Building a New Century

State Building and Construction Trades Council’s 100th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, December 7, 2001
San Francisco City Hall
100th Anniversary

History of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

Prelude and Dedication:

The California Building and Construction Trade Unions have a long and illustrious history of coming to the people’s aid when a crisis faces the state and nation.

When the earthquake of 1906 devastated San Francisco, destroying 28,000 structures, the construction unions virtually rebuilt the city from the ground up.

When World War II challenged the free world everywhere, 250,000 union members worked around the clock in California building ships, planes, tanks and every conceivable material needed for war. The “Rosie the Riveters” were a major part of this effort.

When the Loma Prieta earthquake rocked the Bay Area, Building and Construction Trade union members were at the wreckage immediately, pulling survivors from the destroyed highways and rebuilding the structures.

When the Northridge earthquake struck Southern California a few years later in 1994, union members rushed in again. Not only did they save lives, they rebuilt the damage in record time, providing relief to a reeling state.

In the summer of 2001, as our state faced the energy crisis, the Building and Construction Trade Unions built three major power plants ahead of schedule. This infusion of electricity was a major reason California did not experience the blackouts feared by so many citizens.

And, following this nation’s worst tragedy ever, on September 11, 2001, the Building and Construction Trades answered the call again. Almost immediately, volunteer union workers appeared from all over the northeast and as far away as California, and worked side by side with fire fighters, police officers and rescue workers. Even now they are at work removing giant pieces of wreckage, sorting through rubble and preparing to rebuild New York City.

As one union rescue worker at the site was quoted as he pulled himself from the smoldering hole that was once the World Trade Center, “You don’t see day laborers down there. It was all union men.”

This history and the 100th Anniversary Dinner are dedicated to the heroic efforts of union members, and to the 1,500 union members from many unions who died in the World Trade Center tragedy.
Like all great adventures, it started small...

The foundation for the Building and Construction Trades Council was laid some 20 years before 1901, in the green, rolling hills of County Limerick in Ireland. A church was being built for the Catholic Bishop of the area who demanded that the workers work until 11:00 p.m. each evening. A young teenage indentured apprentice thought that was unfair and convinced his fellow apprentices and journeymen not to work. In those days, opposing the clergy in Ireland was not something that happened very often. Despite the Bishop’s threats, the 17-year old Patrick Henry McCarthy stood his ground and the men won the wildcat strike. That stubbornness and determination would be a hallmark of McCarthy’s long union career.

McCarthy came to the United States shortly after the church strike, coming to Chicago at age 18, in 1880. He was fired after one day from his first job in America. The cause? Talking up union membership. Despite his youth, he was at the center of the organization of the Amalgamated Society, predecessor to the Carpenters Union. At age 23, the young Irishman was a delegate to a new convention of unions in Pittsburgh. From that meeting, the Knights of Labor became the American Federation of Labor. The AF of L was born with Samuel Gompers as its first president.

McCarthy settled in San Francisco in 1886, working as a carpenter. Within four years, his leadership helped win one of the first major unions victories: the eight hour day. In those days, a union carpenter might make $3.00 per day. McCarthy pushed hard to organize new union members, complicated by the fact that some locals were also organized around languages such as German and Italian-speaking organizations.

The State Building and Construction Trades Council is born.

By 1893, “P.H”, as he was now called, started the San Francisco Building & Construction Trades Council, using organization skills that were innovative for the young union movement. He recruited union members family-by-family, visiting individual households to convince wives and relatives of the benefits of union membership. By 1901, the State Building and Construction Trades Council was born, an organization that P.H. would lead until 1922.

When the San Francisco Building Trades Council decreed an eight-hour day in 1900 for the Mill Cabinet Industry, management refused, triggering a strike. After three months, McCarthy called management’s bluff and the BTC opened their own mill, using striking workers. Not long after, management caved in and the strike was over.

The coveted BTC “working card”...

