

# The Installer

Volume 3 Issue 2  
April 2006



## Towering Above the Rest

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Tom Lyver, *Apprentice Coordinator*

A new season is upon us and I am happy to report that not only has the winter passed, but it was used constructively. During our Winter Session at the Learning Center, all first, second and third year apprentices received training in multi-strand post-tensioning. Of those taking the final exam, an impressive 95% passed and became certified installers.

In addition, brothers Joe Hunt III and Ron Karas of Local 396 in St. Louis once again lent their knowledge and expertise to our training program by providing HAZMAT training. This year, however, we are proud to say that our own John Coffey and Anthony “Chip” Langan collaborated in the three week process, as they are now certified HAZMAT instructors as well. Here too we accomplished a pass rate of 99%.

A positive footnote, worthy of attention, is that brother Roy Manielli of Local 40 participated in the training and remarked that it ranked among some of the finest training he had ever received. Considering brother Manielli is himself an instructor and has attended professional development classes sponsored by the International, we can take that as a serious compliment. Thank you Roy and thanks to all the instructors.

Continuing in the same vein, our Spring Session has begun and along with it came training for 30 hours OSHA certification. And, as of February 23rd, apprentices started receiving 8 hour

certification classes for Adult CPR. All these certification processes have been permanently incorporated into our curriculum and should go a long way in making the men and women of Local 46 among the most marketable personnel in the construction industry.

If you are a journeyman and graduated from your apprenticeship before these curriculum changes were instituted, I urge you to take advantage of our ongoing Journeyman Upgrade Program. Adult CPR courses will become available beginning April, and will be open to both members and their spouses. Why not register now?

Other courses in post-tension and other topics are also planned and while exact dates have not been set as yet, we are always ready to accommodate members who want training. If you will notify me **in writing** at the Learning Center of the class you wish to attend, I will make careful note of it. When I receive ten requests for the same subject matter I will arrange a class. Thirty-eight of our Local 417 brothers from Newburgh have already availed themselves of this opportunity over the winter and you can too.

Educational opportunities are here if you want them. I look forward to hearing from you.

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# From The Officer's Desk



**Robert A. Ledwith**, *Business Manager*

Local 46 and its members have entered the 21st Century with hope and a vision for a better future. Together, in these short six years, we have achieved a great deal, with more to come. However, along with hope and a promise for a better tomorrow, we have witnessed an extraordinary growth in the Non-Union sector of the Building Industry. We have seen the emergence of a virulent strain of anti-Union sentiment. The tone in our nation was established immediately after the inauguration of George W. Bush in January 2000. His first act, within hours of swearing his oath to the nation, was to prohibit, by his Executive Order, any Project Labor Agreements (PLA) to be negotiated, when Federal money was involved, in any construction project.

For those who might not know: PLA's guarantee the use of Union Building Trades Labor (us) in exchange for proven cost savings for the Owner, a device often used under the previous Clinton Administration. These savings are usually achieved by relaxing the standards of the various Local Union Collective Bargaining Agreements. It should be obvious and abundantly clear that the Building Trades would not engage in PLA's if they were in the same

positions as 25 years ago. Unfortunately, we are not and we must pursue new ideas, create new strategies and experiment with different solutions to solve our problems. With this in mind I still remain, as confident as ever, that our Union will survive and even grow. This growth will occur through our collective hard work and dedication to our Trade and our Union.

Recently, I moderated a panel at the Building Trades Employers Association and the Building and Construction Trades Council Conference in which the two principal officers of Local 638 Steamfitters introduced an economic package to take on the Non-Union. It had just been ratified by their membership at a Special Meeting called for that purpose and if it is not renewed by the parties, it will expire in 18 months.

This new Local 638 Agreement has no restrictions on prefabricated pipe, calls for an eight (8) hour day, has only six (6) holidays and will employ Steamfitters with the new title of Residential Mechanics and Residential Helpers. They will accept new members in this Division by organizing the non-union Fitters. The wage for a Residential Mechanic will be \$29.70 in the envelope, \$2.50 pension and \$5.40 for medical, for a total of \$37.60 per hour worked. This is approximately 50% of the

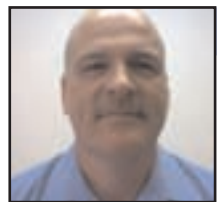
current wage and fringe benefit package for a Local 638 Steamfitter. The Residential Helpers wage is \$11.50 in the envelope, \$2.50 pension and \$3.41 for medical for a total of \$17.41 per hour worked. Local 1 of the Plumbers established a similar Collective Bargaining Agreement two years ago.

