



Voices of Labor

The Napa-Solano Central Labor Council Newsletter
Issue XXI - May 11, 2023

Executive Board

G. Anthony Phillips

IATSE #16
President

Brad Myers

Painters #376
Vice President

Jesse Espinoza

OE #3
Vice President

Alicia Mijares

SMART #104
Vice President

Ken Miller

Ironworkers #378
Vice President

Renita Cogburn

SEIU #1021
Vice President

Joanne Godreau

SEIU #1021
Vice President

Audrey Jacques

F-SUTA
Vice President

Corey Penrose

VTA
Secretary/Treasurer

John Gomez

UFCW #5
Trustee

Dustin Baumbach

Teamsters #315
Trustee

Jennifer Dickinson

SCOE
Trustee

Danny Bernardini

NSBCTC
Trustee

Jimmy Jacobs

OE #3
Trustee

Staff

Shirley Herbert

Office Manager

Glenn Loveall

Special Projects Manager

Jon Riley

Executive Director

Upcoming events:

June 23rd-25th - Bay Area Organizing Institute -

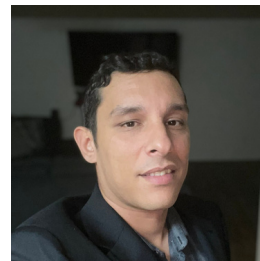
Alameda Labor Council, 7750 Pardee Ln, Oakland, CA

- Friday, June 23rd, 9am to 6:30pm
- Saturday, June 24th, 9am to 6:30pm
- Sunday, June 25th, 9am to 1:00pm.



Jon Riley,
Napa-Solano CLC
p. 5

John Gomez -
UFCW 5
p. 6



Bay Area Organizing
Institute
p. 8

In this issue:

Page

2 'Sup, Sibs? - a Message from Jon Riley

3 Spring Salute 2023 - Review

6 Member Spotlight - John Gomez - UFCW #5

7 Allies of Labor - Tony Norris, Napa Sierra Club

8 Bay Area Organizing Institute - June 23rd-25th

10 World of Labor - May Day - The Other Labor Day

'Sup, Sibs?

What's up Siblings?

Well, I am still getting over the honor of being named the Lou Franchimon Lifetime Achievement Award recipient this year. I know I joked about "giving myself an award" but when I was sitting at the table with my family and friends, on the other side of the stage, and listening to my Siblings say nice things about me, it struck me that I was nearing the end of two very amazing careers.

My 33 years working for the City of Vallejo afforded me the ability to raise my family and retire with dignity. During those years, the last 24 as a Firefighter, I learned the value of service and activism. Serving the citizens of Vallejo as a firefighter was one of the highest honors I can think of, surpassed only by serving my Siblings as Vice President and Political Director, where I learned the importance of political action. Firefighters Local #1186 represented several cities in Napa and Solano Counties and I began working campaigns in elections in 1986, beginning a path forward that I could never have imagined.

In 2001, we tried something new and brought together leaders from many sectors of Labor, forming United Workers for Local Government. The goal was to develop a process for identifying, recruiting, interviewing, and then helping to elect candidates that share the values that working people hold dear. I think we did a pretty good job with the political part, but through that coalition, I developed a passion for another type of service, using the political relationships we were forming to ensure that all working families had advocates to lobby, mediate and safeguard their rights. The Labor Council was that vehicle, and after becoming President in 2005, I was fortunate enough to have an organization made up of leaders who were all tasked with those same goals and were willing to work closely together to achieve them. After retiring from the fire service in 2009 and being named Executive Director, I was blessed to begin my second life of service, one that allowed me to work with those inside and outside of Labor representing our siblings, like the work being done by the Napa and Solano Working Families Coalitions and the elected officials who support us.

Our Executive Board has come up with a path forward to ensure that the success of the council continues. My steady right hand, Glenn Loveall will assume the role of Executive Director on or before Labor Day and take the torch. With the 2024 elections looming, I have agreed to stay on as an advisor, continuing to work with Glenn and the E-board through the end of next year, before hanging up the spurs for good. Receiving the award, especially one named after my mentor, Lou Franchimon, was one of highest honors I could ever hope for, and seeing the other award winners continue a legacy started decades ago made it even more special.

Thank you for giving me the award and the opportunity to serve.