Under McCarthy, only men carrying the coveted BTC “working card” could pick up a tool at any building site in San Francisco. Union wages were 75 cents an hour with an eight-hour day, the highest in America, at a time when steelworkers, teamsters and seamstresses worked 12 hours a day for much less. When McCarthy’s BTC decided that a contractor should pay higher wages, they simply decreed the pay raise. The contractor was given 90 days to comply, or face a “trial” at union headquarters. He wasn’t called the “Baron of the Building Trades” or the “Invincible Dictator of the Industrial World” for nothing.

Those were good times for the young labor movement. On
Labor Day, 1902, 40,000 workers marched down Market Street. The Building Trades’ contingent was led by a giant replica of the BTC working card, drawn by six black horses. San Francisco was known throughout America as the “closed shop” city. One disgruntled contractor complained, “The Building Trades Council and its various unions make what they call laws; (we) are forced to live up to them.”

**Rebuilding San Francisco...**

In 1906, the young Building Trades Council faced its first major test. The San Francisco earthquake and fire devastated the city, causing widespread damage. Over 28,000 structures were destroyed and McCarthy saw BTC membership double to 35,000 workers as they rebuilt the city. Three-quarters of BTC members had lost their homes in the disaster. The military commander of troops who set up tent camps and soup kitchens challenged McCarthy, however, threatening to use convicts to rebuild the shattered city. The unions dared General Funston to convert San Francisco into a military penitentiary. The general backed down.

Life was very different from today in the first decade of the twentieth century. The average life expectancy for men was 47 years, for women only 46. The average worker made $12.98 a week for a 59 hour week, or 22 cents an hour. There were only 8,000 cars in the whole country, but then there were only ten miles of paved roads in the United States!

**Not all victories...**

As the reconstruction of the city continued, management grew increasingly hostile. Patrick Calhoun was the anti-union owner of the city’s streetcar lines who said that the unions were, “killing the golden goose that lays the egg” by forcing a wage increase of $1 a day. Calhoun’s relationship with the union trolley car drivers had been hostile for years and the earthquake only made it worse. As part of the reconstruction, Calhoun paid $200,000 in bribes to Mayor Schmitz and his attorney to allow for the construction of an overhead trolley system. Schmitz and many other city leaders would later be found guilty of corruption.

The trolley drivers union, the “Carmen,” with the support of the Building Trades Council and McCarthy, struck the United Railroads in May, 1907. In the ensuing ten months six men died of gunshot wounds, 25 were killed in streetcar accidents and more than a thousand were injured. Calhoun brought in 1,200 strikebreakers, described by the *Chronicle* “as hard a looking lot of men as were seen in most prisons.” Calhoun broke the strike and the Carmen’s union.

**A political “First”...**

Initially demoralized by the United Railroads strike and the conviction of pro-union Mayor Schmitz, McCarthy was defeated in his first bid for Mayor in 1907. All but two of the county supervisors had been embroiled in the corruption charges as well. One of those Supervisors who survived unscathed was Olaf Tveitmoe, editor of the union newspaper, *Organized Labor*. This newspaper is the oldest continuously published union newspaper in the United States.

Running on the Union Labor Party ticket, P.H. McCarthy won the mayor’s office in 1909, defeating both the Democrat and Republican candidates. McCarthy became the first union official to be elected Mayor of a major American city. With the Mayor’s office in the union sphere, the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council became the most powerful labor organization in the country.

**The Roaring Twenties and the “Open Shop”...**

Even as McCarthy attempted to consolidate union power in the Bay Area and expand the State Building Trades Council throughout northern California, anti-unionism spread around the nation. Thousands of soldiers had come home after World War One, providing an over-abundance of workers.

Seizing the opportunity, the Builders Exchange, the forerunner to the Associated Builders and Contractors, formed the
so-called “American Plan” or open shop. The decade saw repeated strikes and violence as the unions battled the new open shop. In 1926, the carpenters struck in an action that saw one man killed and many others injured. Seven union men were charged with murder, including another Irish immigrant firebrand named Joe O’Sullivan. Although the charges were dropped against all of the union men, O’Sullivan was blacklisted. O’Sullivan would serve as Business Agent for Carpenters Local 22 from 1935 to 1979.

