



PLASTERERS' LOCAL NO. 200
Operative Plasterers', Cement Masons' and Shop Hands'
International Association, AFL-CIO
1610 W. Holt Avenue
Pomona, CA 91768



Trowel Talk

The Official Newsletter of
Plasterers' Local No. 200

Editor: DAVID FRITCHEL

SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

FALL, 2008

NEW LABOR AGREEMENT

On August 5th 2008, Local No. 200's Labor Agreement between Local No. 200 and its Signatory Contractors ran its course and ended.

A new Labor Agreement was negotiated and set in motion. The new agreement will run from August 6, 2008 through July 31, 2012. During this time some conditions will be required by you the member. In today's construction market Union contractors need to have an edge over their non-Union counterparts. So Local No. 200 attached conditions to future negotiated raises. These conditions are really very simple, the Local agrees that all our members should have job certifications in Scaffold User, OSHA-10HR and CPR/First Aid, making our Union plastering contractors more competitive in an ever increasingly competitive market.



The new negotiated wage raises will be \$8.00 over four (4) years, starting with a wage increase of \$2.25 beginning August 6, 2008. \$2.00 the second year, \$2.00 the third year and \$1.75 the fourth year with a propose extension of \$2.25 to be negotiated before August of 2012 for a 5th year.

The conditions will be a win-win for both our membership and for our signatory contractor. We will win with safer job sites, with an increase of safety awareness and the contractor wins by lower insurance premiums and a better informed, and educated work force.

You received the new raise of \$2.25 immediately, starting last August the 6th, but to receive the second year raise of \$2.00 you must have all three (3) of your certifications by December 31st, 2009. If you have not already gotten your certifications, contact the Local at 800-559-2701. If you are not sure what certifications you already have, call the office and you can check your records.

The OSHA-10HR certification and the Scaffold User's certification are lifetime (non-renewable) certifications, but you will need to re-new your CPR/First Aid certification every 24 months (2 years).

Local No. 200 is striving to keep our members not only the best Craftsmen in the industry, but also the most safety conscience craftsmen. Other non-required classes will also be available by request, such as forklift, boom lift and scissor lift certifications, and every member should take advantage of the AWC's E.I.F.S. Journeyman upgrades certification classes. The more certifications you acquire the more valuable an employee you will become to our Union contractors and making Union projects safer places to work. Safer work sites will help to insure you come back home to your families, safe and sound, and in one piece.

NUEVO CONTRATO

Agosto 5, 2008, El contrato del Local #200 y los Contratistas Sindicalizados corrió su curso y terminó.

Un nuevo contrato fue negociado. El nuevo contrato corre de Agosto 6, 2008 – Julio 31, 2012. Durante este tiempo algunas condiciones serán requeridas por usted, el miembro. Hoy en día el negocio de construcción para contratistas sindicalizados tiene una ventaja sobre sus Contrapartes no-sindicalizados. El Local # 200 impuso condiciones a los futuros aumentos negociados. Estas condiciones son realmente muy sencillas, el Local está de acuerdo que todos nuestros miembros tengan certificaciones en Scaffold User, OSHA-10HR y Primeros Auxilios, haciendo a nuestros contratistas sindicalizados más competitivos en un mercado más competitivo cada día.

Los nuevos aumentos negociados de sueldo serán \$8.00 sobre cuatro (4) años, comenzando Agosto 6, 2008 el primer aumento es \$2.25, el segundo año será \$2.00, el tercer año será \$2.00 y \$1.75 el cuarto año y propone una extensión de un quinto año con un aumento de \$2.25 negociado antes de agosto del 2012.

Las condiciones serán de Ganar-Ganar para nuestros miembros y para nuestros contratistas signatarios. Ganaremos con un trabajo más competitivo cada día.

Continued on page 8

AS SMART AS YOU ARE, DID YOU KNOW...

- In the United States, July 4th is the day of the year with the most motor vehicle crash deaths... 41% of these deaths involved a driver who had been drinking alcohol.
- Sword Fish have a special tissue (A "Brain Heater") behind their eyes that warms their brains as much as 14 degrees centigrade above the temperature of the water they live in.
- Although stroke is the third most common cause of death in the U. S., its death rate has declined 65% since 1950.
- Ears can be found on the thorax (chest) abdomen, legs, wings and mouths of different insects.
- Every day, people worldwide light up 15 billion cigarettes.
- Several types of beetles are attracted to forest fires. Eggs from the beetles are laid after the fires so that their young can feed on dead wood.
- 8 hours in a "Smokey Bar", breathing second hand smoke is the equivalent to smoking one pack (20) of cigarettes.
- Approximately 80% of a dragon fly's brain is devoted to processing visual information.
- In 1998, the U. S. government required breads and grains sold in the U. S. to be fortified with folic acid. Since then, the number of children at risk for birth defects caused by folic acid deficiency has decreased by 32%.
- The praying mantis has only one ear located in the middle of its thorax, between its legs.
- Caffeine is the most widely used behaviorally active drug in the world.
- The Golden Eagle can see the movement of a rabbit from over a mile away.

