



# Voices of Labor

The Napa-Solano Central Labor Council Newsletter  
Issue XXIII - July 13, 2023



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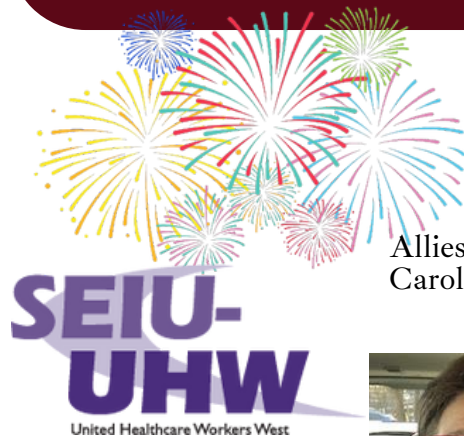
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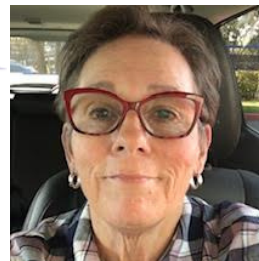
Executive Director

## Upcoming events:

**Mon. 9/4 - 2023 Labor Day Breakfast**  
10 AM Iron Workers Local #378  
3120 Bayshore Rd. Benicia, CA 94510



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# 'Sup, Sibs?



What's up Siblings?

Well, if you can believe it, we are only weeks away from our annual Labor Day Breakfast at the University of Iron in Benicia to celebrate the hard work and sacrifices of generations of workers. Labor Day means different things to people. For some it's the last day of summer, for others, it's a day to recharge the batteries and brace for another year of putting food on the table for their families. Some look at it as the kickoff of campaign season and focus on the candidates competing for the coveted endorsements of our various memberships and community allies.

For those that read this newsletter, it is also a chance to celebrate what we refer to as the "Labor Movement", those warriors who made extraordinary sacrifices so that working men and women have the right to organize, collectively bargain, work in a safe environment free from harassment, with wages and benefits that allows them to raise a family with dignity and respect and to retire in the same manner. The core tenants of our movement. And while this may seem a no-brainer, we know what a difficult task it is to protect the achievements that came before us by those who gave their blood, sweat, and tears and some, their lives for.

This included having leaders with the ability to focus on these core tenants, while at the same time keeping the best interests of their members at the forefront. With the many sectors of the workforce that make up our "Movement", building consensus on some issues is often unattainable. A delicate balance needs to be achieved when forming coalitions, whether it is within Labor or those outside the union halls, such as community-based organizations or politicians, and is critical to the protection of these core tenants.

In the 40 plus years that I have been a part of this glorious Labor Movement, I have seen many instances where our Siblings have been on opposite sides, candidate endorsements, pieces of legislation, projects, social issues, just to name a few. What has kept me in the game has been the knowledge that no matter how difficult the split, how acrimonious the debate may get, that my Siblings will all come together without a moment's hesitation to protect any worker or organization where these core tenants may be in jeopardy. This is what membership in this movement brings with it, and the community allies and politicians know and respect this, which is the how and why of our continued success. But this too is very fragile, and to maintain the support and trust of these critical partners, we must maintain the ability to come back together to fight the fight, treating everyone with the respect we demand for our members and their families and giving them the comfort of knowing they always have a seat at the table.

No matter which of the reasons you observe Labor Day, we hope you will do so with our Siblings at the Napa Solano Central Labor Council and celebrate our continued work that allows us the ability to come together on our own special day!