The decade of the 1920s were marked by continual battles with the open shop anti-union forces and losses for the union movement. Between 1924-1927, more than 970,000 California workers were killed or seriously injured on the job.

Leadership of the State Building and Construction Trades Council was passed to the legendary union leader Frank C. MacDonald. A member of the Tile Layers Helpers Union, MacDonald would serve in this post until his death in 1948. Future leaders were battle-tested during this period including Dan De Carlo of Glaziers Union Local 718, who would later serve as Industrial Accident Commissioner under Governor Pat Brown.

The Depression and the General Strike of 1934...

The depression years were among the worst of times and yet, were marked by some of labor union’s greatest triumphs. Times were hard and jobs were scarce, giving employers the opportunity to abuse workers and attack labor unions. This made union organizing even more successful as workers understood the need to join unions and protect themselves from unscrupulous companies.

In 1934, the Building Trades Council and its affiliated locals voted unanimously to support a general strike of San Francisco. The strike succeeded and the city secured its reputation as one of America’s strongest union towns again.

The 1930s became a boom time as well, as major projects got underway as part of the nation’s recovery. With President Franklin Roosevelt in the White House, unions had a powerful friend. Major construction projects blossomed, including the Golden Gate Bridge, the Bay Bridge, Shasta Dam and the new California highway system.

Major strides were made at the legislative level with the 1931 Davis-Bacon Act, the 1936 National Labor Relations Act creating the NLRB, and the 1939 Shelley-Maloney Act that created the California Apprenticeship Council. For working Americans, Roosevelt’s leadership produced a host of innovative social programs such as the minimum wage (25 cents an hour), social security, workers compensation and unemployment insurance.

The World War and Rosie the Riveters...

Pearl Harbor changed everything. In the flash of a Sunday morning attack on America, the war effort transformed the economy and society in general. As thousands of men traded
their hard hats for military uniforms, union locals all over California answered the call.

The AFL and CIO union locals put aside differences and united in a war time alliance called “Unity for Victory.” Shipyards in the Bay Area employed 240,000 workers around the clock to produce ships while aircraft factories boomed in Los Angeles and San Pedro. In a major shift for the union movement, thousands of women joined with men in jobs of every type to provide the critical material of war. The “Rosie the Riveters” were born and women advanced in the union movement.

In 1942 the Building Trades Council and the ABC negotiated a basic wage of 85 cents an hour. In the 1940s, the Pasadena freeway was built, the world’s first freeway, a portent of the vast highway construction of the next decade. By 1944 there were 18,600,000 union workers in the U.S., of which 3,500,000 were women. During the war, more than six million women were actively recruited to work in blue collar jobs. Unfortunately, as the men returned from the war most of these skilled female workers left the work force. It would be thirty years before women joined the construction trades as permanent members.

Even though hundreds of thousands of men and women came home after the war, unions weren’t faced with the same anti-union effort they faced in the twenties. The pent-up demand of years of war-time shortages produced one of the greatest booms in history.

The Post-war Boom...

The late 1940s and the 1950s created an explosion of prosperity and change unsurpassed in American history. City skylines sprouted up all over America and particularly in California. Road building and home construction was everywhere and unions benefited from the work.

In 1948, Frank A. Lawrence, of the Operating Engineers, succeeded Frank MacDonald as the President of the SBCTC.

Signs of anti-union sentiment arose again, though, as Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act that restricted union activities and permitted states to pass “right to work” laws.

Governor Earl Warren signed a major disability bill and benefits for non-industrial accidents. A Republican, he would go on to become one of the most liberal and pro-union justices on the United States Supreme Court, much to the chagrin of President Dwight Eisenhower, who appointed him to that post.

