

## Memo to Members

by Larry Mazzola  
Business Manager



I was reading the newspaper this morning and the news, as we are all aware, wasn't good. Between Caterpillar, Home Depot, GM, Nextel and Pfizer, 50,000 layoffs were announced, and that was just the front page headlines. That didn't include small and medium size companies that announced layoffs in the hundreds or less, or the small and medium businesses closing their doors, or the thousands of home foreclosures.

### AN UGLY LEGACY

All of this is the ugly legacy of George W. Bush. Eight years of big business and corporate greed looting the American economy has left a huge burden on all of us. Working men and women will be paying for war, greed and corporate excess for years.

Needless to say I was as happy as anyone to see Barack Obama's inauguration last week. I felt like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi who said that seeing George W. Bush's helicopter lift off felt like the weight of the world lifting off her shoulders. I don't think President Obama means smooth sailing or an immediate turn around. But I do think he means hope.

### ECONOMIC STIMULUS

For working men and women the first priority is getting the economic recovery underway. I believe that will mean a number of things; massive investment in infrastructure and alternative energy to generate new jobs, incentives for companies who create new jobs in the U.S. rather than exporting jobs overseas, re-regulation of Wall Street and the financial industry to ensure credit availability and security for our investments, and a host of other programs.

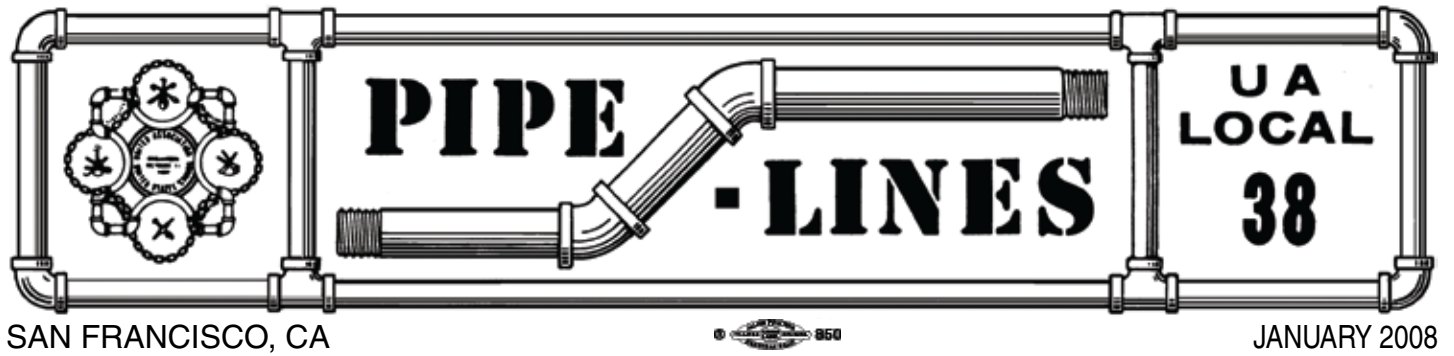
But it also means revitalizing the union movement across the country.

### EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

One key component of any economic recovery is the revitalization of the middle class. Families who can afford to spend money—whether on consumer goods, education, medical care, housing or even food—can get the economy flowing. Not surprisingly America has been most prosperous—in real dollars and family buying power—when American workers are paid good wages. And historically, that has been when the percentage of the workforce that is unionized is highest. So in the 50s and 60s working families were prosperous, and close to 35 percent of the private work force was unionized. Today less than nine percent of the private workforce is unionized, and economic insecurity is soaring.

Which brings us to the Employee

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## Employee Free Choice Act

# Labor Unites to Push New President, Congress For Labor Law Reform

In 1935 Congress passed, and President Franklin Roosevelt signed, the Wagner Act, legislation which guaranteed American workers the right to organize and bargaining collectively. The Act established the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and set up a structure for employees to request an union representation election.

Since that time anti-union employers and their Republican allies have done virtually everything they could to amend, circumvent or simply ignore the law, in an ongoing effort keep unions out of the workplace. A Republican Congress passed the Taft Hartley Act, Republican Presidents have stacked the NLRB, and anti-union employers have spent millions, if not billions, fighting or violating labor laws.

And it has become increasingly difficult for workers to organize or join unions, let alone negotiate contracts. And American workers are finding themselves falling farther and farther behind, watching their real wages dwindle while corporate executives receive increasingly lucrative contracts and pay packages.

