



BUILDING TRADES NEWS

VOLUME 26, NO.9 LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO  SEPTEMBER 2021



Ron Miller has retired after nine years as Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. To show their appreciation, hundreds of Building Trades leaders, allies, friends and family gathered Aug. 21 at the union-built LA Football Club Banc of California Stadium. L-r, Council Orange County Representative Ernesto Medrano; new Council Executive Secretary Chris Hannan; Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti; Ron Miller; Robbie Hunter, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, and Ron Herrera, President, LA County Federation of Labor. See story and photos on p. 5.

LABOR BEATS ANTI-WORKER RECALL

BY LESLIE BERKMAN

An epic mobilization of union members, including the Building Trades, got out the vote and helped to overwhelmingly defeat the anti-worker recall attempt against Cali-

fornia Gov. Gavin Newsom. These fired-up volunteers also could give Newsom a running start next year in his bid for a second term and assist union-friendly Congressional and state legislative candidates in midterm elections.

Organized labor’s push to stop Newsom’s recall was expensive but effective, reaching out to the union base and voters statewide, person-to-person over the phone and door-to-door, one home at a time.

“Millions of union members exercised their right to be counted and defeat the recall, said Robbie Hunter, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California.

“Labor played a pivotal role in a landslide victory for the governor,” said California Labor Federation communications director Steve Smith. “The silver lining of this is we have a very active base of volunteers ready not only to win races but to



Gov. Newsom rallies in Los Angeles before Labor Day.

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SEE NO RECALL PAGE 20



JERRY NEIL PAUL

An Advocate for the Building Trades
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Jerry is also a Founder of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America (www.mesorfa.org), along with his wife, Elizabeth Ann Paul, Executive Director, and Jim W. Kellogg, retired International Representative of the California Pipe Trades and past Vice President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, who have all served as Board Members since 2001. Since this time, we undertook the successful funding and opening of a mesothelioma research lab at USC/Norris Comprehensive Medical Center in Los Angeles under the direction of Lab Director Dr. Parkash Gill. Over the past 19 years novel new treatment options Veglin, which went through FDA-approved clinical trials phase 1 and 2, and now EPH B4, in FDA-approved clinical trials phase 1, have helped expand the depth of research and expand the types of treatment options. This offers greater hope to those afflicted with asbestos-caused cancer, with options not previously available. None of this could have been done without the support of the Building and Construction Trades Council of California and also Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16, the Heat & Frost Insulators 16, along with the support from the Western States Conference, and all their able leaders and supporting local unions.

As asbestos disease and mesothelioma tend to surface later in life, we recommend workers take a chest X-ray screening every three years where the results are examined by a certified B reader radiologist, a doctor who is additionally trained to know what is and is not an asbestos marker and asbestosis. Plus you will increase your chance of discovery at an early stage, should you have lung cancer, which would likely respond better to treatment options.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ORGANIZE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Union approval in the United States is at its highest level in more than 50 years. A new Gallup poll says 68 percent of Americans approve of labor unions, and that's the most since 71 percent in 1965.

In the years between 1965 and 2021, our unions and our country have gone through many changes. But support for unions remains steadfast. In fact, positive attitudes toward unions, and the desire to join a union, have been going up at an even higher rate in the last decade.

The number of non-union workers who say they'd like to be in a union is at a high level: 48 percent would join if they could.

In light of all that support, you'd think that union membership is high in our country. But it's the opposite. Only about 11 percent of workers are in a union.

For every worker who's in a union, there are four more who would like to be.

In our "lopsided" recovery from the Great Recession, some workers have done well in union-organized middle-class careers. But many more Americans have been trying, and failing, to scrape out a living. They're turning to unions to improve their lives as working people, with better pay, safer working conditions, a voice on the job and a more secure retirement.



BY CHRIS HANNAN
Executive Secretary

organizing drives. Before you vote for anyone running for US Congress or Senate, ask them: Do you support the PRO Act?

The Building Trades workforce is large, diverse, and a true cross-section of all Californians. Building Trades members and their families live in every district and city in LA and Orange Counties. We constantly educate our legislators that we are their neighbors and their voters.

Each union member can be involved in these big political strategies, through being active in his or her union. Members can join committees, go to rallies and pickets, volunteer, and testify at a City Council or school board hearing.

And there's something else you can do: Organize your neighbor. And your friends. And your family.

Working Hard To Be in a Union

We are fortunate to be Building Trades union members. We worked hard to get into our unions, and we work hard on the job. But we don't have to struggle, as millions of American workers do, even to organize a union. We don't have to worry that we'll get fired or cheated because we talk about unionizing. We have a union.

The best thing we can do with this valuable position is make it possible for more people to join.

Ask yourself if you know other people in construction trades who are working non-union. Chances are, you do.

The best way to find out is by talking about it. Start by wearing your local's T-shirt when you're out doing

errands or at your kids' games. Mention your work on your Facebook page. You could lend them your local's newsletter or "Building Trades News," so they can see what the Council and its affiliated local unions do.

Talk with them about the benefits of becoming a union member. Ask them about training and health care, or the last time they had a raise. How about their plans for retirement? What happens if their company closes or slows down?

Support the PRO Act

Too many union organizing rights are connected to the ups and downs of the federal government, and the law that governs this needs to change. So, the Building Trades support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. The PRO Act will make it easier for workers to organize without retaliation from employers, and harder for temporary appointees to stop

Tell them about the pride and camaraderie of being a union member. Introduce them to your local's organizer or business representative. Take them on a tour of your union's apprenticeship training center. Lend a hand.

