

THE IRONWORKER REPORT

International Association of Bridge, Structural,
Ornamental and Reinforcing Ironworkers

Local 229

Winter 2009

San Diego, California

www.Local229.org



Ironworkers Political Action League Presidents 200 Club

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William "Bill" Stuckey

Greetings from the Officers and Staff of Local 229. We hope that each member enjoys this holiday season with their families and friends. The work picture has not improved for over 9 months now and it may be a while before it turns around. The stimulus money we have all read about is slow to appear. The financial institutions are slow to loan money meaning projects are not getting funded. This just keeps the construction industry down and makes it hard to jump start the economy. It will turn around just not right now.

As I have said before the construction industry is a roller coaster ride, but I was not the first to describe it that way. Bill Tweet printed an article in the 1996 Fall issue of our newsletter and reprinted it in March 2001 and I have his authorization to reprint it again. I have included it in this newsletter so please take the time to read it...

This local offers many upgrades and certification programs for its members. These slow times are golden opportunities to add to your skills. We offer classes in forklift training, CPR, First Aid, Rigging, Foreman Training, bonded and unbonded Post-Tension as well as all welding certifications used in our industry. Often these classes have few attendees that make it hard to justify having the class. If you sign up please make every effort to attend all sessions.

We will be having negotiations on a new contract early next year. Jose Naranjo,

Business Manager/ FST

Cesar Cabrera and I are this local's representatives. If you have questions or concerns, please let one of your District Council members know so we can address your issues. These are trying times to negotiate but you can rest assure that your representatives will work hard on your behalf. The International had foregone a dues increase for three years but that has changed.

Effective January 1, 2010, the local dues are increasing by \$1 dollar per month. The new dues rate will be \$39 for Journeymen and \$38 for Apprentices. The Working Assessment will not change at \$13 per month if you work any during that month. There is also \$1 Defense Fund and a \$1 Death Benefit. For Journeymen the rates are \$41 if not working and \$54 if worked in that month. For Apprentices, the non-working dues are \$40 and \$53 if you worked. If you paid any of 2010 dues before December 3, 2009, you will not be charged the increase for the months you already paid. Dues paid after this date will reflect the new rates.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



Notice: All members are to report address and phone changes immediately

REMEMBER: To put your Book No. on payments made by check. Also, when paying by mail, please specify number of months for "Dues Only" or "Dues & Working Assessments".

Reprinted from a previous newsletter with permission from Bill Tweet

In October 1996, I wrote an article in our newsletter that was titled "The Construction Roller Coaster." That was five years ago and I decided to reprint a large portion of that article because of some unforeseen circumstances recently. February set records for coldest and most rainy days and March hasn't fared much better. It has been over five years now that ironwork in San Diego has been on a record setting pace. I personally believe the next five years look just as bright, with the current situation being only a bump in the road. Let's not forget that we earn our living in an industry that is directly affected by available financing (interest rates) and the weather. Construction is like the stock market or a roller coaster, the highs are great and the lows are ugly. A good number of our older members and I can recall a lot of roller coaster rides in the past. On the ride up the highs are great and filled with expectations. The top is fantastic and hard to stay on; even the start of the down is good because if you are in the last car you still think it is going up! It is the startling ride down that produces fear and we begin to lose some of the riders. The difference between now and the past highs and lows are the riders. To be successful as a career ironworker you want to be one of the riders that can ride out the highs and lows. Remember, from the time a construction job starts, everything is intended to get to the end, ASAP. Permanent positions are not part of our industry. What all this means is you must have a realistic approach to financial stability. Any retiree or old timer will tell you that while you are making it, (money) put some away for lean times. The good times we are seeing today could last for years or could die tomorrow. Understanding construction and becoming a professional at this trade also requires some planning on your part. Establish a reserve of cash to boom-out, or enough to ride out the lows. An old timer taught me this when I was an Apprentice and throughout my career, I have never had to compromise my commitment to stay a Union Ironworker. There is always a place to go to earn a living in this trade if you have talent and money to get to it. Booming out was a lot more common in past years. Members weren't afraid to leave home and take advantage of being a member in an International Organization. If you're working, start saving today for tomorrow. You owe it to your family to plan ahead. The roller coaster is sure to go down again. The professional ironworkers will be prepared to handle it. So look at the construction industry realistically prepare for the future."