## Blood Drive Set for March in Santa Rosa

The Blood Bank of the Redwoods will be on-site at the Joseph P. Mazzola Training Center in Santa Rosa on Thursday, March 5 to take donations from volunteer donors.

In last year's blood drive Local 38 apprentices and journeymen contributed a total of 25 units of blood, which according to the blood bank, can provide help for 75 people (each unit of whole blood can be used to help up to three people).

Blood banks have found it increasingly difficult to meet the demand for emergency blood supplies in recent years, and Local 38, along with other labor organizations, has worked with organizations both in San Francisco and Santa Rosa to arrange donations.

The blood drive will be held at the Santa Rosa hall at 3473 Santa Rosa Ave., from 5 to 7 p.m. Members interested can simply show up and complete the paperwork the night of the drive.

TURN AROUND AMERICA  
AFL-CIO EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

### EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

That's why the AFL-CIO has declared the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) their number one priority in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States.

"This legislation is vital to the future of union and non-union alike," explained Local 38 Business Manager Larry Mazzola. "For the past 50 years we have seen the number of unionized workers steadily decline, both because we are losing jobs overseas, and because anti-union employers have been able to block workers from successfully organizing.

"This act will level the playing field," he continued. "Employers will have to recognize unions and bargain in good faith, and employees who engage in union organizing efforts with actually be protected. More than 60 percent of American workers say they would join unions if they could. This legislation will give them the chance.

"And the more union workers,

the stronger we will all be, both at the bargaining table and at the ballot box," he concluded.

### OBAMA A CO-SPONSOR

The Act was actually introduced in Congress last year, passing the House of Representatives on a vote of 241 to 185. But the legislation

stalled in the Senate when supporters could not muster the 60 votes needed to close debate (the vote was 51-49). Supporters are optimistic that last year's election, coupled with a strong grass roots statement of support from workers throughout the country, will result in passage of the legislation in this year's Congress. President Bush had vowed to veto the legislation if it reached his desk. While in the Senate, President Barack Obama co-sponsored the legislation.

In a recent interview with Atlantic magazine President Obama talked about the disappearing working middle class. "Part of it has to do with workers having very little leverage," he said, "and that larger and larger shares of our productivity go to the top and not to the middle or the bottom. I think unions serve an important role in that. I think that the way the Bush Administration managed the Department of Labor, the NLRB, and a host of

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## Local 38 2009 Calendar Mailed

The new 2009 Local 38 wall calendar, containing all the important upcoming dates for union holidays, events and meetings, was mailed to Local 38 members last week.

Some of the important dates to remember that are listed in the calendar are:

Saturday, April 4 - The Local 38 level of the United Association Apprentice Contest

Sunday, May 10-Friday, May 15 - Local 38 Pensioners' Week

Saturday, May 30 - The Annual Local 38 Membership and Family Picnic

Sunday, June 14 - Camp Konocti opens

Saturday, June 27 - Annual Local 38 Charity Golf Tournament

The calendar includes a host of other important dates, including union meetings, E-board meetings, holidays and the Local 38 school schedule for both journeymen and apprentices. If you didn't receive a calendar in the mail, you can contact the union office at (415) 626-2000.





## Peterson Mechanical Busy With Santa Rosa Hospital Expansion

For several years Local 38 and its Training Department have been urging members to get their medical gas certification. The reason? Because hospital work is one of the key on-going areas of the piping trade that is booming, despite the current economic downturn.

A perfect example is the current 150,000 square foot expansion of the Kaiser Hospital in Santa Rosa. Local 38 signatory contractor Peterson Mechanical is keeping more than 25 Local 38 members busy providing Design-Assist pre-construction services as well as installation of Chilled Water, Heating Water, Steam, Medical Gas, Plumbing, Air Handling and Duct work systems.

The expansion entails a 6-story addition that will house the Emergency Department, Radiology and the Intensive Care Unit, as well as a central plant upgrade. The general contractor on the job is HMM Builders from Sacramento.



# National Scene

## Rebuilding Infrastructure & the Economic Recovery

A new report makes a strong case that rebuilding our nation's infrastructure could go a long way toward helping our economy recover—a key priority for President Barack Obama. Investing in the nation's infrastructure could create some 18,000 new jobs for every \$1 billion in new infrastructure spending on the nation's transportation, energy, water systems and public schools, according to the report.

