

# Local 522 Union Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 4/25/24

**At:** 4:30 P.M.

**Location:** Petra Mediterranean Pizza & Grill

1210 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo

**Meeting called to order by:** Pre. Raul Reyes

**Second by:** Rec. Sec. Eddie Reedy

**At:** 4:42 P.M.

## **Roll Call:**

Pres. Raul Reyes

V.P. Travis Hickman

Treasurer Ernie Gonzales

Trustee Angel Sanchez

Trustee Kelvin Tanji

Trustee Dan Parral (Online)

Trustee Theron Smith

Recording Secretary Eddie Reedy

## **Flag Salute**

### **Additions & Corrections:**

1. **Addition (Rec. Sec. Eddie Reedy):** Meeting Minutes of 3/12/24 for approval.
2. **Addition (Rec. Sec. Eddie Reedy):** Swearing in of Trustee Theron Smith.
3. **Addition (Rec. Sec. Eddie Reedy):** Local Concerns.

**Approval of Agenda by:** Treas. Ernie Gonzales

**Second by:** Vice Pres. Travis Hickman

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Minutes from 3/12/24:** Read out loud by Trustee Angel Sanchez

**Q.:** N/A

**Motion of Approval:** Vice Pres. Travis Hickman      **Second By:** Trustee Theron Smith

**Result:** Passed

**Minutes from 3/20/24:** Read out loud by Trustee Angel Sanchez

**Q.:** N/A

**Motion of Approval:** Vice Pres. Travis Hickman      **Second By:** Trustee Angel Sanchez

**Result:** Passed

### **Trustee Reports:**

1. **Kelvin Tanji:** No report.
  - a. **Q.:** N/A
2. **Theron Smith:** No report.
  - a. **Q.:** N/A

3. **Dan Parral:** No report.

a. **Q.:** N/A

4. **Angel Sanchez:**

a. **LA FED:**

i. **Affordable Housing/Homelessness:** On May 15<sup>th</sup> there will be an organized event in the city of Norwalk for signatures regarding affordable housing. They do have a representative that would like to talk to the various locals about homelessness. They are also asking for volunteers on May 11<sup>th</sup> to hand out bags to the homeless.

1. **Q.:** N/A

ii. **Nursing Enrolment:** Trustee Angel Sanchez will post on the union website a brochure about the nursing program in case anyone is interested in enrolling.

1. **Q.:** N/A

iii. **School Rally:** Schools are facing cuts and are asking for community support to help keep programs funded. There will be a school rally in Van Nuys on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 P.M.

1. **Q.:** N/A

iv. **LA Trade Tech:** On April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> LA Trade Tech will be hosting a training to educate people on their rights. The event will take place between 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

1. **Q.:** (S.S. Kito Singleton) Is the training free? Sometimes it's free and sometimes it's a class.

**A.:** (Trustee Angel Sanchez) I do not have the flyer with me, but once I get home I can verify if it's free and post it on the union website.

#### **Officer Reports:**

1. **Treasurer Report (Treas. Ernie Gonzalez):**

a. **Report:** Full Report given by Ernie Gonzalez.

i. Beginning Balance (as of March 1<sup>st</sup>) = \$426,195.11

ii. Total Deposits and Credits = \$30,827.52

iii. Total Checks and Withdrawals = (\$5,840.57)

iv. Ending Balance (as of March 31<sup>st</sup>) = \$451,182.06

1. **Q.:** N/A

**Motion to Approve:** Rec. Sec. Eddie Reedy      **Second by:** Trustee Theron Smith

**Result:** Passed

2. **Vice President Report (Travis Hickman):** No report.

a. **Q.:** N/A

3. **President Report (Raul Reyes):** No report.

- a. Q.: N/A

**Committee Reports:**

**1. Shop Committee:**

- a. **Orange County (Trustee Kelvin Tanji):** No report.

- i. Q.: N/A

- b. **Pacific (S.S Robert Gonzalez):** No report.

- i. Q.: N/A

- c. **Inland Empire (Pres. Raul Reyes):**

- i. **Vacation Slots:** Vacation Slots were finalized on 3/13/24. No luck for DIMP and SPS leads.

- 1. Q.: N/A

- ii. **ETR Graveyard Shifts:** Finalized ETR Graveyard shifts on 3/13/24. In 2022, the company introduced ETR graveyard shifts that were not compliant with Inland Shop. The agreement got opened last year and we have been haggling over it for months. We finally agreed to 4 shifts.

- 1. Q.: N/A

- iii. **Substitute Representative:** Local 522 is preparing to have a substitute representative due to the regular representative's involvement with negotiations. Vice Pres. Travis Hickman will be sitting in. The next meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup>. Pres. Raul Reyes and Vice Pres. Travis Hickman are scheduled to attend Inland shop for the rest of the year. When Pres. Raul Reyes cannot attend Vice Pres. Travis Hickman will be the 522 representative.