Some of these men and women may be a good fit for the Building Trades. You could be the catalyst for someone to start a new career with the Building Trades, and enjoy the benefits of being a union member.

Be a union brother or sister, and be a good neighbor. We can all be union organizers.

BUILDING TRADES NEWS

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Change of address: Union members, please contact your local.



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1. IngenioRx Inc., The Most of Pharmacy and Member Benefit Introduction (2023)
2. AnthemRx results internal data, July 2019
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BUILDING TRADES TRIBUTE

SALUTING RON MILLER

He rose from rank-and-file to head of LA/OC Council

LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn presents a commendation to Ron Miller.

US Representative Linda Sanchez had the news of Miller's retirement read into the Congressional Record.

Hundreds of Building Trades leaders, allies, friends and family gathered Aug. 21 to salute Ron Miller as he retired after nine years as Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. With 43 years under his belt since he started as an apprentice Plumber with UA Local 78, Miller was a leading force in creating life-long union careers for men and women in Southern California.

"When you think of good union jobs, you think of the Building Trades and Ron Miller," said Robbie Hunter, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. When Hunter was elected State President in 2012, Miller took over Hunter's job as Executive Secretary.

Now, Chris Hannan has become the new Executive Secretary. Thanking all who came to salute Miller, he noted the Council has 130 active Project Labor Agreements. "This covers billions of dollars' worth of

work," Hannan said.

One project built under a PLA was the LA Football Club Banc of California stadium, where the tribute to Miller took place. Up on the Sunset Deck, guests enjoyed refreshments while watching a slide show on the stadium's massive video board. Each photo showed a Building Trades local union member on the job.

"That's what it's really about," said Miller, who will enjoy his retirement with wife Lisa and their family. "I went to work every day knowing we were making LA and Orange Counties a better place for working people."

SEE MILLER PAGE 6

LA Local 250 organizer Rudy Rodriguez thanks Miller.

California State Senators turn out for Miller, l-r: Josh Newman, Maria Elena Durazo, Miller and Sydney Kamlager.

Darnell Tyler, director of real estate management at NBCUniversal, gives Miller a custom-made "Fast and Furious" poster.

Lancaster Deputy Mayor David Gomez presents Miller with the key to the city.

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Assembly member Wendy Carrillo, left, joins Assembly members Cottie Petrie-Norris and Mike Gipson to give Miller an Assembly resolution.



New Executive Secretary Chris Hannan shares Miller's pride in the union-built stadium.

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Miller's family always supported his hard work. L-r, daughter Marlena, wife Lisa and son Ken.



More Millers enjoy the event, l-r: sister-in-law Irma, parents Claire and Lee, mother-in-law Philomena Campbell, daughter Marlena and her friend Matt Marble.



Transportation consultant Mimi Long, left with Miller and Council communications director Anne-Marie Otey.



Miller with Council administrative staff including, from right, Martha Lopez, Alejandra Gallardo and Annette Tijerina, with Tijerina's daughter, Marisa.



L-r, Mitch Ponce, business agent for Iron Workers Local 433; Luther Medina, Business Manager of SMART Local 105, and Thandi Clements, vice president of marketing and client relations for Washington Capital.

UNIONS CELEBRATE LABOR DAY



The SMART Army from Local 105 organizes a booth for the food drive, l-r: Brian Germain, Abel Cortines, Will Scott and Eric Farrar.

Monday, Sept. 6, was Labor Day: a time to salute unions and advance workers' rights, now and in the future.

For the second year in a row, the annual Labor Day Parade, Rally and BBQ in Wilmington was transformed into a food drive because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Although he had to spend most of his time in a wheelchair, South County Labor chairman Ray Cordova, the "godfather of labor," stood up to thank hundreds of union volunteers.

"We are flying labor's flag by giving back to the community," he said. "We're honoring the social and economic achievements of America's workers."

Many of those workers were spending

SEE LABOR DAY PAGE 23

"Long live all of our unions!" says Joe Buscaino, with LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn.



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COURTHOUSE PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

Union developer to demolish existing structure by year's end

After many rounds of negotiations, planning and community outreach, developers behind a sleek residential complex at the site of the former San Pedro Courthouse are expecting a green light to start demolition at the end of this year.

The successful bid, led by Genton Cockrum Partners (GCP) and designed by MVE + Partners, comes after a previous attempt to overhaul the County-owned property faltered.

An existing Community Workforce Agreement between the County and the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council will cover the project on Centre Street, which will generate more than \$100 million in construction costs.

"From our perspective, union labor tends to be higher quality construction overall relative to non-union. Also, we like the idea we're creating living-wage jobs as well as apprenticeships and careers, as opposed to a one-time job," said Bill Cockrum, GCP President and Senior Managing Partner, in an interview with "Building Trades News."

Construction is expected to start around summer 2022.

Developers have been working with the City and County of Los Angeles since 2018 to finalize plans that will replace the midcentury courthouse with a mod-



The development, seen in a rendering above, is large. It will add 300 units of much-needed housing near the waterfront.

ern, eight-story complex that includes 20 percent (60 units) affordable housing. The courthouse was built in 1969 and shuttered in 2014 in a spate of budget cuts.

Twenty thousand square feet of ground-floor retail space, including a food hall and landscaped public area, will anchor and integrate the project into a revitalized downtown streetscape.