The report, released last week by the nonpartisan Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), found that at least 2.6 million new jobs could be created by increased spending in a "high-end" scenario of \$148 billion per year (including \$93 billion in public investment). While the construction and service industries will see the vast majority of job creation, manufacturing, which has been devastated by the current economic crisis, also would benefit from such an infrastructure stimulus, seeing an increase of 252,000 jobs nationally. [Click here to read the study.](#)

According to the report, the benefits for manufacturing would be felt throughout the economy, with new jobs created in such industries as fabricated metals (38,000), concrete and cement (21,000), glass-rubber-plastics (15,000), steel (9,000) and wood products (8,200).

In a recent radio address, President Obama said he plans to introduce an economic stimulus plan that would, among other things:

Put nearly 400,000 people to work by repairing our infrastructure—

our crumbling roads, bridges and schools.

Build the new infrastructure we need to succeed in this century, investing in science and technology and laying down miles of new broadband lines so that businesses across our nation can compete with their counterparts around the world.

## Second Chance Documentary a Hit

"Second Chances-Union Made," filmmaker Kelly Candaele's documentary about former gang members turning their lives around through building trades union apprenticeship programs, has been honored as an Official Selection of the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, and will be screened at the festival, which runs March 6-15.

The documentary told the stories of former criminal gang members and prison inmates who became successful, productive workers through their participation in building trades apprenticeship programs in Los Angeles. The workers told how the programs not only provided them with important job skills, but also a sense of worth, belonging and brotherhood that was lacking earlier in their lives.

The film was funded by Ironworkers Local 416 & 433, Pipe Trades District Council 16, and IBEW Local 11.

The film was warmly received at a screening sponsored by the State Building and Construction Trades Council at the Crest Theater in Sacramento last August before a crowd of more than 100 people including state legislators, legislative staff

members, and various administration officials.

## Unemployment Continues to Climb

The nation's unemployment rate leaped by 0.4% in December, finishing 2008 at 7.2%, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. The number of jobless workers rose by 632,000, to 11.108 million, while a separate survey showed businesses shed 524,000 jobs in one month.

The dismal figures showed the second Bush crash is far worse than the first, and the worst since the Reagan recession of 1981-82. President-elect Barack Obama (D) used the numbers to argue that without immediate congressional passage of a huge economic stimulus bill he is crafting, the jobless rate could rise into double-digit territory — and stay there.

The figures under Bush contrast with those he inherited when he took office in Jan. 2001. That month, in the last unemployment figures gathered under Democratic President Bill Clinton, the jobless rate was 4% and there were 5.956 million unemployed. Now the rate is 80% higher and the number of jobless is up by 86.5%.

There were job losses across the board. Factories' long slide in jobs sped up in December, as they shed 149,000 workers, and slid below 13 million overall, to 12.98 million. Almost 4 million factory workers have lost their jobs since 1999, and half of them are well-paying union jobs, says the AFL-CIO Industrial Unions Council. Most of the losses are due to subsidized foreign imports, it adds.

Construction shed another

101,000 jobs in December, down to 6.833 million. The number of unemployed construction workers is 1.522 million and the sector's jobless rate is 15.9%.

## New Building Trades Ad Campaign

Calling for a "new energy policy that will solve the climate crisis and put us all to work," the Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD) of the AFL-CIO has launched a series of television, radio and newspaper addressing a green future.

Initially the ads will run in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and North Dakota, some of the states that have been hit hardest by the economic downturn.

"We need to jumpstart our economy and put Americans back to work," the ads continue. "Solving the climate crisis and freeing ourselves from foreign oil will strengthen our economy and create millions of new jobs. It's time to turn the missed opportunities of the past into the best jobs of today."



## Contestants Sought for UA Apprentice Contest

**T**he Local 38 Training Department is looking for apprentices interested in participating in the annual UA Apprentice Contest, set to begin on Saturday, April 4.

The Local 38 phase of the 2009 United Association Apprentice Competition will be held at the Joseph P. Mazzola Training Center in San Francisco.

The contest is open to apprentices currently in 6th to 10th periods. Apprentices compete in one of four trades, plumbing, steamfitting, welding and HVAC/R. The competition includes a written test as well as a hands-on component that is specifically designed to highlight all of the skills used in each respective trade.

The top finishers in the Local 38 phase of the competition will go on to compete in the California competition, slated to be held in San Jose on April 30. Statewide winners will continue on to the regional competition, set for Portland, Oregon in June, and regional winners will go to a national final, held at Washtenaw Community College in Michigan, in conjunction with the UA Instructor Training Program in August.



Pictured above are the contestants who participated in the 2008 Local 38 level of the UA Apprentice Contest, along with the Local 38 officers and teachers who volunteered to help administer the test.