- 1. Q.: N/A

- iv. **132 Representative:** Unfortunately, one of the regular Local 132 representatives, regional officer Roger Avellanoza, passed away in March. He was an ETR out of Palm Desert.

- 1. Q.: N/A

- d. **Northern (S.S. Jagpreet Singh):**

- i. **Clarification for DPPM LOI Guidelines:** The Union and the Company are still haggling over who's defined under DPPM. They are also haggling over the definition of "location".

- 1. Q.: N/A

- e. **Mapping (Pres. Raul Reyes):** No pending meeting at the moment.

- i. **Department Location:** We are still waiting for a decision from the Company on where the department will be relocated. The Company recently moved ESAP out of Gas Company Tower. The company mentioned Redlands, Chatsworth, and San Dimas as possible locations. Still have not decided where or if. As of

yesterday, I (Pres. Raul Reyes) got invited to discuss having represented employees give a presentation on their job duties. There are a lot of interlocking departments at the Gas Company Tower which is why they want to have this presentation. We want to make sure that our members are not “teaching” their job duties for them to be taken away later. I believe the presentation is meant to show the difference in responsibilities and where jobs get handed to other departments.

1. Q.: N/A

f. **Energy Analysis (S.S. Leigh Estrada):** Still waiting for a response from management to schedule the next shop meeting.

i. Q.: N/A

2. **Communication Committee (Trustee Angel Sanchez):**

a. **Contact Information:** The updated list of member e-mails has been completed. That will be the tool used for communicating during negotiations. It’s been difficult to get information, but I have had to ask through teams. We have been able to reach out to everyone for phone numbers and emails.

i. Q.: N/A

b. **Vacancy:** Erick Lopez stepped down from the Communication Committee so there was a vacancy available. The spot has been filled.

i. **A.:** (S.S. Orvin Wilson): I have made a template to help organize the gathering of information from the members. I can send out to the committee if they would like.

3. **Organizing committee (Treas. Ernie Gonzales):**

a. **000 List:** There was only one name on the 000 list, but they have already submitted their paperwork. The list used to be four pages long, but we have been able to get it down to 0.

i. Q.: N/A

4. **System Protection Committee (S.S. Orvin Wilson):**

a. **Unknown Contractor:** There has been a new unknown contractor working for the company that may be replacing Far West. We are investigating who the new contractor is, what their responsibilities will be, the duration of their work, and if they are replacing Far West %100. Want to make sure they don’t violate fenced in work. If you hear something, please let the union know. The new contractor has not been identified yet.

i. **Q.:** (Member Oscar Reynoso) I recently ran into someone from pipeline integrity management working with a contractor from Far West. The contractor was dressed in a Gas Company hat and vest. He looked like an employee of the Gas Company. I brought this up to management and they said it was “for safety”. My concern is with contractors looking like Gas Company when they

are not. I also asked why we weren't doing the work. Their response was, "I'm going to have to ask someone else about that". When I brought it up again, they said the contractors plan rectifiers for certain areas. Why can't we do that job? Management said that represented employee's responsibility is paperwork. That goes back to contractors doing fenced in work. What do I need to do?

**A.:** (Pres. Raul Reyes) Please get the contractor's name, date, location, and any other information you think is relevant. And get that information to us as soon as possible. We have heard of contractors in our uniforms but that's all we have; we don't have any documentation.

**A.:** (S.S. Leigh Estrada) A lot of our work [Energy Analysis] gets contracted out and it's the project manager who chooses the contractor. They should be aware of who they're giving the work to.

**Q.:** (S.S. Orvin Wilson) Was the lead SPS informed of this? Has this been reflected on a maintenance sheet or any other company report?

**A.:** (Member Oscar Reynoso) The lead was not informed. I sent e-mails but most of these conversations were in person, so I do not have documentation.

**A.:** (S.S. Orvin Wilson) If you have a conversation in person, please follow it up with a recap e-mail and save that e-mail. Also, adjust your retention criteria to your e-mails so the e-mail doesn't disappear.

- b. Supervisor Visits and Ride-a-longs:** The CP departments are increasing the number of supervisor visits and ride-a-longs. Each employee should monitor to make sure there is no targeting, and we should try to figure out the purpose of the increase. Also, peer to peer walks. I believe these may be an information gathering type of thing. There doesn't seem to be any disciplinary action from these but if you hear or experience something please let the union know.

**i. Q.:** N/A

- c. New Tool:** The Mueller half-cell extension was urged as a necessary tool to prevent stooping and reaching, and it was reviewed by the Tool's Committee. We did explain the importance of the tool to team lead Jerry Armstrong. Mueller half-cell extension stick has been approved. I strongly stressed the safety of this. Pipeline also gets to use it and it should be safe across the board.

