

# 2008 Pre-Primary Convention PROCEEDINGS

California Labor Federation

APRIL 8, 2008, LOS ANGELES, CA

Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary-Treasurer | Connie Leyva, President

## SECURING the MIDDLE CLASS

Pre-Primary Convention

April 8, 2008 | Los Angeles, CA

CALIFORNIA  
LABOR  
2008



California Labor Federation

# Summary of the Proceedings of the 2008 Pre-Primary Election Convention

April 8, 2008 | Millennium Biltmore | Los Angeles, CA

## Call to Order

President Connie Leyva called the 2008 Pre-Primary convention of the California Labor Federation to order. The flag salute and presentation of colors was led by Los Angeles World Airport Police Officer Color Guard, Local 777.

President Leyva introduced Ignacio Meza and Angel Warner representing the 600 Rite-Aid workers at the Lancaster location, recently organized by the ILWU. President Leyva then introduced Pedro Guzman, Sebastian Pineda, Luz Elena Osegueda, Margarita Garcia, Jose Torres, and Poncita Guzia representing the car



**Rite Aid workers celebrating organizing victory**

wash workers of the Los Angeles area. Reverend Norman Copeland Sr. with the African Methodist Episcopal led the Invocation.

## Reports of Committees

**Rules Committee** – Rob Feckner of the California School Employees Association reported that the Rules Committee met on April 7th, 2008, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. At all times a quorum was present. The rules were made available to all delegates and approved by vote.

### Standing Rules of Order

1. **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.** The Convention shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order on all matters not provided for by the Constitution or specified in these Rules.
2. **RULES—ADOPTION OF STANDING RULES.** The adoption of the standing rules shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the duly qualified delegates to the Convention, present and voting. When once adopted, such standing rules shall remain in effect, unless suspended or amended as provided in these rules.

3. **AMENDMENT OF STANDING RULES.** No standing rule of the Convention shall be amended except by an affirmative vote of a majority of the duly qualified delegates to the Convention, present and voting.

No such amendment shall be considered until it shall have been referred to and reported by the Committee on Rules.

4. **ATTENDING THE CONVENTION.** This is a private meeting for those authorized to attend and is not open to the general public. Authorized delegates may bring guests to the convention only with prior approval of the Federation. Elected officials, candidates, their staff or members of the public press will not be pre-approved. Space for guests will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

5. **CONVENING OF THE CONVENTION.** The Convention shall convene at 10:00 a.m.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.** Whenever there is a majority and minority division on any Committee, both the majority and minority shall be entitled to report to the Convention. The discussion and vote of concurrence or non-concurrence shall be first on the minority report.

7. **COMMITTEE QUORUM.** A majority of any Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its business.

8. **PASSAGE OF COMMITTEE REPORTS BY CONVENTION.** A majority of the delegates present and voting shall be required to act on a Committee report. No motion shall be acted upon until an opportunity to speak has been given the delegate making the same, if he or she desires.

9. **ROLL CALL VOTE.** At the request of 30 percent of the delegates present and voting, any motion shall be voted on by roll call per capita vote of the delegates. When a roll call has been ordered, no adjournment shall take place until the result has been announced.

10. **PRECEDENCE OF MOTIONS DURING DEBATE.** When a question is under debate or before the Convention, no motions shall be received but the following, which shall take precedence in the order named:

- First: To adjourn;
- Second: To recess to a time certain;
- Third: For the previous question;
- Fourth: To set as a special order of business;
- Fifth: To postpone to a stated time;
- Sixth: To postpone indefinitely;
- Seventh: To refer to, or re-refer to Committee;

Eighth: To divide or amend;

Ninth: To lay on the table.

11. MOTIONS IN WRITING. Upon request of the Chair, a motion shall be reduced to writing and shall be read to the Convention by the Chair before the same is acted upon.

12. CONTENTS OF MOTIONS. No motion, whether oral or written, shall be adopted until the same shall be seconded and distinctly stated to the Convention by the Chair.

13. MOTION TO RECONSIDER. A motion to reconsider shall not be entertained unless made by a delegate who voted with the prevailing side, such motion shall require a two-thirds vote to carry.