The UA Apprentice Competition was a long-standing tradition that was discontinued in the 1980s. The competition was re-instituted two years ago.

All participating apprentices will be paid for their time on the days of the competitions. For more information about the contest, or if you are interested in competing, contact Training Director Steve Mazzola or Assistant Training Director Liam Devlin at (415) 626-2000.



# Commuting Options For SF Workers

In an effort to cut down on the impact of thousands to city workers driving both to and from work, as well as during the workday, the City and County of San Francisco is coordinating a series of commuting options for city employees.

"All someone needs to qualify is to receive a paycheck from the City of San Francisco," explained Adeline Canez, if the San Francisco Department of the Environment. "Or if you work for a private company within the city of San Francisco, you can qualify for the "Commuter Benefits" program.

"This is a great program," said Local 38 Assistant Business Man-

ager Larry Mazzola Jr. "We all have to start thinking about ways to cut back on our energy use, and this is a program that can really help people working in San Francisco.

The accompanying flyer explains the range of benefits available to city employees, from using a city provided bicycle for work errands to help in coordinating car and van pools for commuters.

One of the most important benefits is the "Commuter Benefits" program, which allows workers to have pre-tax dollars to purchase monthly public transportation passes (BART, Muni, etc.). Workers can enroll in the program by logging on to [www.myFBMC.com](http://www.myFBMC.com) on the Internet, or by calling (800)342-8017.

## Krugman Favors Free Choice

In the latest issue of *Rolling Stone*, Nobel Prize-winning Princeton economist Paul Krugman has written an open letter to President Obama detailing the steps needed to end our economic crisis and turn the country around.

Krugman's prescription includes quick and large-scale actions to save jobs, rebuild infrastructure and protect those whose health care, housing and

retirement have been put at risk—but it also includes longer-term strategies. High on Krugman's list? In addition to health care reform and an economic recovery package, he stresses restoring workers' freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life by passing the Employee Free Choice Act.

"...you can do a lot to enhance workers' rights. One is to start laying the groundwork to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, which would make it much harder for employers to intimidate workers who want to join a union...the legislation will enable America to take a huge step toward recapturing the middle-class society we've lost.

## Employee Free Choice Act...

Continued from Page 1

other aspects of labor management relations put the thumb too heavily against unions. I want to lift that thumb."

### WHY WE NEED "EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE"





If American workers were not interested in unionizing perhaps we wouldn't need the Employee Free Choice Act. But studies increasingly show that workers are trying to form unions, and employers are spending millions to fight them however they can.

Cornell University scholar Kate Bronfenbrenner studied hundreds of organizing campaigns and found that:

- Ninety-two percent of private-sector employers, when faced with employees who want to join together in a union, force employees to attend closed-door meetings to hear anti-union propaganda; 80 percent require supervisors to attend training sessions on attacking unions; and 78 percent require that supervisors deliver anti-union messages to workers they oversee.
- Seventy-five percent hire outside consultants to run anti-union campaigns, often based on mass psychology and distorting the law.
- Half of employers threaten to shut down partially or totally if employees join together in a union.
- In 25 percent of organizing campaigns, private-sector employers illegally fire workers because they want to form a union.
- Even after workers successfully form a union, in one-third of the instances, employers do not negotiate a contract.

### EFCA PROVISIONS

The key provisions of the Employee Free Choice Act include:

