

# PIPE TRADES

An Update from the 469 Political Action Committee

# political action



Spring 2009

## 469 Political Action Committee: Building Relationships

Phil McNally, Business Manager



Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of the 469 PAC newsletter, which is distributed quarterly, in addition to the regular Pipetrades Talk.

Although things are slow right now at the Arizona State Legislature—things

are on hold until budget negotiations are completed—your

469 PAC remains busy. PAC members are using this time to build relationships with elected officials and share the Arizona Pipe Trades' message with as many of them as possible.

For example, every Monday the Latino Caucus at the State Legislature meets to discuss policy priorities and pending legislation. On March 23, our PAC sponsored one of these meetings and used the opportunity to introduce the Pipe Trades and share our priorities with the members. We were even able to weigh in on several pieces of legislation—both good and bad—that will affect our members in the future.

On March 26, the PAC took a small group of 469 members on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Capitol, hosted by 469-endorsed Representative Steve Farley and the House Sergeant-at-Arms Ron Gill. Participants were able to visit committee hearing rooms, the floor of the House of Representatives where legislators cast their votes, and even the Members' Lounge which is strictly off-limits to the public.

The Arizona Pipe Trades was also a Silver Sponsor for the annual Legislative Salute Dinner on March 31. Participating in events like this creates opportunities for our PAC to reach out to lawmakers and partner with them on the issues that are important to our members. Continuing to stay visible and active means the PAC can help these legislators help our local in the future.



PAC volunteers create a sea of orange shirts during the Arizona Pipe Trades' Lunch at the Capitol

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who came out to our Arizona Pipe Trades Lunch at the Capitol in February. The turn out was overwhelming! More than 400 Pipe Trades members, elected officials, staff, and community leaders showed up to enjoy lunch and learn more about the 469. This was by far the biggest lunch that has ever been held on the Capitol lawn. Members are already asking us to come back and flip more burgers next year, and you can be sure that with your help our next Lunch at the Capitol will be bigger and better!

I hope everyone will take a moment to sign up for PAC Pulse, the 469's online political headquarters. Once you are on the list, you will get all the latest information about PAC events, volunteer opportunities, legislative alerts, and more. It's the best way to stay on top of what your 469 PAC is doing and how you can help make sure our voices are heard!

### GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PAC'S UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS!

- Wednesday, May 27: . . . . . PAC e-mail and computer training, Apprenticeship Training Center, 2950 W. Thomas Rd.
- Friday, June 5: . . . . . Last day for Municipal Candidates to file for city elections (Tucson, Phoenix)
- Monday, Aug. 3: . . . . . Last day to register to vote for city council elections (Tucson, Phoenix)
- Tuesday, Sept. 1: . . . . . Phoenix and Tucson City Council Primary elections

# Spring City Council Elections: Meet Your 469-Endorsed Candidates

More than 30 cities held their City Council elections this Spring. Your 469 PAC selected several towns to focus on and conducted a rigorous interview process for those candidates. Primary elections were held in these cities on March 10. The PAC chose to endorse the following three candidates:

## Clorinda Erives – Tolleson, AZ

When 469 PAC members met Erives, they were impressed with her dedication to helping working families and supporting labor groups. While Erives is relatively new to the politics, she has been a long-time, hard-working member of the Tolleson community, and will put that experience to good use on the Council.

The day of the Tolleson Council primary election, all seven of the Local 469 members living in Tolleson committed to vote for Erives. That night, Erives won her election by exactly seven votes! Thank you to everyone who went to the polls for Erives, and let's all remember how important each and every vote can be, especially in local elections.

## Michael LeVault – Youngtown, AZ

LeVault, Mayor of Youngtown for the past two years, was the only candidate running for office in his town who had an opponent. Based on his track record of efficient, honest government and a commitment to helping the 469 municipally and legislatively, the 469 PAC chose to endorse LeVault. Our 469 PAC volunteers even phone banked an entire subdivision for LeVault, helping to turn out his supporters on Election Day.