14. MOTION TO TABLE. A motion to lay on the table shall be put without debate.

15. RECOGNITION AND DECORUM OF DELEGATES

(a) Delegates when arising to speak shall respectfully address the Chair and announce their full name and the identity of the organization which they represent.

(b) In the event two or more delegates arise to speak at the same time the Chair shall decide which delegate is entitled to the floor.

(c) No delegate shall interrupt any other delegate who is speaking, except for the purpose of raising a point of order or appealing from a ruling of the Chair.

(d) Any delegate may appeal from a decision of the Chair, without waiting for recognition by the Chair, even though another delegate has the floor. No appeal is in order when another is pending, or when other business has been transacted by the Convention prior to the appeal being taken.

(e) Any delegate who is called to order while speaking shall, at the request of the Chair, be seated while the point of order is decided, after which, if in order, the delegate shall be permitted to proceed. The same shall apply while an appeal from the Chair is being decided.

(f) No delegate shall speak more than once on the same subject until all who desire to speak shall have had an opportunity to do so; nor more than twice on the same subject without permission by a majority vote of those delegates present and voting; nor longer than five minutes at a time without permission by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting.

(g) Any delegate may rise to explain a matter personal to herself or himself and shall forthwith be recognized by the Chair, but shall not discuss a question in such explanation. Such matters of personal privilege yield only to a motion to recess or adjournment.

16. VOTING NOT TO BE INTERRUPTED. When once begun, voting shall not be interrupted.

No delegate shall be allowed to change his or her vote, or to have his or her vote recorded after the vote is announced.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FLOOR. (As provided for in the Constitution of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO—Article XIV, F, Section 4) No recommendation may be presented from the floor of the convention for action on any office unless the recommended action concerning such office has already been rejected by convention action.

18. TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE. All endorsements shall be by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting, in accordance with the per capita formula specified in the Constitution of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO—Article XIV, F, Section 5.

**Credentials Committee** – Credentials Committee chair Dorothy Fortier, from IBEW 1245, reported that the credentials committee has been meeting since Monday April 7th at 4 pm. An updated list of delegates was provided and the preliminary report of the credentials committee was approved.

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS: Maria Elena Durazo**  
*Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor*  
*Vice President, California Labor Federation*



**Maria Elena Durazo**

Good morning everybody. Those of you who are not from Los Angeles, welcome to Los Angeles. We are glad to have you here, and on behalf of the 320 local unions in Los Angeles and the 800,000 workers those unions proudly represent, I welcome you to this convention.

It is very fitting that the theme of this convention is “Securing the Middle Class Dream.” It’s fitting because

exactly a week from today, we are going to kick off our fight in Los Angeles with the March from Hollywood to the docks.

Hollywood to the docks and hopefully you all pull this out and see what I am talking about. Hollywood to the docks means that workers from around Los Angeles, along with our community allies, will begin an historic three-day, 28-mile walk

Why? Because this is an historic year for labor in Los Angeles. More than 350,000 workers will be negotiating their contracts with their unions, local unions. This is the largest number of workers in our history to negoti-

ate at the same time. They range from actors to longshore, home care, teachers and janitors, and they are all sticking together, fighting together to either stay in the middle class or get themselves out of poverty and into the middle class.

So Brothers and Sisters, we invite you to join us. It's okay to walk that many miles, even if you are not trained for a marathon. And let me give you some examples of why workers are doing this.

Matthew Coslow and Martha Gutierrez, letter carriers, and you might think they are used to walking, but not 28 miles. And even though their contract has already been negotiated this year successfully, they are walking for the good of all working people. Chris, who is a grocery clerk at Ralphs and member of UFCW, is walking because he says he wants to make sure there is not another attack on workers, the way they were on the grocery workers just a few years ago.

Anthony Quidados, he is an actor with the Screen Actors Guild, and he says he appeared in theatre and television, but despite what people think, very few of us can actually make a living and support our families working as actors. A handful are millionaires. We make a lot less than what people think and many of us hold second and third jobs to support our families.

A 40-year-long longshoreman, negotiating to make sure that the few strong, good, middle class jobs in L.A. are protected. That's what the longshore are doing this year.

