



BRANCH 193 Bulletin

Campbell ♦ Gilroy ♦ Los Gatos ♦ Milpitas ♦ Morgan Hill ♦ San Jose ♦ Saratoga

Messages from the President

No. 4 - 08 Sept-Oct 2008

Danny Laffan

On November 4th the American public is going to make a decision that will greatly impact the future of this country. Every four years we are given the opportunity to select the person who will lead our country. This year it is extremely important that letter carriers and their families participate to the maximum extent possible in ensuring the right person is elected. I encourage you to do more than just casting your vote in the upcoming election. Take an active role to ensure that family members and friends understand the differences between the candidates and that they also participate in the electoral process. Encourage people to get the facts they need to make their decision. I am confident that when working middle class families and their friends get the facts that they will cast their vote for Senator Barack Obama to become the next President of the United States. He has steadfastly supported the issues important to working families while the other candidate has never supported us on these issues. The choice is clear as to who will best represent us in the future; however, I am concerned that the American public will be unduly influenced or confused regarding the facts. It seems to me that too many people are being influenced by the misleading information we are being bombarded with on the television. People tend to believe what they hear on television and don't take the time to dig for the truth of the matter. We can not afford to allow this to take place this year. The stakes are too high. Another four years of ignoring the needs of the middle class will be devastating. It is time to rebuild the middle class in America and this election represents the first critical test in determining our ability to accomplish that task. We must do everything we can to ensure that our representatives in Washington, D C will be people who care about workers and their families. We have been ignored for the last eight years now our voices must be heard in order to create the needed change. We must get involved and do everything we can to ensure that our children

and their children will have the opportunity to be successful in their endeavors.

The last few weeks we have seen what the future could hold if we do not move away from the politics of the last eight years. We are witnessing bailout after bailout of companies who have lined their pockets with profits from short term strategies that have exploded in our faces such as the sub prime loan industry that was booming only a few years ago and is now in disarray. Our economy is spiraling downward. We have the ability to create the changes needed when we vote this November. Take the time to gather all the information you need to make your decision and then cast your ballot. Encourage all eligible voters in your family and extended family to do the same. Together we can make a difference. Get involved and vote.

Walking the Talk - Making A Difference

I would like to acknowledge a few members who have volunteered to travel to Reno, NV over the October 4-5 weekend and make a difference. Nevada has been designated as a swing state in the upcoming election. A swing state is a state

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OFFICERS

- Danny LaffanPresident
- Stanley Halfacre Vice President
- Laurie DuarteSecond Vice President
- Pat MulliganRecording Secretary
- Sharon EppFinancial Secretary
- Al DenisonTreasurer
- Gene LorenzoSgt at Arms.
- Guillermo MartinezLegislative Liaison
- Christine Hernandez HBP/MBA Rep
- Tom StewartTrustee
- Laurie Lykam-HalfacreTrustee
- Jaswinder NijjarTrustee
- Joe RosaTrustee
- Guillermo MartinezTrustee

Branch 193 Bulletin

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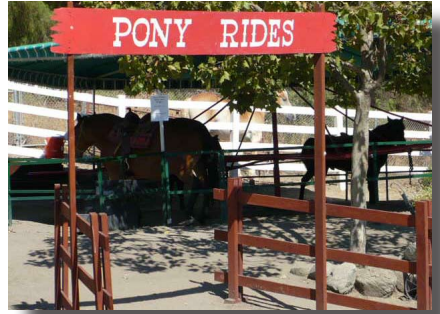
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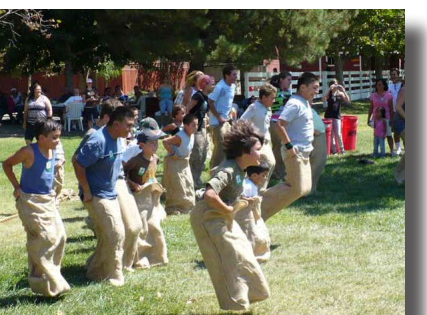


Check Out Our Website at.
www.nalcbranch193.com



 **PLENTY OF FUN AND GAMES AT FAMILY PICNIC**

On Sunday, September 7th over 270 members, their families and friends relaxed in the warm California sun and enjoyed our annual Family Picnic held this year at Coyote Ranch. The membership voted to move away from the theme park environment and try a more old time family picnic setting. Those who attended enjoyed a beautiful ranch setting with plenty of activities for everyone. I will let the pictures tell the story; however, I have been told that the sight of Willow Glen steward Bob Krauth hopping along in the sack race brought the crowd to their feet. Many thanks to Laurel Halfacre, Laurie Duarte, Sharon Epp, Bob & Vera Krauth, Rosie La'auli and Bob Foster who worked hard to make this an enjoyable event.