### Commuting Options for CCSF Employees

Program	Service	Contact
Commuter Benefits	Use pre-tax dollars to purchase your monthly public transportation passes (Muni, BART, etc). Passes would be deducted from your paychecks and conveniently mailed to your home.	To sign up: 1.800.342.8017 <a href="http://www.myFBMC.com">www.myFBMC.com</a> Questions: 415.355.3727 <a href="mailto:commuterbenefits@sfgov.org">commuterbenefits@sfgov.org</a>
Carpool	In partnership with 511.org we can assist you finding carpool partners that fit your commuting needs. Carpoolers don't pay bridge toll fees, they ride in the diamond lane, and they share gas and parking expenses.	Clean Air Program, 415.355.3727 <a href="mailto:commuterbenefits@sfgov.org">commuterbenefits@sfgov.org</a>
Vanpool	In partnership with 511.org we can assist in setting up a vanpool system. Discounted \$74/year vanpool parking in SF. Pre-tax dollars from the Commuter Benefits Program can be used to pay for vanpool expenses.	Clean Air Program, 415.355.3727 <a href="mailto:commuterbenefits@sfgov.org">commuterbenefits@sfgov.org</a>
City Bike Fleet	With the Director of your department's permission, we can help set up a bike fleet. We provide a free bike, U-lock, helmet, and safety vest for employees to conduct work related errands on bikes instead of using an automobile.	Clean Air Program, Adeline Canez 415.355.3729
City Hall Bike Room	For those employees who work near the City Hall, there is a secure room where you can store your bike while at work. There are lockers and showers that employees can also use.	Clean Air Program, Adeline Canez 415.355.3729
Emergency Ride Home	When you use alternative transportation to get to work, you can take a taxi or rent a car to deal with an emergency (personal or family illness, bike/vanpool problems, etc.) and our department will reimburse you for the ride.	Clean Air Program, 415.355.3727 <a href="mailto:commuterbenefits@sfgov.org">commuterbenefits@sfgov.org</a>
Telecommuting	Work from home during specified hours and days.	First ask your supervisor. Then contact your department's designated human resources representative. DHR, <a href="mailto:telecommutingprogram@sfgov.org">telecommutingprogram@sfgov.org</a>

Department of the Environment, City and County of San Francisco  
11 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102  
Telephone: (415) 355-3700 • Fax: (415) 554-6393  
Email: [environment@sfgov.org](mailto:environment@sfgov.org) • [www.sfenvironment.com](http://www.sfenvironment.com) 100% Post-Consumer Content

Certification of a union as the bargaining representative if the NLRB finds that a majority of employees within an appropriate bargaining unit have signed authorization cards designating the union as their bargaining agent.

If an employer and union are engaged in first time contract negotiations and are unable to reach agreement within 90 days, either party may refer the dispute to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for mediation. If mediation doesn't work with 30 days, the dispute will be referred to binding arbitration.

Increasing the penalties for violating the National Labor Relations Act, including civil fines of up to \$20,000 per violation for employers who willfully and repeatedly violated employees' right to organize, treble back pay for employees discharged or discriminated against for union organizing activities, and requirements for federal court action when a union or an employer has violated specific provisions of the act.

### VOICE YOUR SUPPORT

The AFL-CIO and all of organized labor, is currently gathering signatures on an on-line petition directed at President Obama and the new 111<sup>th</sup> Congress urging the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. The petition is available at [www.freechoiceact.org](http://www.freechoiceact.org).

"I want to urge all Local 38 members and labor supporters to get on line and sign this petition," said Mazzola. "We need to let President Obama and the Congress know how important this issue is to our future."


## Million Member Mobilization

The AFL-CIO is striving to get one million signatures supporting the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. Local 38 is urging all members and union supporters to either sign the online petition at [www.freechoiceact.com](http://www.freechoiceact.com), or to fill out the card below, clip it out and mail it to AFL-CIO, Million-Member Mobilization, 815 16th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

**To: The New President and Congress**

**I urge you to enact the Employee Free Choice Act immediately.**

**This crucial legislation will protect workers freedom to choose a union and bargain, without management intimidation. Allowing more workers to freely join unions and bargain with their employers will help rebuild the middle class by expanding health care, improving retirement security and raising the standard of living for America's working families. My bargaining rights are worth working for and voting for!**



SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

**AFL-CIO** Complete, clip and mail to AFL-CIO, Million-Member Mobilization, 815 16th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20006

# Local 38 Mail Box

## Speier Appreciates Support

Dear Larry,

Thank you so much for your endorsement in my run for Congress. It means a great deal to me to know that I have the support of my peers and I do not take it for granted.

The events of recent weeks underscore the importance of everyone in public service to roll up their sleeves and work hard to find real solutions to the economic challenges facing government at all levels. I hope and trust that I can depend on your advice and counsel in the coming months. You know that I am always available and eager to hear from you. It is only by committed leaders working together that the serious problems we now face will be solved.

I am very appreciative of your support and look forward to working together in the future.

All the best,  
Jackie Speier

## Thank You For Campaign Support

Dear Local 38

During the holiday season, I always take the time to reflect upon all of the blessings I have received throughout the year. I count your friendship and support among the many things for which I am deeply grateful.

Among other things, you were very generous and supportive of my campaign this past November for the S.F. Community College District Board of Trustees. Although I missed the fourth spot by less than one percentage point, I am very proud of the fact that, with your help, I received over 85,000 votes! While I will not be sworn in as a new Trustee, the experience I gained and the contacts I made during the campaign will enable me to be a resource and strong advocate for City College and its magnificently diverse student body in the coming years.