There is no question that these packages take our breath away. It's like taking a huge step backward, but Local 638 looked at a situation in which they had not one member working in the Affordable Housing industry, they studied their predicament and figured that they had to do something and they had nothing to lose.

Fortunately, Local 46 is in a better position. Through our hard work, day in and day out, we are still competitive in most of our jurisdiction. But we would be foolish to think our situation is frozen in stone.

The world around us is changing and our Local Union must adapt to the new realities of the construction industry in the 21st Century. As we think outside the proverbial "box", we will arrive at a consensus and we will come together to push back the non-union employers. With your help and understanding we will preserve our way of life.

I'll keep you posted.



**Terrence Moore**, *Business Agent*

As times get busy and employment opportunities seem to get better every day, I am asking that you ask yourselves a few important questions. What s

your relationship with this Union? What is your relationship with the officers and membership of this Union? Is it a good one? Does it matter to you? I am asking you to ask yourself these questions because after being a member for

over 25 years I am sure of one thing. This Union works best when we function as a team.

A week hardly goes by, that I'm not reminded of the lack of respect some members have for our Union. I am saying this not to

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**Robert A. Ledwith**  
*Business Manager /  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Business Agents*

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**Fred LeMoine**  
**Kevin Kelly**  
**Ronnie Richardson**

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*LMCT Coordinator*

**Eileen Slattery**  
*Secretary*

**Gillian Clarke**  
*Secretary*

anyone, but to get you to realize what happens on a jobsite when this becomes apparent to an employer. In short, he has you right where he wants you. Make a deal and sell your conditions lately? Believe that it didn't hurt anyone? Guess again. Your employer has controlled you and has less respect for you and less respect for this Union. Does anyone believe he or she could possibly demand a wage and fringe benefit package of over 70 dollars per hour without this Union? The non-union projects in this city are currently paying between 10 and 25 dollars per hour. Starting to get up there in age a bit? Not quite able to do the things you were able to when you were younger? Any employer that you know tell you he would take care of you lately? Did he tell you that he would make you the second shop steward

on the job he had? Was he concerned that you might not get your benefits?

Last March, April, May and June, we tried to negotiate what we considered to be a fair contract with over 7 different associations. From the beginning, it was clear that the employers were willing to give us a reasonable wage but wanted to have concessions in terms of our conditions. The employers talked about a partnership between labor and management. The employers talked about labor having to make concessions in order to keep this a Union town. As a group, the employers were angry when we didn't see it their way. Some of the employers wanted us to raise the amount of hours necessary for a member to acquire benefits. Would that have made it better for you?

As I write this, we have great employment. Most contractors have as much work as they choose to handle. I do have serious questions and doubts about our so-called partnership with the employers. Which of our contractors are aggressively bidding and attempting to acquire much of the non-union work that is out there? I can tell you we have some, but in general, they are few and far between. We all know that it is our job to provide the best product we possibly can for each employer. Work hard, do a good job and you will ensure that our Union and the employers have a good future ahead. Each and every one of us owes the employer the respect of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. Our allegiance lies with the Union.



**Fred LeMoine, Business Agent**

We have just finished a winter that can best be described as having full employment. Any member who wanted to and was willing to do a day's work had a job. This spring and summer work opportunities look great with many projects well under way and many more just getting started. It appears that manning our projects will require some creativity and preparation. We have brought in more apprentices and have reached out to our friends in neighboring locals to send additional manpower.

You can be sure that during these busy times the non-union sector will also attempt to expand. Many of our signatory contractors

are so busy that the bids that they are submitting on many projects are high. Their plates are so full that they are not as eager as they normally are to accept new work. They submit bids with the attitude of "if I get the job - fine, if not, so what!" Unfortunately, the non-union contractors will be happy to bid this work, and in many cases be awarded the projects.

You can be assured that we are doing our best to encourage our contractors to go after this work and bid competitively. We are also trying to cultivate some of our smaller contractors into bigger companies that can branch out and become involved with larger developments that they usually would not approach.