Cockrum and co-developer Jonathan Genton, CEO/Senior Managing Partner, consider themselves "signatory developers" and have a strong track record with the LA/OC Building Trades. Their portfolio includes the new Four Seasons condominium tower in Beverly Grove, built under a Project Labor Agreement.

That was Type-I construction, and the developers say the San Pedro project is the first they'll be able to build with union labor in non-Type 1.

The project will be a podium with wood-frame construction above it, the most common model for this kind of multifamily housing.

"This is the type of construction where you don't normally see union, where you have this podium apartment complex, and the top five floors are wood frame," Cock-



The building will dedicate 10 percent of parking spaces to electric charging, and will be wired to add more.

rum said. "We try to be very creative in terms of financing structure, working with the County, with retail."

Genton added, "We fought so hard to make it work, to show it is possible to do these things with a PLA and embrace each other as opposed to stiff-arming each other. This has been a nice experience."

Council Executive Secretary Chris Hannan said the Council welcomes the partnership. "As the demand for housing in Southern California reaches a record level, we see huge potential for a skilled and trained workforce to build it, in a way that aligns with budget and quality requirements," he said.

Union Jobs in Housing

Cockrum pointed to "core principles" of creating union jobs and affordable housing as a public good. "We look at it as a privilege to develop in the community. But then there's the mathematical reality of how do you make those things work. So, we try to be innovative and leading."

Joint city-county entitlements added a certain level of complexity, but the process moved relatively quickly, the developers agreed. "We were very much embraced by the city and county; it's a very collaborative approach, and takes intent and focus," Genton said.

Their hope is that this redevelopment will be a blueprint, expanding opportunities for future Requests for Proposals to develop more homes.

"For us this is exciting," Genton said. "There's a focus on this type of construction with the Trades to become much more competitive and have a larger presence in this sector of building. So it's fun



The San Pedro Courthouse was built in 1969 and closed in 2014. It is sometimes used for film shoots. The Netflix series "Monster" filmed there in July.

to be part of that."

With construction imminent, they are also thinking about how to make the project attractive to the community, in tandem with the city's broader revitalization efforts. Amid the 20,000 square feet of ground floor retail space, about half will be dedicated to a food hall that emphasizes quality and diversity. Smaller spaces, and lower overhead, will attract independent chefs. Community programming will "embrace the street" and draw foot traffic from the nearby waterfront.

"If you think of the old food court in a mall," Cockrum said, "it wasn't about food quality. This is more driven by chef and food quality, with open kitchens, and an interesting combination of different food types in a smaller venue."

Smart technological functions, like or-

dering from your phone and having the food delivered to your GPS location, will serve the food hall customers and building residents.

"You have to be years ahead," Cockrum said. "Those are lessons we've learned in the past, making sure you're advancing technological components while it's taking three years to build."

Skilled craftsmen and women of the Building Trades will play a part, he said. "The Trades will continue to innovate alongside us. They learn to build these things quicker and stronger and more cost effectively."

The building will allocate 15 percent of roof space to solar technology, while the 559-vehicle garage will include 10 percent for electric charging stations, with 30 percent prewired for future expansion.



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BOILERMAKERS DEDICATE NEW CENTER

Local 92 Honors Late Leader Oscar Davila



Photos by Shelli Shields

Irma Davila, widow of Oscar Davila, cuts the ribbon with Local 92 Business Manager Luis Miramontes, center, and other dignitaries.

BY LESLIE BERKMAN

In a very fitting tribute, Boilermakers Local 92 has dedicated its new 39,000-square foot training facility in San Bernardino to its late President and Business Manager, Oscar Davila, a Mexican immigrant personally committed to lifting himself and others through learning.

Oscar Davila passed away April 2, 2020, at the age of 41, one of the first Building Trades casualties of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On August 12, Local 92 officially dedicated the two-story building in San Bernardino as the Oscar Davila Training Center.

Davila's legacy, Local 92 Business Manager Luis Miramontes told the crowd gathered at the ceremony, will

live on in every Boilermaker who walks through the doors.

"Oscar Davila was my mentor, friend and fellow brother who I shadowed for many years and who taught me how to be the Boilermaker I am today," Miramontes said. "His service, sacrifice, and the positive impact he made on so many lives in the Boilermaker organization is why we dedicated this Training Center in his honor."

Congressman and Mayor Attend

About 120 people, including J. Tom Baca, Boilermakers International Vice President for the Western States; San Bernardino Mayor John Valdivia; Congressman Mark Takano (D-Riverside) and a representative from Congressman Pete Aguilar (D-San Bernardino) attended the ceremony. There were also some

30 members of Davila's family, among them his widow, Irma, and three sons: Oscar Jr., 21; Omar, 15 and Octavio, 6.

Davila played "probably the biggest

part" in getting the training center built over two years at a cost of about \$7.5 million, said Jay Rojo, the local's office

SEE BOILERMAKERS PAGE 12



The center includes 40 welding booths.



Members of Oscar Davila's extended family are honored to attend the dedication.

BOILERMAKERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

manager. Elected President of Local 92 in 2014 and appointed Business Manager in 2018, Davila oversaw the conversion of what was formerly a stone and tile plant into classrooms and hands-on training areas. The center includes 40 welding booths, mockup rigging structures and an extensive ventilation system to remove metal toxins from the air. The training center will be used by both apprentices and journeymen who are required to keep their skills sharp and updated.

Rojo said currently, a limited number of classes are held at the new training facility, but use of the building will increase as the Covid virus abates and in-person instruction becomes safer.