Please know that I will continue to support the beautiful Mission Campus here locally and will continue to be active in statewide coalitions to support funding and access to college throughout California.

Thanks again for everything you did throughout 2008 to support a better future for San Francisco and our nation. We still have a lot of work ahead of us and I am very op-

timistic about what we can accomplish. I wish you and your loved ones all the best for 2009.

Sincerely,  
Mary T. Hernandez

## Thanks For Giants Tickets

Dear Larry Jr.,

I would like to take this time to thank you for your generosity, for me, my family, and especially our two granddaughters. This was a memorable moment in our lives that you made happen. We are all long-time Giants fans and will cherish this moment for years to come.

Enclosed you will find a copy of a picture of the girls, and Lou Seal, saying, "Play ball!"

Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Dan Harrington  
DeAnna Harrington  
TeAnna Harrington

## Scholarship Makes Options Possible

Dear Larry Mazzola, Jr and all the staff at Local 38,

As a recipient of a Joseph P. Mazzola Scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic school year, I would like to thank you for your extreme generosity. I am currently attending Santa Rosa Junior College in Santa Rosa, California, where I am in the process of completing my general education units and determining a major. With this scholarship, you have helped make it all the more possible to explore my options and achieve my goals of obtaining a higher education.

Once again, I want to thank you for selecting me as one of the 2008-2009 recipients of the Joseph P. Mazzola Scholarship, as well as the encouragement to continue on achieving.

Sincerely,  
Meg Stevenson

## SPUR Appreciates Luncheon Support

Dear Larry:

Thank you for your contribution in support of the 2008 Silver SPUR Awards Luncheon.

Over 2,000 business and civic leaders attended The 48th annual Silver SPUR Awards Luncheon to recognize the accomplishments of the 2008 Silver SPUR Honorees. We hope you enjoyed the event and

will join us again in 2009.

During this ground breaking year of the SPUR Urban Center, your support helps ensure that SPUR can continue to seek innovative solutions to critical urban issues in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Thank you for your contribution to this yearly event that supports our on-going work.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Hardesty  
Events Manager

## Donation Makes Holiday Festive

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your donation to our holiday party. Your generosity helped to make the occasion more festive, and was greatly appreciated by the membership.

Enclosed please find a copy of the program that was given to each member who attended. And I personally read out the names of our generous donors during the business meeting portion of the program.

I hope that each of you enjoys a very happy holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,  
Susan H. Blomberg  
President

Retired Employees of the City and County of San Francisco

## Scholarship is a Wonderful Benefit

Dear Board of Trustees:

Thank you so much for the Joseph P. Mazzola Scholarship. It truly is a wonderful benefit that is given to the children of the Local 38 members. Higher education is very important to me. I am very lucky to be have been given the opportunity to attend college, and I am very thankful that Local 38 has continued with the Scholarship program that Joseph Mazzola started.

Sincerely,  
Jacquelyn Murray

## Leno Says Thanks For Support

Dear Larry,

I greatly appreciate your generous contribution to my campaign for the 3rd Senate District. Were it not for the steadfast and enthusiastic support from friends like you, we could not have accomplished the great challenge of being elected to the California State Senate.

My years in the Assembly, while very productive, have left many battles unresolved. With your steadfast support, I look forward to continuing to advocate on behalf of the issues most important to us - a cleaner and more sustainable environment, single-payer universal health care, better schools and access to affordable higher education. As California continues to face challenging times, I feel fortunate

to be able to voice our concerns and address these issues effectively.

If my staff and I can ever be of assistance, please give us a call. Our job is to serve the very best that we can.

Sincerely,  
Mark Leno  
State Senator, 3rd District

## Jerry Brown Says Thanks

Dear Larry,

Thank you for your donation to Jerry Brown 2010.

The next statewide election is two years away, but given the huge sums required in such a race, I have to start early.

As Attorney General, I am presented with hundreds of important decisions each year. On topics as far ranging as the environment, crime, employment, securities and consumer regulation, I am responsible for enforcing the myriad and complex laws affecting Californians. My goal has been to carry out these responsibilities fairly and with a sense of practicality.

