



Voices of Labor

The Napa-Solano Central Labor Council Newsletter
Issue XX - April 4, 2023

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Special Projects Manager

Jon Riley

Executive Director

Upcoming events:

Th. 4/15 - 13th Annual Spring Salute

4:00-7:30 PM, Napa Valley Ruins - American Canyon, CA

Th. 4/18 - Action Team - United Workers for Local Gov't

10:00 AM, Zoom



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'Sup, Sibs?

What's up Siblings?

We have been working to get the Spring Salute organized for Sat April 14th at the Ruins in American Canyon and we urge all of you to get your sponsorships in and tickets secured before it sells out! Here are the other items of interest in this Months edition

We also held a CLC Executive Board retreat last week in Vallejo where a number of the Board members discussed how the council will look moving forward next year. Melanie Hallahan and Caitlin Vega with the Labor Federation served as moderators and it was eye opening to see how much work our council has done to advance the security and working conditions of working families in both Counties since United Workers for Local Government was formed in 2001. We also discussed how we continue to face the challenges that await ahead with the transition to a new Executive Director, secure funding sources to support our ever expanding roles in the community and find a new home for our office. I know we are up to the task, and you will see at the Spring Salute, where we honor those responsible for our many successes, why I am so confident of our place in the Labor Movement moving forward.

Our Member Spotlight for this edition of Voices of Labor is Jennifer Dickinson, a special Education Teacher in Solano County and a CLC Board Member who is a shining example of the dedication to the Labor Movement and the children of working families.

Our Allies of Labor focus this month is on Laura Dutch, a teacher at the Vallejo Adult school who has shaped the lives of countless people by offering them a pathway to success by exposing them to a career in the trades.

Glenn has also provided us with a great report on Women's History Month and Alicia Mijares, a Sheetmetal Workers Rep and CLC Board member, has written an engaging article on Right to Work (for less) victories in Missouri. Make sure you read this to understand why Right to Work is not always a positive issue.

And we wanted our Siblings and Community Allies in Benicia to know that the Napa Solano CLC has endorsed Ariana Martinez for the Benicia School Board special election to be held April 11th. We hope that anyone living in the district who receives the ballot will support Ariana.

Speaking of elections, Bill Dodd's Senate seat will be up for grabs next November after terming out. There is a lot of chess pieces moving around the board for those considering a run to replace him with a couple of candidates announcing their intention to run. We would urge all of our affiliates, community allies and elected officials to refrain from endorsing too early as Labor will be going through our process to find which candidate best represents the values of working families.

Thank you and be safe.



Jon Riley
Executive Director, Napa/Solano CLC
707-373-5250
www.napasolanoclc.org
One Vision One Voice
Working People Standing Together

Action Team - United Workers for Local Government

The Action Team and United Workers for Local Government will be ramping up in full force to build up our volunteer base for the coming year as we work with the affiliates to engage rank-and-file members on political, coalition, and organizing actions. Our last meeting back on March 21st was a good conversation among unions from many different sectors about strategies to build power and get rank-and-file workers involved. For this Spring, we are looking to assist in solidarity actions to support affiliates, such as contract battles, organizing campaigns, or policy initiatives. One critical action that we are planning to be a part of is CA Labor Federation's Organizing Institute and associated organizing blitzes, in which we will gather affiliates to learn and exchange best practices about organizing. As we pursue this opportunity in partnership with neighboring labor councils, we will be seeking out affiliates with active organizing campaigns (internal and/or external) who are open to the opportunity for support from the broader labor movement on the ground.

For our next meeting of the Action Team/United Workers for Local Government, we will be hearing from several more affiliates about their best practices to educate and involve members while further preparing for the Organizing Institute and solidarity actions in this area. If your affiliate has any items or actions to bring to this team, let us know in advance!

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

**3rd Tuesdays of the Month, 4/18
at 10:00 AM on Zoom**

Member Spotlight

Jennifer Dickinson, Solano County Educators Association

My name is Jennifer Dickinson, a Special Education Teacher in Solano County. My parents, a 3rd grade Teacher & a Speech & Language Specialist, were both leaders in their teacher unions and set a precedent for me to give back volunteering my time and energy to improve student learning conditions and teacher working conditions. After a few years of teaching, I became active in my local, the Solano County Education Association, serving as a representative, treasurer, bargaining



Jennifer Dickinson, SCEA

chair, Vice President and President. I have served in the capacity of a representative at the state and national level of our association over the last several years as well. When another local teachers' union in Solano County needed support to effect a school board decision, we felt the impact we could have on local politics by aligning our interests to elect candidates who valued public education and would listen to the people directly working with students and families. To strengthen that relationship with our labor siblings across more trades and to have our collective voices heard, my local association body voted to join the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council in 2016 and I have been the representative since. I went into this profession to advocate for those who need support and found support from my union siblings through that advocacy.