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

Spring Salute 2023 - Review

The 15th Annual Spring Salute was held on Saturday, April 15th at the Napa Valley Ruins in American Canyon. At this event, over 250 community leaders and members attended as the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council presented its annual awards to union activists and community allies.

The awardees included workers from all sectors, including teachers, building trades, health care workers, public sector, and more, all committed to the success of the labor movement in these two counties. These workers had helped to elect labor champions, waged organizing campaigns to bring more workers into this movement, gone on strike to secure decent pay and working conditions, and worked with the broader community on important issues from sustainable growth to health care access.

Awardees from beyond the labor movement included various allies in the environmental movement, education advocates, and elected officials who have worked to bring workers and the community together. Across both Solano and Napa Counties, leaders have been stepping up in various coalitions to fight for better jobs, schools, infrastructure, housing, and services, bringing together many stakeholders for new visions of growth.

Throughout the event, awards were presented with the help of Congressman John Garamendi, State Senator Bill Dodd, State Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, and Napa County Supervisor Belia Ramos. Following opening statements from the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council President G Anthony Phillips and Mayor Leon Garcia of American Canyon, the Labor Council's Executive Director Jon Riley took the stage to introduce the various awards and winners. The Labor Council's Special Projects Coordinator Glenn Loveall also took to the stage to introduce some of the union members receiving awards. Near the end of the event, the Lifetime Achievement Awards were given. California Attorney General Rob Bonta came to the stage and introduced Dr. Tony Ubalde as the winner of the Mike Thompson Legislative Legacy Award in recognition of his decades of service as an educator, elected official, and ally of working people.

The final and highest award given at the Spring Salute is the Lou Franchimon Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of those who have committed themselves to a life of service to working people. This year's recipient was Executive Director Jon Riley, in recognition of his time as leader of this Labor Council over the last 18 years, his previous decades of service for the local labor movement, and his upcoming retirement. For this award, the Labor Council President G Anthony Phillips, Special Projects Coordinator Glenn Loveall, and Danny Bernardini, Business Manager of the Napa-Solano Building Trades Council, all co-presented the award. Riley described his lifetime of service to the labor movement first as a Vallejo Firefighter and Political Coordinator in his local union, followed by his leadership in this Labor Council. Riley recounted the many campaigns he had lead and the expansion of this Labor Council over the last 25 years, as well as the upcoming transition in leadership to a new Executive Director.

Many labor activists and allied volunteers made the Spring Salute a great success. The Labor Council also thanks State Senator Dodd, American Canyon City Councilmember Mark Joseph, and the American Canyon Chamber of Commerce for their generous wine contributions. Volunteers from various affiliates such as IBEW Local 180, DC 16/IUPAT (Painters and Allied Trades), Iron Workers Union Local 378, and SEIU 1021 helped in the event set up and tear down. Volunteers from Teamsters Local 315 staffed the bar, and members of UFCW Local 5 helped with various supplies. Volunteers from the Vallejo Project helped throughout the event. The many young volunteers of APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs) as well as several other local high school students provided tremendous help in setting up, assisting, and closing down the event. As we see the renewed energy among younger workers and activists across the nation, these many young volunteers remind us of the promise of a better future.

Spring Salute 2023 - Award Recipients

Labor Partnership Award

Solano

Napa



Mina Loera-Diaz
Councilmember,
City of Vallejo



Pippin Dew
Councilmember,
City of Vallejo



Bernie Narvaez
Councilmember,
City of Napa



Anna Chouteau
Councilmember,
City of St. Helena

Labor Activism Award

Labor Champion Award



Tim Frank
Napa Solano Working
Families Coalition



Tony Norris
Sierra Club



Audrey Jacques
FSUTA/CTA



Mark Plubell
Insulators #16

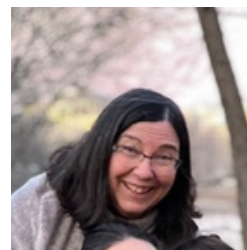
Labor Community Partner Award



**Construction Trades
Workforce
Initiative**



Sabrina Martin
Operating Engineers #3



Laura Dutch
Vallejo Adult School



Jacque Barsotti
Suite Treatments

Labor Backbone Award



Jimmy Thiessen
Teamsters #315



Jason Lindsey
Ironworkers #378



John Shaban
SEIU #1021



Herb Watts
IBEW #180



Anthony Viscuso
Insulators #16

**Becky Benton Memorial
Courage Award**



**National Union of
Healthcare Workers**

**Future of Labor
Award**



Angelo Velasco
Napa-Solano CLC

**Mike Thompson
Legislator's Legacy
Award**



Dr. Tony Ubalde

**Lou Franchimon
Lifetime Achievement
Award**



Jon Riley
Executive Director, Napa-Solano
CLC

Member Spotlight

John Gomez, UFCW 5



Back in 2007, I had just started working for a grocery store that was represented by UFCW local 5.