Theodore Cha, an L.A. County probation officer, member of AFSCME, he says I recently took a labor training class at UCLA. I ran into a young man from the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He used to be on probation and report to me. He came up to me and reminded me that even though I locked him up three times in a juvenile detention facility, he wanted to thank me for what I did for him. I was happy to see him on a path to success.

And, finally, people like Myia Gobias, a member of SCIU, fighting for a contract for 8,000 janitors in L.A. County this year, to do better for her children and the thousands of other children of janitors and workers who still don't live within the reach of the American dream.

Brothers and Sisters all together. It's historic. All together workers, regardless of what they make, regardless of what job they do, we are all going to stick together. We can't let anyone get left behind, and if you are ahead, you have to help everybody else catch up. That's what it is in our labor movement.

Send our message across to employers, to politicians, everyone take notice, labor is on the move and we are going to stick together, fight together and win together. Thank you very much.

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**ADDRESS: Connie Leyva**  
*President, California Labor Federation*



**Connie Leyva**

Brothers and Sisters, good morning again, and welcome again to the State Federation of 2008 COPE Convention. Today is an important day. Today is the day that we will work together to put our stamp of approval on candidates that we think best represent our interests and best represent the middle class. It's the day that all the work that we

put into the endorsement process comes to fruition. All the late nights, all the weekends, all the questionnaires, all the information gathering, it all comes to an end here as we gather to make labor's final endorsement.

Today is the day not only for ourselves but for all of the members that we represent. This is the day that we choose candidates who will fight for working families. Today we will stand with those who have stood by us. We will endorse candidates who have walked picket lines, who have spoken at our rallies in front of city hall, who have leafletted at hospitals, who have walked with us to the ports. They have been with us at job actions. We will stand by them because they stood by us.

We will endorse candidates who will help car wash workers win a union. Candidates that will write letters to employers who have cheated workers out of thousands of dollars in overtime pay. They will leaflet car wash workers' customers as they enter and turn business away if they are unwilling to organize. They will vote for legislation to help car wash workers to organize.

The candidates that we will endorse today will fight for a real right for all workers to organize. They will fight for EFCA. They will support neutrality agreements, the project labor agreement and national labor law reform.



*Connie Leyva con't. from previous page*

We'll stand by them because they understand the best way to secure middle class jobs is through the union jobs and the labor movement. They understand that our apprenticeship programs create the path to the middle class. They see that our union contracts provide health care, wage increases and job security.

They believe, like we do, that the fight against privatizing pensions, social security benefit is a fight to preserve the middle class and prevent our retirees from living in poverty.

These are the people we want representing us in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. We put a lot of time into these endorsements but now the hard work really begins. We have got to get people elected. Just endorsing them does none of us any good. In a year with reelections, it's easy to get tired. It is easy to get tired of phone banking. It is easy to get tired on calling on our members to come out and volunteer. It's easy to get tired of walking precincts. But we simply cannot afford to get tired. All around us workers are losing jobs, homes are being foreclosed on, and most are happening to people we represent.

So when you get tired and you think you can't go any further, I am going to ask you to think about what would happen if we didn't push on and if we didn't continue to

work. I ask you to think about how tired you would be if you were broke and had no health care because we didn't elect the right people to all houses.

So I ask you when you are tired, reach down a little further and find that little bit of energy that you have left so we can make a difference for all workers.

I also call on you to join your local labor councils. The program that they have are the programs that will help our candidates win. It is proven time and time again that the most effective way to win elections is member-to-member communication. So I also ask all of you to talk the hard talk, talk to your members about who they need to vote for and why. Make them see the connection to electing good people to make the decisions for us.

This year will be a great year. We get to say good-bye to George Bush -- and agree to elect a new pro-worker president and work hard to get to a two-thirds majority vote in the state legislature, elect more one hundred percent labor voters and make sure that 2008 is a victory for all workers.

I look forward to accomplishing this with all of you because we all come from different unions but we all have the same fight and we all want the same things for your members. Thank you all again for being here today.

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**ADDRESS: Antonio Villaraigosa**  
*Mayor, City of Los Angeles*



**Antonio Villaraigosa**

I used to do this when I was speaker a long time ago. You may have seen I was walked -- accompanied by a group of workers. They call themselves car washeros, which means -- I guess you all know what that means; right? You don't? Jesus Christ, where do you live? Car wash. It's actually not a word in Spanish, but that's the word they use.

