

# The Rivet

Local 49 Newsletter

PRIDE IN CRAFTSMANSHIP

June 2009



www.smwlu49.org  
505-266-5878  
1-800-378-5878

### Contact Us At

rdiaz@smwlu49.org  
jarms@smwlu49.org  
respinosa@smwlu49.org  
abmartinez@smwlu49.org  
valvarado@smwlu49.org

### Upcoming Events

#### UNION MEETINGS

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday  
of each month at 7:00 PM

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 19, 2009

#### HEALTH & WELFARE MEETING

June 17, 2009  
Union Hall at 5:00 PM

#### HOLTZE RUNKLE, PLLC PRESENTATION

July 17, 2009  
Union Hall at 7:00 PM  
(More information on back)

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- March Special Call Meeting ....1
- Training News ..... 2
- Employee Free Choice ..... 2
- PAL Fund ..... Insert
- News from West Texas ..... 3
- Asbestos Fact Sheet ..... 4

## March Special Call Meeting Results

Greeting to all members of Sheet Metal Workers' Local #49. I hope that 2008 was a good year for you and your family and that 2009 will be even better for all of us. The weather is warming up and it won't be long before we are in the heat of summer. Much like the weather it is a challenge to try to predict what 2009 will bring us. Even through all the bail outs and turmoil of our American Economy the State of New Mexico and West Texas Regions have been able to weather the storm and we have kept most of the membership busy working. I certainly hope

that the out of work pool will be cleared and all members that want to work will be employed in the near future. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members that attended our Special Call Meeting the evening of Friday, March 20, 2009 the first day of spring. With approx. 55 members at that meeting we had some great debate on the two topics on the agenda, as you know they were the Local and International Political Action League (PAL) and the new Code of Excellence Policy for all members of Local 49.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



Mr. and Mrs. Corona take the streets of El Paso, Texas to support the politicians that support the hard working men and women.

## TRAINING NEWS FOR FROM WEST TEXAS-PANHANDLE

**W**ind, Clear Skies and Space, these three things are going to be extremely important to the Panhandle and Eastern New Mexico. While the rest of the nation is suffering from high unemployment, these three items are going to help our area. Under the new administration's stimulus package "Going Green" is coming to this area. We lead the nation in wind farms and two solar power plants are going to be built in the Midland/Odessa area. One solar plant will supply the energy for the Uranium Enrichment project in Eunice.

I had the opportunity to visit some job sites last month. Cliff Barnum and his crew at the Bell Helicopter project are putting in an interesting job. I was not allowed to take a camera on site. Ted Clark is putting in an emergency room at UMC. June Palomo and his crew are wrapping up the Lubbock County Jail, a 3 year project. And, if you have a chance to go by Dustin Messex's project in Eunice you will be impressed. No cameras there either. Mark Ruggles, Mardi Garrington, Rodney Smith and Jesse Casas work hard to make sure the material is out on time so these field foremen can do their job. As you



*June Palomo, Anthony Mech. Inc.*

can see, most of the members from local 49 have already been working under a "Code of Excellence". **GREAT JOB!**

Have a great summer and be safe.

WORK SAFE  
Billy Martinez

# CALL YOUR SENATORS TODAY TOLL FREE AT 1-866-207-2060

**URGE THEM TO CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE**

**Use your own words, but here are some sample messages to think about for your call:**

■ Please co-sponsor and vote for the Employee Free Choice Act. In these perilous economic times, we must restore workers' freedom to bargain with their employers for secure jobs, health care and retirement benefits and fair pay. It's time to rebuild the middle class and help struggling working families.

■ Working families are struggling in today's economy. With our broken labor laws, working people are powerless to bargain for better health care, retirement and fair pay. CEOs wouldn't work a day without a contract to protect their soaring pay and golden parachutes—but they do all they can to keep their

workers from bargaining and getting contracts.

Workers need the Employee Free Choice Act to level the playing field.

■ We need the Employee Free Choice Act because the current system for forming unions and bargaining is broken beyond repair. Corporations routinely harass, intimidate, coerce and fire workers just because they want the freedom to bargain for a better life—and even if companies get caught, they get little more than a slap on the wrist. This must be changed by enacting the Employee Free Choice Act.