Jose Naranjo President

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped out during this election period. We worked hard in Chula Vista, Oceanside and El Centro. I know its tough during the mid

elections but nonetheless these are very important elections for Labor.

Great news today; the effort on trying to block the San Diego Unified School District PSA was stopped. This was a tentative ruling executed on 12/11/09, "thus the Petition is denied, and the action is dismissed. Although a statement of decision is not required under the Code, the Court grants the District's request and directs the District to prepare a proposed statement of decision". This decision will soon follow. We and the Labor community have worked very hard on trying to get this PSA approved for San Diego Unified. Having the right people in office gives us a chance to help rebuild the middle class.

The work doesn't stop here; we must continue to fight for all workers. We need the Employee Free Choice Act. When workers try to form unions, they are harassed, intimidated and sometimes fired for their activity to form a union. These attacks on workers rights occur to often and always seem focused on the most vulnerable worker. We strongly urge you to support the Employee Free Choice Act. This will help during our Organizing campaigns and eventually will lead to the increase of membership and in turn an increase of market share. One of the most important keys to improve our middle class and our union is to strengthen and empower our union movement.

The Holidays are upon us again. As we get ready to receive the New Year we should also prepare ourselves for future upcoming jobs. Come in to the hall and practice your welding, take upgrade training classes and a first aid class. This will not only prepare you but it will also help our contractors compete against the non-union. One of our best kept secrets is Union training. We have the best training and the best trained men and women.

We should take this opportunity especially now that work is a little slow. Come in or call the Apprenticeship office to schedule a class. Work Safe.



Cesar Cabrera Business Agent

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Things were not as great as we would have like to see it this year but with the economy stabilizing things should get a little better for the new year. A few of our contractors will be starting new jobs next year. This means be prepared with multiple tool belts. Be responsible show up on time with your work tools, work clothes and transportation to the hall to be able to take a job. Remember contractors can pick and choose from all the members we have out of work.

Bragg Crane is at Roger Rowe Middle School and Broadway Pier Cruise Ship Terminal in downtown.

Flores Steel Scripps Mercy Hospital Parking, a stair job.

Harris Rebar 5 Bridges on the 905 in Otay.

Kaylake Muir College UCSD over 600 ton starts January.

MC Erectors National City Middle School.

PCS Ongoing Work: Harbor Drive Pedestrian bridge, Thomas Jefferson School of Law (10 sty), Bridges @ Highway 52 & 67 and I-15, Miramar College Bldg. A & B (Bomel), South Bay WTP (PCL Construction), Broadway Pier @ Cruise Ship Terminal 9, Jaynes CORP/JS Meek Co.), Combat Training Pool & Facility @ Miramar Marine Base, Milcon fuel storage @Point Loma Naval Station, Milcon P-401 Pumo House, Control Tower (Murray Builders), Alvarado WTP (Stanek), Pacific Ridge Elm (Swinerton), SD Airport Taxi-Way replacement (Flatiron), H Street widening on Interstate 805. New jobs **starting soon**: Stem Cell Research in La Jolla and UCSD Revelle College Housing 3 mid rise bldgs. **Starting the first of the year**: Federal Courthouse (Hensel Phillips), Santa Margarita Bridge (O'side), Indoor Fitness @ Camp Pendleton, Padre Dam-multiple structures, Sweetwater HS-PT deck & bldgs and San Ysidro Land Port of Entry bridge & parking structure.

Herrick Palomar Pomerado Hospital in Escondido; working on misc almost completed.

McMahon Steel Chula Vista & Southwest High Schools.

Diversified Metalworks Palomar Pomerado Hospital Central Plant.

Metro Ironworks, Inc. at Valley View Casino & UCSD stair jobs finishing up.

Anning and Johnson Palomar Pomerado Hospital, BEQ Camp Pendleton, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Hoover HS in Dec and Chula Vista High School.

International Iron BEQ Camp Pendleton, Thomas Jefferson School of Law and UCSD North Campus Housing.

JK/Artimex at Escondido Police Station ,City College ongoing, Palomar Community College. All three jobs almost completed.

United Steel Placers I-15 widening north and south lanes finishing up.