Thank you for your continuing support. I deeply appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
Jerry Brown

## Scholarship Covers Education Costs

Dear Board of Trustees:


Thank you so much for the scholarship check that I received for the 2008-2009 academic year. It truly helps me achieve my goal for higher education. The cost of tuition and housing continues to rise, and the scholarship money offsets many of these costs. I am truly amazed that in these difficult times, Local 38 continues to support the children of its members. I am very grateful.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Murray

## Thanks for Grant To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for the scholarship money I received for my schooling. I am in my fifth year of college currently attending the California Maritime Academy. I am studying to major in Business Administration and plan on graduating this year. Along with being a student, I am an intercollegiate athlete., Currently playing basketball for the school. Between school and basketball there is not much free time left for me to accumulate the necessary funds in order to pay for my college expenses independently. The scholarship money that I was granted through Local 38 serves as a tremendous help for paying these expenses. It is greatly appreciated by not only myself; but my family as well and I would like to thank you for the extended gratitude.

Sincerely,  
Cody Gatton



Pipelines is the official publication of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, Local Union 38. U.A. Local 38 holds general membership meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 1621 Market St., San Francisco CA 94103, (415) 626-2000. Lawrence J. Mazzola, Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer. Assistant Business Manager, Larry Mazzola, Jr.; Business Agents: Bill Blackwell, John Chiarenza, Steve Jennings, Frank Reardon. Field Organizer: Tony Guzzetta. President: Bill Olinger; Recording Secretary: R.J. Ferrari. Pipelines Editor: Rob Weinstein.

website: [www.ualocal38.org](http://www.ualocal38.org)

Free Choice Act, legislation that will make it easier for employees to form and join unions. As you can see from the accompanying articles labor is pushing hard to get the Free Choice Act passed in the upcoming Congress. While President Bush vowed to veto the legislation if it passed, President Obama is one of the co-sponsors of the act, so if it can get through the Congress it will become law.

## THE MILLION-MEMBER MOBILIZATION

The AFL-CIO has undertaken a campaign called the Million-Member Mobilization, an effort to get a million members to voice their support for the Free Choice Act. On page three you will find the web address you can use to sign the electronic support petition, or a cut-out form you can complete and mail. I want to urge every Local 38 member, in fact every union member and supporter, to make their voice heard. For decades every American worker—whether in a union or not—has watched their future erode, watched their jobs, pensions, wages and working conditions become less secure. This is our chance to build a future in which working men and women have a stronger voice for better wages, benefits and working conditions for everyone. And we can help strengthen Local 38, the United Association and the entire labor movement.

## HOSPITAL WORK

For the past few years we have been urging all Local 38 members to get their medical gas certifications, because hospital work is one of the most solid parts of our trade. One example of this is shown on page 2 of this issue, where a series of photos shows the Kaiser-Permanente Hospital expansion job being done by Peterson Mechanical in Santa Rosa.

There is a lot of hospital, medical and research facility work out there, even in these slow times, and have the skills necessary to do the work ensures the continued hiring of Local 38 workers.

## APPRENTICE CONTEST

On page 3 of this issue you will find an announcement for the upcoming UA Apprentice Contest. We have had a outstanding group of apprentices competing in the last two contests, and we hope we will again this year.

If you are interested in carrying the torch of Local 38 and measuring your skills against apprentices throughout the region and possibly the state of country, contact Steve Mazzola or Liam Devlin in the Training Department. We are proud of our apprentices and how they have represented Local 38 since the competition was reinstated, and I'm sure we'll have some great contestants this year as well.

## WALL CALENDARS

Finally, we sent out our 2009 wall calendars last week. These calendars include all the important dates for Local 38 meetings and events for the upcoming year, as well as dates for the apprentice and journeyman training classes. So no more excuses for not making it to retirees' week or the picnic. The dates are one the calendar. Mark them and we will see you there.

# Sending workers on a race to the bottom

By Bob Herbert  
New York Times

**Toward the end of an important speech in Washington last month, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi Weingarten, said to her audience:**

"Think of a teacher who is staying up past midnight to prepare her lesson plan . . . Think of a teacher who is paying for equipment out of his own pocket so his students can conduct science experiments that they otherwise couldn't do . . . Think of a teacher who takes her students to a 'We, the People' debating competition over the weekend, instead of spending time with her own family."

Weingarten was raising a cry against the demonizing of teachers and the widespread, uninformed tendency to cast wholesale blame on teachers for the myriad problems with American public schools. It reminded me of the way auto workers have been vilified and blamed by so many for the problems plaguing the Big Three auto makers.

But Weingarten's defense of her members was not the most important part of the speech. The key point was her assertion that with schools in trouble and the economy in a state of near-collapse, she was willing to consider reforms that until now have been anathema to the union, including the way in which tenure is awarded, the manner in which teachers are assigned and merit pay.