But let me just say, I walked in. I got off the car. They greeted me. And I don't know if you read that story in the *L.A. Times*. I don't think anybody knew that this egregious situation was occurring. And I think everybody just took it for granted they were making minimum wage plus tips. I apologize

to them. I said, you know, when I -- I felt really bad when I read the story. I said, I remember, you know, a couple times you are rushing, you don't have any cash, you pay with a credit card and you tell the worker there, "Hey, next time I come, I'll pay you the propina. I forgot it, okay?"

This is all they are making. They are making \$40 a day. They pay them 40 bucks a day with tips. They are making \$40 a day in the United States of America. Can you believe that?

Well, wait, I don't see any indignation? Can you believe that? Is that acceptable? No, it's not. This is America. This is a great country. These people deserve better than that. I want to thank you. Let's give them a big hand, the car was heros.

It's great to be here with you introduced by my friend, Maria. Many of you know that we go back three and a half decades. I knew her when she was 20 and I was ten. And I was in the first grade, you are right. And let me

tell you, in all those years when you look back at somebody's life, I don't think there is anybody in the room that has known her as long as I have. And since she was a young kid on a college campus, she has been fighting for workers, standing up for immigrants, speaking out for the voices, demanding a great America that honors work and the people who do the work. So let's give Maria Durazo a big hand.

I didn't have the pleasure of being introduced, but I know your state president very well, met him when I was speaker of the assembly in '98, right? In '98, I think we were contemporaries. He became the president just about the time I was elected speaker. We had a very strong relationship with the state Fed in those years. They used to call me the chief steward in Sacramento and, obviously, I know your president very well and I want to acknowledge him, Art Pulaski, give him a big hand.

I understand that you are having your convention here today and I just want to say that those of you who don't live here, I want you to spend as much money as you can here in Los Angeles. We need your tax dollars. We need your support.

It's great to be here. I have come many times. I want to say a couple things. As you discuss -- I know in this convention you are going to be endorsing state assembly members, state senators. You are going to be endorsing a number of issues. I want to speak out for somebody that comes from labor as much as I did. He hails from the UFCW. He has been with the UFCW since I guess in his 20s or so, early 20s. He is running for state assembly, and thank God it doesn't look like he has got much opposition. He has a unanimous endorsement from the county Fed and I hope gets a unanimous endorsement from the state Fed, and that is John Pérez, wherever he is.

The truth in advertising, he is also my younger cousin, like a son to me. Got involved in politics when he was 15 years old, early on, and he has been involved ever since. When I was in the labor movement, he got in as well, and he has just been a great voice for working people and will be a great voice for working people in Sacramento.

I know that you are looking at a lot of challenges this year. Mentioned, I guess, some 350,000 workers have contracts up this year. It's a tough year, a tough budget year, a tough time. Some employers will take advantage of that and you'll have to be organized, work hard to ensure that workers that you represent are given a fair shake. I am going to stand with you, as I have in the past.

Though, from time to time -- I'm going to be part of this march, but from time to time, as you all know when you are mayor, I got to be the one to mediate from time to

time so I'm not necessarily walking everybody's picket line, but I am going to be there when you need me to help resolve as many of these issues as they come up.

I want to say a couple things. We are looking at a tough budget year here in L.A. and Sacramento, and we are fair people. We know that we open up the paper, we can fill it, you know, despite what the Fed Chairman says, he says there is no -- there is not a recession. You know, it feels like a recession, it walks like a recession, it talks like a recession but he says there is not -- we are not in a recession. We know we are in one.

We know there is a mortgage lending crisis. We know that unemployment is up. We know that virtually every city and state across the country, we are looking at deficits that are historic deficits we have never seen before.

And I think as people who are fair, we have got to understand that there are going to be a need for some cuts, but we have also got to articulate to those who represent us in Sacramento, here in Los Angeles, we are taking the position that it just can't be cuts. That we have got to raise revenues too. It's not just a spending problem, it's a revenue problem.

