

by Louis Gabriele

**CWA District 9 is responsible for supporting the CWA Locals in the states of California, Hawaii and Nevada. We gathered in Honolulu, Hawaii for the 2022 District 9 Leadership Conference. The Meeting and Conference is rotated each year. Some speakers attended in person or zoom**



**Dominique Thomas**



**Frank Arce**



**Dante Harris**



**Keith Gibbs**

**On September 5, 2022 the meeting was called to order by Dominique Thomas, Assistant to Vice President Frank Arce. Dante Harris traded his Diversity at-Large position to become the first minority to ever be elected to the position of AFA-CWA International Secretary-Treasurer. Keith Gibbs, President of 9412 became the Diversity at-Large Member. This meeting took place after a successful six-day grievance strike at Frontier Communications in California. Vice president Frank Arce applauded the locals that participated in this event including NABET but stated that it was not over. We must keep going. Don't stop!**

# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MOMENT

That is a quote from Sara Steffens



CWA President Chris Shelton could not make it to Hawaii so he sent over a video with a message. He applauded the victory at Frontier and he encouraged the members to continue to build solidarity and to keep fighting for a fair contract. Shelton stressed to keep fighting Frontier's use of subcontractors. He said, "We could be on the street again."



Randy Perriera, HI



CWA D-9 Delegates



Sara Steffens



CWA D-9 Delegates

Randy Perriera, HGEA AFSCME Local 152 president, said that "It's not a pretty picture out there ... we are the last line of defense" and we must "Be Active ... 71% of the people favor the union." Sara Steffens, CWA Secretary-Treasurer, attended in person. She was emotional and excited about the importance of taking advantage of the moment and build on the recent organizing wins. She mentioned Microsoft Tech Workers, Apple, Google Fire, Starbucks and more. Steffens said, "Workers are losing their fear and claiming their power ... This is the moment we were waiting for."

The past two and one half years have been incredibly challenging for working people everywhere. Workers have been operating differently and that has led a lot of people to rethink what we want to get out of working. The more organizing people see, the more the momentum builds.

## ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE

On Friday September 9th, more than 500 workers at Condé Nast had a major win by securing voluntary recognition of Condé Nast Union. What does that mean? Every Condé Nast publication is union.



Jon Schleuss



Jonah C. Diamond



David Rosenfeld  
(Zoom)



Carrie Biggs-Adams

The LA Times went for 136 years without being unionized. It was finally organized by The NewsGuild with the help of Jon Schleuss (over 7,000 workers). Then Jon decided to run for president and he won. He continues to help other places get organized. Jonah Camacho Diamond is part of the CWA organizing group including Victor Serrano. The technique (4Cs): 1) Contact, 2) Committee, 3) Campaign and 4) Contract. David Rosenfeld, attorney, wrote a pamphlet, "Hey, the boss just called me into the office". Carrie Biggs-Adams, NABET-CWA Local 51 president, went through it explaining the pamphlet. It's your Weingarten Rights. David Rosenfeld went on to discuss "Kennedy v. Bremerton" about a coach praying after a game. ON JUNE 27, 2022, JUSTICE GORSUCH delivered the opinion of the Court. "Joseph Kennedy lost his job as a high school football coach because he knelt at midfield after games to offer a quiet prayer of thanks ... The Constitution and the best of our traditions counsel mutual respect and tolerance, not censorship and suppression, for religious and nonreligious views alike. Both the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the [First Amendment](#) protect expressions like Mr. Kennedy's."

Conference speakers also included Cheri Brokaw (CWA Arbitrations), Anna Cooper and Spencer Hettrich (Aptify Training), Scott Ford and Cheryl Wallach (discussing workers compensation), IUE-CWA President Carl Kennebrew, CWA District 6 Vice President Claude Cummings, Vice President Linda Hinton – District 4, President Maurice Washington – CWA Minority Caucus, Monica Alvarado – Defense Fund Committee, Scott Turner and Yvonne Melton – Legislative Reports. T Santora, Chair of the Southern California Council, reported on the Legislation and Political activities of the council.

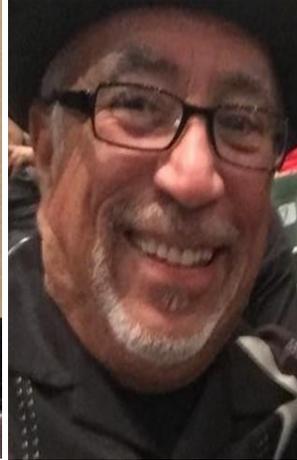
## More Speakers



Daniel Barth  
Zoom



Ignacio Hernandez



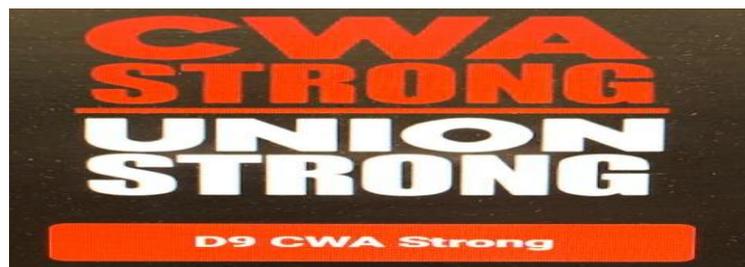
Louis Rocha  
Zoom



Justen Burdette

Daniel Barth is a labor attorney representing NABET-CWA Local 53 and other unions. He discussed Social Media in the workplace, along with NLRB, importance of Weingarten Rights and Freedom of Speech. Ignacio Hernandez is the CWA Lobbyist in Sacramento. He works on civil rights. Louis Rocha is a CWA Staff Representative who discussed bargaining and stressed the importance of the CWA Triangle. It symbolizes the three major programs and pillars of our union. If any one side of the triangle is weak, it diminishes our power and ability to effectively represent our members. Justen Burdette, CEO of MOBI, which is Hawaii's largest regional wireless company. Workers at Mobi joined CWA after the company voluntarily recognized the union. It was a pleasure to hear from Justen and his praises, especially when the industry is overrun with union-busting and retaliatory companies.

And in closing, praises came from District 9 Vice President Frank Arce. A motion from floor to hold the next meeting and leadership conference in the third quarter of 2023 in South Lake Tahoe. The vote was unanimous leaving the conference on a high note.



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