You may ask yourself: "What is my responsibility during these times? What can I do to help my union?" We always need all the help we can get with hearings, pickets, rallies, etc. However, the most important thing you can do is go to work on time, every day and give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. Be a good example of what a Union Lather is.

Finally, we have a number of activities coming up: Service Pin Ceremony Meetings, Raise Allocation Meetings, Apprentice Hard Hat Ceremony, Local 46 Dinner Dance and the Memorial Mass & Breakfast.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these important events!



**Kevin Kelly, Business Agent**

The beginning of 2006 has been everything we could have asked for, offering us the most work opportunities since the mid 1980's. Our industry talks of partnership all the time between the union and the contractor as being essential to our future together. For its part, Local 46 will continue to offer training to new and old members alike to perform their duties safely and efficiently. The better we prepare ourselves for the economic boom

in the construction industry the greater we will benefit individually and as a labor organization.

I am happy to report that, as a result of such partnership, several jobs in the Brooklyn area, where the non-union sector has been growing its share in low rise construction are now being built by our members. There are several reasons why this change is occurring:

- 1) Rising interest rates benefit the union sector because time is money.
- 2) A skilled workforce, having both

apprentices and journeymen who are willing to work hard to keep their good wages and benefits.

3) Aggressive contractors who are not afraid to target a sector of the industry and streamline a plan to recapture this market.

When there are two willing partners anything is possible. When there are not two willing partners you will have finger pointing, lip service and distrust throughout the industry.

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Both roadblocks and possibilities lie ahead for our union and our affiliates in the Building Trades and the AFL-CIO. Let's make sure that labor is successful at this important fork in the road. Let's not be fooled by all the work opportunities and talk of future projects.



**Ronnie Richardson**, *Business Agent*

Spring is just about here and the winter behind us was a relatively mild one compared to most. That enabled most jobs to work continuously. This is especially fortunate for those smaller jobs on Long Island that normally would shut down due to inclement weather.

The forecast for new jobs and work opportunities is every bit as bright. Those who come to our Hiring Hall find work if they want it. Despite this current abundance of work, I ask you to take the time to call and inform us of any job you see that does not have a Lather working on it. Remember, the non-union sector is just as busy as we are and we cannot afford to become complacent.

Meanwhile, in order to meet the demand for labor by our union contractors, as of March 1, we have placed several more new

Instead, let's remember we are proud tradesmen who must work hard to keep the middle class alive in this city and our country that was founded by people who stood up and fought back!

On a final, lighter note, I'd like to send a

Apprentices in the field. As of yet, I have not seen any of them return to the hall, and that speaks well of them. While other trades are experiencing some unemployment, we continue to work steadily. This is true partially because we cover a large territory and also because we continue to deliver a good product. But, no matter how busy our industry becomes, we all must continue to work safely, with senior members and foremen always leading by example. This, of course, holds true whether we are employed inside or out.

Good examples of how that inside and outside work is displayed and taught to our apprentices in school were clearly visible at our meeting at the Learning Center on Jan. 24th. It was very well attended, and I'm sure we will be scheduling more of our meetings there in the future. For many of our members, it was the first time they had an opportunity to

special thanks to all our members, both past and present, who marched with Local 46 in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Rockaway on March 4, 2006.

visit the Center, and afterwards they were able to view the recently constructed Lath & Plaster Showroom as well as the Post-Tensioning labs and other classrooms.

At the same meeting, Alan Sofge, from The Segal Company, was there to answer questions and offer ideas about the pension. The discussion was both lively and thought provoking. You should know that the pension and its associated retirement health care is still at the forefront of all discussions among the trustees and it will continue to be until we have instituted the changes we can to make them better.

Finally, we will be honoring both our most recent retirees and some 50 newly graduated apprentices at the Annual Dinner Dance on April 21st. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Until then, have a good spring and continue to work safely.

## Local Labor News

Suffern, New York

### Getting Political - and Getting Results

**R**epublican Mayor James Giannettino refused to recognize the efforts of some 50 municipal employees here to organize. After they succeeded, he changed their work rules and then ignored the state Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) when it ordered him to restore the original rules. Now the mayor is gone - thanks to the efforts of those same workers, members of Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA)/AFSCME Local 1000 who set out to replace the mayor himself.