A new era of entertainment was started with the construction of Disneyland as orange groves were replaced by new cities and suburbs. In 1955, the AFL and CIO finally merged with George Meany as its first president, representing 85% of all union members in the country.

In 1956, Bryan P. Deavers was elected as the new President of the SBCTC.

In 1958, California unions joined together to defeat the anti-union publisher of the Oakland Tribune, William Knowland. They also defeated Prop 18, a “Right to Work” initiative that would be a portent of the next two decades.

Generally, the fifties and sixties were good years for the Building Trades. The Mare Island Naval Shipyard was built in
the early 1950s followed by the second Carquinez Bridge construction finished in 1958.

Started in 1964, the massive Bay Area Rapid Transit System (BART) would take eight years to complete. The elections of John Shelley and Joe Alioto as mayors of San Francisco solidified that city’s reputation as one of America’s most powerful union towns.

The Sixties, Promises Unfulfilled...

The decade of the sixties began with great promise. A young, labor-friendly president from Massachusetts named John F. Kennedy took the White House. In 1962 he gave federal employee unions the right to bargain collectively with government agencies. The Equal Pay Act the following year prohibited wage differences for workers based on sex.

James S. Lee, from the Painters Union, became the new President of the SBCTC in 1968.

When Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, the mood of the country changed. Even though Lyndon Johnson would push pro-union legislation as part of the Great Society of 1964, the Vietnam War would dominate American society for the next decade.

There were many legislative triumphs in the sixties and early seventies, however. The Age Discrimination Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Civil Rights Act all made lasting impact on the nation’s working environment. In California, Governor Pat Brown signed the Fair Employment Practices Act, and the Meyers Milias Brown Act provided collective bargaining rights for public employees.

The “Open Shop” Returns...

In the 1960s, corporate construction users under the banner of the Business Roundtable devised a deliberate plan to undermine union power by promoting newly established open shop contractors. Just as they had tried to do in the twenties, the anti-union contractors joined with chambers of commerce all over the country to pass “right to work” laws.

In the 1970s construction recessions heightened the competitive pressures in the industry, enabling nonunion builders with lower costs to seize a larger share of the market. The economic downturn was heightened by the oil crisis created by foreign manipulation of supplies.

The seventies also saw successful legal battles fought by women to gain access to jobs in the construction industry. Like their sisters in the war years had done, these workers entered the building trades, but now as permanent union members. Journey-level women now work in virtually every trade, adding skill and diversity to the work force.

In 1975, voters in San Francisco approved a Board of Supervisors amendment to eliminate prevailing wages for city-employed craftsmen. The Craftsmen went on strike for 38 days and the Building Trades Council attempted to negotiate a successful result for the trades. The Supervisors adopted a formula that paid lower wages instead.

Rat Monday...

By the late eighties, the open shop movement had been successful in most of the country. Where the Building Trades were strong in areas like San Francisco, Chicago and Boston the open shop didn’t make much headway. In those cities the trades held firm.

A new, innovative President of the SBCTC took office in 1982. Jerry P. Cremins, of the Plumbers union would update the organizations with computers and new programs, such as the Five Point Program.

The issue came to a peak in 1988 when the ABC decided to hold their national convention at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. Outraged that the anti-union enemy ABC would meet in their town, Building Trades members turned out in force. Nearly six thousand union building trades workers took the day off, without pay, and marched on the convention center on the opening day of the meeting. It was said
that there were no eggs available for purchase in the city that day; they were all used at the Moscone Center.

The Battle for Prevailing Wages ...

Three consecutive Republican governors who were also anti-union proved to be devastating for California’s unions. Five times between 1983 and 1990 the Department of Industrial Relations tried to use a different formula for determining prevailing wages that would have drastically reduced the amount of these wages. In 1988, the administration even cut out Cal/OSHA, only to have it restored by popular vote in the union-backed Prop 97. Years of anti-union administrations created whole bureaucracies of anti-union state employees who would create road blocks for unions to this day. Unsuccessful at disbanding the DIR, Governor Pete Wilson tried to starve it out of existence by cutting its funds and appointing anti-union managers to run the agency.

