

I.B.E.W. RETIRED MEMBERS CLUB NO. 617
(August 2009)
Here's Joe.

Our next meeting will be on August 11th at the Union Hall starting at 1:00 PM. The "Lunch Bunch" will be at The Carvery (Harry's hof Brau) in Foster City around 11:30 AM.

The first day of August marked another edition of a Local 617 **perfect picnic**. The second time at Flood Park had it all. The best steaks and hot dogs with all the goodies such as salad, beans, French bread and ice cream were served and we had a beer trailer that never ran dry. Organized games such as horseshoes, sack races, pie eating contests, volley ball and jump houses for the kids kept everyone busy. The retirees did their part preparing and serving the food. At the end of the day almost 500 members and children had attended and the retirees once again enjoyed the casual surroundings to visit and build all the old projects again. Hopefully the 617 Picnic will never end!

There is another picnic coming in October which is the Annual Retiree Club Picnic at the same place as last year so mark our regular meeting day, October the 13th, when we will travel to the Half Moon Bay Winery on Highway 92 for potluck lunch and wine tasting. All the details for the picnic will be in the September newsletter. Should be lots of fun.

Our adventure to the Academy of Science in San Francisco was superb. We were treated to an engineering and utility behind the scenes tour with some quality craftsmanship on display. A big thank you to Grethe Moller for making the arrangements for our special tour. After the tour 18 members gathered at the "Suppekuchen" restaurant in San Francisco for an evening of good German food and drink arranged by Jim Gallagher. What a great day!

Healthcare is a big national problem. Recent changes in the 617 Retiree Health Plan has led to a 34% increase for most retirees but our senior retirees over 80yrs. have the largest increase since they will now have to pay just like all the over 65 Medicare retirees. The increases were the result of two negative factors occurring at the same time, rising healthcare costs and a reduction of man hours in our industry due to the economy. The majority of our Retiree Plan cost is paid for with contributions made on working man hours. We are only asked to pay the difference. Unfortunately, tough times have to be shared by all. We are still **very fortunate** to have a Retiree Health Plan. If you have any questions, call the administrator toll free at 1-877-827-4239 and ask for Lynda Rodarte.

Our annual Holiday Party has been moved back 3 days to Tuesday December, 15, 2009. The change was necessary to accommodate our larger group at the Basque Cultural Center. Your invitation with the details will go out in the November newsletter.

Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.

Joe