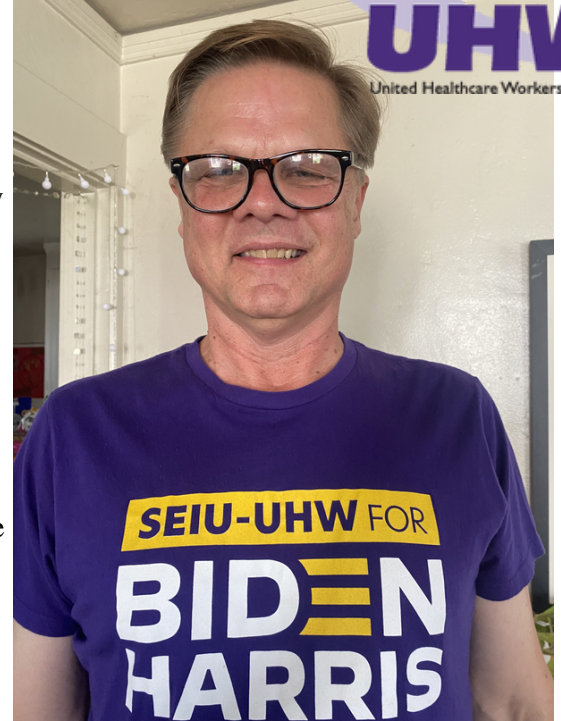


**Jon Riley**  
 Executive Director, Napa/Solano CLC  
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[www.napasolanoclc.org](http://www.napasolanoclc.org)  
 One Vision One Voice  
 Working People Standing Together

# Member Spotlight - Doug Jones, SEIU-UHW



Doug Jones is the only staffer in SEIU-UHW's Political Department who came from the rank and file. He worked at Eden Medical Center, a Trauma-designated hospital in Alameda County, for 25 years, and he learned along with his fellow UHW for them to win. Solidarity at the workplace is necessary, but it's not enough to prevent the powerful employers in the consolidated healthcare industry from smashing the workers if they don't grow their political power and relationships.



In recent years, UHW has worked with the State Legislature and Governor to pass more than a dozen priority Bills into Law which speak to the needs of workers and the patients and communities they care for. Every year, UHW has had a priority Bill which they have worked hardest to pass. This year, SB 525 is a prime part of their fight to address the Statewide shortage of over 500,000 healthcare workers. This staffing crisis delays care and undermines the quality of care for all members of Labor Council affiliates, their families and their communities. Raising the minimum wage for caregivers to \$25 would help hospital, clinics, nursing homes and home care agencies compete for workers more effectively. As it is, the COVID pandemic has increased the problems caused by short staffing and low pay, as workers leave the industry and decide not to enter the healthcare field in order to take other service jobs which have comparable or superior compensation and working conditions.

UHW is also very proud to have multiplied their ability to win elections which help working people. In addition to the independent phone banks which UHW members run in order to support Legislative candidates endorsed by the California Labor Federation, the hundreds of health care workers on the UHW Executive Board made the decision nearly a decade ago to provide initial seed money and ongoing funding for The Fairness Project, which has vastly grown the power of the Labor movement by providing funding and campaign advice to progressive, pro-working class activists on the ground in States which have regressive anti-Union governance.

The recent repeal of the "right-to-work-for-less" Law in Michigan came after The Fairness Project helped activists in Michigan pass a Statewide initiative to create fair Legislative Districts after the 2020 census, which resulted in pro-Labor Democrats taking control of the Michigan Legislature for the first time in 40 years! Helping activists in Arizona and other States pass increases in their minimum wages, activists in Utah and other States pass expansion of Medicaid health insurance eligibility, and activists in Colorado and other States pass better regulations of payday lenders are among the dozens of State initiative wins in the last few years which are helping us preserve and grow our power in California.

The long campaign by UHW to reform and organize the dialysis industry is now reaping more concrete benefits, with workers at a Satellite Dialysis outpatient clinic in Vallejo recently becoming the 20th group of California clinic caregivers to overcome their intense boss fights and win UHW representation in their NLRB elections in the last seven months. UHW has organized nearly 3,000 health care workers in 2023, with a big win by caregivers at one of the largest hospitals in San Diego helping UHW and the Labor movement win in that region and sector where Union representation has a lot of room for growth.