**i. Q.:** N/A

- d. Traffic Control Plans:** There has been an increase in traffic control plans requested by different counties and municipalities. Some places do accept the standard pdf form we have. We need to include this in job responsibilities and get formal training on it. One Call could be doing represented work as a contractor. We think this undermines the fenced in rule, but we will need to investigate more.

i. Q.: N/A

e. **New Valve Can Lids and Appropriate Tools to Open Them:** Due to a vendor issue, the company will be using a new vendor. The membership has had concerns with safety with the new valve lid. The new lid has a 2-bolt system. In some instances, concrete has been getting in the holes preventing them from opening. We encourage members to stop the job if necessary and obtain proper traffic control when necessary. We also encourage everyone to use 9/16 socket or driver to open without stress on the wrist.

i. Q.: N/A

f. **Grounded riser:** Cathodic protection is now being asked to check grounded risers. That used to be the responsibility of ERT'S and FSA's in customer service. This is a PUC guideline that we must follow but we will need to further review policy to define what CP's responsibilities are.

i. Q.: N/A

g. **SPS Position Update (Kevin Clark):** I have noticed that the bid description for the SPS position has been updated by the company. Did anyone notice it? It seems to reflect new responsibilities and updated job duties. It was updated as of April 18<sup>th</sup>.

i. A.: (Pres. Raul Reyes) The Company did notify The Union that they intended to update it. The Union told the company that we wanted to discuss it with them, but they did it anyways. Our next meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> and we can discuss it then. They did it without our consent and it does seem suspicious that it happened after PAKCS has started.

**Grievance committee (Vice Pres. Travis Hickman):** No report.

h. Q.: N/A

5. **Audit Committee (Treas. Ernie Gonzales):** Audit still in progress and about %75 done. We will be meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> to complete the audit.

a. Q.: N/A

#### **Local Concerns:**

1. **Priority Load Surveys (Member Richard Forbes):** I have a lot of communication with account executives and one of my concerns is that we get these annual priority load surveys that have a deadline now. Some of them are at large facilities; prisons, colleges, etc. I don't know why they're pushing these through. If they're already getting district pressure, they won't be bumping up their pressure. Plus these are big jobs. Am I supposed to get CST's to help me out?

a. A.: (Pres. Raul Reyes) We've had these annual load surveys for a while, but they recently started putting deadlines on them. The Company just picks an arbitrary date that they must be done by. I think the concern was they were getting ignored but I think this is self-inflicted. If there is no IST there to handle the job they should hire more. If you are running into these issues, contact us.

**2. Negotiations (Online Question):** Can we go on strike the day after the contract expires?

**a. A.:** (Pres. Raul Reyes) Legally, yes, we can. But before that we will be trying to obtain a “Strike Authorization” vote from the members to be prepared. The intent is to have all 6 locals have their authorization to strike ready so we can strike simultaneously. Our bylaws do say we can mail in our vote for authorization, but the intent is to stand united with our brothers and sisters in the other locals and gather at 1 location at the same time to do the vote in person. The vote will need to be in person, so please be prepared to make the trip if and when that day gets decided. It will most likely be on a weekend.

**b. A.:** (Online Comment) The Union needs to do better to inform the members about what we loss in the last contract.

**A.:** (Pres. Raul Reyes) We do our best to inform the members with what’s going on but the membership must take responsibility and inform themselves of the contract. Please read the CBA and fill out the survey we are sending so the union is better informed with your wants and needs. Attending the general meetings is also essential to staying informed, especially when there are zoom options available.

**A.:** (Rec. Sec. Eddie Reedy) I also urge the membership to read the minutes of the past meetings, so they stay informed. You can find the approved meeting minutes on our website. Also, we will be conducting informative zoom meetings during negotiations so the membership can stay informed about what’s going on.

**A.:** (S.S. Kito Singleton) The company appears to be moving towards a less disciplinary stance on solving issues. We are brainstorming on how to prevent another incident from happening. I do want to remind the membership to attend the meetings either online or in person to stay informed. We need your participation. Also ask your coworkers in 132 or our other locals if they will be voting. I’d like to see %100 of voter participation but I know that is unlikely, but the higher percentage the better. If we have 2/3 of the membership voting that puts us in a position of power.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**1. Q.:** N/A

**New Business:** None

**1. Q.:** N/A

**Announcements:**

**1. Negotiations Survey and SPS Questionnaire (Pres. Raul Reyes):** The e-board has sent a negotiations survey for the members and an SPS survey through the mail. Please be on the lookout for them. If you are in SPS you will be receiving 2 separate letters.

**Swear in:**

**1. Members:** All Present

**2. Officers**

**a. Theron Smith**

**Open Forum:** None

**1. Q.:** N/A

**Meeting Adjourned by:** Rec. Sec. Eddie Reedy      **Second by:** Trustee Angel Sanchez

**At:** 6:00 P.M.