In 1994, the Republicans won a majority in the Assembly for the first time since 1970. Even so, the ever-resourceful Democrat Willie Brown retained the Speakership and committee chairmanships for several months. With Republicans in the legislature introducing bills to gut prevailing wages regularly, the State Building Trades Council, now led by President Bob Balgenorth, fought back.

At this same time, Governor Pete Wilson led the campaign for deregulation of the electric industry in California. Members of both parties in the legislature approved his plan. Just five years later, this plan would create one of the most serious crises in the state's history.

In 1995, the SBTC organized a campaign to protect prevailing wages, utilizing a video it produced that year entitled Unnatural Disasters. Balgenorth also utilized academic studies that proved the value of prevailing wages and their positive impact on the community. The SBTC organized a battle plan using grass-roots campaigns, public relations, and legal actions to fight the Wilson administration.

Despite a pro-union ruling by a San Francisco Superior Court, Governor Wilson charged ahead in his attempts to kill prevailing wages. The SBTC set up rallies in Sacramento and Los Angeles. In Sacramento’s biggest rally since the sixties, 15,000 construction workers marched on the capitol on Valentine’s Day, 1996, to protest the Wilson Administration’s actions. In Los Angeles, 25,000 construction workers turned out, paralyzing traffic.

Wilson, still unmoved, tried to kill prevailing wages, accusing unions of using scare tactics. The SBTC responded with lawsuits in San Francisco and Sacramento as well as legislative efforts to fight the governor. Heroes in the assembly included Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante, Assembly Member Denise Ducheny, Senator Mike Thompson and Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer.

By 1997, the battle was won. Court and legislative victories finally slowed the Wilson anti-union train. The director of the DIR resigned and the power of the governor to violate the law was broken. “This is a great victory for construction workers, whether union or not,” said Balgenorth of
the court victories, “because it stops the governor from slashing their wages. It means the governor can’t use the regulatory process to violate the intent of the law.”

**Prop 226: “Paycheck Protection”...**

Despite the SBCTC’s victory in the prevailing wage fight, Wilson and the anti-union contractors weren’t done. Wilson continued to push an anti-union agenda and in 1998, Prop 226 was offered to “gag the worker.” Once again, the SBCTC organized opposition to this new threat. SBCTC staffers Bob Beam, Dave Sickler and Ray Trujillo organized a huge field effort throughout the state.

In 1998, union members made 650,000 phone calls to voters, walked 5,005 precincts to distribute literature and talk to voters and sent more than 500,000 pieces of mail to union members’ homes. Early in the year polls showed Prop 226 ahead by 60 percent to 29 percent. By election day, however, voters defeated Prop 226 by more than 366,000 votes. It was the greatest victory for California unions in 40 years!

In one last vindictive action, lame-duck Governor Pete Wilson took one more whack at construction worker pay. He struck budget language in an attempt to subvert the legal prevailing wage formula. Fortunately, two court decisions prevented the Wilson-controlled DIR from damaging prevailing wages.

**Carrying the Momentum into the Governor’s Office...**

The huge organizing effort against Prop 226 carried over in yet another long-shot election. The anti-union Republican candidate for governor, Attorney General Dan Lungren looked like a shoe-in against Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis. Union members from all over the state worked hard for Davis and raised more than $600,000 for his campaign. The difference in the candidates’ records was crystal clear: Davis had been pro-union throughout his career just as Lundgren had been steadfastly anti-union.

Even though Davis had gone through a tough primary and started behind Lundgren early on in the campaign, election day was another matter. On November 3, 1998, sixteen years of anti-worker government ended when Gray Davis defeated Lungren overwhelmingly by 57.9 percent to 38.3 percent. Democrats gained five seats in the Assembly and one seat in the Senate, giving them large majorities in both houses.