It's time we refocused our lens on American workers and tried to see them in a fairer, more appreciative light.

Working men and women are not getting the credit they deserve for the jobs they do without squawking every day, for the hardships they are enduring in this downturn and for the collective effort they are willing to make to get through the worst economic crisis in the U.S. in decades.

In testimony before the U.S. Senate this month, the president of the United Auto Workers, Ron Gettelfinger, listed some of the sacrifices his members have already made to try and keep the American auto industry viable.

Last year, before the economy went into free fall and before any talk of a government rescue, the

auto workers agreed to a 50 percent cut in wages for new workers at the Big Three, reducing starting pay to a little more than \$14 an hour.

That is a development that the society should mourn. The UAW had traditionally been a union through which workers could march into the middle class. Now the march is in the other direction.

Gettelfinger noted that his members "have not received any base wage increase since 2005 at GM and Ford, and since 2006 at Chrysler."

Some 150,000 jobs at General Motors, Ford and Chrysler have vanished outright through downsizing over the past five years. And like the members of Weingarten's union (and other workers across the country, whether unionized or not), the auto workers are prepared to make further sacrifices as required, as long as they are reasonably fair and part of a shared effort with other sectors of the society.

We need some perspective here. It is becoming an article of faith in the discussions over an auto industry rescue, that unionized auto workers should be taken off of their high horses and shoved into a deal in which they would not make significantly more in wages and benefits than comparable workers at Japanese carmakers like Toyota.

That's fine if it's agreed to by the auto workers themselves in the context of an industry bailout at a time when the country is in the midst of a financial emergency. But it stinks to high heaven as something we should be aspiring to.

The economic downturn, however severe, should not be used as an excuse to send American workers on a race to the bottom, where previously middle-class occupations take a sweatshop's approach to pay and benefits.

The UAW has been criticized because its retired workers have had generous pensions and health coverage. There's a horror! I suppose it would have been better if, after 30 or 35 years on the assembly line, those retirees had been considerate enough to die prematurely in poverty, unable to pay for the medical services that could have saved them.

Randi Weingarten and Ron Gettelfinger know the country is going through a terrible period. Their workers, like most Americans, are already getting clobbered

and worse is to come.

But there is no downturn so treacherous that it is worth sacrificing the long-term interests -- or, equally important -- the dignity of their members.

Teachers and auto workers are two very different cornerstones of American society, but they are cornerstones nonetheless. Our attitudes toward them are a reflection of our attitudes toward working people in general. If we see teachers and auto workers as our enemies, we are in serious need of an attitude adjustment.

*This article was published in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat on Saturday, December 27. Bob Herbert is a columnist for the New York Times.*

## In Memoriam

The members, officers and staff of UA Local 38 wish to express their deep sadness, and their condolences to the friends and families of the following Local 38 members who passed away in 2008.

- Harry Angel
- Albert F. Aniaz
- Jack Barrett
- Arthur W. Brown
- Donald Bryant
- Richard I. Buckley
- William Chisum
- John Dantonio
- George R. Hall
- Barry Hazen
- Victor F. Hedemark
- Gary M. Jones
- Howard I. Kesler
- Fan C. Ko
- F. P. Kocher
- Leonard Larosa
- Richard A. Leal
- Ryan S. Lee
- Scot Lundberg
- Harold R. Mattos
- Donald Mayberry
- George Mckinnon
- Corneliu P. Murphy
- William Noffsinger
- Charles E. Nordman
- James E. Purcell
- Allen Schlupe
- R J. Squellati
- Clifford B. Strand
- Benny Throne
- Robert F. Tusch
- Andrew S. Voza
- Clarence V. Wells

## Send Us Your E-mail Address

**I**t's a new world out there, and we at Local 38 are determined to become part of the electronic age, whether we like it or not. For years we have communicated with our members through regular mail. When it came time to announce a meeting or inform the members about a special issue, we always sent a letter.

Not that there's anything wrong with the mail. We continue to do the vast bulk of our business by mail. But in some cases it is quicker, easier, and far less expensive, to be able to send an e-mail to members.

At least it would be easier, quicker and cheaper if we had e-mail

addresses for members, which we don't. That's where you come in. Please fill out the form and return it to UA Local 38, 1621 Market St.,

San Francisco CA 94103, or you can e-mail your information to Lisa in the union office at [landrini@ualocal38.org](mailto:landrini@ualocal38.org).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

UA NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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