Need for a large training facility has heightened, Rojo said, with passage of SB 54, a state law mandating that a large percentage of workers in the state’s refineries be graduates of a state-certified apprenticeship program. Davila was instrumental in the coalition of California and LA/OC Building Trades affiliated local unions in lobbying for passage of that legislation, which went into effect in 2014.

Also, the training center hopes to produce workers to help implement the massive national infrastructure construction program currently before Congress.

Largest in the Nation

Boilermakers Local 92, based southwest of San Bernardino in Bloomington, is the largest Boilermakers local in the nation. It boasts 1,200 members in a jurisdiction that encompasses Southern California and southern Nevada as well as more than 50 oil refineries. Its apprenticeship program is currently training 178 apprentices.

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico where his parents owned a grocery store, Davila was sent to the United States at the age of 15 on a student visa to fulfill his parents’ dream that their children attain a US education. He worked to support himself through high school, married Irma and eventually joined the Boilermakers, becoming indentured into Local 92 in 2000. After working for 10 years in



The facility has 40 welding booths for these apprentices.

the field, he was brought onto the growing local’s staff as a welding instructor.

With affection, Rojo said that as Davila advanced in his career, he continued striving to learn more. “I remember when we first hired him, he was studying all the time for his citizenship test. He

was always excited about what he was learning. He became a citizen and was still going to college when he died. He wanted a business degree.”

One of Davila’s first mentors, Local 92’s Johnny Bernal, said when Davila was learning the Trade, “In every-

thing, he went beyond my expectations. He not only kept up with me and jumped right on the rigging, but sometimes he pushed me out of the way so he could do the job himself.”

Moreover, Rojo said, Davila “always wanted everybody else to improve.”

He said Davila bought the latest welding machines for instruction so students would never encounter a machine on a job that they couldn’t operate. And Davila worked hard to have refinery safety classes given at Local 92 certified by the Occupational Safety Councils of Amer-

ica. In honor of Davila’s dedication to Boilermakers Local 92, a collage of photographs representing what he accomplished for his fellow union members—whether wearing a hardhat and coveralls in the field or a suit and tie as an officer

in the boardroom—is on permanent display in the training center’s lobby. His youngest son, Octavio, pointed to his Dad’s face when he saw the photos. Dad himself may no longer be with us, but his family and teachings always will.



“Oscar Davila was my mentor, friend and fellow brother who I shadowed for many years and who taught me how to be the Boilermaker I am today,” said Local 92 Business Manager Luis Miramontes.



This apprentice is stick welding.



A new classroom.



Local 92 office manager Jay Rojo shows off the “Riveter” statue, symbol of the Boilermakers. 12 BUILDING TRADES NEWS



Oscar Davila’s success story was featured in “The Boilermaker Reporter” magazine in 2019.



Oscar Davila’s youngest son, Octavio, 6, points to a picture of his Dad.



Heat exchanger, left, and outside rigging structure at the training center.



From Local 92, l-r: Hugo Castaneda, Jay Rojo, Nicolas Garcia, Business Manager Luis Miramontes and Alfredo Leyva, with Council Executive Secretary Chris Hannan, second from right.



THIS IS SHEET METAL



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Cal State University Los Angeles is joining a number of public universities and colleges that are increasing dormitory housing for students, instead of having them commute from home or live in apartments. The new South Village dormitory has a dining commons, which calls for a well-constructed and carefully installed commercial kitchen.

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BUILDING TRADES HEALTH

OPIOID ABUSE HITS WORKERS HARD

Labor-Industry Forum Offers Strategies to Help

BY LESLIE BERKMAN

Abuse of opioids as pain killers, while a nationwide crisis, poses an especially great danger for Building Trades members who are intimately familiar with aches and pains on the job and at high risk for injuries that can prompt them to seek relief in a bottle of pills.

In acknowledgement of this hard fact, the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California has joined with the pharmaceutical and biomedical industries to teach members how to avoid opioid abuse and compassionately assist fellow workers in trouble.

Together they held a June 8 Zoom event put together by the Council, the California Bio-Pharma Labor Management Association, PhRMA, Biocom and the California Biotechnology Foundation.

"We in the Building Trades are very practical people. We look for solutions. We take action. And that is why we are here today," said Ron Miller, immediate past Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Building Trades workers in Southern California have avoided massive outbreaks by following measures like wearing masks, getting vaccinated and social distancing. But the



"We've joined the Building Trades in bringing together their workforce to address this issue," says Flo Kahn, deputy vice president of state advocacy for PhRMA.



Robbie Hunter, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, wants to educate members and employers on pain management and the dangers of addiction.

opioid-abuse epidemic predates the Covid pandemic—and is now outlasting it.

According to data presented at the conference, construction workers are nearly six times more likely than those in other industries to develop an opioid addiction.

"We've joined the Building Trades in bringing together their workforce to address this issue, to bring awareness to it," said Flo Kahn, deputy vice president of state advocacy for PhRMA. She also said that information and learning materials would be distributed to apprenticeship programs statewide.

Impact on Family

In kicking off the webinar, titled "Innovations and Best Practices in Preventing and Treating Opioid Use Disorder Among Union Members," Robbie Hunter, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, said he wanted to educate his members and their employers on pain management and the dangers of addiction.

Hunter, who spent 35 years in the field as an Iron Worker, said he knows of young Iron Workers who have overdosed and died. "I watched what happened to their family," he said.

"There is nothing that will impact your family faster and harder than the disease

SEE OPIOIDS PAGE 17

"The opioid-abuse epidemic predates Covid—and is now outlasting it."