In his first term, Governor Davis has been supportive of the SBCTC’s program to move the labor agenda. He signed bills that expanded prevailing wages, enforced overtime and the 8-hour day, strengthened apprenticeship standards, beefed up contractor debarment for unscrupulous contractors, increased funds for the enforcement of Cal-OSHA and labor laws, protected our right to organize and increased unemployment benefits. In addition, Governor Davis appointed nearly 100 union members to key boards and commissions throughout state government.

**The Challenges of a New Century...**

The nineties have been like two different decades. Early in the decade, California’s economy was in trouble. Real estate values were flat or declining and construction was struggling. Deregulation of the power industry under Pete Wilson hadn’t yet created the power crisis of 2001 and no power plants were built for over 12 years.

The second half of the decade, however, produced one of the greatest economic booms in world history. A Democrat president, Bill Clinton, presided over this unprecedented prosperity, generated by industries like the Internet that hadn’t
existed ten years before. Silicon Valley flourished, and the United States was off and running again.

Three months after Governor Davis took office, the first power plant in 12 years was approved. The SBCTC would negotiate 25 Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) to build these huge projects, creating over 21 million construction hours of work for years to come. Construction jobs soared all over the state as Building and Construction Trade unions saw 100% employment for their members.

A new group was formed in 1997 to protect California’s environment while promoting major power plant construction. California Unions For Reliable Energy, CURE, was originally formed with participation by the IBEW construction, IBEW utility, Boilermakers and the United Association unions. The Ironworkers joined as a participant shortly thereafter. The participants of CURE selected Robert Balgenorth to serve as Chairman of the coalition. CURE participates in the agency review of applications for new power plants in California. CURE seeks full compliance with environmental requirements, and employment for local union workers to build, maintain and operate the plants. The participating unions have agreements covering the construction, maintenance and operation of 25 new combined cycle power plants. CURE also has several environmental mitigation agreements which reduce air pollution, consumption of fresh water and the risk to workers and the public from handling hazardous chemicals resulting from these power plants.

Union apprenticeship programs increased dramatically to provide the workforce for the state’s future. Over 91% of all participants in these programs worked in joint union-management programs and their graduation rate was many times that of non-union programs.

In addition to the legislative and electoral work done by the SBCTC, much has been done to improve the health and safety of construction workers. The SBCTC has received several grants from OSHA to provide training for workers and unions on how to identify construction hazards and toxins on the worksite and how to find solutions. The SBCTC has also taken the lead among unions in the state and the nation in helping our members fight tobacco addiction through the BUILT project.

Trouble Comes in Fours...

Four events of the new century created unique challenges for California’s unions.

In 2000, the Internet bubble burst. Trillions of dollars of wealth vanished overnight and whole companies vanished. The economy staggered and the country searched for a way to replace what had been a stock market that knew only one direction: up! Although the state’s economy still kept pace ahead of the rest of America, it was clear that it would not be so easy.

In the next year, the mistakes of Pete Wilson and energy deregulation created the state’s biggest crisis in decades. Almost overnight, California was spending billions of what had been a surplus to pay for electricity for the state. Governor Davis tried multiple avenues to solve the problem and the summer of 2001 did not produce the blackouts that many had feared. The Building and Construction Trades contributed dramatically to the state’s solutions by building three huge power plants that summer, on budget, ahead of schedule and with no serious labor problems. All were built with PLAs.

But the year wasn’t over yet. In November, an anti-union candidate, George W. Bush was “selected” to the White House by an outrageous decision of the United States Supreme Court. Within weeks, Bush issued executive orders that would outlaw PLAs and damage the ability of unions to organize and grow. The SBCTC responded again with an organizing and promotional campaign to set the record straight about the new president. Early victories in federal court slowed Bush’s anti-PLA efforts.