469 PAC volunteers with Rosanna Gabaldon

After the votes were counted in the primary election, it was clear that Youngtown voters got the message: LeVault was re-elected with over 70 percent of the vote! Congratulations, Mayor LeVault, and thank you to everyone who came to help turn out the vote.

## Rosanna Gabaldon – Sahuarita, AZ

Sahuarita has experienced over 500% growth since 2000. That kind of growth means jobs for our members, especially since Local 469 will soon have a friend

and supporter on the Town Council. Gabaldon is a long-time community activist in Sahuarita. In her interview with PAC members, Gabaldon's passion for improving her community was clear and contagious, earning her the endorsement of the 469 PAC.

The race in Sahuarita was incredibly tight—in the primary, 7 candidates competed for 3 seats. None of the candidates received enough votes to avoid a run-off election on May 19. In the run-off, five candidates—including Gabaldon—will compete for those 3 seats. Gabaldon leads the pack by a wide

margin in both fundraising and contacting voters, and 469 PAC members have been helping in every way they can to ensure that Gabaldon wins a seat on the Council.

On May 8, eleven 469 PAC volunteers walked door-to-door reminding Sahuarita voters to turn in their ballots for Gabaldon. When the votes are counted on May 19, all of Gabaldon's hard work is sure to pay off!



469 Volunteers phone bank for Mayor LeVault on Election Day

## Are You Ready for Phoenix and Tucson Council Elections?

The cities of Phoenix and Tucson will have their City Council elections on September 1 (primary) and November 3 (general / runoff). 469 members must take this opportunity to support their advocates on the council. There are three things you can do right now to ensure a victory for our candidates this Fall:

**(1) Register to Vote** - If you have a valid Arizona ID or drivers license issued on or after October 1, 1996, you can register to vote or change your registration online. Just go to [www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com) and click on "Voter Registration."

If you would prefer to register by mail, you can request a voter registration form from Erin Barrett at the Torres Consulting & Law Group by calling 602.626.8805 or emailing [Erin@thetorresfirm.com](mailto:Erin@thetorresfirm.com). You will receive your form in the mail—just complete it and mail it in.

You can also register in person by visiting the County Recorder in the county where you are a legal resident and completing a voter registration form.

**(2) Sign Up for PAC Pulse** - Make sure that you are receiving PAC Pulse emails to stay up-to-date on the latest PAC activities and alerts regarding the City Council elections and more!

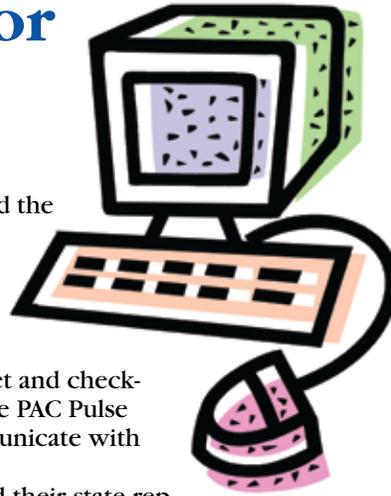
**(3) Sign Up to Volunteer** - The 469 PAC will endorse candidates in these races who share our values. We need to provide "boots on the ground" to our candidates to make sure they get elected so they can continue to support our members! There will be multiple volunteer opportunities throughout the late summer and fall, such as phone banking, walking door to door, and attending events. We will need everyone's help to make a real impact on these council elections. To get your name on the volunteer list today, please contact Lauren Harmon at 602.626.8805 or [Lauren@thetorresfirm.com](mailto:Lauren@thetorresfirm.com).

# Great Turn-Out for First Computer Training

On February 17, twelve 469 members joined the PAC at the Apprenticeship Training Center for the first PAC email and computer training.

