

I.B.E.W. RETIRED MEMBERS CLUB NO. 617

(JANUARY 2009)

Here's Joe

Our January meeting will be on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1PM at the Union Hall. If your "New Year" diet will not be compromised, join the "Lunch Bunch" over at the Carvery (Harry's) in Foster City around 11:30AM before the meeting.

The Retiree Club ended 2008 with a bang at our Christmas Lunch. We had 72 people including the Local 617 Staff at the Basque Cultural Center. The food and company was the best capped off with a great cake decorated for 617's 100 Year Anniversary. (What a great year!) It looks like the Local Union will continue to be a progressive force and labor leader for the future.

The outlook for 2009 looks promising with the new President taking over in Washington. Some important issues that affect retirees more than others should be the New Year's resolutions. The new administration should make universal healthcare a priority; preserve and strengthen Social Security without privatization, fix or replace the Medicare Part D Prescription Benefit and continue or expand Medicare in the future; protect retirement and pension benefits with regulation; expand public spending to fix our roads and transportation systems and provide funds for other public construction projects; work to control hospitals and nursing homes in the care and discharge of patients and last but not least end the Iraq war and related military operations and bring the soldiers home. (Just think what they could do at home to help in times of disasters and other emergencies.)

Sometime in the near future, the Club will have a field trip to the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. This facility has been redone with an aquarium, natural history museum, planetarium and rainforest under one roof. Due to its' popularity it has been difficult to schedule a date. We hope to be able to set a date at the park in a future newsletter.

The "Occasional Lunch" group has scheduled the next event at the Italian/Swiss restaurant called Chalet Dicino on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The time will be 11:30AM and the place is at 1058C Shell Blvd. (out by the bay) in Foster City. Please RSVP to Jim or Mary Gallagher at 650-358-9523 so they can save you a spot.

We received some sad news on the passing of Ernie Hills on December 11<sup>th</sup> in Logan, Utah. Ernie had been in declining health in recent years and had moved to be near his daughter. He was 87 years old and had devoted many hours to help the members of the Local. He had been an officer, a health plan trustee, apprenticeship program teacher and a well known representative to the San Mateo Central Labor Council. He had also been active in the public transportation improvement sector. He will be truly missed by all. We will conclude our January meeting by remembering Ernie with stories and of course some refreshments, which if you knew Ernie, he would appreciate.

The Retiree Club would like to welcome three new members, Paul Larson, Bruno Mazzetta and Alex Nofte. Our Treasurer reports that 106 members paid their dues for 2009 before January 1<sup>st</sup>. The New dues for 2009 are \$12.00 a year and are due now. Please make check out to Local 617 Retired Members Club and Mail to:  
Grethe Moller  
1421 Overland Dr.,  
San Mateo, CA 94403-3716.

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I **HAD** any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!

Joe