



# Voices of Labor

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

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Executive Director

## 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



Jimmy Thiessen,  
Teamsters #315  
*p. 4*



Dr. Tony Ubalde,  
Vallejo City USD  
*p. 5*

## In this issue:

Page

- 2 'Sup, Sibs? - a Message from Jon Riley
- 3 Action Team - United Workers for Local Government
- 4 Member Spotlight - Jimmy Thiessen, Teamsters #315
- 5 Allies of Labor - Dr. Tony Ubalde, Vallejo City USD
- 6 World of Labor - California Labor Federation
- 7 Spring Salute - April 15, 2023

# '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.



**Jon Riley**  
 Executive Director, Napa/Solano CLC  
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[www.napasolanoclc.org](http://www.napasolanoclc.org)  
 One Vision One Voice  
 Working People Standing Together

# Action Team - United Workers for Local Government

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.

**Action Team - United Workers  
for Local Government**

**Meets 3rd Tuesdays -  
March 21, 10:00 AM on Zoom**

# 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).



*Jimmy Thiessen, Teamsters #315*

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.





# Allies of Labor - Dr. Tony Ubalde, Vallejo City Unified School District

*This is the first of our Allies of Labor series. These articles will periodically highlight individual, institutions, and movements that ally with labor and its mission.*

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.



*Dr. Tony Ubalde (center) with Rev. Desmond Tutu (left), South African bishop and anti-apartheid activist*

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.



*Dr. Tony Ubalde*

*Pastor, Sonoma United  
Methodist Church, Vallejo*

*US Air Force*

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  
 1994-1996 Strategic Planning Committee, Vision 2000, VCUSD  
 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  
 1982-1984 Finance Committee, Elk Grove Unified School District  
 1987-1988 School Bond Committee, Elk Grove Unified School District  
 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

# World of Labor - California Labor Federation

*This is the first of our World of Labor series. These articles will periodically highlight strategies, issues, individuals, and groups active with the broader labor movement throughout California, the United States, and beyond.*



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 initiatives, 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.



**NAPA- SOLANO CENTRAL  
LABOR COUNCIL'S**  
13<sup>TH</sup> 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 Activism Award**

Tim Frank  
Tony Norris, Sierra Club

**Labor Champion Award**

Audrey Jacques, CTA  
Mark Plubell, Insulators #16

**Becky Benton Memorial Courage Award**

NUHW

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Future of Labor Award**

Angelo Velasco, Napa Solano CLC

**Lou Franchimon Lifetime Achievement Award**

Jon Riley, Napa Solano CLC

**Labor Partnership Award (Solano)**

Councilmember Mina Diaz, City of Vallejo  
Councilmember Pippin Dew, City of Vallejo

**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

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

Questions please contact: Shirley Herbert at 707-287-4082 or sherbertnslc@gmail.com  
 Napa Solano Central Labor Council, 2540 N Watney Way, Fairfield, CA 94533 - FPPC #742921





## Napa-Solano Central Labor Council

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