Around 20,000 UHW members have won over a dozen contract settlements with their employers this year, which leaves the dialysis clinics and the current negotiations with the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions as the major contract campaigns in our region. Kaiser Permanente has become a bad actor in Labor relations, forcing all their Unions to either go on strike or threaten to go on strike in order to try to win fair agreements. UHW members are happy to join in solidarity with members of OPEIU 29, IFPTE 20 and other Unions in the Coalition. More than 85,000 health care workers in California and other Western States are preparing to hold the largest strike in the Nation in many years when their contract expires in October if it becomes necessary to force the obscenely wealthy KP maintain and grow standards for workers in the important health care industry.



# Allies of Labor - Carol Whichard, Sharon Macklin, Progressive Women of Napa Valley



*Carol Whichard, President Emeritus,  
CWA Local 9404*

Carol started her career as a telephone worker, a splicing tech for what was then Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. She was the first woman in Napa County to work outside in the elements, climbing phone poles and working in manholes. That was 1974. She got suspended once for marking her “Men Working” sign to reflect Women Working. They called it “defacing company property.” That was the impetus for her getting involved in her union. She went on to become a member of the executive board and was first elected as the president in 1989. She went on to be elected by the membership for 8 consecutive terms, retiring in 2015. She has lived in Napa for 49 years.

Always active in community politics and various organizations, Carol joined the Progressive Women of Napa Valley (PWNV) in 2010. The PWNV were interested in advancing progressive candidates for election to local offices. The PWNV was made up of 18 women who lived throughout the Napa Valley, from Calistoga to American Canyon. Each of these 18 women have a particular sphere of influence, including winemakers, business owners, former elected officials, etc. The PWNV has held several different forums, including an effort to raise the minimum wage in Napa County. The PWNV is active in EMERGE California, which is an organization dedicated to helping women get elected to office. If accepted into the EMERGE program, a potential candidate must complete months of training. The PWNV has sponsored at least 4 women from Napa County through the EMERGE program. Three of these women have gone on to be elected to public office in Napa County.

Twenty-three years ago, my husband and I moved from Anchorage Alaska to Napa and have loved it ever since.

I had been a lobbyist for 20 years and was ready to leave a Republican state and cold weather. I was ecstatic to live in a state where Democrats had the majority and passed legislation that provided support for all, not just the rich. And yes, it cost more to live in California, but realized how broad the benefits were for all.

Progressive Women of NV was born in 2009 when I couldn't find any progressive organization to join. Five women formed PWNV and we have moved forward ever since.

Our Mission is to advocate for progressive issues, support and elect progressive candidates. We have successfully endorsed many candidates, have grown the organization so that our newsletter, the Progressive Post, goes to over 400 people. We've done forums on minimum wage, mentoring and more.

I knew we had “made” it when I got a call from the Vintners asking us to support an issue that was going to be on the ballot. The issue never made it to the ballot, but our organization has been recognized by the community ever since.



*Sharon Macklin*





Central  
**Labor Council**  
Contra Costa County AFL-CIO



# CANDIDATE BRIEFING

*WORKING PEOPLE STANDING TOGETHER*

Kicking off the 2024 Political Season, the Labor community invites all candidates for public office to attend our informational Labor event. Learn about the Labor movement's key issues, meet our union leaders, and get started in Labor's 2024 endorsement process.

