

# Local 896 Meeting Report

**James Santangelo came to our January union meeting trying to sell a merger with Local 848.**

**Here are the highlights and lowlights:**

▶ **Santangelo said we would vote on the merger at a union meeting—not through the mail.** He didn't say anything about how our northern California members would vote.

He called that "the democratic way." Does that sound democratic to you?

▶ **Santangelo said our locals would be stronger if we merged—but not how.** He never mentioned the weaker contracts he's bargained in our industry.

▶ **Santangelo spent a lot of our time in the Branch 3 (beer) meeting complaining about literature from Save Local 896.** Does he really want members to hear from both sides?

▶ **The chair violated basic rules of fair play.** He ignored a motion to hold a mail ballot vote for the merger. Is that how the merger vote would be handled, too?

▶ **Santangelo was not well received at the Branch 4 (soft drink) meeting.** Soft drink members have seen first-hand Santangelo's poor performance at the bargaining table. Santangelo left the meeting early, visibly upset.

## Our Campaign Is Working

The campaign to save our local is working—because of the support of working members like you.

We can't stop now. Santangelo wants to ram a vote down our throats. We are going to keep demanding a mail ballot vote so that all of our members can participate.

If we stick together, we can save our local.



## Who said this?

**"I want the voices of all Branch 3 members to be heard on this issue."**

**Answer:** Rene Medrano.

That's what our own Secretary-Treasurer had to say in 2008, when we voted on whether or not to let Local 896 officials tap into the Branch 3 Strike Fund.<sup>1</sup>

Medrano insisted on a mail ballot vote instead of a vote at the local union meeting after members voted down his plan unanimously.

Then members voted it down a second time.

If a mail ballot was so important then—why not now?

<sup>1</sup>Rene Medrano. Letter to Branch 3 Local 896 members. Oct. 26, 2008.