I was not familiar with Unions, or the benefits they provide. I quickly learned, however, the importance of having a Union like UFCW 5 and the strength of them having my back. Within my first 2 years at the store, we got a new Manager that transferred in that did not care for me. He began writing me up and searching for reasons to discipline me. Leading to the inevitable, he eventually terminated me for insubordination.

My Shop steward called our store Rep, and a grievance was filed. While I was out of work for about 2 months, UFCW 5 was able to get me reinstated with full backpay for my wrongful termination. It was at that moment I felt the importance of Union representation.



John Gomez, UFCW 5

As I worked in the store, I had a lot of coworkers asking “What does the Union even do” and “They just collect our dues”. I wanted and needed to see for myself so that I would be able to answer these questions.

Shortly after I became more involved. I became a shop Steward attended Union meetings and rallies, and looked out for my fellow coworkers to ensure they were not mistreated and, through my knowledge of the CBA, could enjoy the same benefits the Union provided me.

After 13 years with the company, during an informational contract vote meeting. I Met Oscar Orozco the Director of the North Bay for UFCW 5, where we discussed getting more involved. We set up a meeting with our Organizing Director Jim Araby, and my then store Rep Alfredo Delgado. Big shout out to those three for giving me the opportunity, As well as all the Reps and Staff who have been a tremendous help and a huge part of my success with Local 5. I now have a career I Can be proud of.

I came out through the S.P.U.R program and worked next to Jim Araby on the organizing team. Through this program I was able to learn more about the benefits of Union representation and had the opportunity to work on several organizing campaigns, such as Hazard Pay for essential grocery workers during the pandemic, Helping Cannabis workers at companies such as Eaze, Embarc, MedMen, And Stiiizy Unionize and improve their workplace and overall quality of life. As well as help bargain for CBA's. In addition, I've participated numerous strike actions and contract/strike votes, learned a lot about local politics and helped on numerous campaigns both local and nationwide.

I have since been hired on as staff since June of 2021. I look forward to continuing my journey and career with UFCW local 5, helping empower workers and giving them a larger voice in their workplace.

Allies of Labor

Tony Norris, Napa Sierra Club



SIERRA CLUB

Tony Norris was born to English parents in Canada. His boyhood was spent in Rhode Island and Ohio.

Later, Tony was in Claremont, California and worked his way through College as a college gardener and driver for the newspaper. His majors were in Philosophy, Political Science and Biological Sciences. At graduate school in San Francisco, he was reacquainted with Deborah Fine who he met at Pitzer College. They were married in San Francisco by her father.

Both moved to Napa where Deborah helped raise two daughters. Tony now enjoys four grandchildren. Sadly, Deborah died before she could see those four grow up.

Tony was a banker, managed landscaping companies and planned irrigation for Arabia. In public service for Vallejo, Richmond as well as Solano County he inspected and managed open spaces, parks and/or real estate.

Tony Norris is currently President of the elected Board of the Napa Open Space District.

Bay Area Organizing Institute - June 23rd-25th

As interest in unions and union organizing surges across the nation, the California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO) is accelerating its own efforts to support local affiliates in organizing. Following the announcement and launch of the Unionize California campaign, the CA Labor Federation is now partnering with local Central Labor Councils to hold a series of Organizing Institutes. These Institutes will convene staff and leaders from various local unions to train on the best strategies and practices of organizing. Subsequently, participating affiliates will participate in a blitz to assist several affiliates in on-going organizing campaigns (both internal and external).

