

COALITION BUILDING

I SEE THAT THE UNION HAS BEEN IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT COALITIONS LATELY. LIKE THE BRITE COALITION THAT HELPED TO PASS WILDFIRE LEGISLATION IN CALIFORNIA LAST YEAR.

WE'RE ALSO PART OF THE COALITION OF CALIFORNIA UTILITY EMPLOYEES--THEY LOBBY THE LEGISLATURE ON ALL SORTS OF POLICIES THAT IMPACT OUR INDUSTRY.

DON'T FORGET THE COALITION THAT HELPED DEFEAT THE ENERGY DEREGULATION BALLOT MEASURE IN NEVADA! THAT WAS A GOOD ONE. AND THE ONE WE FORMED WHEN THE DIABLO CANYON PLANT CLOSURE WAS ANNOUNCED? HEY, WEREN'T YOU INVOLVED IN THAT?

YUP, I WAS! IT'S GREAT OUR UNION HAS BEEN ABLE TO BRING TOGETHER SO MANY DIVERSE INTERESTS--INCLUDING EMPLOYERS AND POLITICIANS WITH WHOM WE DON'T ALWAYS SEE EYE-TO-EYE--IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULT FOR THE MEMBERS.

SO HOW DO THESE COALITIONS GET FORMED?

WITH 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, THE UNION KNOWS WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO BE ON OUR SIDE, AND THE BEST WAY TO REACH OUT TO THEM. SO WHEN THE UNION IS FACING A BIG ISSUE, OUR LEADERSHIP AND STAFF WILL APPROACH POSSIBLE ALLIES AND INVITE THEM TO TEAM UP AND WORK TOGETHER FOR A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RESULT. SOMETIMES, THIS MEANS WE END UP WITH SOME PRETTY STRANGE BEDFELLOWS, BUT IT ALMOST ALWAYS WORKS OUT IN OUR FAVOR.

NOT A LOT OF UNIONS WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTNER WITH FORMER OPPONENTS-- BUT THOSE UNIONS ALSO AREN'T AS EFFECTIVE FOR THEIR MEMBERS. THAT'S WHAT MAKES IBEW 1245 DIFFERENT, AND IT'S ALSO WHAT HAS ALLOWED OUR UNION TO MAKE SUCH SUBSTANTIAL GAINS AT A TIME WHEN OTHER UNIONS ARE MAKING BIG CONCESSIONS.

COALITION-BUILDING ISN'T EASY. IT REQUIRES FINESSE, HUMILITY AND PATIENCE. BUT A STRONG COALITION IS ABLE TO ACHIEVE MUCH MORE THAN A SINGLE UNION. AFTER ALL, WE'RE ALWAYS STRONGER WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER!