

PIPE TRADES

An Update from the 469 Political Action Committee

political action



Winter 2009



Busy Year Awaits the 469 Political Action Committee

Phil McNally, Business Manager

Welcome to the very first 469 PAC newsletter, which will be distributed quarterly, in addition to the regular Pipetrades Talk.

A new year is in full swing and our country, our state and our local communities are certain of one thing – change is upon us! With that in mind, your 469 Political Action Committee (PAC) will work diligently to ensure that our priorities are heard and understood by our elected officials.

The Arizona State Legislature kicked off its 49th Regular Session on Jan. 12. The PAC has been busy communicating closely with our 2008 endorsed legislators, and we also will monitor and alert all 469 members to pending bills that will affect our industry, our trade and our families.

To ensure that we are vigilant in tracking and taking action on bills that can impact our local, the PAC has put some tools in place to keep up with the flurry of activity at the State Capitol.

The PAC's **Online Legislative Alert Center**, (PAC Pulse), will offer a wealth of information about bills that our lawmakers are considering, as well as resources for instantly and easily contacting your elected officials, learning about the district you live in, writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper, and many other activities that will make the Local 469 more politically influential. The PAC will hold **workshops** to learn how to use it, and will brief members at upcoming retiree and member meetings, so please

take a look at the calendar in this newsletter.

I would like to thank all of our members who assisted in last year's busy and eventful election season. The PAC held community picnics, walks and rallies for many of our endorsed candidates, which required time, work and enthusiasm for our cause. Now, we will work with these same lawmakers to further the 469's legislative agenda and ensure that our voices are heard. We look forward to an equally successful 2009!



PAC volunteers crisscrossed Arizona this year, supporting candidates and getting the word out about endorsed campaigns. Above: A community picnic for newly elected Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick and other northern Arizona candidates.

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

- Tuesday, Feb. 10: PAC Update at 469 Retirees' Meeting, 469 Hall
- Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.: . . . PAC e-mail and computer training, Apprenticeship Training Center, 2950 W. Thomas Rd.
- Thursday, Feb. 19, 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: . . . Lunch at the State Capitol, Meet at 469 Hall
- Friday, Feb. 20: PAC Update at Membership Meeting, 469 Hall
- Thursday, Mar. 26, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: . . . Field Trip and Legislative Training at the State Capitol, Meet at 469 Hall

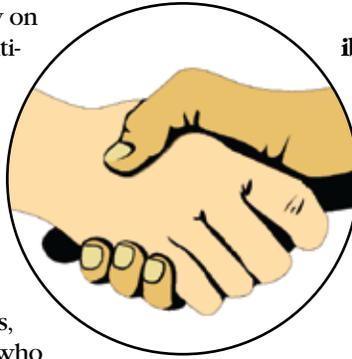
For more details about these events, view the complete event list on page three.

“PAC Power” – It starts with you!

In 2009, your PAC will focus its time and energy on working closely with the elected officials and political candidates who share our values and understand the importance of what we stand for:

- ◆ Safety in the workplace
- ◆ Quality jobs for 469 members
- ◆ Positioning 469 for long-term, large projects

Last year was a busy year for elections – from the presidential race, to U.S. Congress to the Arizona State Legislature and Arizona Corporation Commission. The 469, like other organizations, spent its time and resources on those candidates who indicated they share our vision and agree with the priorities listed above.



Boots on the ground...how do they help?

One thing all candidates need is volunteers – people to do much needed work to:

1. Raise the candidate's visibility with the public
2. Urge people to vote
3. Help convey the candidate's message to voters
4. Support events that bring volunteers and supporters together to “rally the troops”

The best way to **heighten the 469's visibility with lawmakers and candidates** is to demonstrate our ability to bring volunteers out to participate in the following activities:

- ◆ Sign pounding – placing campaign signs
- ◆ Phone Banking – making calls to other 469 members to inform them of the PAC's endorsed candidates and to encourage them to vote
- ◆ Special Events – attending / helping with community picnics and walks

These are just a few examples of how you can make a big difference by volunteering even just once or twice a year. In addition to furthering the 469's political objectives with elected officials, these activities build camaraderie with your union brothers and sisters, and yes – our volunteers have fun, too!

Interested in trying out a volunteer activity? Contact Erin Barrett, Torres Consulting & Law Group, at 602.626.8805 or erin@thetorresfirm.com. Or attend the February retiree or membership meetings to learn more – YOU make the difference!

Spring City Council races underway in Arizona cities

Although this may not be a major election year for statewide and Federal candidates, many Arizona cities are holding city council elections. City Council elections are important to the 469 for several reasons:

- ◆ City governments bring large construction projects to communities, including water treatment plants, public office buildings and some tourism and sports projects – all big jobs for the 469.
- ◆ City council members can alter the purchasing and contracting processes and rules in city government. These include requiring contractors to have health insurance for their employees, on-the-job training, and other strengths that make it more likely for our contractor partners to win projects for our members to work on.
- ◆ For many city council members, this is their first experience holding public office. Some of them move on to become congressman, legislators or governors. Building positive relationships now helps ensure that no matter what political path an elected official chooses, the 469 will have a seat at the table with him or her in the future.

The next municipal elections take place on Tuesday, March 10. Not all city councils have elections at the same time, but many of Arizona's smaller communities are having them this spring. Your PAC is tracking and will potentially endorse candidates in the following cities:

- ◆ Casa Grande
- ◆ Gila Bend
- ◆ Marana
- ◆ Sahuarita
- ◆ Somerton
- ◆ Tolleson
- ◆ Wellton
- ◆ Youngtown



This year's PAC agenda includes getting involved in city council races across the state this spring and fall. Left to right: Jay Tripp, President Larry Savage, Prescott Mayor Jack Wilson, Israel Torres and Chris Van Kirk.

The PAC is conducting an endorsement process for candidates in these cities. Candidates will complete questionnaires, participate in interviews and ultimately receive endorsements, with the PAC only endorsing and helping those who share the 469's priorities for our members, our trade and for working families in general.

469 members who live in or near the cities listed above may receive phone calls or contacts from PAC volunteers regarding events in their area in the upcoming month. We may be coming to a town near you!

Tucson and Phoenix will hold city council elections in September, so stay tuned for more details on these races this summer!

Upcoming PAC Events

We're giving away a **free laptop** at each of these events. Attend and you could return home with a new computer!

Tuesday, Feb. 10

PAC Update at 469 Retirees' Meeting, 469 Hall

Learn what the PAC's plan is for ensuring your voice is heard at the state legislature, U.S. Congress, and all the way up to the Oval Office. See a demonstration of the PAC's online alert center and get signed up to receive e-mail alerts. No e-mail address? No problem! We'll sign you up for an easy-to-use e-mail account and will help you get started.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

PAC e-mail and computer training, Apprenticeship Training Center, 2950 W. Thomas Rd.

The PAC's Online Legislative Alert Center is easy to use and just a few "mouse clicks" away! The PAC will hold a straightforward workshop on how to use this resource, which will keep you up to date on what is happening that could effect your retirement, your job and your family. If you don't have an e-mail address, we will set you up with one and teach you how to use it. Call Lauren Harmon, Torres Consulting & Law Group, at 602.626.8805 to sign up, or send e-mail to lauren@thetorresfirm.com.

Thursday, Feb. 19, 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

(9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Tucson members)

Lunch at the State Capitol, Meet at 469 Hall

The 469 will host a barbeque for state lawmakers and 469 members on the lawn outside the Arizona State Capitol. Come on down and meet your elected officials and let them know that the UA 469 is paying attention to state politics. This free event will include lunch and transportation to and from the 469 Hall. All you do is show up! If you would like to drive yourself to the event, it is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call Lauren Harmon, Torres Consulting & Law Group, at 602.626.8805 to sign up or for directions, or send e-mail to lauren@thetorresfirm.com.

Friday, Feb. 20

PAC Update at Membership Meeting, 469 Hall

Learn what the PAC's plan is for ensuring your voice is heard at the state legislature, U.S. Congress, and all the way up to the Oval Office. See a demonstration of the PAC's online alert center and get signed up to receive e-mail alerts. No e-mail address? No problem! We'll sign you up for an easy-to-use e-mail account and will help you get started.

Thursday, Mar. 26, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Field Trip and Legislative Training at the State Capitol, Meet at 469 Hall

This informative two-hour tour will show you how things get done at the Arizona State Legislature. Hosted by current legislators, this is an exclusive opportunity for 469 members to get up close with their elected officials and the lawmaking process, and to learn how they can make an impact. We'll provide transportation to and from the hall. Call Lauren Harmon, Torres Consulting & Law Group, at 602.626.8805 to sign up, or send e-mail to lauren@thetorresfirm.com.

PAC Facts – Get the scoop!

More than 60 unions and labor groups endorsed **President Barack Obama**, including the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters.

In the 2008 election, your UA 469 PAC endorsed six **U.S. Congressional candidates**, five of whom ultimately won their elections.

Also in 2008, the PAC worked to defeat three **ballot initiatives** that were harmful to labor and/or working families, related to counting votes on ballot initiatives, payday loans and illegal hiring.

In 2007, President Obama was an original sponsor of the **Employee Free Choice Act**, which – if it is passed this year – will restore workers' freedom to form unions and bargain without management interference.

More than **650 bills** have already been introduced in the Arizona State Legislature during the 2009 session so far, with more on the way every day!

Union membership in Arizona is on the rise! Currently about nine percent of AZ workers are union members, which is up 2.2 percent from 2000. Nationally, union membership dropped 1.3 percent during that same time period.

Register to Vote – It's Your Voice!

The first step to making a difference is VOTING. Register to vote today – there are several ways:

◆ Online

You may register online using Service Arizona EZ Voter Registration at www.servicearizona.com. Note that in order to use this Web site, you must have an Arizona Driver License and/or an Arizona non-operating Identification Card issued by the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) on or after October 1, 1996. Upon suc-



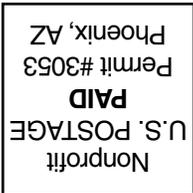
cessful completion of the online EZ Voter registration, you will receive a confirmation number. The confirmation number is your receipt that the information you entered has been accepted and changed.

◆ By Mail

Request a voter registration form from Erin Barrett at the Torres Consulting & Law Group at 602.626.8805 or send e-mail to erin@thetorresfirm.com. You will receive your form in the mail – just complete and mail it.

◆ In Person

You may visit the County Recorder in the county you are a legal resident and complete an Arizona Voter Registration form.



UA Local 469 Political Action Committee
3109 N. 24th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85016



Calling all members! Don't miss... Lunch at the State Capitol Thursday, Feb. 19

- Meet your Arizona State Senators and Representatives face to face
 - Enjoy a **free BBQ lunch** at the Arizona State Capitol
- Show our elected officials that the **469 voice will be heard** at the State Capitol
 - Get a free **469 volunteer t-shirt**

Where: Meet at the 469 hall in Phoenix or Tucson...we'll get you down there and pick you up!
No need to worry about parking hassles and finding the right place.

When: Phoenix: Bus leaves the hall at 10:15 a.m.; returns by 1:30 p.m.
Tucson: Bus leaves the hall at 9 a.m.; returns by 3 p.m.

Sign Up or Get More Details: Call Lauren Harmon, Torres Consulting & Law Group, 602.626.8805,
or send e-mail to lauren@thetorresfirm.com.

Look inside for more details!