And we need leaders who have the courage to speak straight to California -- the people of California and the people of L.A. and say look, if you want these services, the health care provided to the state, if you want the money we need for our kids, if you want us to continue to address many of the challenges that face us in the state and in the city, you are going to have to pay more. And we have got to stand with and behind and push those legislators to do what's fair, to do what's right, and not just do what's easy.

It is easy to cut programs. It's easy to just say we are not going to raise taxes when we are looking at the worst budget deficit in California history and the worst budget deficit here in the City of L.A.

I think what you will see from me and the employees that I represent, we are going to bring them in. We are showing them our budget. I said we are going to make cuts because we have to, but we are also going to raise revenues. It may not be popular. It may make a lot of people unhappy, but we have got to do that because that's the fair thing.

I know as you debate who you are supporting, you are going to want to support representatives who are going to be fair and not just balance on the backs of working people the poor, blind, disabled and kids.

The second thing I wanted to say was that we have got to stand up, and I know that the theme of this conference is "Securing the Middle Class." We have got to stand up

that if we all agree that the people are healthy and can, should work, then we should reward work.

Work should be something that you don't just do like they do for wages that you can't maintain a family on, can't -- don't have health care, don't have the basic necessities that you need to care for your own.

We have to stand for the proposition that we ought to reward work. And in the city, Maria mentioned in her introduction, but let's be clear, you know, in 12 years in this city, for those of you who are construction workers, two project labor agreements in 12 years. One by my predecessor and one by his predecessor in eight years. 12 years. In two and a half years we are at nine project labor unions.

We are looking at three more. We have said look, we support when the city makes major investments. We support a project labor agreement. We want union labor. We want a prevailing wage. We want to make sure that people get to maintain their families and take care of their own because we don't think it's a good idea that the government do that. The best people to take care of your family is you.

By the same token, we have also said to those unions, I want to see the face of Los Angeles. I want to see more African-Americans on construction sites. I want to see us opening up apprenticeship programs to blacks, to women, to people of color because in the great and good America -- and in the generous Los Angeles, we want to make sure that all of us are (inaudible).

You know, we are looking at the possibility, and some of you have made endorsements, some of you haven't. We are looking at the possibility right now of the first African-American to be the nominee of the party or nominee of the Democrats. I hope most of you are Democrats. If you aren't, you need to sit down with Art Pulaski and he will tell you what the Republicans do to you every single day. And if you don't get it by now, maybe you just don't get it.

But the nominee of our party could be an African-American first, you know, that, you know, the country has ever seen, or a women, and what that says about America and who we are so we stand for the proposition that we should reward work.

We also stand for the proposition that everybody gets the work and that we should judge people based on what they do, not what they look like, not what their religion is or gender or their orientation, their race or any other thing.

The second thing I want to say is about the organizing effort at the Board. You know, early on, and maybe this

had to do with the fact that when I was in the legislature, I remember when some of the business roots used to get labor and turn them against the environmentalists. And they pit them against the environmentalists and they would say to the state at the time, they said -- or they pit them against poor people or community groups and they would say, you know, if you fight for equal opportunity or if you fight for cleaning up the environment, you are killing jobs. Those are job killers. And we didn't get it back then, if you remember. And I remember those debates. And I used to say, you know, if you look back, I don't think there was ever a vote one that I voted against the Fed and if it was, it was something not that significant.

And -- but I can't remember one, and the same is true on the environment. I had a hundred percent record there as well. And I learned early on that a lot of those fights where they say we can't be working together and where we pit one against the other, and called a job killer, it's the same people pitting us one against the other.

So I took the position early on at the port, you know, my predecessor said we have to clean up the port, we can't grow it any more. His predecessor said we have got to grow the port, we can't (inaudible) and what you had was labor fighting business and local community.

I ran for mayor and I said hold it, we have to grow our port everybody. It's the end of the Southern California economy. We have the most diverse population anywhere in the world. We have to grow our port. You can't take the position that we are not growing our port. The future of Southern California is the future focused on the port and the growth in those jobs.

But I said when we grow the port, we have to green it. And when you grow the port, you have to grow good jobs. So we put the environmentalists -- and labor and business, let's put something together that grows the port that starts to move the VCIRs so that we can grow capacity at the port but also put something together to grow the port so that we can protect the public health. 2,000 premature deaths at the port every year.