And then, on September 11, 2001, the rules changed forever. For the first time in American history, foreign terrorists attacked this country on American soil, killing over 3,000 people. Of those killed, hundreds were union members at the World Trade Center. Union firefighters, police officers and construction workers created an unforgettable image as they toiled side-by-side on the giant pile of rubble that had once been the World Trade Center.
No one knows how the world will change. But some challenges are clear:

- While the SBCTC and union members everywhere have no doubt about the anti-union agenda of the Bush administration, we hope that the shock of the World Trade Center bombing will temper this agenda. Given the chance, construction unions can work with any administration. Denied that chance, we’ll fight to protect America’s working families.

- We’re going to work hard to reelect Governor Gray Davis. In his first term, Governor Davis has produced the best record for union members in many decades. No Republican currently on the horizon will give the combination of protection and partnership Governor Davis has provided for the building and construction trades. As a proven, battle-tested friend of unions, he deserves our enthusiastic support.

- The construction work force a hundred years ago was very diverse. Diversity then, however, was measured by different ethnic groups of immigrants learning about life in their new country. Today, the work force manifests an even broader diversity. Now construction workers represent the whole fabric of American society with African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, American Indians and women working side-by-side with the descendants of the Irish, Italian and German workers of a century before. That broad mix of people in 1901 was a great strength of the construction union movement. Today, that diversity is a powerful foundation and source of talent and leadership for our unions. How we best nurture and use that foundation will determine the success of our movement in the next 100 years.

- Our vision must be broader as we seek new partnerships. In 2001, the SBCTC worked hard to develop a partnership with the Sierra Club in their open and productive support of Project Labor Agreements. Just as unions utilized CURE to help move our PLA agenda, organizations like the Sierra Club can be valuable allies as we develop the construction jobs of the 21st century.

As Samuel Gompers said a century ago, “We reward our friends, punish our enemies.” In this century, building and construction trade unions will have to work hard to expand our friends and be clear about who our real enemies are. Clearly, all union members are our brothers and sisters, regardless of what union they belong to. Rather than looking inward to the House of Labor for battles, we need to be focused always outwards for the real threats to working families.
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Boilermakers Local 549
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Electrical Workers Local 11
Electrical Workers Local 617
Elevator Constructors Local 8
Elevator Constructors Local 18
Operating Engineers Local 3
Operating Engineers Local 12
District Council of Iron Workers
Iron Workers International
So. Ca. District Council of Laborers
District Council of Painters 16
District Council of Painters 36
Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 300
Cement Masons Local 600
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Western Regional District Council of Roofers
Sheet Metal Workers Local 162
Sheet Metal Workers International
United Association
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Marin County BCTC
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Napa-Solano Counties BCTC
Northeastern California BCTC
Sacramento–Sierra BCTC
San Bernardino and Riverside Counties BCTC
San Diego County BCTC
San Francisco BCTC
San Joaquin, Calaveras, Alpine & Amador Counties BCTC
San Mateo County BCTC
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria Counties BCTC
Santa Clara & San Benito Counties BCTC
Sonoma-Mendocino-Lake Counties BCTC
Stanislaus, Merced, Tuolumne & Mariposa Counties BCTC
Ventura County BCTC
State Building and Construction Trades Council of California
Presidents

1901-1921
PATRICK HENRY McCARTHY
Carpenters Union

1922-1948
FRANK C. MACDONALD
Tile Layers Helpers Union

1948-1954
FRANK A. LAWRENCE
Operating Engineers

1954 -1956
OTTO E. NEVER

1956-1967
BRYAN P. DEAVERS

1968-1983
JAMES S. LEE
Painters Union

1984-1993
JERRY P. CREMINS
United Association

1993-present
ROBERT L. BALGENORTH
IBEW
1901-1921  Patrick Henry McCarthy  Carpenters Union
1922-1948  Frank C. MacDonald  Tile Layers Helpers Union
1948-1954  Frank A. Lawrence  Operating Engineers
1954-1956  Otto E. Never
1956-1967  Bryan P. Deavers
1968-1983  James S. Lee  Painters Union
1984-1993  Jerry P. Cremins  United Association
1993-present  Robert L. Balgenorth  IBEW
Thank you

Special thanks from all the staff at the State Building and Construction Trades Council to all of our affiliates, friends and supporters. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to help us serve California’s working families in the next century.