G&G Rebar Civic Ctr Temecula almost completed.

Corkys Welding Wilco 2 sty tilt up in Vista in progress,

McGrath YMCA 2 story tilt up in Rancho San Diego, J&D Labs 2 story tilt up in Vista. 29 Palms Ops Center 2 block bldgs., Miramar Dog Facilities 2 block bldgs., B-1 Gym Additions 1 metal bldg. Coronado Sub Base in February.

Asbury Steel Palomar Pomerado Hosp. misc ongoing.

JD2, Inc. on site at Roger Rowe Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School, South Bay WTP, Pacific Ridge High School, Point Loma High School (all deck jobs), Liberty Charter High (Santee is still on hold) .

RCI at Palomar Pomerado Hospital Ancillary Expansion, Caltrans Hwy 52, UCSD Student Housing 4 Bldg and 8 sty on University, San Vicente Phase 2 in January, Hilltop HS, San Vicente Aqueduct, Alvarado WWTP and Stratford Court Apartments.

Bechtel outage and SGRP.

Stone and Webster maintenance at San Onofre.

CMC Rebar Ongoing: UCSD Graduate Housing, 52/67 Interchange, 805/905 Bridges, PMC West Central Plant, Roger Rowe School and 78/111 Bridge in Brawley. Valley Center Rd. bridge, El Cajon Public Safety, North Park Fresh and Easy and National City School. **Starting**: Southwest HS in Dec, 2nd street bridge – January.

Quality Reinforcing is at Palm Desert HS, Norco Student Services, Community School #10, Granite Hills HS, Cal-State San Marcos, Lincoln MS, Orange Grove Power Plant, China Lake Base (2) jobs, Camp Pendleton 7 jobs, Orchard Hills K-8, personal storage at 32nd St. Base, Galley on Amphibious Base.

Sierra Steel is at SD Yacht Club and SDG&E.

Organizers

Organizing in the Imperial Valley has been 10 years in the making. We have been putting in countless hours trying to organize. The Border Fence Project, due to the injustices to the workers has created an organizing platform like never before. We believe that those workers are ready to take a stand against those contractors that have less than stellar reputations in the way they conduct business in the Valley. Currently we are trying, along with the other building trades, to pass a green initiative with a PLA countywide. Many meetings have been held with the County Supervisors from the Imperial Valley try and persuade them to pass this action. During the last two County Board meetings, we have had several members from Local 229 and 40 plus workers from the Border Fence Project attended these meetings. This is something the County Board of Supervisors have never seen before. We hope they acknowledge the workers and vote yes on this initiative. **ORGANIZE!!**

INT'L ASSOC OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL AND
ORNAMENTAL IRON WORKERS

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CMC Rebar

52/67 Interchange

IMPACT Drug Free

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

San Diego, CA

Permit No. 2052

CALENDAR

- Jan 1 New Years Day HALL
CLOSED
- 5 E-Board 6PM
- 8 Membership Meeting 7PM
- Feb 9 E-Board 6PM
- 12 Membership Meeting 7PM
- Mar 9 E-Board 6Pm
- 12 Membership Meeting 7PM



Jack Gavett Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship and Training Jack Gavett

As this year comes to an end, I want to thank all of the instructors that have given their time and knowledge to all of our Apprentices. George Booth, Jose Celis, John Galvan, David Goins, Dana Keith, Bruce Osburn, Mike Peterson, John Sonka, Jerry Thomas, and Warren 'Woody' Wood. These instructors give up their evenings and Saturdays to conduct Apprentice and Journeymen classes, so that you will have the skills needed to work in this trade. I also want to thank my secretary Carlene Dixon for all the work that she does, this membership is very lucky to have her working for them.

This local is now without a full time instructor due to declining enrollment and cost cutting measures. If you have an interest in teaching in the Apprenticeship Program please give me a call, I am looking for part-time instructors (retired members can teach part-time).

Upcoming Classes: Sub-Part 'R', Qualified Rigger, Forklift, First Aid/CPR/AED, Post Tensioning, OSHA 10 & 30 Hour.

The welding shop will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:00 to 11:00am and **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** evenings 4:00 to 7:00 pm (during football season).

Call the Apprenticeship Office for dates and information about these classes at 858-505-9414.