Allies of Labor

Laura Dutch, Vallejo Adult School

Laura Dutch was born and raised in Vallejo, California as one of five children to James and Elizabeth Precour. Her father retired after a long career as a member of IBEW Local 1245 and her mom was a member of UFCW Local 373. She is married to Larry Dutch and is the proud mother of Emily and grandmother of three-year-old Amaia.

Laura entered a career as a Registered Nurse at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa. She worked as an RN and Public Health Nurse for many years before attaining a teaching credential. This career shift led to a teaching career at Vallejo Adult School. Laura became principal of the school in 2016. She has guided the adult school into partnerships with North Bay Trades TIP and Construction Trades Workforce Initiative (CTWI) to build a pathway for students to enter union apprenticeships.

Laura has a passion for opening career opportunities to the residents of Vallejo and surrounding communities. She knows that union apprenticeships are life-changing opportunities that can break cycles of intergenerational poverty. The programs at Vallejo Adult School serve to guide students in exploration of union opportunities, while removing barriers to success.

Laura Dutch is a recipient of the Labor Community Partner Award at this year's Spring Salute, hosted by the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council.

**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**



Women's History Month - Women and Labor

This last month of March was Women's History Month, and we wanted to dedicate some space regarding the crucial role of women in the labor movement. From its very beginning, women played a role in the rise and development of the modern labor movement, and today there have never been as many rank-and-file and union leaders who are women.

The early phases of the modern labor movement in both North America and Europe were largely based in the industrial working classes of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. While large majorities of members and the industries in the movement at the time were men, women played the triple role of being heavily represented in certain early unions, advocating for some expansions of suffrage to working class women (the ultimate achievement of voting rights for almost all women to be realized in the later Civil Rights Movement), and providing family and community support to striking and organizing workers. The International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU, which later became part of UNITE-HERE) was one such union to champion the interests of working women, particularly following episodes such as the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in 1911, which resulted in the death of 146 workers, most of whom were women.

Following World War II, as women's participation in the workforce rose, so did their representation in the labor movement. Various unions took on bread-and-butter issues as well as civil rights causes with a greater focus on combating discrimination based on gender as well as protecting workers from sexual harassment and assault. Alongside the increased presence of women in various professions, the labor movement expanded into sectors traditionally associated with women, such as education and healthcare. Teachers, nurses, tradeswomen, and others have continued to push the boundaries of the labor movement and its need to uplift the dignity and quality of life of all workers. In the later decades of the 20th century, public and service sector unions grew in prominence, now constituting about half of all union members. Correspondingly, women now comprise about 45% of the labor movement. At both the state and national levels, women have risen to the highest levels of union leadership. Liz Shuler was elected the first female leader of the AFL-CIO and Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher now serves as the first woman to lead the California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO).

Today's labor movement has never been so reflective of the needs of working class women, and it continues to evolve. Unions across sectors are placing greater emphasis on the importance of paid family leave, access to childcare, the destruction of on-going pay and employment discrimination based on gender, as well as the need to actively recruit women and support their increased leadership in this movement. Our goal here, as it is on other fronts, is the realization of a society and government that is supportive of all workers.

World of Labor - Labor Unity and the Defeat of Right-to-Work in Missouri

In this World of Labor entry, Sheetmetal Workers Union Local 104 Business Agent Alicia Mijares reports on the success of unions coming together and acting as one to achieve an historic defeat of anti-union "Right to Work" legislation in Missouri.



In 2017, the very red Missouri Legislature passed the right-to-work law, and it was signed by Governor Eric Greitens, who was elected in 2016. Organized labor quickly mobilized and gathered more than 300,000 signatures to force a statewide referendum and keep the law from going into effect until the statewide vote.

