a member of the City Council, she has always had an open door policy, willing to discuss and learn the issues and give a fair and honest answer—even on rare occasions when we disagree. The bottom line is she is fair and honest and will be good for Oakland.

We are also grateful that our two labor-endorsed candidates for Oakland City Council, Abel Guillen for District 2 and Anne Campbell Washington in District 4, won their races. These results are good for Local 70 and the citizens of Oakland.

Happy holidays!

As another interesting and busy year draws to a close, I just want to wish all of our Local 70 members and your families a very happy holiday season and a tremendous new year.
Kicking it up to better serve Local 70 members

It’s hard to believe that we are at the end of another year! We have been very busy the last few months. Along with the regular duties of representing workers, we have kicked it up a notch on other levels.

Mark Hawkins is doing double duty. In addition to his normal Trustee duties, he is currently filling in for Bob Aiello as a Business Agent while Bob is on disability. Mark has stepped in to maintain the high service level our members expect.

Kelsey Frazier has stepped up to assist in the newly-energized organizing efforts of Local 70. As companies continue to recover from the economic crash of a few years ago, they are forgetting about the sacrifices of their workers. We have made contact with workers from many companies, and are evaluating the feasibility of each campaign.

Rich Fierro has been appointed Co-Political Coordinator by Marty Frates to work with Lou Marchetti on the political activities of the Local. Politics affects working people on an everyday basis, and it requires a lot of our attention.

Everyone was excited to attend the Stewards appreciation breakfast Vice President Jim Fried put together in October. International Vice President Rome Aloise spoke about the importance of being a steward, and the plans for 2015.

In closing we want to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season!

Workers at Shred Works vote for union

One afternoon in September, a dozen workers from a company called Shred Works, Inc. came down to Local 70. They had heard about the Local and were interested in what the union could do for them.

Business Agents Lou Marchetti and Mark Hawkins met with them and discussed their questions and concerns. After a few meetings with the workers, Lou and Mark filed a petition with the NLRB to schedule an election. Over the next 45 days, they held weekly meetings with the workers, along with follow up phone calls and house visits.

The company pushed back and told the workers lie after lie, but the workers were determined to see the process through.

On October 30, by a vote of 14-6, the workers of Shred Works voted to join Teamsters Local 70. The Local has started the negotiation process.

Local 70 would like to thank and congratulate these workers. “It was their determination and resolve that won the campaign” Mark said. “They are great guys and we are proud to have them as new members of Local 70,” Lou added.

Local Union 70, City of Oakland, CA  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

TRUSTEES REPORT

September 2014

INCOME

Membership Dues $225,042.29
Initiation and Re-initiation Fees 16,569.29
Assessments & Fines 891.00
Non-member fees 852.91
Funds for transmittal 643.50
Receipts from Affiliates 1,696.82
Other Receipts (Schedule A) 6,010.11
Total Cash Received $252,221.92

EXPENSES

Salaries $4,279.29
Expense allowances 5,125.00
Per capita tax 61,720.55
Contributions 350.00

Total Expense $248,852.67

Total Schedule A/Other Income $6,630.11

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

As of September 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Sep 30, 14</th>
<th>Aug 31, 14</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Labor - General Fund</td>
<td>988,575.00</td>
<td>984,658.74</td>
<td>3,916.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>850.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Special Funds</td>
<td>34,740.85</td>
<td>34,740.85</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>823,521.00</td>
<td>823,521.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>2,891,642.00</td>
<td>2,891,642.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Furniture/Equipment</td>
<td>30,473.16</td>
<td>30,473.16</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$4,769,802.01</td>
<td>$4,765,885.75</td>
<td>$3,916.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Liabilities and Equity | | | |
| Payroll Liability | 8,844.35 | 8,394.34 | 449.01 |
| Obligations | 93,192.00 | 93,192.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 102,033.35 | 101,586.34 | 447.01 |
| Beginning Equity (Fund Balance) | 4,530,419.28 | 4,530,419.28 | 0.00 |
| Net Income | 137,349.38 | 133,880.13 | 3,469.25 |
| Total Liabilities & Equity | 4,769,802.01 | 4,765,885.75 | 3,916.26 |

SCHEDULES

Schedule A—Other Receipts

| Schedule A—Other Receipts | |
| Sale of Supplies | 639.00 |
| Interest: Chase Savings | 24.78 |
| Reimbursements | 615.00 |
| Local 2010 lease | 1,233.33 |
| Total Schedule A/Other Income | $6,630.11 |

Schedule B—Other Expenses

| Schedule B—Other Expenses | |
| Sick Benefit Payments | 3,200.00 |
| Building Maintenance | 17,889.78 |
| Gardening Service | 4,000.00 |
| Janitorial Service | 695.00 |
| Janitorial Supplies | 710.39 |
| Membership Mailings | 1,203.00 |
| Labor Day-Other expenses | 6,513.30 |
| Total Other Expenses | $34,354.83 |