**Wednesday, July 26th @ 6pm**  
**Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 342**  
**935 Detroit Ave, Concord, CA**

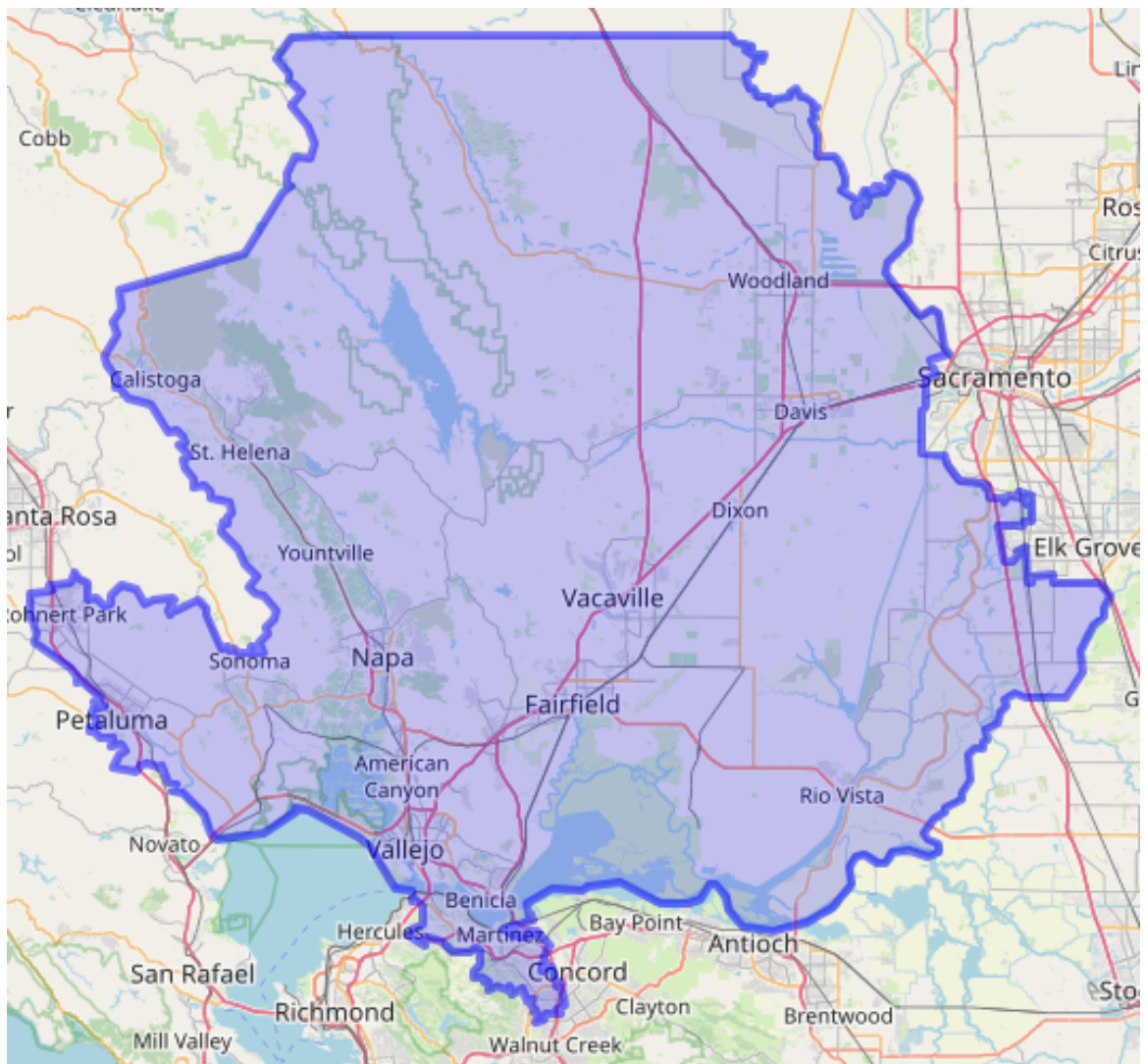
RSVP to: [joe@cclabor.net](mailto:joe@cclabor.net)