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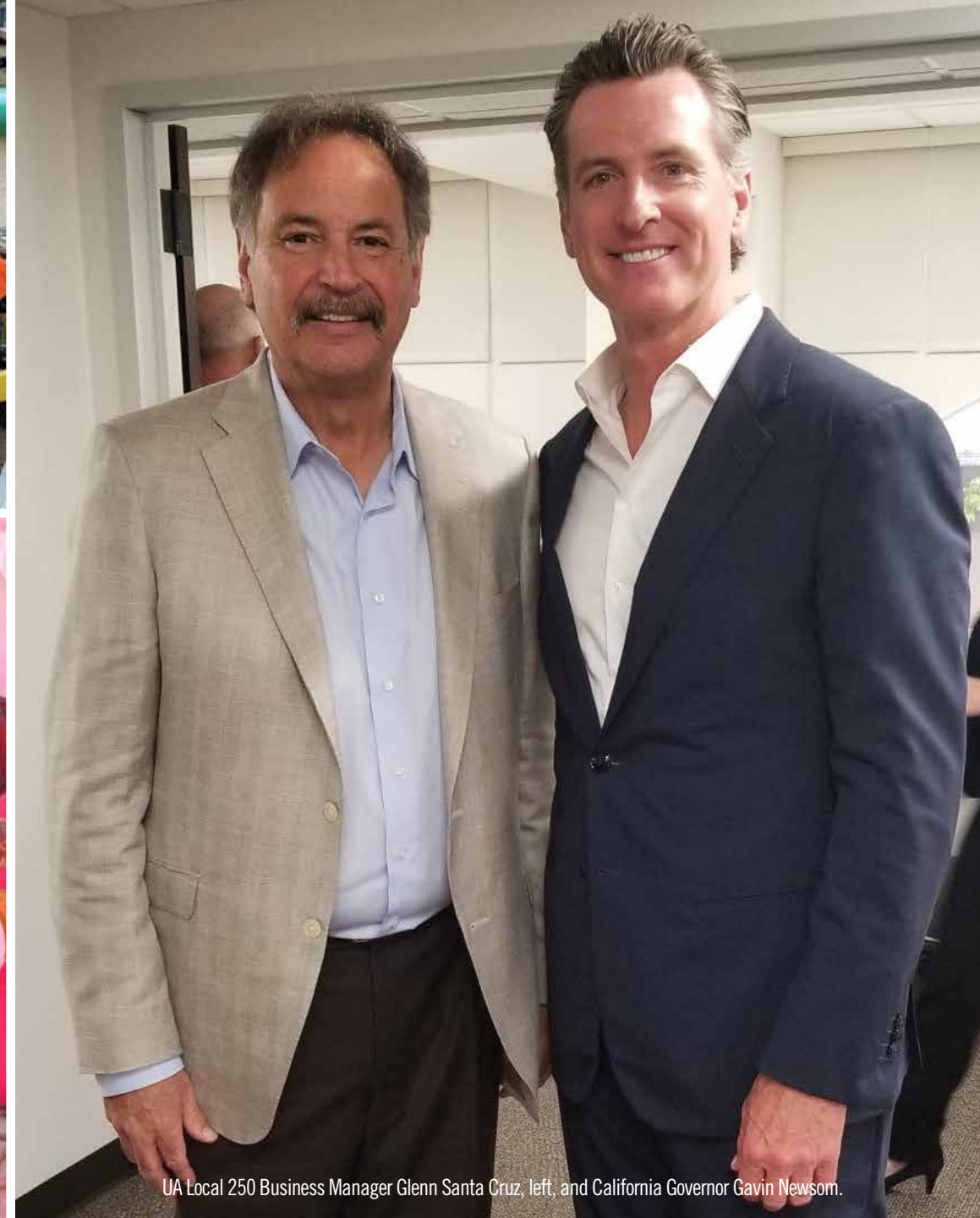
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UA Local 250 Business Manager Glenn Santa Cruz, left, and California Governor Gavin Newsom.



UA LOCAL UNION 250 POWER OF OUR UNION

Political activism is crucial to the success of UA Local 250. “With UA Local 250 having a wide range of work at so many locations, we have a stake in who is making the decisions in Sacramento, and in every city and school district in our territory,” says Glenn Santa Cruz, Business Manager of UA Local 250.

“That means being in contact with elected officials everywhere,” Santa

Cruz says. “Our members live in many communities. So anytime we have an issue, we have a Local 250 member who can speak about the effect of a new law or policy on them and their family.”

Santa Cruz adds, “We’re more proud than ever of our members who make their voices heard, and who bring their top-notch skills to the job, wherever it may take them.”

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BUILDING TRADES HEALTH

OPIOIDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

of addiction,” said Travis Bornstein, President of Teamsters Local 242 in Ohio. He told the story of his young son who became addicted to opiate prescription pain pills after arm injuries and surgeries and graduated to heroin. He ultimately overdosed and died.

Construction workers were urged to be



“There has to be a way to manage patients and not just throw pills at them,” says Candace Madden, a registered nurse and clinical representative for Electrical Workers Health and Welfare Trust and IBEW Local 357 in Las Vegas.

vigilant to recognize a drug problem of their own. And the time they spend shoulder-to-shoulder on the job may let them notice coworkers who might be heading to addiction and putting themselves and others in harm’s way on the job. A rehabilitation program and other resources could help.

Addictions often begin with drugs prescribed for a physical ailment or injury. “There is no doubt in my mind that the overprescribing of opiate prescription pain pills has led us to the worst epidemic in the history of our country,” Bornstein said.