Organized labor, including Sheet Metal Workers Local 36 united in a grassroots effort to stop so-called right-to-work. With the help of the AFL-CIO, the Carpenters, the Teamsters, Machinists Local 778, IUE-CWA Local 86821, the Sheet Metal Workers, and other labor groups and their allies, thousands of volunteers marched, carrying the signed petitions in boxes to the state capitol. Then they spent months knocking on doors, rallying, phone banking, and spreading the word through local media: Right-to-work is a sham and will destroy family sustaining jobs.

Right-to-work allows workers to work in a union shop, earn the wages and benefits that unions fought for, and have representation on demand from the union, all while opting out of paying union dues and not supporting this beneficial system. Unions are forced by law to represent workers who refuse membership and do not pay dues. Right-to-work's purpose is not to help workers in any way, but to hamstring organizing efforts by cutting off labor's only source of income. Right-to-work advocates claim that the law protects workers from contributing to political candidates and ideals that they do not agree with. However, it is already illegal to use union dues for political contributions. Right-to-work is a lie.

The "No on Prop A" campaign was a huge success. Right-to-work was decimated in Missouri. The law was rejected by Missouri voters, 67 percent against the proposed law and 32.5 percent for the law. Union labor was successful in educating the electorate in a stunning victory for the working people of Missouri. The word "union", from the Latin unio, or unionem, meaning "oneness, unity" was on display in this campaign for the world to see. When we are united, we are unstoppable.

Benicia Unified School District Special Election - Ariana Martinez

The Benicia Unified School District will have special elections next **Tuesday, April 11** to select a new school board member. This Labor Council, in coordination with the Benicia Teachers Associations and the local CSEA chapters representing classified staff, have endorsed **Ariana Martinez** for this seat.

Ariana brings the experience and perspective of workers and the value of public education, particularly through her background in social work. Our teachers and other school employees deserve representation and leadership that will support them alongside the provision of quality public education to all children.



Ariana Martinez

ARIANA MARTINEZ FOR BENICIA SCHOOL BOARD

Thriving Together Toward Student Success

MEET ARIANA

- Master of Social Work from USC
- Served children and families across school settings as a Social Worker
- Personal and professional experience supporting special education, behavioral health needs, and safety of vulnerable youth
- Bay Area native, BHS graduate, and longtime Benicia community member



Ariana's entire career has been in public service with an emphasis on serving children and families. She has established successful working relationships with various stakeholders including parents, school staff, service providers, and community members to assess and support the specialized needs of children and families. Her knowledge of the education system, Child Welfare experience, and socio-emotional skills as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker will ensure we are **Thriving Together Toward Student Success** as a school district.

Ariana's priorities are:

STUDENT WELLNESS

Ensuring social, emotional, and behavioral supports to reduce stress and promote resilience in schools



STUDENT SUCCESS FOR ALL

Appreciating the different strengths of all students to generate opportunities for each student to thrive



TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST

Delineating a communication structure to disseminate key decisions that impact students, educators, and the community



COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY

Leveraging the strengths of our community to find creative solutions together



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Research indicates SEL contributes to:
Higher academic achievement
Improved mental health
Greater career success

Now more than ever is the opportunity to build on sources of support like the Wellness Center to make a positive difference on our students' mental health

Every student deserves to feel included so they are:
Safe to learn
Safe to contribute
Safe to challenge the status quo

Ariana is endorsed by:



VOTE

APRIL 11, 2023

ARIANA4BUSD.COM

BENICIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION BENICIA CHAPTER 1096
NAPA-SOLANO CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

MICHAEL MINAHEN

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources and Educator Effectiveness, Solano County Office of Education

BILL DODD

California State Senator

SHERI ZADA

Benicia Unified School Board President

STEVE YOUNG

Benicia Mayor

MARK MASELLI

Benicia Unified School Board Member

TERRY SCOTT

Benicia Vice Mayor

DR. GETHSEMANE MOSS

Benicia Unified School Board Member

KARI BIRDSEYE

Benicia City Council Member

ANDRE STEWART

Former BUSD School Board Member

MONICA BROWN

Solano County Supervisor

GARY WING

Former BUSD School Board Member

DAN SMITH

Former Benicia City Council Member

JACK FLYNN

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District School Board Member

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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

1st 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

NAME: _____ ORGANIZATION: _____
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 TICKETS ONLY - \$100.00 X _____ (How many) _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____
 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
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Napa-Solano Central Labor Council

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