2 años.

Local No. 200 está haciendo el esfuerzo de mantener a nuestros miembros no sólo los mejores Artesanos en la industria, pero también a los más conscientes Artesanos en seguridad. Otras clases que no son requeridas también estarán disponibles, como carretilla elevadora, ascensor de estampido y ascensor de tijeras, y cada miembro debería aprovechar las clases de AWC's E.I.F.S. clases actualizadas para maestros. Entre más certificaciones obtiene, más valioso como empleados llegarán a ser para nuestros contratistas y ayudarán hacer los proyectos de Unión lugares más seguros. Entre más seguro sea el trabajo, más seguro de que pueda regresar a sus familias, sano y salvo, y entero.

Continued from page 1

Nuevo Contrato

seguro, y con la elevación de conocimiento en la seguridad del trabajo. Los contratistas también ganan porque las Primas de seguros se bajan y tendrán una fuerza de trabajo mejor informada y educada.

Ustedes recibieron el aumento nuevo de \$2.25 inmediatamente, comenzando el 6 de Agosto, pero para poder recibir el segundo aumento de \$2.00 ustedes tienen que obtener las tres (3) certificaciones antes de Diciembre 31, 2009. Si ustedes todavía no tienen sus certificaciones, contacte al Local a 800-559-2701. Si ustedes no están seguros qué certificaciones tienen, llamen a la oficina y pueden verificar eso.

La OSHA-10HR y Scaffold User certificaciones son de por vida (no se vencen), pero ustedes necesitarán renovar Primeros Auxilios cada

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PLASTERERS' UNION LOCAL 200

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What Planet Are These People From?!

Like many Americans, I sat through both the Democratic and the Republican National Conventions waiting for some glimmer of the plan to get America out of the current mess we're in.

The Democrats came first and unveiled a detailed plan, which would require the wealthiest to pay their fair share of taxes and would give tax relief back to the middle class. The plan included getting us out of Iraq and redirects our efforts back to the war on Terrorism. It also would take on the challenges of our failing economy and the need to reduce America's dependency on all oil, not just foreign oil.

The Republicans turn came next. I sat in complete disbelief as speaker after speaker announced very proudly that the economy was in good shape, the war in Iraq was going great and what a great job they had done over the last 8 years. Referring to the troop surge in Iraq, Sen. Graham shouted, "We had it right, the surge worked and Senator Obama voted against it!" Conveniently, Sen. Graham neglected to mention that the troop surge wouldn't have been needed had the Bush administration not lied about weapons of mass destruction in the first place and plunged us into the first pre-emptive war America has ever been in and distracting us from the original mission of striking back for the 9-11 terrorist attack.

It was like watching a bad remake of the Wizard of Oz "pay no attention to the man behind the curtain," or in this case, pay no attention to the world around you. McCain himself stated, "The fundamentals of our economy are sound." However, the day after the RNC ended, the Department of Labor Statistics Division released the latest report: unemployment rate at 6.1%, a five year high; 84,000 jobs lost in one month; economists declare that these numbers are indicative of a recession (Duh). Couple this dismal report with \$4.00 a gallon gas, the news that the government had to bail out the home mortgage industry, and a record number of families being foreclosed on and all I could say was "what planet are these people from that they could actually believe the economy is good"? At the end of the convention, it was apparent that despite McCain's claim that "change is coming my friends," the Republicans won't even admit there is a problem, let alone offer a plan to fix it. Their whole strategy seems to be focused on attacking Sen. Obama and talking about what a

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 2

What Planet Are These People From?!

great war hero McCain was 40 years ago, instead of talking about real issues facing us today.

If you're a person who votes republican because of the abortion issue, think about this, the Republican Party had control over the Executive, Legislative and the Judicial branches of Federal Government for 6 years under the Bush Administration and abortion is still legal. If you vote republican to "save your guns," consider that the single most oppressive gun bill, the Brady bill, was introduced under the Reagan administration. In fact, if you vote moral issues, you should stop looking towards any one party and start looking at the individual; because none of the parties have the market cornered on moral issues, nor is any party exempt from corruption.

Albert Einstein once said, "The definition of insanity is trying the same thing over and over, but expecting a different result each time." Therefore, anyone who expects change and votes for McCain is clearly insane. Hey, that could be a bumper sticker!

Mel Breshears
Heat and Frost Local #16
Business Agent

Jose Gonzales places strong 2nd



On behalf of the Local 200 Apprenticeship, we would like to congratulate Jose Gonzalez on winning a strong second place at the 18th annual Hawaii State Apprenticeship Contest. This is Jose's second time competing in the Hawaii State Contests.