School days missed, a million school days missed as kids disproportionately have respiratory diseases in areas around the port. Not in the docks, some of the pollutants in the air that are generated in Southern California. So we are going to green the port and we are going to green the trucks at the port. We are going to move from diesel trucks to clean fuel vehicles in the next five years.

Well, what are the business folks and unfortunately, the people at the Port of Long Beach say? Well, a worker that makes 11 to \$12 an hour, that's really an employee, by the way, who they call an independent contractor so they don't have to pay them health care and benefits,



*Antonio Villaraigosa con't. from previous page*

who make on average 11, \$12 an hour, that he or she ought to pay the tens of thousands of dollars to retrofit or replace their engines.

Now, I don't know about you, but if I was making 11, \$12 an hour, I wouldn't have the extra cash to be able to buy a new engine or to work and maintain it. By the way, if you don't maintain it, even if you have a clean fuel engine, it works at 50 percent of capacity. So we took the position: We are for the environment. We are for jobs but they have to be good jobs. We are for a public health coalition that brings labor, business all together.

We put together the most far reaching effort in the United States of America to clean up our port but also green it and to grow good jobs. Teamsters in the house, give it up for them. They have been organizing those people.

By the way, Art Pulaski, if you think for a moment that I am going to back down, back down on anyone who takes the position that an employee, a truck driver who makes 11 or 12 bucks an hour ought to pay for cleaning up the air, protect the public health and has the wherewithal to make those kinds of investments, you are absolutely wrong.

Finally, let me say this, when I ran for mayor the first time, let's be clear. I started out at 3 percent in the polls. You know, you talk about Obama coming out of nowhere, Villaraigosa came out of nowhere. I mean I had -- I was 3 percent, I will vote for him, 9 percent, I'll know

him. My competitor was 45 percent, I'll vote for him, 72 percent, I'll know him.

Labor and the labor movement took me from 3 percent and 9 percent to winning in the primary and narrowly losing in the runoff. You all did such a good job that the second time around when I didn't have the endorsement of labor because they went with the incumbent. You all did such a great job, I won the labor vote. I won with nearly 60 percent -- I think it was 59 percent of the vote.

And I'm here today because I have always understood that working men and woman have put me here. I have an obligation to make sure that I am a voice for you and that I stand up for you, that I stand up for the idea that just like where business used to pit us against us, whether "us" was the enviros or the civil rights community or whoever it was, our natural allies, I understand that my job is not to allow anyone to pit good government, a strong economy, against the right to organize, against the right to stand up for those who don't have a voice.

So I wanted to be here to welcome you to the City of Los Angeles, to thank you for your support. You may know that this is a job that comes with controversy. Sometimes you will agree with me, sometimes you won't, but I can tell you that every single time I'll stand up for you. I'll stand up for the idea that America's a great place because there is a labor movement that created that middle class of America it's always been founded on. Thank you so much.

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**ADDRESS: Art Pulaski**  
*Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation*



**Art Pulaski**

Thank you. You know, I mentioned securing the middle class, we came close to securing the middle class after World War II when manufacturing led the economy to high prosperity. That fueled rising incomes powered by organized workers. The time of shared prosperity actually meant something different to us. We

thought it was fairness. You work hard and you earn a stake.

But Wall Street has redefined equity. It's now a mathematical equation of assets over liabilities. The more they

inflate their assets and cut their liabilities, such as wages and benefits, the richer they get.

The ancient Chinese were told by Confucius, the proper man understands equity, the small man thinks profits. Bear Stearns couldn't survive its own quests for excess with its overinflated and ever riskier securities. But when their greedy bubble burst, it also burst on millions of middle class families who were not greedy. They were just trying to build the only asset that they had, their homes, when Wall Street George W. Bush's deregulation of the financial markets ran amuck.

When the markets collapsed in the '30s, Roosevelt intervened. He intervened with a recovery plan that did a number of things, including regulating the financial industry. He created opportunities to share the wealth and he allowed workers to organize. There is no fairness in the Bush Wall Street ownership society.



We want to create a new kind of ownership society. To make a change in Wall Street, you have got to change Washington. We can learn a lesson, perhaps one lesson from modern Chinese. When they invest in the troubled U.S. markets, they get something out of it and they get what they call equity in the ownership of the companies.