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Ann Greer, Legislative Assistant/Secretary

Wayne Hagen, Health Educator (BUILT)

Cindy Hamilton, Project Assistant (BUILT)

Shelly Murawski, Bookkeeper

Lynn Schorno, Computer Services Director

Dave Sickler, Southern California Regional Director

Ray Trujillo, Northern California Regional Director

Scott Wetch, Legislative/Political Director
Thank you

Special thanks from all the staff at the State Building and Construction Trades Council to all of our affiliates, friends and supporters. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to help us serve California’s working families in the next century.

**State Building and Construction Trades Council of California Staff**

Bob Balgenorth, *President*
Michaela Balgenorth, *Office Manager/Executive Assistant*
Bob Beam, *Special Representative*
Laura Boatman, *Project Coordinator (OSHA Grant)*
Debra Chaplan, *Program Development Specialist*
Michael Dugan, *Communications Director*
Ann Greer, *Legislative Assistant/Secretary*

Wayne Hagen, *Health Educator (BUILT)*
Cindy Hamilton, *Project Assistant (BUILT)*
Shelly Murawski, *Bookkeeper*
Lynn Schorno, *Computer Services Director*
Dave Sickler, *Southern California Regional Director*
Ray Trujillo, *Northern California Regional Director*
Scott Wetch, *Legislative/Political Director*
Welcome to the 100th Anniversary celebration of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. 2001 has been a year of great success for the Building and Construction Trades, but it has also been one of the most challenging years for the United States in our nation's history.

It's a year where a new, enduring image has been created for the men and women who work on construction jobs everywhere. The images of hard hats digging in the wreckage of the World Trade Center along side firefighters, police officers and emergency personnel reminded the world of the dedication and loyalty of the men and women who make up the building and construction trades. We dedicate this dinner to the bravery and example of the hundreds of union members who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks.

We also dedicate this dinner to the thousands of brothers and sisters who came before us in the last century. It is their efforts that made the success of today's building and construction trades possible. Their sacrifices are an inspiration to all of us. For the 400,000 members and affiliates of the unions that make up the State Building and Construction Trades we say “thank you” for the great foundation built by these giants of the labor movement.

Tonight, enjoy the evening as we remember the past and resolve to make the future even better for every working family in California.
The following individuals and organizations were not able to attend tonight’s dinner, but contributed to our event. We appreciate their continued support to the State Building and Construction Trades Council…

Ron Barrow, Political Group/CLC
Kathleen Cremins-Winter
Eben Lu, C.P.A.
Larry Gallagher, Gallagher Consulting, Inc.
Ted Hall, IBEW Local 639
David Gorgas, Laborers Local 1130
Sonia Moseley, UNAC Health Care Workers 1199
Thanks for Your Support

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State Building and Construction Trades Council of California
100th Anniversary Dinner
San Francisco City Hall
December 7, 2001

6:00 p.m.  Reception
Music by Kathy Holly, Vocalist (P.H. McCarthy’s granddaughter)
John Moore, Bass • Ron Sfarzo, Accordion, • Francine Passa, Violin

Speakers and Greetings
Joseph Maloney, Secretary-Treasurer, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO
Honorable John Burton, President pro tem of the California Senate
Honorable Willie Brown, Mayor, City of San Francisco
Robert L. Balgenorth, President, State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

Menu

HORS D’OEUVRES
Freshly Sautéed Louisiana Style Blackened Mushrooms
Coconut Crusted Chicken Morsels
Vegetarian Spring Rolls
Freshly Made Quesadillas

DINNER
Sonoma Baby Greens and Young Spinach
Herb Rubbed Filet Mignon & Scampi Style Prawns
Pesto Mashed Potatoes
Chef’s Choice of Seasonal Vegetables
    or Spinach Ravioli Filled with Gorgonzola Cheese
Chef’s Choice of Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT
Classic Tiramisu
Coffee and Tea