Last year Jose completed his Booth at the 2007 Hawaii State Competition. We are very proud of his outstanding performance in achieving second place this year. Jose's actions are a reflection of the courage and dedication that we have come to recognize in him. In March of 2008, Jose also participated in the San Diego Construction EXPO showing more of his great talent on the demonstration booth.

We are very proud of Jose Gonzalez and wish him the best of luck.

LOCAL 200's Apprentices Helping Out a Returning IRAQ Vet

In May of 2007, IBEW member, Master Sergeant Joe Mendoza was deployed with his National Guard unit to 14 months of active duty, 12 months in Iraq. Prior to leaving, Joe and his wife Delma hired Tim Shaeffer, owner of Dynamic Design Systems in Redlands to remodel their home in Highland, Ca, the job was to be a 3-month project.

As Joe left to serve his country, his family moved from home to stay with relatives while the construction progressed. Long story short and one year and five months later, Tim Shaeffer turned out to be an unscrupulous, unlicensed contractor who gutted the Mendoza's home and then ran off with nearly \$85,000.00 leaving Sergeant Mendoza's family homeless. Last June 2008, Tim Shaeffer, owner of Dynamic Design Systems was charged with grand theft of personal property and diversion of construction funds.

After hearing of the plight of the Mendoza family and finding out their home is uninhabitable. Local #200's Apprenticeship has stepped up to help with exterior Plastering, finishing all the cement scratch and brown. A class will soon return to the Mendoza home to lay on a sand finish.

I was able to speak to Sergeant Joe Mendoza, who said he was appreciative of all the hard work performed by our Apprentices and is looking forward to the day he and his wife and children can return to living happily ever after in their completed home.



The Republican Economy: First, Deregulate Big Business, Then Bill Taxpayers to Bail it Out!

By Robert I. Balgenorth, President, State Building and Construction Trades Council of California



It seems the two most common words in the English language, when Republicans have their way with our economy, are "Deregulate" and "Bailout."

During the 12 years Republicans controlled Congress and the eight disastrous years of the Bush presidency, we heard continuously of the need to let big business run amok, to invest their assets---and the 401(k)s and IRAs and savings of millions of working families---free of any government regulation or guidelines.

Big businesses are both smart and good, they promised. They will do the right thing and take care of us.

Well they were deregulated. And they ran amok. And they collapsed. And now, outrageously, we working people are watching our hard-earned tax dollars bail them out. Bail out Bear Stearns: \$29 billion. Bail out AIG: \$85 billion. Bail out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac: \$200 billion.

This is an absolute outrage! Where is the bailout for America's honest, hardworking men and women? The people who have seen jobs disappear, their wages shrink, their mortgages foreclosed, things like health care, college educations and a tank of gas become unaffordable, and their dreams of a comfortable retirement destroyed by a collapsing stock market. What are these Republicans doing to bail them out?

So what are we working people going to do about it? Stay home and do nothing?

Vote to continue it? Or Vote to change it?

The reactions of the presidential candidates to the economic turmoil have been interesting, to say the least. Republican John McCain has been saying that the economy is strong, and we're all better off than we were eight years ago. But when a trillion dollars of Americans' assets disappeared in a week, even he figured out how ridiculous he sounded.

For his entire career, McCain has boasted of being an ardent, enthusiastic deregulator of financial institutions. He always fought against any standards or rules governing investing. In fact, McCain was one of the infamous "Keating Five," a group of Senators who intervened with federal regulators on behalf of criminal fin-

ancier Charles Keating, back in the days when Republicans were deregulating and then bailing out Savings & Loans.

But overnight, after the market abruptly tanked, for the first time in his life McCain started railing against "greed" and "fat cats" and Wall Street's "casino mentality."

To which Barack Obama appropriately replied that, yes, McCain is so angry at these corrupt corporate fat cats, that he still favors giving them big tax cuts!

McCain himself has been instrumental in creating this mess. When Republicans ran Congress, he chaired the Senate Commerce Committee where he championed the Bush deregulation agenda. His top economic adviser, former Sen. Phil "America is a nation of whiners" Gramm, authored the bill that dismantled the regulations on financial firms that had existed since Franklin Roosevelt's presidency.

McCain wants to create a commission to study the causes of this financial disaster. We know what caused it: unregulated greed and mismanagement enabled by McCain, Bush and the rest of the Republican crowd. They always oppose big government, unless, apparently, it's needed to bailout big business.

And for the record, McCain's agenda continues to include privatizing and deregulating social security!

Senator Obama, however, is outlining a logical path toward fixing the real economy: tax breaks for the middle class, fair taxes on the rich, effective regulations on Wall Street to avert the need for future bailouts, an end to the costly and wasteful war in Iraq, and job-creating investments in clean energy, and needed infrastructure such as highways, bridges, and schools.

The great tragedy of the Bush years is that honest working people have had to pay the price for Republicans' lapdog devotion to unregulated big business.

It's simply outrageous. On Election Day, shall we working people do something about it?

SAY CHEESE

PLASTERERS
ROCK!



Local 200