It all began about a year and a half ago, when a majority of the workers turned in union-authorization cards. The

administration, led by the mayor, refused to recognize CSEA as a bargaining agent. So the employees got PERB's endorsement.

That's when Giannettino imposed new rules, disregarding CSEA's request (and the law) to hold off until they could conduct negotiations. The workers went to the labor board again, and won. The mayor appealed, but lost. By now, it was clear that Giannettino had to go.

As the Nov. 8 election drew near, the fired-up CSEA members took up arms in the form of political action. They leafleted, worked phone banks and put up campaign signs. On Election Day, voters tossed out the

mayor (by nearly 2-1 margin) and his two running mates.

The new mayor, Democrat John Keegan, has agreed to recognize and cooperate with CSEA to improve the working conditions. Scott Brown, who drives a refuse truck in Suffern and has worked there almost 25 years, credits Bill Riccaldo, president of the local, with turning his co-workers into a cohesive political force.

Asked about the importance of getting rid of Giannettino, Brown says, "Are you kidding me? It's great! It's like a thousand pounds taken off our backs. It's a whole new ball game here."

## Six Unions Form National Construction Alliance

Six unions representing some two million U.S. construction workers announced in March the formation of a new National Construction Alliance (NCA). The group said it aims to reverse the decline in construction union membership and adopt a jurisdictional structure and rules that better reflect today's construction industry.

Alliance members are the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Laborers International Union of North America, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Iron Workers and the Bricklayers.

The Laborers and the Operating Engineers broke away from the AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades Department (BCTD) in February, saying they were dissatisfied with that group's inaction on member recruitment and over its refusal to approve several reforms that will now be adopted by the new group. Among these reforms:

- Weighted voting among alliance members, giving unions with more members more influence in decision-making.
- Changes in methods for resolving

jurisdictional disputes among the trades.

- Streamlined budget and making more effective use of staff.

- Hiring an executive director to head the alliance, instead of an elected president, to "take the politics out of running" the organization.

All of the unions have been, or still are, members of the AFL-CIO and the BCTD, but the formation of the new group further splinters the AFL-CIO, which saw a seismic upheaval last summer when several unions bolted to form the new Change to Win federation. Nonetheless, said Laborers' Union President Terrence O'Sullivan, "there is no association between the National Construction Alliance and Change to Win."

The Iron Workers and the Bricklayers were still members of the AFL-CIO and the BCTD in late February. The Carpenters and the Teamsters disaffiliated earlier from both organizations and now belong to Change to Win.

O'Sullivan has indicated that the Laborers will leave the AFL-CIO at some point; Operating Engineers President Vincent Giblin said "the jury is out" on whether his union will remain part of the AFL-CIO.

Giblin said members of the new group were met with "reluctance, indecisiveness and outright rejection" at the BCTD when they proposed their reforms in recent months. "We must, and we will, pursue a course of action that best serves the interests of our members, our local unions and the construction industry in which we work," Giblin said.

The key, he said, will be to reach out to the vast majority of construction workers who do not have a union. In 1973, 40 percent of construction workers were union members; today the rate is 13.1 percent. In addition, said O'Sullivan, changing the structural model and revamping the jurisdictional dispute resolution system is critical. The current system is "rooted in a market and economy of the previous century," O'Sullivan said.

BCTD President Edward C. Sullivan said of the unions' decision to break away, "In a time when solidarity has never been more critical, we think they are making a mistake for their unions and for our industry." Eleven unions representing about two million workers remain in the BCTD.

## Creating Chaos for Workers One Industry at a Time Hey, Dude: Who Took My Pension? Health Care? Wages? Security? Job?

*reprinted with permission from AFL-CIO Label Letter*

Flight attendants, pilots, ramp and reservation agents and baggage handlers, along with factory workers from textiles, appliances, auto and steel are asking the same questions: "Dude, where's my pension? Where's my health care? Where's my job? Where's my security?"

Wall Street analysis and corporate officials complain about "legacy costs" - things that were affordable when they were negotiated, such as paid pensions and health care for active and retired workers. They now claim these benefits are unaffordable in today's economy. These executives and investors insist that wage rates that once sustained a middle-class lifestyle are not "competitive" in the global economy.