Everyone set up a free e-mail account. After that, we went back to basics and covered everything from turning the computer on and using the mouse to getting on the internet and checking email. Finally, everyone learned how to use PAC Pulse to view the latest PAC information and communicate with their legislators.

At the end of the training, everyone emailed their state representatives and senator using PAC Pulse. Before the training had even wrapped up, one legislator responded to say thank you for getting involved!



Two lucky participants won brand new laptops, which were raffled off during the training. Congratulations to John Siebert and Henry Olea on their new computers!

**The PAC is hosting another computer and email training at 10am on May 27 at the Apprenticeship Training Hall, 2950 W. Thomas Road.** We will be raffling off one more laptop, but you must RSVP to attend! For more information or to sign up, contact Lauren at 602.626.8805 or [Lauren@thetorresfirm.com](mailto:Lauren@thetorresfirm.com).

## 469 Members Tour Capitol

To take some of the mystery out of state government, your 469 PAC took a small group of Pipe Trades members on a tour of the Capitol. The group was hosted by 469-endorsed Representative Steve Farley, as well as House Sergeant-at-Arms Ron Gill.

After meeting in the House lobby, Mr. Gill escorted our group to the Members' Lounge—which is strictly off limits to the public—where the group quizzed Rep. Farley and Mr. Gill about the inner workings of the Legislature.

With questions out of the way, Mr. Gill led the group onto the floor of the House, reminding members that this is where our laws are made every day. Group members were able to walk around and find their representative's desk, peek at the Speaker of the House's dias, and learn how representatives sign in to vote.

Once the group left the floor, members made their way to a hearing room where one of the 15 committees in the House meets weekly. Mr. Gill explained the procedures for testifying on a bill, and even let some of the braver members in the group try their hand at pretending to be a witness testifying before the committee.

Finally, the group returned to the 469 Hall where they enjoyed lunch and a demonstration on how to use PAC Pulse to keep up with the latest at the Legislature as well as future 469 PAC activities.

The 469 PAC will host another field trip in the future. If you are interested in learning more about how your state government works, be sure to sign up for PAC Pulse to get the latest on future PAC activities!



## Stimulus Watch

With the legislature at a near standstill due to budget negotiations, both the House and the Senate have been focusing their energy on dealing with the federal stimulus.

For 469 members, the stimulus means one thing: JOBS! Although specifics on the stimulus are constantly changing, here is what we know right now:

- ◆ Arizona will receive \$521,948,401 for Highway Infrastructure Investment, including \$66.4 million for public transit in the Phoenix-Mesa Urbanized Area.
- ◆ The state will receive \$26.9 million for clean water infrastructure.
- ◆ Arizona will receive \$55.8 for drinking water infrastructure.
- ◆ The Arizona State Energy Office will receive approximately \$125 million for state and local energy programs.
- ◆ Much of the other money available for energy will be drawn down by SRP and APS to fund new power plants with a focus on solar energy, as well as clean coal research.



*Phil McNally meets with elected officials at the State Capitol*



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## Are you signed up for PAC Pulse?

### *Get the latest on Your 469 PAC – Here's How:*

- 1. Go to the PAC Pulse Website** - Point your internet browser to [www.capwiz.com/thetorresfirm](http://www.capwiz.com/thetorresfirm). From there, scroll down about half way and look for a box on the right-hand side that says "Stay Informed." Click on the link that reads "Action E-List," fill out the form with your information (which stays completely confidential), and hit submit.
- 2. By Email** - Email Lauren Harmon at [Lauren@thetorresfirm.com](mailto:Lauren@thetorresfirm.com). Be sure to include your full name and phone number.
- 3. By Phone** - Call Lauren Harmon at 602.626.8805 with your full name, email address and phone number.

Once you are signed up for PAC Pulse, you will receive the latest PAC information, volunteer opportunities, trainings, and legislative alerts right in your e-mail inbox. And don't worry, your information will stay completely confidential.