The CA Labor Federation, in coordination with the Napa-Solano CLC and many of the Bay Area labor councils, will be launching the next Organizing Institute in this region on June 23rd-25th, to convene in Oakland at the offices of the Alameda Labor Council. This event will be followed by an organizing blitz over the following week of June 26th. We strongly encourage affiliates to participate in this Organizing Institute - capacity is currently limited to about 40 attendees, so we encourage sign-ups soon. Affiliates with active organizing campaigns, to the extent that you are able and comfortable, are encouraged to consider making use of the organizing blitz and on the ground support from the regional labor movement.

A new era of renewed interest in unions and organizing is here, and this Labor Council will be on the frontlines alongside the broader labor movement to support and accelerate the growth of the movement.

CA ORGANIZING INSTITUTE

ORGANIZING TRAINING & DRIVE

An opportunity for union activists and staff to learn valuable tools to strengthen your union and the labor movement!



CA ORGANIZING INSTITUTE

ORGANIZING TRAINING & DRIVE

An opportunity for union activists and staff to learn valuable tools to strengthen your union and the labor movement!



TRAINING INCLUDES CLASSROOMS SESSIONS AND INTERACTIVE ROLE PLAYS ON:

- One-on-One Communication Skills
- Moving Co-workers to Action
- Leadership Development and Organizing Campaign Tactics

Organizing Training June 23-25:

The 3-Day Organizing Training will take place 6/23-6/25 at the Alameda Labor Council, 7750 Pardee Ln, Oakland, CA. The schedule will be:

- Friday, June 23rd, 9am to 6:30pm;
- Saturday, June 24th, 9am to 6:30pm and
- Sunday, June 25th, 9am to 1:00pm.

Organizing Drive:

Gain on-the-ground experience in organizing and put your skills from the Organizing Training to the test while helping to strengthen the Bay Area's unions. The Organizing Drive is tentatively scheduled for June 26-30.

*Sponsored by the California Labor Federation.
Co-sponsored by the Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa Solano,
North Bay, San Francisco, San Mateo and South Bay Labor
Councils.*

Register:

If you are interested in attending the training, please register at: www.bit.ly/OrganizeTheBayArea.

Priority for the training will be given to participants who can take part in the Membership Organizing Drive,

Deadline to register is May 19, 2023.



UNIONIZE CALIFORNIA.



California
LABOR
Federation

World of Labor - May Day - The Other Labor Day

In many countries across the world, May Day (May 1st) is recognized as International Workers' Day. Its origins lay in the late 19th Century in the United States, when the labor movement and its various allies were campaigning for an 8-hour work day.

This campaign began on May 1, 1886 through a series of mass demonstrations. Amidst a wide range of peaceful protests, chaos ensued between labor activists and police occurred in the Haymarket Affair (or Haymarket Riot) in Chicago on May 4, 1886. An unknown person threw a bomb, and the following chaos resulted in deaths among both demonstrating workers and police. In the aftermath, eight persons with supposed connections to the event or anarchist ties were tried and convicted, despite a lack of any firm evidence. Four of these persons were hanged, one committed suicide, and the others served prison time. Labor activists, various socialists, and other allies condemned these convictions and executions, and international commemoration of May Day proliferated. In the 1890s, President Grover Cleveland, seeing the increasing influence of labor while attempting to disassociate from the events of the Haymarket Affair and radical politics, established Labor Day in September.

May Day continues to be commemorated as the other great Labor Day outside of the US and Canada, in commemoration to workers who risked and lost their lives to establish basic rights and the foundations of today's labor movement. Celebrations for May Day also occur in the local level in the United States, most notably the May Day Parade of San Francisco in 2021, in which thousands of labor activists marched from across the Bay Area, including from the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, demonstrating the renewed national and global interest in unions. In this more globalized era, it is also evident that the labor movements of the world will need to coordinate and collaborate more than ever in the efforts to organize workers at the largest multinational corporations, to reform trade deals to protect and support workers in their respective nations, and establish a new era that ends the race-to-the-bottom as we know it and supports workers everywhere.



Napa-Solano Central Labor Council

www.napasolanoclc.org

2540 N. Watney Way
Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 246-9727

President – G. Anthony Phillips
president@napasolanoclc.org

Secretary-Treasurer – Corey Penrose
sectreas@napasolanoclc.org

Office Manager – Shirley Herbert
sherbertnslc@gmail.com

Special Projects Coordinator – Glenn Loveall
glennloveall@gmail.com

Executive Director – Jon Riley
btruckcap@gmail.com

Intern - Patrick Fabi
Patrickmfabibusiness@gmail.com