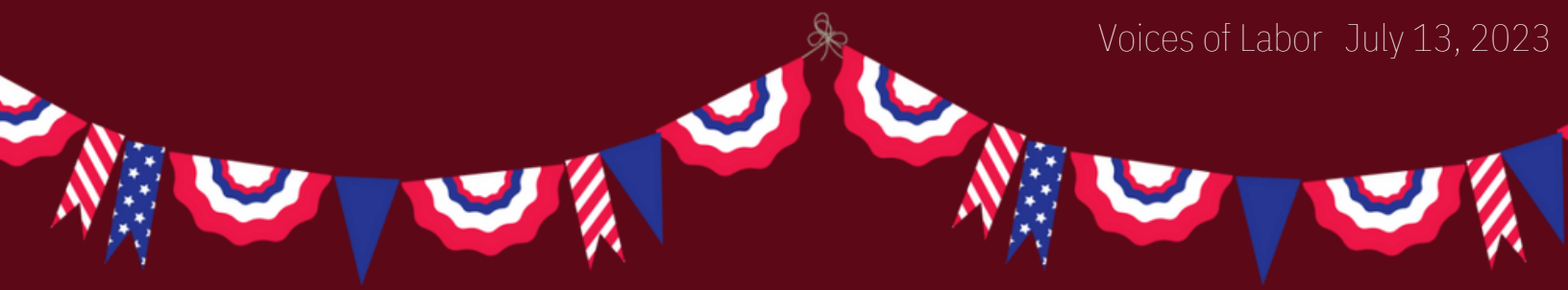
# Joint Interviews - California State Senate District 3



The Joint Interview Process of the Napa-Solano, Contra Costa, Sacramento, and North Bay Labor Councils for the California State Senate District 3 race will be held on Thursday, August 3rd. This will be an interview with the various affiliated unions of these labor councils present. It will be an in-person interview, though participating unions may observe the interviews via Zoom. We encourage all unions that are able to attend.

CA State Senate District 3 - Candidate Interviews  
Thursday, August 3rd, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Sheetmetal Workers Union Local 104  
4350 Central Pl, Fairfield, CA 94534



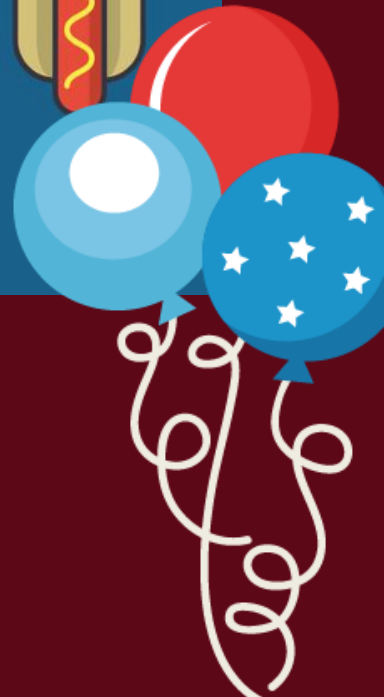
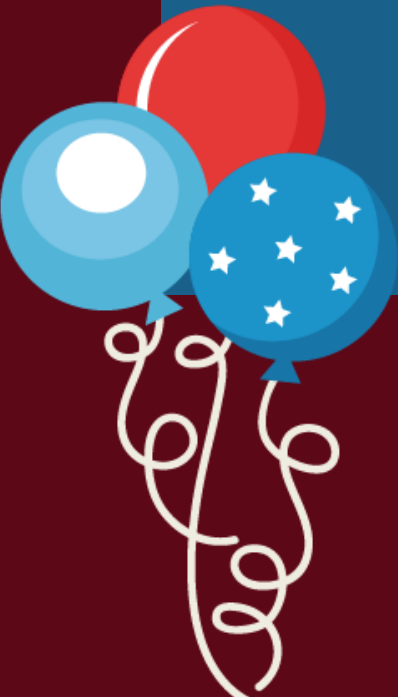


HAVE A HAPPY

**FOURTH  
OF JULY!**



AFL-CIO



# Bay Area Organizing Institute and Blitz

Over the weekend of June 23rd-25th, the California Labor Federation held the Bay Area Organizing Institute and Blitz, co-hosted with the other labor councils of the Bay Area, including the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council. Throughout that weekend and the subsequent week, training sessions in union organizing were held, followed by a series of blitzes to assist active union organizing campaigns.