The 30 billion dollar Bear Stearns bailout by taxpayers, with much more yet to come, should be no less for us. Who bailed us out when they changed our health care and moved our jobs?

Like the Chinese, we want an ownership stake, proportionate to the 30 billion. We don't just want to use that money, the taxpayer money, to cover the risk for the buyer JP Morgan, but to have our fair share of the company too.

And like FDR, in addition to the new ownership stake that we want to get, we need to again regulate the financial markets. We need to control rates. We need to control the consumer feeds. We need to help the ripped off homeowners as much as the big operators, and we need also to return the right to organize for the workers and the employee.

So it's labor's time now to lead America to a NEW New Deal. Securing the middle class means changing Washington, but also changing Sacramento. First, of course, is to elect a new president.

But then there is a two-year and three-year plan. We need to elect a new governor in 2010. Let's face it, Arnold Schwarzenegger sided with business interests almost every single time that he had. He vetoed almost every single opportunity he had and then he argues the tattered old Republican argument that says we don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. That ain't so.

Paying for children's education is not a spending problem. Fixing our roads, our world class university, our environment, our public safety is not a spending problem.

The settlers made California great when they believed this. What we now want to do is find a new governor that believes it again and that will make California great again.

It's time to make California work. One reason it *doesn't* work is that we are one of only three states that require a two-thirds majority vote in the Legislature for nearly every major financial action.

With a two-thirds majority, we would have the power to pass a fair and balanced budget, win our fair share of health care, close tax loopholes for the rich and invest in building for the future. Additionally, a two-thirds majority would allow us to override those gubernatorial vetoes, restore workers' compensation benefits, and win real health care reform

In the senate, we need two seats. In the assembly we need six seats, and we believe this year in the endorsement and recommendations that we are giving you today, and are soon to vote on, we can get to those two extra senate seats to be the first in the two-step process for the change in California.

Now, the Assembly change is going to take a couple years, maybe even three or four years, but we set the process and in which we are going to get there and will make California better again.

In a few minutes we are going to have a presentation. We are going to honor many labor councils for their political work. We are building new and stronger partnerships among our councils, our unions and our Federation. We call it strategic planning. And it's that strategic planning that is setting forth a one-year, two-year and four-year process for us to win back California in the way we need to do it.

We owe our strength to each other and to win big, we expect the best of each other. Building this power gives us leverage. Leverage for big change. And from it we will create the new New Deal, starting in California and sweeping across America.

The Greek scientist Archimedes said give me firm ground to stand on, and I will move the earth. This unity is our firm place and from it we will move the earth. Thank you.

## REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE



*Lou Paulson, co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and President of the California Professional Fire Fighters gave the Strategic Planning Committee update.*

**Lou Paulson**

We have got a short presentation before we get to the endorsements, but although it is a short presentation, it really is the foundation of where we are going to take the labor movement of California in the future.

Many of you may remember four years ago, we embarked upon the journey to build a stronger labor movement. We got 14 of the largest unions get together and started to share some goals, set some goals and it was a difficult task because many of us were used to working individually and not committed to the overall plan. But we came together. We established the goals and I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge Mike Mowery, Chuck Matthews vice chairman, and all the members of the committee you see on the stage for all their hard work, and also the staff from the Labor Federation put in many hours keeping us all like a bunch of cats herded together on a mission to move forward.

But the focus, the objective was to build a more power-

ful labor movement for working people, lengthy legislatively, and ultimately translate that into economic power. And the critical front lines of that is the central labor councils. They are on the front lines. They are fighting labor's battles, as you all know, and winning it for workers where we can.

The California labor councils are the heart of the movement and the unified face of labor in our communities. In 2006, the labor councils came together and they set goals, challenging goals that were going to be hard to keep, not just one for process but something that is going to make us move forward and challenge our capacity, both for political capacity and a number of those locals achieved those goals.

Five of the councils are the high performing labor councils, which meant they met 85 percent of the goals. Those labor councils are -- Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings, Orange and Tri-Counties.

Six of the councils achieved highest performance, which meant they met one hundred percent of the goals, and those councils are, L.A., Sacramento, San Diego-Imperial, San Francisco, San Mateo, and South Bay.