[www.EmployeeFreeChoiceAct.org](http://www.EmployeeFreeChoiceAct.org)

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

I would like to thank all the members that attend this important meeting for passing both items. This diversion of .06 cents per hour worked .03 for Local PAL and .03 cents for International PAL, will be deducted from our hourly 4.5% check off that all of us already pay into. As I explained to the members at the meeting I was not asking for any additional contributions from the membership. On the contrary if you were one of the few that had a PAL .02 cent deduction from your vacation fund I Thank you for that, but with this new PAL deduction you will get to keep those monies. With that said I have to get busy getting all new PAL Authorization Forms signed. I would ask all members in New Mexico and Texas to help us get these forms signed. This new deduction will be in effect on April Fools Day 2009, but believe me this is no joke. Local and National Politics can make or break the working men and women of our great union. You will find a copy of the Deduction Form included with this edition of the Rivet, if you would be so kind as to sign and return to our main office at 2300 Buena Vista Suite 110 Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87106. You may also ask your local organizer, Agent or Business Manager to pick these up at your job site this would give me a great opportunity to visit job sites in our jurisdiction. Thanks you in advance for your help.

The Code of Excellence Policy sparked much more debate, controversy, and questioning of the motivation for this policy. International Representative Terry Farmer and I did our best to explain that this Code was developed by our International and as written has passed all legal scrutiny. The purpose of the code is to let our customers, and construction owners know that the members of Local 49 adhere to this because,

1. We are professionals
2. We take our carriers very seriously.
3. We are craftsmen and take pride in our work.

The comment by a second year apprentice during discussion was so inspirational he said common sense says everything we do stays the same we are just adopting it on paper. I could not have said it better myself. Thank you for those words of inspiration. We all know that our apprentices are our future and the future looks bright. The motion reads that any member can submit any changes he or she feels appropriate to the Executive Board for a recommendation, then it will be taken to the floor for a vote. I feel this is one more tool to help all Union officials throughout the country gain more market share for our members.

Raymond Diaz  
Business Manager

## News from West Texas & Southern New Mexico

Hello to all. I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well. We have been working very hard to secure the work we currently have in Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas.

The Air System Components plant has been a part of Local 49 and the Horizon community for 35 years. In December, the company informed us layoffs were coming. When the Horizon City plant shuts down its' assembly line and moves its operations to Juarez, nearly 152 people will lose their jobs. Since the plant here isn't completely shutting down, the company is not obligated to provide workers with a severance package. We brought a resolution before the El Paso Commissioners Court back in February asking that companies who export jobs to other countries be required to help American employees find other jobs. Companies are moving to other countries to pay less and make more profits to put more money in their own pockets. This has always been a problem here in the border towns. Companies come from out of town, stay here for a couple of years and then move on. Affected employees may be able to receive training and a paid education for up to two years. They will also be eligible to receive an unemployment check for up to two years because they are trade affected.

Regarding the new Children's Hospital and the remodel of the existing Thomason Hospital, we have been in meetings with Hospital Board members informing them on why they should encourage Project Managers for Thomason Hospital to choose a responsible contractor for this large project. We have also been working with an out of town contractor from Las Vegas, Pahor Mechanical which is owned by Midwest Mechanical Contractors (MMC) out of Kansas City. MMC is signatory with the United Association "UA" and has been known to hire non-signatory HVAC contractors. We have received information that MMC intends to use a non-signatory contractor on this project.

I would like to thank all our Retirees, Journeymen and Apprentices that showed up on February 14 for the informational protest against MMC. We would like to thank Local 54 from Houston for allowing us to use "Roscoe the RAT" who made his appearance at the ground breaking ceremony taking place on the same day.

On a happier note, the new Federal Courthouse that is being built downtown is the largest architectural project El Paso has seen in years. Local 49 has members installing the copper panels on this project.

