

Ingalls Shipyard Workers Prevail

Dissatisfaction over a proposed contract and stresses brought on by Hurricane Katrina triggered a month-long strike by more than 6,000 union members at Northrop Grumman's Pascagoula, MS, Ingalls Shipyard. The shipbuilders are members of 15 unions, including the IAM, that make up the Pascagoula Metal Trades Council.

"The aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are still a daily fact of life for residents of the Gulf Coast," said Southern Territory GVP Bob Martinez. "The workers at Ingalls, who did a superb job getting the yard up and run-



Photo by R. B. Boulware

Thousands of union members at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems in Pascagoula, MS carried an unmistakable message of solidarity during an eight-mile march along U.S. Route 90.

ning after the storms hit, faced higher prices for housing, fuel and food. They were determined to win a fair agreement."

The settlement includes

a 9.2 percent pay raise, the largest in the company's history, and cost-of-living allowances to address the high costs in the Gulf Coast's volatile economy.

Cincinnati Hosts 2007 Union Industries Show



Bill Burke, Page One Photography

IAM-made products were a big draw, including the always popular Harley-Davidson motorcycle and colorful John Deere lawn tractors. Fifteen other IAM-represented companies were also there and drew in visitors.

It wasn't hard to "look for the union label" when the 2007 AFL-CIO Union Industries Show came to Cincinnati, OH, to showcase union-made products and services.

"We had the largest number ever of IAM-represented companies participate," said General Secretary-Treasurer Warren Mart. "We thank them and we thank our members for the high quality of their products and services. We can all be proud."

Team Effort Wins 1,800 New Members in Long Beach, CA

In a huge organizing win, Office and Technical Workers from the City of Long Beach, CA voted by a more than two-to-one margin to join the IAM. The 1,800 new members join four other groups in the city: the Professional; Protection; Refuse; and Skilled and General units to bring the total number of IAM-represented city workers in Local Lodge 1930 to 4,000.

Key to the victory was the example set by previous IAM drives among the Long Beach workers, especially the Professional group's win last year. "When we showed the Office and Technical group that others, such as the Professional group, saw immediate improvements in their wages, work standards, training opportunities and fairness on the job, they understood right away the value of joining the IAM," said Western Territory Grand Lodge Representative (GLR) Joel Ochoa, who led the organizing drive.

But getting the word out to 1,800 workers spread out across the

city was a daunting job that required an army of volunteers and staff. "We reached out to the Office and Technical unit, the Long Beach units, District Lodges 947, 725 and 190 and the Western Territory office," said GLR and Western Territory Organizing Leader Steve Cooper. "We trained the volunteers on the approach for the campaign, gave them talking points and the locations of the Office and Technical employees who work all over the city in groups ranging from just a few to more than one hundred."

The volunteers also did

the behind-the-scenes work, including setting up site visits, making phone calls, stuffing envelopes, handing out flyers and getting signatures.

The vote came just as the other Long Beach City workers are about to begin negotiations. The win gives all five groups a tremendous boost in bargaining power. "This was a total team effort," said Western Territory General Vice President Lee Pearson. "The Office and Technical Workers saw that the IAM is the union of choice for working families. Now we will start negotiations for all five units and we are 4,000 strong. We will deliver a good contract."



A campaign meeting for Long Beach, CA Office and Technical city employees displayed the team effort by volunteers and staff from the Western Territory; District Lodges 947, 725 and 190; and the Long Beach city employees who worked together to win 1,800 new IAM members.