Since the transition in leadership at the California Labor Federation, there has been a renewed effort to accelerate union organizing across the State under the Unionize California initiative. As part of this effort, the Federation has been launching regional trainings and blitzes with labor councils to prepare and support affiliates in expanded organizing. This event in the Bay Area was the second such event, attended by about 40 union activists, including multiple representatives of the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council. Much of the training revolved around the historical and present challenges and needs of organizing, both within the workplace and through house visits to workers. Following the training, multiple members of this Labor Council participated in the blitz to assist UFCW Local 5 and their efforts to organize workers at Walgreens, much of this including house visits to unorganized workers.

In the coming weeks, there will be follow up reports from the California Labor Federation on further organizing efforts, as well as more information on the upcoming State Constitutional Amendment 7 (SCA-7) that will be on the 2024 ballot and would enshrine a right for workers to organize in the California State Constitution. Following this Organizing Institute and Blitz, this Labor Council will also be reviewing strategies to support local affiliates in their organizing efforts over the coming year.

## 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!







# YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR **2023 Labor Day Breakfast**

Please join Napa - Solano Central Labor Council in our tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and the well-being of our Country.

*"Working people standing together"*

### SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:

Congressman Mike Thompson, Congressman John Garamendi, Senator Bill Dodd, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Assemblymember Lori Wilson, Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (CA Labor Federation) & more!

DATE AND TIME

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023 @ 10am**

LOCATION

Ironworkers Local  
#378 3120 Bayshore  
Rd. Benicia, C4094510

COST

Adults: \$40.00  
Children 4-12: \$5.00  
Children under 3: Free

SPONSORSHIPS LEVELS

Presidential - \$5,000  
Senatorial - \$2,500  
Congressional - \$1,000  
Assembly - \$500



**For everyone's comfort  
indoor & outdoor  
seating will be  
available!**



Napa Solano Central Labor Council - [www.NapaSolanoCLC.org](http://www.NapaSolanoCLC.org)  
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For more information please contact:

Jon Riley - [Btruckcap@gmail.com](mailto:Btruckcap@gmail.com) or Shirley Herbert - [sherbertnsclc@gmail.com](mailto:sherbertnsclc@gmail.com)



# 2023 Labor Day Breakfast

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023 @ 10am**

<b>PRESIDENTIAL</b>	20 event tickets, Full Page ad (Size - 5.25" Wide X 8" Tall, pdf preferred) & sponsor 's banner displayed at event.	\$5,000.00
<b>SENATORIAL</b>	10 event tickets, 1/2 Page ad (Size - 5.25" Wide X 4.125" Tall, pdf preferred) & sponsor 's banner displayed at event.	\$2,500.00
<b>CONGRESSIONAL</b>	8 event tickets, 1/4 page ad (Size - 2.625" Wide x 4.125" Tall, pdf preferred) & sponsor 's banner displayed at event.	\$1,000.00
<b>ASSEMBLY</b>	6 event tickets, Logo in program & recognition at event.	\$500.00
<b>WORKFORCE FRIEND</b>	Individual ticket	\$40.00

All of our Sponsors will receive recognition on our website and Facebook media platforms.

Your sponsorship or donation will help us to continue the great work of this council! Join us & your Siblings on Labor Day to see what is being done in Napa and Solano Counties.

**UNIONIZE  
CALIFORNIA.**

### Sponsorship or Ticket Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

FPPC # (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Tickets \$40.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ (How many) = Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Napa Solano CLC"

720-C Technology Way, Napa, CA 94558

Sorry, we cannot accept credit or debit cards at this time.

Questions, please contact Shirley Herbert, sherbertnscclc@gmail.com or 707-287-4082

**FPPC #742921**



## Napa-Solano Central Labor Council

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