America's working families have a different take. A promise is a promise. Or as veteran Delphi employee James Hathaway of

Lockport, NY puts it: "If I knew they would get away with this years ago, I would never have dedicated 36 years of my life to this company."

Hathaway made those remarks in innovative "electronic" hearings last November that focused on the future of the auto industry and the plight of its workers. The "e-hearings" were modeled after similar on-line discussions held last spring by Representatives George Miller (D-CA) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) to give airline workers a chance to tell Congress how it feels to be trapped in the vise of globalization and employer cutbacks.

The current GOP majority, Miller said, "has a track record of opening its doors to special interests and the well connected. It rarely opens its doors to the nation's hardest working Americans," adding: "American

workers have a right to be heard by the Congress, and the Congress has a responsibility to listen, learn, and act on behalf of American workers."

Companies like Delphi have called in union representatives at the 11th hour and demanded concessions "to keep the companies afloat." Such so-called bargaining puts a gun to the head of workers and their unions and says, "Let's talk." None of the alternatives are desirable: refuse concessions and the company says, "Okay, we'll close down and ship the jobs overseas." Accept the concessions, and the workers feel betrayed and sold out anyway.

While concession bargaining is not a level field, a six-union coalition - Machinists, Steelworkers and its newly-merged PACE units, Auto Workers, IUE-CWA and the IBEW - is confronting Delphi

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and proving the unions have some powerful weapons in their arsenal, too.

By rallying public outrage and exerting pressure through the financial community and investors, the coalition seems to have forced Delphi management to rethink its initial edict regarding wage cuts and pensions.

In early December, Human Rights Day demonstrations in communities with large Delphi plants turned the company into the "poster child" for corporate greed.

"We need to educate all of America. We need to educate every non-union shop, everybody who works in a food market, a restaurant, anyplace. If they can do this to us - organized labor - there's nothing to prevent anybody from saying "Starting Monday, we're paying you \$7 bucks, take it or leave it." declared UAW Local 651 President Russ Reynolds.

The UAW says "tremendous solidarity within the labor movement and concern from investors" forced Delphi to take a hard look at what it was initially trying to do. The UAW's top leaders issued a statement on December 19th, noting Delphi's withdrawal of its initial concession demands. "We have always believed that it is in everyone's best interest for these matters to be settled by the parties through the collective bargaining process," declared UAW President Ron Gettelfinger and Vice President Richard Shoemaker.

But millions of workers and their families are being forced every day to cope with declining expectations, living standards, wages and a general deterioration in their quality of life. Blame globalization: competition; greed. Regardless of the reasons, the result is the same.

An industry doesn't have to be distressed to force concessions. In the case of Verizon, where the Communications Workers have had a rocky relationship, "they simply say they are following industry trends and practices," says Jeff Miller, communications director for CWA. "That's what Verizon did when they froze management pensions, substituted a 401(k) and cut retiree health care for thousands of former employees. They didn't need to do it. They did it because they can."

#### **Disappearing pensions**

"I am trapped. My employer has left me high and dry after having promised to provide for me in my retirement," wrote Michael McClure, a veteran pilot with United Airlines from Pine, CO, in his comments to the airline e-hearings last spring.

The promise of paid-up health care or a steady - though reduced - income at the end of a career, has been radically altered in today's ownership society."

As United pilot, Thomas Gardiner of Bainbridge, Washington pointed out: "Another factor contributing to this huge hit is the

adjustment for "early retirement" mandated by Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) rules. Of course, I have no choice in the matter. FAA regulations require me to retire at age 60. The PBGC considers that to be "early" and takes away 35 percent of what I would otherwise receive."

Employers are routinely turning their backs on promises made 20 or 30 years ago. Many of these employers expect to use the bankruptcy process and ultimately the PBGC to assume the costs of paying the pension promises made to workers. But, shrinking retirements are just part of the picture.

Last spring, United Airlines made dubious history when it transferred \$10 billion worth of pension obligations to the federal PBGC.

In her comments to Rep. Miller, Ellen Saracini, widow of United Captain Victor J. Saracini who died when United Flight 175 hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 asked; "At what point are companies allowed to take away so much from the lives of dedicated employees and their families? When will the government step in?"

Befuddled by technical jargon commonly used by pension professionals, even the most sophisticated workers feel frustrated by the current situation.

