Voices of Labor
The Napa-Solano Central Labor Council Newsletter
Issue XIX - March 15th, 2023

Upcoming events:
Th. 3/21 - Action Team - United Workers for Local Gov’t
10:00 AM, Zoom

Th. 4/15 - 13th Annual Spring Salute
4:00-7:30 PM, Napa Valley Ruins - American Canyon, CA

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‘Sup, Sibs?

What’s up Siblings?

Well, we continue our efforts to organize our Siblings through our Action Team, identifying active members and inviting them to hear from Siblings from other affiliates on what is going on in the movement. Every affiliate has had to organize an action to shine light on issues that impact their members and, in many cases, all working families. We know that having members from other labor affiliates, community allies and elected officials show up in solidarity is one of the most powerful messages we can send. When an affiliate undertakes these efforts, it takes a great deal of coordination to organize their own Siblings and the logistics involved so we feel the roll of the Labor Council is to rally the troops and attempt to get others to show up as well, and we are able to call on a Rapid Response from the Action Team to ensure this solidarity. Often times these actions are kept under wrap until just days beforehand and our Action Team is able to get the word out to hundreds of our Siblings. Another goal is to grow our political action team in preparation for the 2024 elections. If there is one organizing tool you should prioritize, it would be participation in our monthly United Workers for Local Government meetings every third Tuesday at 10 am.

This editions Member Spotlight is on Teamsters Local #315 Representative Jimmy Thiessen, and I could not think of a more fitting first Allies of Labor focus than the Reverend Dr. Tony Ubalde, this year’s recipient of the Mike Thompson Legislative Legacy Award, at this years Spring Salute Awards Dinner on April 15th at the American Canyon Ruins. Check out the other winners and be sure to get your tickets early as this will sell out fast. If you have any members or allies you think should be recognized for future spotlights, reach out to Glenn so we can put them on the list.

A few years back Cities and School Districts were threatened with lawsuits, with the stated purpose of increasing diversity and representation on elected bodies by requiring district elections. While the value of these decisions will be debated far into the future, we have seen firsthand some of the unintended consequences of using such a blanket approach. We saw a record number of races with no candidates emerge, triggering various processes to fill those seats. One example was in the Benicia School Board race, where one district failed to attract a candidate. The district followed protocol and made an appointment that was challenged, triggering a special election. And while this sounds fair, the unintended effect of district elections meant that it took under 70 signatures to initiate a special election costing thousands of dollars to the School District.

Stand by for more on this topic.
The Action Team will be ramping up this month to build up the volunteer base and collective strength of the local labor movement. The fundamental goals of this Action Team will be to bring together the best methods for engaging leaders, activists, and rank-and-file members and for the Labor Council to work with the affiliates for collective and solidarity actions. Collective actions are for the general benefit of the labor movement, such as establishing stronger laws and policies to protect and advance workers, and winning elections. Solidarity actions support particular unions or sectors of the labor movement in their time of need, such as an organizing campaign or a contract battle. Ultimately, we will work to bring together the collective might of labor to build power on all fronts.

Our next meeting will be at the usual time and date of the monthly United Workers for Local Government - the 3rd Tuesday, March 21st at 10 AM on Zoom. At this meeting, several affiliates will present on their own best practices to engage and mobilize members for major actions. Following a conversation on ideas and methods, we will review some major actions on our horizon, including advocating for union jobs and equitable growth through our Working Families Coalitions and identifying actions that affiliates may need solidarity to accomplish.

We look forward to a great conversation with all of you, and we plan on ramping up our volunteer base prior to the critical 2024 Election.
Member Spotlight – Jimmy Thiessen, Teamsters Local 315

I was born and raised in Dixon, CA where I still live today with my wife Tiffany, my three Daughters Audrey (14), Emma (10), and Olivia (7).

I am a second generation Teamster, with many of my family being members of SEIU (including my wife) and Operating Engineers. I started my career at Recology Hay Road Landfill in Vacaville, CA on January 23, 2002. I started out as a heavy equipment operator and a couple short years later I was elected shop steward.

I eventually worked my way up to taking the position as a working Foreman and on October 1st 2018 I was brought on as a business agent to Teamsters Local 315 where I represent members in school bussing, public transportation, warehouse, both of the Solano county landfills, and city Employees of American Canyon and Novato Sanitary.
Dr. Tony Ubalde is a native of the Philippines who immigrated to the United States at the age of 10. Married to Carol Noel Ubalde, they have two adult children and five grandchildren. Dr. Ubalde graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree from San Francisco State University. He went on to earn a Master’s Degree in Governance, and later earned a Doctorate degree from Claremont Theological School.

Throughout his life, Dr. Ubalde has served the community and the public, including 37 years in the ministry with the United Methodist Church, 21 years as an Adjunct Professor, 39 years in public service, and 16 years in elected office.

