



## UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 12-591

**Issue #1**

**Next Meeting: Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

### FROM YOUR LOCAL PRESIDENT JOE SOLOMON

Members,

A new year is upon us. In 2008 we will have many challenges. National Oil Bargaining will be in full swing this year. The members of the committee will be bargaining for our future. Some of the biggest challenges will be Health Care, Job Security, Pension for current workers and our retired workers. We need to give our full support to those delegates that we have elected to bargain and negotiate for us. This applies at the International level, and at the bargaining unit level. We have many local issues we need to deal with during these contract negotiations and during this time we need to show solid solidarity.

I would now like to thank the Local Officers, Bargaining Unit Chairs, Shop Stewards and all other elected positions and committees for all the hard work and dedication that you provide on behalf of the membership. Anyone that has ever held an elected position knows that it can be a thankless job at times but also rewarding. I would like to reassure you that what you do DOES matter.

2008 is also an election year at our Local. Every Local Officer position will be up for re-election. We will be putting a nominating committee together in September and elections will be held in December. There will also be bargaining unit positions up for re-election. If you want to get involved and help make a difference, please consider running for a union office.

Jim Caddell (our web master) has been busy updating and making our Local web page useful for our members. It is worth checking out - [www.usw12-591.org](http://www.usw12-591.org). Jim spends his own time updating and maintaining this web site. Thank you, Jim.

The Local meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00pm. This is where we take care of the business of the Local. We would love to see you there.

**Always remember that we are all Union Brothers and Sisters and we need to look out for each other every day.**

### Your Local Officers

**President – Joe Solomon**  
**Vice-President - George Welch**  
**Financial Secretary - Brian Ricks**  
**Recording Secretary - Rachel Price**  
**Chaplain - Tessa Gehardt**  
**Guide & Guard - Ben Matthews**

**Trustee – Doug Erlandson**  
**Trustee – Loren Falk**  
**Trustee – Matt Jamison**  
**Trustee – Dennis O'Hern**  
**Trustee – Jeff Weeks**

### E-board

**Shell V.P – Jim Caddell**  
**Tesoro HA – Keith Souza**  
**General Chemical – Marrio Thomas**  
**At Large – John Nowakowski**

**PMNW V.P – Scott Price**  
**Tesoro NW – Walter Cleve**  
**At Large – Ken Donley**  
**At Large – Dan Peck**

# Tesoro Required to Pay Hawaii Workers \$129,805

Tesoro has settled a U.S. Department of Labor case over unpaid overtime to 97 current and former employees of the Operations Department. The case covered the two years from August 6, 2005 to August 4, 2007. The complaint concerned non-payment for company required turnover time. Tesoro Anacortes has a similar case pending brought on by the retired employees of Tesoro Anacortes. The full article about Hawaii's case can be found on the local web site [www.usw12-591.org](http://www.usw12-591.org).

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## IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME !!!

In memory of our fallen brothers and sisters of USW 12-591 we are once again accepting scholarship applications for those high school seniors graduating in 2008 and grant applications for college students in their second year college through post-graduation school. The applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2008.



In 2007 the first place scholarship winner received a \$5,000 award. The total money awarded between the scholarship program and grant program was a little more than \$39,000.

To get the applications and more information on the scholarship or grant program visit our web site at [www.usw12-591.org](http://www.usw12-591.org). Remember, the applications must be post marked by **March 1, 2008**.

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## USW National Oil Bargaining Conference Delegates Prepare for 2009 Talks

Denver—Delegates to the United Steelworkers (USW) national oil bargaining conference came together in Denver Nov. 4-7 to and prepare for negotiations with the industry in 2009.

“The membership is firmly behind this union leadership, and the members are fully committed to engage this industry in 2009,” said **USW International Vice President Gary Beevers**. “There will be no contract extension; we need to bargain.”

“The locals are preparing their members for a tough set of negotiations,” Beevers said. “They are beginning to educate their members on the issues and are planning to have collective actions. The oil companies are ready for us; we have to be ready for them.”

Health care and health and safety will be the main issues in the 2009 talks, according to members. “This industry failed to partner with us on health care to solve the crisis in this country, so we intend to do it alone. In the meantime, it will be the number one item at the bargaining table,” Beevers said.

Delegates unanimously passed motions on how to do contract extensions in the future, how to elect national oil bargaining policy committee members and on oil company divestiture in Burma. They also passed a resolution on a strike assessment that will be brought to the 2008 USW convention from the conference. The full article can be found on the local web site [www.usw12-591.org](http://www.usw12-591.org)

# FROM YOUR UNIT



## Tesoro Anacortes Butch Cleve, Unit Chair

As the New Unit Chair I would like to take a moment to thank John Spurling. John dealt with many difficult issues during his terms as Unit Chair and we should give him thanks for a job well done.

Communication is vital to the success of our union. In effective unions, members are organized and encouraged, and their efforts are effectively coordinated. People's concerns must be expressed and understood, and their victories publicized. All of these things need an accessible, expressive medium. A newsletter provides a place for union members to communicate, celebrate, and learn how to improve performance. This regular communication with the members will be a very valuable asset.

## Puget Sound Refinery George Welch, Unit Chair

(Written by Jim Caddell)

As we begin the New Year, I'd ask each of you to revisit your level of involvement with your Union. We, as officers, are elected to serve you, but at your direction, not our own. Your involvement assures you have a voice in how our Union is run, how our money is spent, that we focus on areas that are of the greatest concern to you. Late this year, we'll be proceeding with bargaining in earnest. This is the time we need your input the most. Medical, retirement, wages, it's all open for discussion. Local items will be open as well within your specific Units. Please take the time to attend both your monthly meetings to help formulate our negotiations. As well, I'd like to thank Gordon Zurn for his patience and persistence in getting this newsletter started. It's a big job and I believe it will only get better with your involvement.

## Tesoro Hawaii Keith Souza, Unit Chair

The recent event at our refinery is a reminder of the hazards in our workplace. I can't help but to notice the similarities with BP Texas City Refinery and our facility.

In the "Fatal Accident Investigation Report" **BP Texas City** investigation team states "If ISOM unit operators had followed procedures or taken corrective action earlier, the explosion would not have occurred". **Joe Drogowski** (Area 2, Process Superintendent) writes "failure to follow the refinery operating procedures in regards to the CRU which resulted in severely damaging the radiant and convection tubes." Not once did poor training, culture, lack of competent leadership and process safety management, and the repetitive communication from workers in the area that there was a problem with the way we are doing business. It was a year ago that I reported a supervisor for failing to follow procedure, bypassing safety devices meant to protect life and equipment while starting up the old incinerator and causing a contained explosion. Discipline and Blame should be reserved for this type of reckless non-compliance with work rules and practices.

More on this can be found on the Local's web site or our unit newsletter.

# **PMNW**

**Scott Price, Unit Chair**

Last year was excellent, we are hoping for another good one ahead of us. We have 10 people working at Conoco Phillips. They are working on an operator shelter. We have 6 people at Tesoro, Anacortes working on piping. We also have 3 people at our shop in Everson. We are working on the cranes and tapping trolleys for Intalco. We are hoping to get some more work in Montana this coming year. Thank You, Bryan Martinson.

# **General Chemical**

**Marrio Thomas, Unit Chair**

Since this is our first issue we wanted to get it out in time to let every one know about our Scholarship program. In our haste we were unable to get an input from your unit. Please except our apologies and we look forward to your input in our next issue.

**Comments and Suggestion can be e-mailed to [Newsletter@usw12-591.org](mailto:Newsletter@usw12-591.org)**