According to the video, prescriptions for opioids in the United States increased from 76 million in 1991 to more than 214

million in 2016.

In 2019, 72,000 Americans died from drug overdoses—more than all who died in the entire Vietnam War—and about two-thirds of those overdoses were of opioids.

“It is a huge problem for any construction business in being able to keep their people on the job sites and keep them healthy. There has to be a way to manage them and not just throw pills at them,” said Candace Madden, a registered nurse and clinical representative for Electrical Workers Health and Welfare Trust and IBEW Local 357 in Las Vegas.

Stationed fulltime at her union local, Madden said she counsels workers individually on the dangers of opioid drug overdose and follows their care when they are released from the hospital to make certain they do what is necessary to recover from an injury or ailment as quickly as possible, without causing a relapse.

Working Too Soon

She said construction workers may be tempted to abuse prescribed pain killers in their push to return to the field too early, to avoid losing pay.

Alternatives to opioids should be considered in alleviating pain, said Marc Gonzalez, a Doctor of Pharmacy and President of Professional Diversion Intelligence Network. “Opioids, or strong opioids, should not really be the first line of treatment,” Gonzalez said, noting that other treatments like physical therapy, biofeedback and acupuncture could be used alone or in combination with mild opioids or other

drugs that mimic mild opioids in reducing pain.

Another foil to drug abuse is to avoid getting injured by becoming and staying physically fit. Madden said she prescribes stretches her clients can use to keep the tools of their Trade—like knees and shoulders—in good working order.



Photos by Victor Posadas

“There is nothing that will impact your family faster and harder than the disease of addiction,” says Travis Bornstein, President of Teamsters Local 242 in Ohio, who lost his son to an overdose.

Gonzalez suggested that some kind of incentive, such as a gym membership, might help construction workers to take time to decompress and stay in shape.

With the example of positive behavior to avoid the Coronavirus, there may be more tools available than before to fight addiction.



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BUILDING TRADES HEALTH

UNIONS SWING FOR A CURE

Pipe Trades golf tourney raises money to fight mesothelioma

Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16 organized the successful 18th annual Golf Invitational to benefit the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America.

More than 150 golfers turned out July 12 to the Alta Vista Country Club in Placentia, and raised over \$140,000 for mesothelioma research.

A highlight was the return of Vince Ferragamo, LA Rams legendary quarterback of the 1970s and '80s. He has become a regular at the event, invited by his good friend and retired UA Local 582 business agent, Bob Modica.



LA Rams quarterback Vince Ferragamo is a regular at the event.

One hundred percent of the money will go directly toward research into clinical trials and better treatment options for mesothelioma, with the hope of an eventual cure. Many of those who suffer from this disease are retired Building Trades workers.

"The leadership of District Council 16 goes above and beyond in planning an event that everyone looks forward to join-



Foundation Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.

ing," said board member Jerry Neil Paul. That includes tournament director and Director of Organizing John Ferruccio, committee member and Business Manager Rodney Cobos, and Assistant Business



Dr. Parkash Gill, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee.

Manager Doug Marian.

"We cannot thank them enough for the years of support and dedication," Paul said.



Foundation board member Jerry Neil Paul.

In addition to Jerry Neil Paul, other foundation participants were Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee Dr. Parkash Gill and Assistant Executive Director Shane Rucker.



New treatment options are coming from Dr. Gill's lab at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.



John Ferruccio is tournament director and Director of Organizing for District Council 16.

Dr. Gill highlighted the new treatment options coming from his lab at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. USC continues to treat mesothelioma patients successfully with the combination of immunotherapy drug PD-1 and EphB-4. Dr. Gill added that there have been several recent research collaborations, in addition to

the treatment being submitted to the FDA for Phase 2 clinical trials.

The Foundation also thanked UA International Pipe Trades Representative Derrick Kualapai; California Pipe Trades Executive Director Aaron Stockwell, and Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth Ann Paul.