"Peel away the technical words and numbers and a pension is, at bottom, a simple, straightforward promise. Work today and in return, your employer pays you two different ways: wages or salary now and the promise of deferred compensation from a pension fund after you retire. So ingrained is this promise that workers will often agree to lower wages today in exchange for the promise of a decent pension in the future." according to Christian Weller of the Economic Policy Institute.

#### **Health care protection that isn't**

If the issue was simply pensions, solutions might be more easily developed. But pension terminations are only part of the mix. In most cases, bankruptcies and run-away jobs go hand-in-hand with wage cuts, and cuts in health care coverage.

Flight attendant, and single parent, Angela Mogavero of Schenectady, NY, retired early to care for a severely disabled child. She took 24 percent pension cut when she retired, hoping that the good health care coverage United promised would offset her reduced income. Soon afterward, her health care coverage was reduced, forcing her to draw on personal savings to make ends meet.

"I need the pension and medical benefits that I earned. What are we retirees supposed to do? It is very difficult to start all over again at retirement age. How am I supposed to care for my child, make trips for surgery, and also start at the bottom somewhere else in order to put

food on the table and pay the bills?" Mogavero asked.

#### **Owning junk in the "Ownership Society"**

In December, Bush made a campaign-style speech to workers and managers at a John Deere-Hitachi plant in Kernersville, NC. The event was designed to shore up Bush's flagging poll numbers in an area where job loss and the collapsing textile industry have slammed scores of communities. Bush dusted off his 2004 stump speech, including his vision of an "ownership" society. ("If you own something, you take care of it.")

He failed to mention that owning junk doesn't have much appeal. A hollowed-out pension, stagnant wages and inadequate health care protection don't add up to much of a future.

Bush says the flood of cheap goods from China represents "insourcing" that creates new jobs - but those jobs are more likely to be low-wage, low-skill service jobs, not jobs with income and growth potential.

Two no-benefit, low-wage Wal-Mart jobs can't replace one decent manufacturing job lost to globalization. For every one of the nearly 3 million manufacturing jobs lost during the first five years of the Bush Administration, three or more additional jobs were lost - jobs in companies that provided goods, raw materials and services to that now-vanished manufacturing plant. And for skilled factory workers age 50 and over, the job picture is particularly gloomy.

The Bush White House has attempted to ignore the problem of betrayed promises. (After all, Bush's scheme to "privatize" Social Security followed the exact same model.) However, the pressure of events has forced the White House to revise its rhetoric on these issues too, just as he was forced to back off on Social Security privatization.

Airlines were beating a path to the bankruptcy courts and canceling pension plans long before last June's United bankruptcy. The notorious case of Eastern Airlines in 1991 involved seven cancelled plans, \$552.7 million in benefits and 51,187 workers.

The IAM says that five other airlines have taken the same course, including Pan Am, TWA, U.S. Air, Aloha and Hawaiian. (Northwest is currently leaning toward the same solution.) The cancellations by Pan Am, USAirways (Pilots Plan) and Eastern rank among the 10 largest pension terminations handled by the PBGC since it was created more than 25 years ago.

Retirement insecurity is only part of a bigger threat confronting America's working families. Lost benefits, cancellations of retiree health care, wage cuts for active workers - it's all part of the fraying of the American Dream: of a middle class facing extinction.

## Are We Quitting?

Now, more than ever, is the time for both labor and management to work together in harmony. We have an obligation to save union labor, the union contractor and the values that are only derived from a decent wage and an honest contractor. We should not destroy what it took almost a century to build - a **fair** day's wage for a **fair** day's work, and not a day's work that will not pay the rent, or the medical bills, but rather a wage and benefit package that allows a person to be productive and contribute to society, not become a ward of this city and country.

Today the labor movement is in flux. This should be a shining moment for labor, but is it? NO! Think of all the past accomplishments of a strong, well trained, labor force. Think of the union contractors who looked at their jobs with pride. Is this all lost? NO! It did not disappear. It's lying just below the surface. We need to scratch that surface, find that movement and nurture it back. We cannot let what once was, simply fade away. We must wake up, join forces and once again become the leaders of our industry.

Do we need Washington to pave the way

for us? NO! We have our road map, THE GREEN BOOK. That map has helped us for one hundred years. Should it be tweaked from time to time? Absolutely. But, we have everything we need. Now let labor join hands with management across this great state of ours so we can continue to give the public the quality of work that can only come from a well-trained labor force, schooled in their profession to give their best and do their best under the guidance of the kind of professional management that is found only in New York.