POLITICAL MEMO

by Guillermo Martinez, Political Liason

Social Security

Employees covered under FERS have another concern about retirement income. Unlike CSRS employees, FERS employees pay a social security tax based on income. A FERS retiree could rely on social security for up to 50 percent of their income. G.O.P. presidential candidate John McCain has taken the Bush administration's position of privatizing social security. George W's risky plan of privatizing social security was to convert your social security into personal accounts that would be invested into the stock market. The administrative cost alone to make this change would cost trillions of dollars, and it would send social security's financial obligation into uncertainty. Many experts believe that social security is solvent because Americans are postponing retirement due to them living and working longer, staying healthier, and economic need; therefore, they are continuing to contribute into social security.

Retirement System HR1108

Congressman James P. Moran, a Democrat from Virginia, who serves on the Appropriations Committee, is working with California Democratic Congressman Henry A Waxman in combining HR5573 FERS sick leave credit bill with Waxman's Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act HR1108. Congressman Waxman has worked with legislature to add important language from HR5573 into HR1108. This language would allow employees covered under the federal Employees Retirement System to receive approval for unused sick leave towards their retirement. This would be similar to what the retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) are provided. Using the CSRS as a model, a lump sum payment for certain unused sick leave would be paid to any eligible employee who is separated from service.

LABOR ENDORSED CANDIDATES AND POSITIONS

President of the United States
Senator Barack Obama

House of Representatives

CD 11 – Jerry McNerney
CD 12 – Jackie Speier
CD 13 – Pete Stark
CD 14 – Anna Eschoo
CD 15 – Mike Honda
CD 16 – Zoe Lofgren
CD 17 – Sam Farr
CD 18 – Dennis Cardoza

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge

Seat 8- Diane Ritchie

Santa Clara County Supervisor

District 2 (Dual Endorsement) –
Richard Hobbs & George Shirakawa
District 3 – Dave Cortese

San Jose City Council

District 2 – Ash Kalra

Santa Clara County Measure A

Earthquake Retrofit – YES

California State Senate

District 11 – Joe Simitian
District 11 – Joe Simitian
District 13 – Elaine Alquist
District 15 – Abel Maldonado

California State Assembly

AD 20 – Alberto Torrico
AD 21 – Ira Ruskin
AD 22 – Paul Fong
AD 24 – Jim Beall
AD 27 – Bill Monning
AD 28 – Anna Caballero

State Proposition 1

High Speed Rail – YES

State Proposition 11

Redistricting – NO

State Proposition 12

Veterans Bond Act - YES

Message from the President-continued from page 1

in which polling numbers are so close that neither candidate can be assured of victory. The Labor 2008 and Carrier Corps efforts have asked for people to come to Nevada and go into the neighborhoods and contact union members and their families to encourage them to get out and vote. When our branch was contacted several members readily volunteered to participate in this effort. I want to thank Stanley & Laurel Halfacre, Maria & Fernando Gallegos, Bob & Vera Krauth, Sharon Epp, Laurie Duarte, Barbara Estrada, Jackie Lanto, Steve Munyon, Guillermo Martinez and Ray Gauthier who will be joining myself and my wife Lucy in Reno on October 5th walking the precincts encouraging people to get out and vote. I truly appreciate their willingness to give of their time to help rebuild the middle class in America. Take a minute to thank these members when you see them on the workroom floor.

In Closing

The membership will be making a decision regarding the Holiday Gift Cards at the October 8th Regular Branch Meeting. I encourage everyone to make sure we have your current address on file. We send this mailing first class in early November and we will not send another card unless we receive the original mailing back in returned mail. The address we have on file is the address on the front page of this Bulletin.