Orange County Labor Federation receives highest performance award

**California Labor Federation**  
**2008 Primary COPE Endorsements**  
of the

**PRE-PRIMARY ELECTION CONVENTION**

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, met at the Los Angeles Millennium Biltmore, April 8, 2008, to consider recommendations for the election of candidates to the offices of the United States House of Representatives, State Senate, State Assembly and positions on the statewide ballot propositions, in a statewide primary election on Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

**California State Senate**

District	Candidate	District	Candidate
1	No Endorsement (D)	21	Carol Liu (D)
3	Carole Migden (D)	23	Lloyd Levine (D)
5	Lois Wolk (D)	25	Mervyn Dymally (D)
7	Mark DeSaulnier (D)	27	Alan Lowenthal (D)
9	DUAL: Wilma Chan (D) / Loni Hancock (D)	29	No Endorsement
11	Joe Simitian (D)	31	No Endorsement
13	Elaine Alquist (D)	33	No Endorsement
15	No Endorsement	35	No Endorsement
17	No Endorsement	37	Arthur Bravo Guerrero (D)
19	Hannah Beth Jackson (D)	39	Christine Kehoe (D)

**California State Assembly**

District	Candidate	District	Candidate
1	Wesley Chesbro (D)	14	TRIPLE: Nancy Skinner (D) / Tony Thurmond (D) / Kriss Worthington (D)
2	Paul Singh (D)	15	Joan Buchanan (D)
3	Mickey Harrington (D)	16	Sandre R. Swanson (D)
4	No Endorsement	17	Cathleen Galgiani (D)
5	Dan Leahy (D)	18	Mary Hayashi (D)
6	Jared Huffman (D)	19	Neutral (D)
7	Noreen Evans (D)	20	Alberto Torrico (D)
8	Mariko Yamada (D)	21	Ira Ruskin (D)
9	Dave Jones (D)	22	DUAL: Dominic Caserta (D) / Paul Fong (D)
10	Alyson Huber (D)	23	Joe Coto (D)
11	Tom Torlakson (D)	24	Jim Beall (D)
12	Fiona Ma (D)	25	Taylor White (D)
13	Tom Ammiano (D)	26	John Eisenhut (D)

California State Assembly, *Continued*

District	Candidate
27	Bill Monning (D)
28	Anna Caballero (D)
29	No Endorsement
30	Fran Florez (D)
31	Juan Arambula (D)
32	No Endorsement
33	Robert Cuthbert (D)
34	Desmond Farrelly (D)
35	Pedro Nava (D)
36	Linda Jones (D) / Jim Ledford (R)
37	Ferial Masry (D)
38	Carole Lutness (D)
39	Felipe Fuentes (D)
40	Bob Blumenfield (D)
41	Julia Brownley (D)
42	Michael Feuer (D)
43	Paul Krekorian (D)
44	Anthony Portantino (D)
45	Kevin DeLeon (D)
46	John A. Perez (D)
47	Karen Bass (D)
48	Mike Davis (D)
49	Mike Eng (D)
50	Hector De La Torre (D)
51	Curren Price (D)
52	Isadore Hall (D)
53	Ted Lieu (D)

District	Candidate
54	DUAL: Bonnie Lowenthal (D) / Tonia Reyes-Uranga (D)
55	Warren Furutani (D)
56	Tony Mendoza (D)
57	Ed Hernandez (D)
58	Charles Calderon (D)
59	Don Williamson (D)
60	No Endorsement
61	Norma Torres (D)
62	Wilmer Amina Carter (D)
63	Jonathan Abraham (D)
64	No Endorsement
65	Carl Wood (D)
66	Grey Frandsen (D)
67	Steve Blount (D)
68	No Endorsement
69	Jose Solorio (D)
70	No Endorsement
71	No Endorsement
72	John MacMurray (D)
73	No Endorsement
74	No Endorsement
75	No Endorsement
76	Lori Saldana (D)
77	No Endorsement
78	Marty Block (D)
79	No Endorsement
80	DUAL: Greg Pettis (D) / Manuel Perez (D)

**Ballot Propositions**

Number	
98	Vote NO

Number	
99	Vote YES