## Towering Above the Rest

by Bill Hohlfeld, LMCT Coordinator

There's a pretty deep hole in the ground over at 221 Main Street in White Plains, New York. But, at the rate Local 46 foreman, Jim McClutchy and his crew are tackling their project, that site will soon become an imposing part of the White Plains skyline. The project, which was

complex, there will be a five story parking garage. In addition, a new roadway will be built through the center of the developed property and will connect Main Street to Hamilton Avenue.

The Concrete Contractor, Roger and Sons, will pour a total of over 1.4 million

Despite the obvious magnitude of the job and the weighty responsibility that comes with it, Jim McClutchy, a seasoned veteran of high rise construction, remains calm and confident. He is quick to point out that his thirty-three man crew (which is expected to grow even larger) is both talented and hard



*First, bend it.*

developed by Louis Capelli and whose General Contractor is George M. Fuller, is a many faceted one.

Two forty-four story residential towers will flank a ten story hotel which will be crowned by a swimming pool for the guests. In keeping with the needs of so large a



*Then, send it!*

square feet of reinforced concrete. That will break down to roughly 900 square feet of conventional cast-in-place reinforced concrete and 500 square feet of post-tensioned reinforcing. By completion of this project, it is estimated that over 6500 tons of reinforcing will have been placed!



*Proper training means these cables are well stressed, but the Local 46 team isn't.*

working. Jim is also especially quick to recognize the talents of his deputy foremen: Danny Connally, Bobby Douggan, Frank Munoz, and Bobby Scott.

### Employers Make Their Own Mess

If you create a mess, you then don't get to complain about there being a mess.

Apparently, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) missed this lesson in kindergarten - probably too busy bullying other kids. The NAM recently issued a report deploring the widening gap between the number of highly-skilled workers in America and the industry's need for such workers. Eighty-one percent of manufacturers report a moderate to severe shortage of technically-skilled workers, wails the NAM.

Hello, NAM...might you have had a big hand in this mess? Let's talk taxes, for example. The NAM has been a prominent proponent and lobbyist behind George W's massive tax cuts for corporations and

the wealthy. One result of this is that funding for job training and other educational programs have been slashed, also, at a time they should've been dramatically increased. Also, notice that when member corporations of NAM build or expand factories, they routinely demand that local school districts exempt them from the property taxes that fund technical education.

And who is it that has been leading the change to bust labor unions? Why it's been the NAM and its members doing this! Yes, they gain a lower-wage, more compliant workforce by ousting unions - but they lose something important to them and to our country: a partner in job training. It receives very little notice in the

establishment media, but a chief advantage offered by unions are highly-skilled workers who not only go through the unions' top-notch apprentice programs, but also are constantly updating their skills through ongoing union training sessions.

To say that America lacks a deep pool of skilled workers is to blame workers for a mess that those in power - including the NAM - have made. Rather than whine, the NAM should press congress and the states to launch a crash program, fully-funded, to create a nationwide system of training academies that will tap into that pool of talent that now is stuck in dead-end jobs at McDonald's or Wal-Mart, giving them the skills to move up.

## Labor History

by Lon Savage, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

### The Battle of Matewan

Young John L. Lewis had just taken office as President of the United Mine Workers of America when, in January of 1920, he announced the campaign in Bluefield, West Virginia: The UMWA would organize coal miners in the southern Appalachians. Lewis knew coal operators would resist to the bitter end, but that didn't matter. The miners wanted to organize; the UMWA had to have their memberships; even coal operators from the midwest favored the drive which might reduce the competitive edge the Southern Appalachian coal mines enjoyed with non-union mines.

Miners along the Tug Fork were ready; many had long wanted to join the miners union. Miners at Burnwell, three miles from Matewan, sent a delegation to the UMWA offices in Charleston, and they returned with a charter of a union local. The drive had begun. It quickly grew.

The coal operators resisted as strongly

as expected; when a miner joined the union, he was immediately fired from his job. If he lived in a company-owned home - as most did - he was told to move out. If he didn't move out, gun-bearing Baldwin-Felts "detectives" evicted him and his family, setting his furniture out on the road. Despite that kind of opposition, miners by the hundreds along the Tug Fork joined the union. By May 15, 1920, three thousand Tug Fork miners had joined.

