

May, 2006

President's Column

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Every April the Building and Construction Trades Department (B&CDT) holds their Legislative Conference. This get together serves to communicate the congressional legislative agenda of the Building Trades to Trade Unions all across this nation. For me, I feel fortunate not only to represent Local 396 at this function, but also to see the support union families really do have in Washington.

The keynote address was given by Edward C. Sullivan, President of the B&CDT, AFL-CIO. Other speakers throughout the program were Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN), Arlen Specter (R-PA) and John McCain (R-AZ). I would add that Senator McCain is not much of a Labor person. The U.S. House members to call on the conference were Alan Green (D-TX), Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA), and Iron Worker Local 7 member Harold E. Ford (D-TN) to name a few. Noteworthy were Governor Jennifer M. Granholm (D-MI), Governor Mitt Romney (R-MA) and Congressman John A. Boehner (D-OH), Majority Leader.

There are, in the next congressional session, many initiatives the B&CDT, AFL-CIO is supporting to help working families.

- Supporting a comprehensive Energy Bill that creates Building Trades jobs by investing in domestic energy production and transmission. With gasoline hovering at \$3.00 a gallon, rescue for working families is a necessity.
- Senate Bill S. 1783 - Pension Security and Transparency Act; and House Bill 2830 - Pension Protection Act. These Bills allow Multiemployer plans to better prepare for future investment losses and funding shortfalls by increasing the cap for the tax deductibility of employer contributions to 140% of the current funding limits.
- Supporting a comprehensive immigration Reform bill that protects our borders and closes them off to illegals. This is a mammoth problem that also needs our attention NOW.
- Support increased investment in our nation's infrastructure that includes comprehensive Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage Protections in all federal and federally assisted Construction projects.

- Opposing taxation on employee health care fringe benefits. The Bush Administration is looking hard at a way to rescind the rule that protects our health care benefits from the tax man. Working families need none of this nor deserve it.

It boils down to this: we have to be pro active in politics, so drop a line to your Congressman and Senators about these important issues to working families.

DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS

The Election of Delegates was held on Saturday, April 29 and your selections are posted in another part of the Newsletter. I believe that all the delegates will do the best they can. I appreciate being an elected delegate and I'm sure the others do too. Speaking for all those elected, we appreciate your support.

A reminder: Safety is #1; Productivity is #2. Have a safe month.

- Chuck Decker

Business Manager's Column

Work in the area is slowly picking up. For the fourth consecutive month our man-hours have increased. We worked 183,645 hours for the month and sent 25 members to 19 jobs. That's more than twice as many men we sent out of the hall last month. There have only been 10-12 members at the hall lately. It might be a good idea, if you're not working to get to the Hall. Remember, jobs are called at 6:30 A.M.

Matt Story's area has been very slow. There are 25-30 men out of work. Tom Crowell's area is going pretty well. He has close to full employment.

I feel we are at the threshold of work busting loose. I know we have been talking about all the large projects that are coming up in our area for a long time. As I have stated in previous newsletters, there are going to be requirements on some of these projects. For the Holcim Concrete Plant and River Cement, you will be required to have your MSHA training. Also, at all Ameren U.E. Power Houses, starting on September 1, you will need to have an

OSHA10 Safety Training card to be admitted into the plant. We have to take advantage of the journeyman upgrading classes that are available at the Apprentice School. It might be a good time to get your welder certification. Just last year we had to scramble to get certified welders to the Callaway Power House. If we can't provide the welders, there will be other trades that will. So, contact the Apprentice School for dates and times of the various upgrading classes that are available.

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, we had our election of Delegates for the 41ST International Convention. We will have 9 Delegates representing Local 396. On behalf of all the Delegates we want to thank you for your support. We will be proud to represent Local 396 at the Convention.

Work safe.

- Tom McNeil