Finally, local elections are coming up, I encourage all brothers, sisters, family members and neighbors to get out and exercise your right to vote. El Paso Building Trades and the Central Labor Union have endorsed the following candidates. All of these candidates voted in favor of adopting the new prevailing wage rate for the city:

**Mayor John Cook, West-Central Rep. | Susie Byrd, East-Central Rep.  
Emma Acosta, East-Ridge/Mid-Valley Rep. | Steve Ortega  
Melinda Castro, Northeast Rep.**

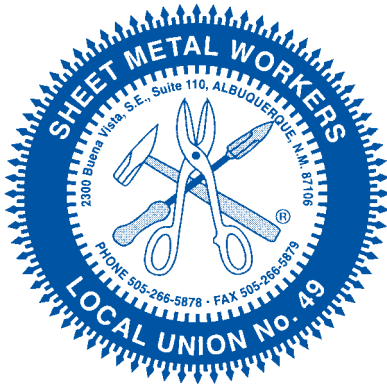
Let's get out and show all of these candidates that Local Union 49 thanks them for their support.

Until next time, my friends, have a great summer!

Vince Alvarado

Sheet Metal Workers' Local 49  
 2300 Buena Vista S.E., Suite 110  
 Albuquerque, N.M. 87106

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PERMIT 925  
 ALBUQUERQUE, NM





[www.smwlu49.org](http://www.smwlu49.org)

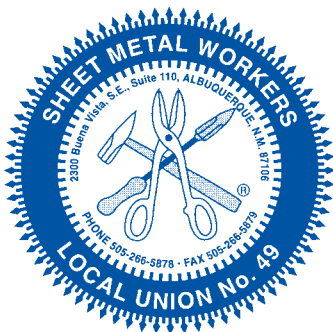
**MISSION:**

To provide a better quality  
 of life for the men and  
 women and their families  
 in the Sheet Metal Industry.



**FULL PRESENTATION BY HOLTZE RUNKLE, PLLC  
 AT OUR JULY 17, 2009 UNION MEETING @ 7:00 PM.**

Hotze Runkle, PLLC - (877) 919-0830 Proudly Serving Workers of the Southwest		
Asbestos	Uses of Asbestos	Who Used Asbestos
	Wallboard      Vinyl Floor Tile Ductwork      Caulking/Putties Pipe Insulation      Mastics Joint Compound      Textured Paints Roofing Shingles      Spray Insulation	Asbestos Removal Workers Demolition Workers      Carpenters Drywallers      Electricians Pipefitters      Sheet Metal Workers Welder      Maintenance Workers Insulators      Roughnecks
<b><u>Steps to Be Tested</u></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call Our Office: <b>(877) 919-0380.</b></li> <li>• We will Coordinate an X-ray for you at the Clinic nearest to You:  <b>Albuquerque; Santa Fe; Las Cruces; and El Paso.</b>            (If one of These Cities is not Near You—We will find one That is)</li> <li>• If you have Markings or Scarring from Asbestos, we will coordinate an Examination with a Board Certified Pulmonologist in your Area.</li> <li>• Hotze Runkle, PLLC will handle cases for <u>ALL</u> asbestos disease victims.</li> </ul>		



## Authorization of Contribution to SMW LU 49 and SMWIA Political Action League

I hereby authorize the Administrator of the OBF to divert from my required contribution six cents (\$0.06) for each hour contributed to the OBF and forward three cents (\$0.03) to the Sheet Metal Workers Local 49 Political Action League Fund (SMW LU49 PAL Fund) and three cents (\$0.03) to the Sheet Metal Workers International Political Action League (SMWIA PAL Fund).

This authorization is signed voluntarily and with the understanding that my voluntary contribution to the Local 49 PAL Fund and the International Fund will be used to make Political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections. I am aware that the contribution is subject to prohibitions and limitations of the laws governing such contributions to the State of New Mexico and Texas in accordance to Federal and State requirements.

This authorization may be revoked at any time by mailing notice of revocation by US Registered or Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to the Financial Secretary Treasurer of Local Union 49 at:  
2300 Buena Vista SE, Suite 110, Albuquerque, NM 87106.

Contributions or gifts to the Local 49 PAL Fund are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Members Full Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member IA Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Members Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City State Zip

Office Use Only		
Accepted By:	Date:	Faxed to SWS:

fold here

---

**PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE**

**Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 49**  
2300 Buena Vista SE - Suite 110  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

fold here

---