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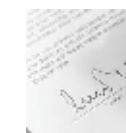
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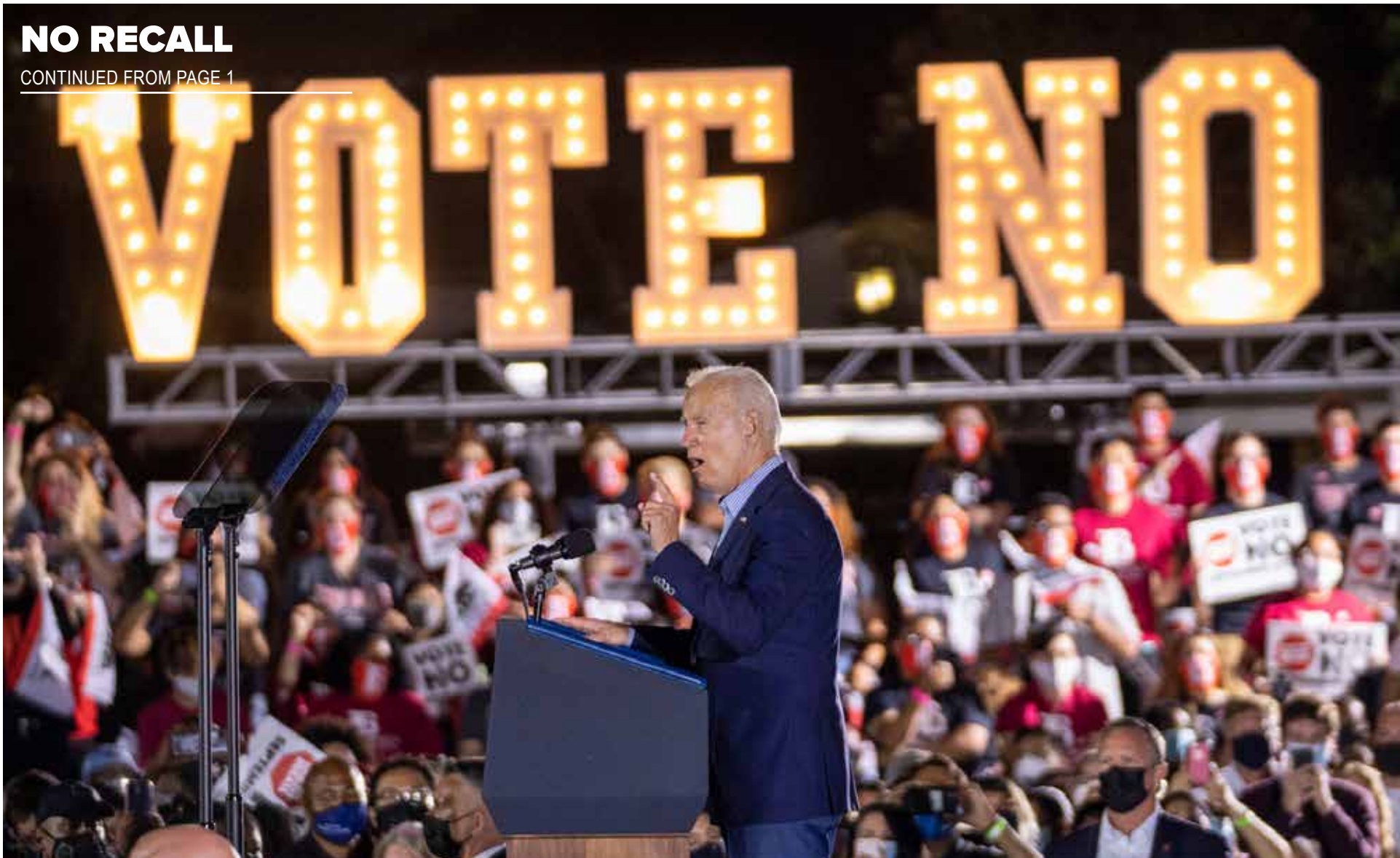
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NO RECALL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



On Sept. 13, the night before the election, President Joe Biden speaks to recall opponents at Long Beach City College.

change California for the better.” There were lessons learned, he said, including the need to reform a system that makes it so easy to hold a recall election in this state. In statewide campaigns like the one for

governor, Democrats have the clear advantage with a large majority among registered voters. But polls showed early this summer that many were apathetic about the campaign to oust Newsom. So there was a danger for Newsom that Democrats who supported him might not bother to vote—and lead to Newsom’s ouster and a new Governor elected by only a tiny fraction of voters. Other figures were also unfavorable. Smith said a poll a couple of months ago showed half of union members were ready to vote for the recall. “A lot were going to vote ‘yes’ and it was based primarily on not knowing what was at risk,” he said. That changed dramatically after union members became aware that a successful recall would mean a big setback on issues vital to working people like the minimum wage, prevailing wage, wage theft enforcement, health care, safety on the job



Council Executive Secretary Chris Hannan, left, meets Gov. Newsom at the LA County Fed, with Joel Barton, Business Manager of IBEW Local 11, at center.

ORANGE COUNTY SPURS
LABOR VICTORY



“It started here and we wanted to end it here,” says Gloria Alvarado, center, Executive Director of the Orange County Labor Federation.

Orange County union members were especially motivated by knowing initial support for the recall election came from their county. “It started here and we wanted to end it here,” said Gloria Alvarado, Executive Director of the Orange County Labor Federation. “We wanted not only to win but to show big numbers.”

The message to unite in solidarity resonated with the rank and file once they saw that the recall was an attack on “the house of labor” and not on the governor.

Alvarado said originally, some favored the recall because they concentrated on one aspect: Newsom’s violating his own Covid rules when he attended a dinner party last year at an upscale restaurant. On a larger scale, though, essential workers realized that the governor’s Covid policies were protecting their lives. Newsom had done far more good than harm.

The Newsom campaign emphasized the contrast between Newsom’s policies to quash the pandemic and the position of his leading opponent on the ballot, conservative talk show host Larry Elder, who promised to rescind mask mandates in schools and reverse the vaccine and testing requirements that Newsom had ordered.

Union members ultimately

joined the fight against the recall to protect one another, Alvarado said. “Our members, regardless of what party they are with, when labor is under attack, they stand together,” she said. “I even had Republicans come in to volunteer. It was not partisan. Everyone joined forces because we knew the attack was directly on us.”

Alvarado said union locals provided staff to run the campaign in Orange County. They were joined by 300 to 400 volunteers every weekend and about 150 volunteers during the week. Making allowances for the pandemic, volunteers canvassed door to door while wearing masks and keeping their distance and formed a “virtual phone bank,” making calls from home to prospective voters while taking directions from a command post over Zoom.

“We needed to stand together to fight for our families, for our pensions and good-paying jobs,” Alvarado said. “We needed to see beyond politics.”



and Project Labor Agreements.

“I think recall supporters actually woke a sleeping giant,” Smith said.

But not without some prodding from unions. “You had to create a contrast between Governor Newsom’s progressive economic agenda and the recall campaign, dismantling years of progress on workers’ rights,” Smith said.