Branch 193 Shop Stewards

Almaden Valley.....Dan Degn & Pam West
 Bayside.....Al Navarette & Bob Foster
 Berryessa..... Henry Semillano & Lawrence Wenceslao
 Blossom Hill.....Steve Munyon & Bill Cunningham
 Cambrian Park.....Herman Echevarria & Ray Gauthier
 Campbell.....Vacant & Rosie La'auli
 Station D.....Vittorio Forde
 Foothill.....Art Parrilla
 Gilroy.....Debra Masten
 Hillview.....Manny Aguilar & Victor Barrientos
 Los Gatos.....Kevin Janton
 Los Gatos Dell.....Ian Davies
 Milpitas.....Mike Campbell & Lin Zhou
 Morgan Hill.....Angel Montelongo
 Parkmoor.....David Judd & Vacant
 Robertsville.....Paul Allen & Theresa Hernandez
 St. James Park.....Kelvin Kamachi & Chris North
 Saratoga.....Candice Wurthmann
 Seven Trees.....Herb Olivera & Moe Bedolla
 Westgate.....Tommy Rivera & Barbara Estrada
 Willow Glen.....Leo Torres & Bob Krauth
 Collection Officer.....Vera Martinez-Krauth

Important Dates

Oct 8	Regular Branch Meeting
Oct 13	Columbus Day Holiday
Oct 29	Executive Board Meeting
Nov 11	Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov 12	Regular Branch Meeting
Nov 19	Executive Board Meeting
Dec 10	Holiday Party

Branch Meetings begin promptly at 7:30 PM:
 Italian American Heritage Foundation
 425 North 4th Street
 San Jose, CA 95112

Board Meetings begin promptly at 7:00 PM:
 Union Office
 1060 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 9
 San Jose, CA 95125

In Memoriam

Deepest Sympathy to the families & friends of our departed brothers and sisters.

Dominic Roti

NOTICES - NOTICES

Election Information

As posted in all offices and the Postal Record, nominations of Officers for the 2009-2011 term of office will be conducted at the October 8th Regular Branch Meeting. Election will be by secret ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in mid November and will be due back by 4 PM Wednesday, December 10, 2008.

Color Coded Calendars

Colored coded calendars have arrived and are available from your Shop Steward. These calendars are useful for vacation planning and tracking your scheduled days off. The calendars will sell for \$5 this year with proceeds going to our Political Action Committee.

Holiday Gift Cards

If approved by the membership, Holiday Gift Cards will be mailed to all eligible members in early November. Make sure we have your correct address on file; otherwise, we can not issue another card until the original first class mailing is returned to the Union

Holiday Party

Our annual Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at the Italian American Heritage Hall located at 425 N Fourth St San Jose, CA 95112. We will serve a buffet dinner including pasta, salad, garlic bread and desserts starting at 6:00 PM. Face painters and balloon twisters will be available. Mark the date on your calendar.

Welcome New Members

Serafin Cana Frank Dang
 Naindip Saggi Rey Villanueva

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RETIREES

RUDY ALONGES - BERRYESSA
 SHARON EPP - FOOHILL
 RICARDO GARNACE - BERRYESSA
 FLORENTINO HALOG - PARKMOOR
 ROGER HANSON - ALMADEN
 RON IYAMA - WESTGATE
 RUSSELL KRETZ III - GILROY
 LUP TAM - STATION D
 SOPHIA (JOHNSON) TOMASINI - ST JAMES
 ERNIE TONGSON - PARKMOOR
 BRIAN UYEMURA - WESTGATE

DEADLINE!

The Deadline for copy of the November/December 2008 issue of the Branch 193 Bulletin is Friday October 31, 2008. News stories, articles, letters to the editor, drawings, cartoons, business cards, and/or photographs should be submitted to: **Editor**
Branch 193 Bulletin
P.O. Box 5721 San Jose, CA 95150

JACKPOT!!

Sam Sanchez from Parkmoor Station was not at the August Branch Meeting and James Schmidt from Willow Glen Station was not at the September Branch Meeting to collect the \$1,000 when their names were called for the jackpot.