Nowhere was union activity greater that spring than in Matewan. There, the police chief, Sid Hatfield, a former miner, and Mayor C. Testerman openly cooperated with the drive and protected the miners as they held organizing meetings in the town.

Despite efforts by Hatfield to keep the Baldwin-Felts detectives away from Matewan, they came anyway. On May 19, 1920, thirteen detectives, including Baldwin-Felts president Thomas Felts, younger brothers Albert and Lee, arrived

in Matewan to evict miners and their families from their homes in the Stone Mountain Mine camp.

Nothing angered miners more than "thugs" forcing women and little children from their homes at gunpoint. Word of the evictions spread like wildfire. Angry miners from Matewan and the surrounding area grabbed guns and rushed to the town as the detectives evicted six more families in dismal rainy weather. Hatfield led a group of miners to the Stone Mountain camp and tried to stop the evictions, but the Felts brothers refused his plea. When the detectives returned to Matewan that afternoon, having finished their jobs, Hatfield, surrounded by armed miners, tried to arrest Al Felts for conducting the evictions without proper Matewan authority. As he and Mayor Testerman glared at Al Felts and the other detectives outside the railroad depot, someone fired a shot, and the battle was on.

*continued on page 9*

It lasted about one minute, but hundreds of shots were fired. Al Felts and Testerman fell in the first volley. When it was over, seven detectives, including both Al and Lee Felts, Mayor Testerman, and two miners were dead or dying.

The battle made Sid Hatfield a folk hero for miners throughout the nation. Fifteen months

later, the Baldwin-Felts detectives retaliated by killing Hatfield on the McDowell County courthouse steps at Welch, in a murder so brutal that it touched off an armed rebellion of 10,000 West Virginia coal miners in the largest insurrection this country has had since the Civil War.

### HELPING OTHERS

On behalf of Local 46, Business Manager, Bob Ledwith presented Mr. Robert A. Perlman, President and CEO of The Diabetes Research Institute Foundation with a check for \$31,400.00 on December 28th, 2005. The funds were generated by last year's Annual Golf Outing and Dinner Dance.

Recently retired Local 46 member, Bill Cruse has graciously made himself available to any member who seeks information regarding substance abuse. He can be contacted at **(516) 286-4915.**

## Food For Thought:

**W**hat a difference a century makes! Here are some of the U. S. statistics for the Year 1906.

- The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.
- Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California.
- With a mere 1.4 million people, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!
- The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour.
- The average U.S. workers made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.

- Ninety percent of all U.S. doctors had no college education. Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."
- Sugar cost four cents a pound.
- Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.
- Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were: 1. Pneumonia and Influenza, 2. Tuberculosis, 3. Diarrhea, 4. Heart disease, 5. Stroke.
- The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- Two out of ever 10 U.S. adults couldn't read or write. (Not sure we have improved on this one.) Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstore! Back then pharmacist said,

"Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health." (Shocking!)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 11, 2006**

*Local 46 Pin Ceremony  
(15, 20, or 25 years)*

**April 21, 2006**

*Annual Dinner Dance*

**April 25, 2006**

*Local 46 Pin Ceremony  
(30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 years)*

**May 13, 2006**

*Local 46 Memorial Mass &  
Communion Breakfast*

**June 13, 2006**

*Hard Hat Ceremony for  
Graduating Apprentices*

- Eighteen percent of households in the U.S. had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.

LOCAL 46 METALLIC LATHERS UNION AND REINFORCING IRONWORKERS

# The Latherer

1322 THIRD AVENUE @ EAST 76TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021

*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

**LOCAL 46  
METALLIC LATHERS UNION AND  
REINFORCING IRONWORKERS**

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**METAL LATHERS TRUST,  
PENSION AND VACATION FUNDS**

260 East 78th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
212-535-2323  
Fax: 212-535-3203

**LOCAL 46 LEARNING CENTER**

61-02 32nd Avenue  
Woodside, NY 11377  
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Fax: 718-267-8316

**We're on the web  
[www.ml46.org](http://www.ml46.org)**



## John Mullin helps keep things moving in White Plains.



*"The Injury of One is the Concern of All"*