News from Local 70

The lessons of Prop 32

Guest Editorial by Chuck Mack

Congratulations to Local 70, its members, officers and officials and staff. You made a difference. A big one, in November’s election—defeating Proposition 32, passing Proposition 30, overwhelmingly supporting Barack Obama and electing a State Legislature that is the most worker-friendly in the history of California. No, you didn’t do it alone. It took a united labor movement where leadership and rank and file members worked side-by-side and hand-in-hand to achieve these outcomes.

Art Pulaski, the leader of the California Labor Federation rallied union members statewide. Rome Aloise energized Teamsters Locals from Bakersfield to Eureka as never before. Randy Cammack inspired the Teamsters of Southern California. Here at home, Marty Frates, Dominic Chiavare, Lou Marchetti, the Executive Board and Business Agents put a political action program in place that is a model now and for the future.

The lion’s share of the credit for what was accomplished, however, goes to the members. You responded to the leadership in a big way. The voter registration, precinct walks, phone banking and worksite rallies overwhelmed the opposition. You won because you stood up, accepted responsibility and refused to quit until victory was in hand.

Two lessons to take away from this election: First, if voters in the United States want to see the future, look at California. We’re not hung up on a woman’s right to choose, the rights of gays, the wealthy paying a fair tax share, immigration reform or equal opportunity for all. California Republicans can’t move beyond these issues and as a result they have become inconsequential in California politics and government. Similarly, if Republicans don’t change their policies, nationally their demographics will move in the direction of California, hence their ability to elect candidates and influence policies will continue to shrink. Then, as in California, they will become irrelevant.

The second lesson to take away from this election is that with a united labor movement of leaders and rank and file members, the working class can impose a political force. One that will accomplish much for California workers and its middle class.

One final shout out. Governor Jerry Brown showed true leadership. Unlike most politicians, he didn’t run from a hot button issue but proposed a fair increase in taxes and went directly to the electorate to convince them of the need. So unusual in the supercharged political environment of today, but so welcome.

Again, a job well done. The best to you and your families for a most joyous holiday season!
President’s Report
Dominic Chiavare

Update on contract talks

Local 70 Business Agents are currently in negotiations with the following companies:

**ABF Freight**
ABF negotiations will be different than in years past. The company has exercised their right to negotiate as a single employer; they have broken away from the group. Negotiations are just starting so we will keep you updated.

**GSC Logistics**
Business Agent Bob Aiello and Trustees Kelsey Frazier and Mark Hawkins continue to negotiate with GSC. Their goal is to bring a recent counter proposal.

**Unisource**
Business Agent Bob Aiello, Shop Steward Al Rosell and I are currently in negotiations with Unisource. The key issues are health and welfare and pension. The company is digging in. We will be meeting with the employees in December to discuss the company’s most recent counter proposal.

**MV Transportation Livermore**
Business Agent Bob Aiello and I have recently concluded the MV negotiations. The members unanimously ratified the three-year agreement, which includes improvements in health and welfare, pension and wages throughout the term. Special thanks to Stewards Joseph Bounth, Baljeet Bindra and Dave Hanks for your assistance and support.

**USF Reddaway**
The contract extension still continues day-to-day as IBT Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall negotiates on behalf of Locals 17, 63, 70, 104, 137, 174, 439, 455, 483, and 665. Movement is slow.

**Coke Service Techs**
I would like to congratulate Business Agent Lou Marchetti and Shop Steward Larry Cardoza on their 10-1 contract ratification in October. “These are a great group of dedicated hard-working members,” Marchetti told me. “Having a straight-shooter like Larry helping made all the difference. His 46-year history as a Coke employee is more experience than all of the company’s side of the table, combined.”

**Rodgers/SWS**
I have just recently completed those negotiations and our members at the two locations overwhelmingly ratified the CBA. The employees of this liquor and freight operation are dedicated and hardworking members; they are the key to the success of this unique company during this tough economy. I would like to thank Shop Stewards Clayton Case and Steve Boyce for their support.

**WMI of Alameda County**
Currently the largest solid-waste/recycling employer within Local 70’s jurisdiction, WMI is on a punishment spree. They are trying to spank the members every chance they get. The company has installed GPS tracking in the trucks so they watch every move the employees make. Terminations and suspensions are at an all-time high. Business Agent Felix Martinez is going nonstop fighting for our members who have been terminated or suspended.

**Obama wins and Prop 32 goes down**
The 2012 election was like Christmas in November for the Teamsters. Now it’s Obama’s turn to do everything in his power to make it better for the working class. Special thanks to all our Local 70 officers and officials, stewards and members who volunteered and worked hard to get members registered to vote. Many of you spent hours phone banking and visiting the worksites to get the message out, Your hard work and vote made the difference.

Reminder: the next Membership Meeting is Saturday December 15, 2012 at 10:00 am.
Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Marty Frates

Thank you!

The most important thing is to thank everyone for your help in getting President Obama re-elected and defeating Proposition 32. This was a great victory for the American people and organized labor.

Now is the time to move forward with political reform that will truly level the playing field. We need legislation and/or to develop a proposition for political reform that will restrict outside money being used in California. We need to go on the offense for a change.

UPS Negotiations

I am honored to be the union’s chairman for the UPS negotiations in Northern California. I am joined on the negotiating committee by Joint Council 7 President Rome Aloise, Joint Council 7 Vice-President Darrell Pratt, Local 439 Secretary-Treasurer Pete Nunez, Local 439 President Armando Alonzo, Local 2785 Secretary-Treasurer Joe Cilia, Local 150 Business Agent Perry Hogan, Local 315 Business Agent Doak Jones, and Local 665 Business Agent Mike Yates.

The Nor Cal Committee also invites all committee members to participate. The most recent negotiation session was October 30, 2012. As expected, negotiations are progressing at a snail’s pace.

The major issues at the National and Nor Cal negotiations are the over-dispatching, harassment and bullying of employees and this has to stop! In addition, the protection of our work and health and welfare is also a must. The deadline to complete negotiations is March 31, 2013. We will keep everyone advised on the status of negotiations. Warning: the union does not want a strike but everyone should be preparing for one.

Local 70 Bylaws

The Executive Board and Bylaws Committee have met and made some minor changes. It looks as if the December 15, 2012 membership meeting will be the first reading of those changes.

Local 70 Election Protest

There were several protests of our last election. These protests were heard at the Joint Council and denied. The protests were then appealed to the International Executive Board and denied. We thought the protests were resolved but that was not the end. The protests were then taken to the Department of Labor.

I am happy to say that the protests have now been resolved with the agreement that the Department of Labor will oversee our 2013 local union election. This is a major victory for the Local. We appreciate the support of the Joint Council Executive Board and the IBT. I want to extend a special thanks for a job well done by Attorney David Rosenfeld during this protest. Now it is time to move forward.

Rank and file participation played a key role in making this action a success. We were able to call members on short notice to participate at both events. Members from ABF Freight, Allied Waste, MV Transportation, Spicer Papers, Tri Ced, and UPS joined the Officers and Officials at Petco and showed strong support at Nob Hill Foods. This type of solidarity is what makes our Local union strong.

With the ongoing war on workers, there will be many actions in the future. If you have recently moved or changed your phone number (especially your cell number), please contact our office at 510-569-9320 and update your information with our office.

Local 70 Picketing, Organizing and Assessment Committee

The POA committee met on November 10 and decided to start up the program to assist in the Raley’s/Nob Hill strike and support the UFCW in their battle. We are affected in this battle as our beverage, solid waste, liquor, freight and UPS members make deliveries to these stores.

While that strike turned out to be short-lived, establishing the POA enables us to start preparing for a UPS strike, if necessary.

History show shows that if the rich start paying more of their share in taxes and Prop 39, closing corporate loopholes, also in California, we were able to elect a supermajority in the state legislature and elect labor-friendly candidates to the U.S. Congress.

I would like to thank all the rank and file members who registered to vote and helped on the campaigns. Educating our members, especially new hires, and registering them to vote must be a year-round priority. I would also like to thank the Officers, Officials and Staff of Local 70, along with the Shop Stewards, for their countless hours volunteering to make this program a success.

So as we all take a minute, breathe a sigh of relief and enjoy the victories, we hope that our enemies have learned their lesson but history shows otherwise.

In addition, the protection of our work and health and welfare is also a must. The deadline to complete negotiations is March 31, 2013. We will keep everyone advised on the status of negotiations. Warning: the union does not want a strike but everyone should be preparing for one.

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Reflections on the past year

As the year comes to a close, we would like to take some time to reflect back. This past year has been very busy and very productive for our Local. We started the year with many goals and some personal projects. In no particular order, we pushed to have a Labor Day Picnic, pulled off the 2012 World Champion Giants -vs.- the Oakland Athletics baseball game and BBQ, pushed voter registration and get out the vote efforts.

For those of you keeping score... The Labor Day Picnic was a tremendous success, so much so, that it is rapidly becoming the can’t miss event of 2013! Having a party with our friends in labor was a lot of fun; we’ve made some great new friends and even registered some brothers who had never voted before, 11th our victories stopping Proposition 32, passing Prop 30, and most importantly, getting labor’s best choice in the White House for four more years, it was well worth it. It also underscores the fact, when we participate in the process, we can make it work for us!

The Picket, Organizing, and Assessment Committee is up and running. We started making calls for picket duty to support the striking Raley’s (UCFW) workers. Fortunately their strike was short-lived.

This will be the final article of 2012. We want to thank all of Local 70 for your support while we try to do some new things. For all of you that ride, we want to set up some sort of Poker Run with our sister Locals, and stay tuned about a golf theme. As the year comes to a close, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Fes-tivus, or whatever special Holiday you celebrate. As a Union, your celebration is our celebration!

Hopefully, we didn’t become too obnoxious, as we cajoled people to register. As rank and file ourselves, it is always great to talk with our fellow members at their jobsites.

We had some great laughs and even registered some brothers who had never voted before, 11th our victories stopping Proposition 32, passing Prop 30, and most importantly, getting labor’s best choice in the White House for four more years, it was well worth it. It also underscores the fact, when we participate in the process, we can make it work for us!

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Finally, we wish you and your families a safe and happy Holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all in 2013!