His last elected office was with the Vallejo Board of Education. He served with two school bond campaigns in Elk Grove School District as well as two school bond campaigns in Vallejo City Unified School District. Dr. Ubalde has been a strong ally of labor throughout his life, particularly regarding the expansion of Career Technical Education (CTE) in our schools. For a lifetime of distinguished service in education, to the public, as an ally of workers, this Labor Council will be honoring Dr. Ubalde with the Mike Thompson Legislator's Legacy Award.
1972-1976 Integrated San Francisco Unified School District
1975-1984 Northern California Cancer Association Human Subject Committee -Chairperson
1976-1978 Mission Neighborhood Health Center in SF - President, 1977
1977-1981 San Francisco Housing Authority Commission
1997-2011 School Bond Oversight Committee, Chairperson
1996-1997 Measure A, School Bond, Vallejo City United School District, Co-Chair
1985-1994 Founding Member of the California Multi Cultural Park
1983-1994 Sacramento County Recreation & Parks Commission
1982-1994 Governor's Select Advisory Committee on the U.C. Board of Regents
1987-1987 Measure A, School Board, VCUSD, Vice Chair
1988-1994 Assistant Football Coach, Varsity, Florin High School, Sacramento
1993-2019 Fire & Police Chaplain, Sacramento and Vallejo Police Department
1986  Hosted Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Breakfast and Fundraising in Sacramento
1986  Hosted Coretta Scott King, MLK Inaugural Memorial Visitation
1996-  Solano Filipino American Community, Pista Sa Nayon
1999-2011 Solano County for Better Health, Inc.
2001-2013 Kaiser Ethics Committee, Vallejo-Vacaville
2000-2004 Continental Boys and Girls Club
2003-2008 Chinese American Association of Solano County, President, 2006
2002-2018 Napa-Solano Area Agency on Aging
2016-2022 California School Board Association, Region 3 Director

Democratic Clubs
1973-1981 Founding Member, S.F. Filipino American Democratic Club
1982-1994 Founding Member, Sacramento Filipino American Democratic Club
1983-1994 Founding Member, California State Filipino American Democratic Club

Academic Experience
2000-2004 Adjunct Professor, Touro University, Vallejo, CA
1987-1994 Adjunct Professor, National University, Sacramento
1983-1988 Lecturer, Los Rios Community College, Sacramento
1980-1981 Lecturer, City College of San Francisco
1976-1980 Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Education, Multi-Culture Education, USF.

Elective Public Service
2004-2008 Solano Community College Governing Board, Vice-President 2007
2011-2022 Vallejo Board of Education, President 2013-15, 2020-21
The California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO) represents 2.1 million union members through 1,200 affiliated unions across the state of California. As the state-level of the AFL-CIO, it works to support workers across all sectors and walks of life. The Federation advocates and drives legislative, policy, and organizing initiatives to build strength for workers on all fronts. Through its leadership, the CA Labor Federation is one of the most accomplished labor organizations in the world, succeeding in helping to elect pro-labor majorities and establishing worker protections that are not currently possible in most of the country.

Our state-level allies have always been crucial in supporting our election efforts, and we have mobilized for various legislative actions with the Federation, such as the successful passage of AB 5 to establish stronger labor protections against Uber and the broader gig economy. Last year, the CA Labor Federation came under new leadership with Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher as Executive Secretary Treasurer. At this time, the Federation is supporting accelerated organizing efforts across the state under the Organize CA initiative, as well as pressing for more local support and legislative action. In May, this Labor Council will be participating in the annual Labor Legislative Conference in Sacramento alongside our affiliates.

Amidst all of these initiates, this Council will be working to support the broader labor movement and our collective hopes for a new era for workers. This will be an exciting time for Labor to build power and be on the cutting edge in California in advance of the crucial 2024 Elections.
Voices of Labor
Mar. 15, 2023

NAPA- SOLANO CENTRAL
LABOR COUNCIL’S
13TH ANNUAL
SPRING SALUTE AWARDS DINNER
APRIL 15, 2023, 4PM – 7:30PM

THE NAPA VALLEY RUINS
SOUTH NAPA JUNCTION ROAD, AMERICAN CANYON, CA

2023 Award Winners

Mike Thompson Legislator's Legacy Award
Dr. Tony Ubalde, VCUSD

Labor Partnership Award (Napa)
Councilmember Bernie Narvaez, City of Napa
Councilmember Anna Chouteau, City of St. Helena

Labor Partnership Award (Solano)
Councilmember Mina Diaz, City of Vallejo
Councilmember Pippin Dew, City of Vallejo

Labor Activism Award
Tim Frank
Tony Norris, Sierra Club

Labor Champion Award
Audrey Jacques, CTA
Mark Plubell, Insulators #16

Becky Benton Memorial Courage Award
NUHW

1st Annual Future of Labor Award
Angelo Velasco, Napa Solano CLC

Lou Franchimon Lifetime Achievement Award
Jon Riley, Napa Solano CLC

Labor Community Partner Award
CTWI
Laura Dutch, Vallejo Adult School
Jacque Crosetti, Suite Treatments

Labor Backbone Award
Jimmy Thiessen, Teamsters #315
Herb Watts, IBEW #180
Jason Lindsey, Iron Workers #378
Anthony Viscuso, Insulators #16
John Shaban, SEIU #1021

Sponsorships & Tickets

Commander-in-Chief
VIP Seating for 18 with, Full Page Ad in Program, Banner on Stage & Wine at Table
$10,000.00

Admiral
Seating for 12, 1/2 Page Ad in Program, Banner on Stage & Wine at Table
$ 5,000.00

Captain
Seating for 6, 1/4 Page Ad in Program, Banner Displayed at the Event & Wine at Table
$ 2,500.00

Ensign
Seating for 4, Logo in Program
$ 1,000.00

Individual Ticket
$ 100.00

NAME: ____________________________________________________________ ORGANIZATION:
PHONE #: _____________________________________________ EMAIL ____________________________
FPPC # (If applicable): __________________________________ SPONSORSHIP LEVEL:
TIICKETS ONLY - $100.00 X _______ (How many) _______ AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

Please make checks payable to: “Napa Solano CLC” (Unfortunately, credit card purchase is not available.)

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