“We pulled back the curtain and showed who was behind the effort in funding the recall campaign,” which consisted of extreme anti-worker political groups like the Lincoln Club of Orange County, the California Policy Center and wealthy donors who are notable enemies of labor.

Smith estimated that 70 percent of union members voted “no” on the recall.

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor was similarly proud of “a victory that was made possible thanks to the efforts of thousands of union members across Los Angeles County. The over \$2.1 million program consisted of paid and volunteer canvassers covering 3,265 shifts, knocking on over 130,000 doors and making over 1 million phone calls.”

Labor Is Family

On Sept. 5, Newsom joined a crowd of union members at the LA Fed headquarters in Westlake and thanked them for their efforts to keep him in office. He was warmly greeted at the barbecue by Ron Herrera, President of the LA Fed, who told the governor, “Your family is here in the federation.”

After the event, Newsom said, “No one knows how to organize better than labor. It’s about boots on the ground, door knocking. It’s about text messaging. It’s not a persuasion campaign. I mean you’ll

still find people that may be on the fence, but it’s really about turnout. Labor knows how to turn out.”

Statewide, labor “set a goal of 10,000 volunteers and we ended up doubling that,” Smith said, and those volunteers contacted more than 3 million potential voters.

It was immediately apparent that Newsom would retain the governorship, having garnered 64 percent of the ballots tallied as of Sept. 16. The clear leader among contenders on a separate ballot was Larry Elder, who by the same date claimed 47 percent of votes cast to replace Newsom if he had been ousted.

During the campaign, Newsom and his allies pointed out that Elder held extreme anti-worker positions, such as opposing the existence of a minimum wage.

President Joe Biden flew into Long Beach Airport on Air Force One the night before the election to send that message in a rally at Long Beach City College.

“The decision you’re about to make is going to have a huge impact on California and it’s going to reverberate across the nation,” Biden told about 1,500 Newsom supporters, including hundreds of union members. “We need courage, we need leadership, we need Gavin Newsom.”

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia said, “This isn’t a referendum on the Governor—it’s a referendum on us. We are going to have our Governor’s back. We are going to have our President’s back.”

For now, the rejuvenated Governor must hand organized labor a big “Thank you.”

“We look forward to our continued work with Gov. Newsom,” Hunter said.

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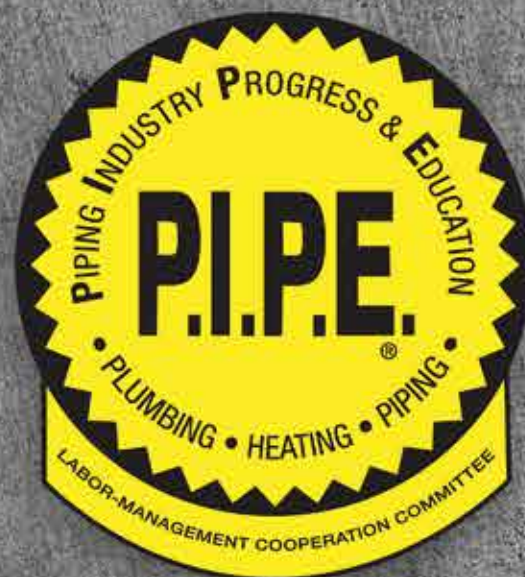


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Volunteering at the IBEW Local 11 grill are journeymen Paco Arago, left, and Joel Greenfield.



IBEW Local 11 sound and communication apprentice Ligeia Wilkerson with Local 11 apprentice coordinator Alton Wilkerson.



South County Labor chairman Ray Cordova.



Representing Roofers & Waterproofers Local 36.



Three volunteers from Iron Workers Local 433, from left: apprentices Helen Ortiz, Hector Jaramillo and Jay Ponce.

LABOR DAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

their holiday helping others. IBEW Local 11 kicked off the morning with homemade menudo for everyone, then switched to hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. A huge pile of red and white onions roasted in a corner of the flattop grill, and sent out a tantalizing smell.

For families in need, there was an even bigger selection to enjoy. Boxes of donated food were stacked high for volunteers to hoist into car trunks. The finds included frozen chicken, canned vegetables and boxes of pasta.

From Needing to Giving

"When I was a kid, we were one of these families that needed the food," said Iron Workers Local 433 member Helen Ortiz. On this Labor Day, the seventh-period apprentice was one of the union members helping make sure that other families get what they need. Her wages from her current project, a supportive housing complex in South LA, reflect the skills and accomplishments she now has.

Chris Hannan, Executive Secretary of the LA/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, greeted a crowd of activists, Wilmington residents and elected officials. "This food drive embodies the very best of the union movement," he said. "On your day off, you're making sure your community, those less fortunate, have enough to eat."

The Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition sponsored the day in con-



US Congresswomen Maxine Waters, left, and Nanette Barragan.



The youngest volunteer from SMART Local 105, Eric Farrar's daughter Ryhan, gives out school supplies.



IBEW Local 11 apprentice George Lopez gets the burgers and hot dogs ready.

cert with South County Labor; the LA/OC Building Trades; LA County Federation of Labor; Labor Community Services; the LA Regional Food Bank; LA County Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda Solis, and LA City Councilman Joe Buscaino.

"Long live all of our unions!" Buscaino shouted as he stood at the podium. He thanked unions for providing the essential workforce during the worst months of the pandemic. "Labor was out front, not missing a day of work."

BUILDING TRADES NEWS 23

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