



The
UNION VOICE
IUPAT, District Council 58, AFL-CIO

Volume 9, Issue 10

Greetings from the staff at District Council 58, I hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day weekend with friends and family. In addition to celebrating Labor Day as the last three day weekend before fall, we as union members must remember and recognize the true meaning and reason for Labor Day.

The first Labor Day parade in 1882 in New York City was organized in an effort to show solidarity and stand up for not only working conditions but also express the discontent with employers, requiring people of all ages to work 12 hour days, 7 days a week. In the late 1800's child labor laws were not strongly enforced; therefore employers used young children as cheap labor and worked them long hours often times 7 days a week along with the adults.

Labor Day is the one day of the year we as union members should celebrate being union and appreciate the process of collective bargaining to establish working conditions and uphold the 8 hour work day and 5 day work week in addition to good wages and benefits. The union movement as a whole must maintain our solidarity to insure the rights and collectively bargained privileges, such as over-time, are not taken away.

As Labor Day passes and the November election approaches, it is important to compare the overall risks and rewards when electing the next President of the United States of America. One of the two individuals supports labor and has a high labor voting record; the other has a deplorable labor voting record.

Electing a President that supports the labor movement effects us as union members in numerous ways, from the right to strike and picket, without the fear of losing our jobs, to the 8 hour work day, and over-time over 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week. Another area that affects all of us is the issue of taxing our health and welfare benefits. John McCain wants to enforce taxing our hourly rate for health insurance, which would produce an expense to each individual for income tax purposes.

The 2008 Presidential election may affect the labor movement throughout history that is why it is important to heavily weigh the risks and rewards of how the next President of the United States of America will improve our middle class standard of living, or will produce a decline in the middle class. When considering your vote for President please consider the above issues in addition to other issues that affect the working class.

*Gregg A. Smith
BMST*



1st Annual STAR Awards Ceremony
Saturday, September 27, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Schmidt Park – Altamont, IL

The Safety Training Awards Recognition Program will host the first annual District Council 58 membership picnic on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at Schmidt Park in Altamont, IL from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Eligible participants must attend the awards ceremony in order to have his or her name entered into the raffle. You must be a member in good standing and have current month dues paid with receipt or you will not be able to participate.

You must also bring proper identification and be present for the entirety of the Awards Ceremony.

Registration and certification for raffle entry is from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

At the August Apprenticeship & Training meeting, a motion was made, second and passed to decrease the work hours from 800 to 500 for the 2007-2008 Program.

The prizes can and may include: 40" LCD TV's, Tom Tom GPS, Digital Cameras, and a 2008 extended cab Chevy Silverado Truck.

All members and their families are welcome to attend.

If you have questions regarding the event they should be directed to the STAR Committee at (618) 345-6646.

Directions to the STAR Event:

From the North:

I-57 South towards Effingham
I-70 West towards St. Louis
Take the IL-128 N Exit, Exit 82, toward Altamont

From the South:

I-57 North towards Effingham
I-70 West towards St. Louis
Take the IL-128 N Exit, Exit 82, towards Altamont

From the Metro-East:

I-70 East towards Chicago
Take the IL-128 N Exit, Exit 82, towards Altamont

Schmidt Park is located just west off IL Rt. 128 behind the Dairy Bar.

P.A.T.C.H.



On behalf of District Council 58 and Patch, we would like to thank all who participated in the recent golf outing held on Friday, July 11, 2008 at The Oaks Golf Course in Springfield, IL to benefit the Painters & Allied Trades for Children's Hope Foundation. Through your support the outing raised over \$3,000.00 which will be utilized to provide assistance for children with special needs.

A Texas Hold'Em tournament to benefit Patch will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2008 at the Osborne/McGee Hall, located at 940 California Ave., Collinsville, IL 62234. There is a \$25.00 entry fee per person. Registration will begin at 4:00 p.m. and game time is 5:00 p.m. The top six (6) places pay a percentage of the total pot. Food and refreshments will be available. Maximum 102 players. You may call District Council 58 at (618) 345-6646 to reserve a reservation.

Congratulations to the following retirees:

- Richard Arbeiter LU 32
- Ernest Cody LU 288
- John McKenzie LU 90
- Jerry Moreland LU 90



Accidents, Sickness, and Deaths

- Bill Deutsch, LU 849, passed away.
- Randy Dorrough, LU 1168, crushed both heels in a work-related accident.
- Joanne Harts, LU 2007, passed away.
- Robert Hyde, LU 1299, passed away.
- Paul O'Brien, LU 1168, is suffering from a back-injury.
- Charles Ondes, LU 90, passed away.
- Bill Petterson, LU 85, is reportedly doing better.
- Sheila Turke, LU 2007, broke both feet in an accident.

S. Frank "Bud" Raftery Scholarship Award

This program is available to sons, daughters, or legally adopted dependents of IUPAT members in good standing. All applicants must submit an essay, not less than 1,000 or more than 2,000 words on an essay topic chosen by the IUPAT Scholarship Committee.

The selected 2008 essay topic is: "Why should IUPAT Journey workers and Members take responsibility for Training and Mentoring Apprentices?"

Scholarship awards are contingent upon the student attending a certified college, university, voc. tech/trade or other such institutes of higher learning. Award winners must enroll in the school of their choice within a year of the award date or forfeit the award. The deadline for essays to reach the International headquarters is December 12, 2008 and winners will be announced in April 2009. Applications may be picked up at the DC 58 office.

Apprenticeship and Training News...



Apprenticeship classes started the week of August 18, 2008. Attendance has been good. A reminder that if you miss two (2) or more class periods you will **NO** longer be permitted to work for any signatory contractor until classes have been made-up. It is your responsibility to contact your Instructor to arrange make-up classes. M. Bagwell can be reached at (217) 422-9086, A. Hurlburt (618) 345-6646, B. Millsap (217) 422-9086, or S. Wayland at (618) 345-6646.

4th Annual Finishing Industries Forum

The 4th Annual Finishing Industries Forum will be held November 10-13, 2008 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, NV.

Safety Training Schedule



- Sep 20** 8hr Lead Awareness
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Collinsville/Decatur
- Oct 4** OSHA 10 Construction
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Carterville/Springfield
- Oct 18** First Aid/CPR (**Limit 10**)
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Carterville/Springfield
- Nov 1** Scaffold & Lifts
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Collinsville/Decatur
- Nov 15** First Aid/CPR (**Limit 10**)
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Collinsville/Decatur
- Dec 13** 8hr Lead Awareness
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Collinsville
- Dec 13** 8hr Lead Refresher IL Cert.
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Decatur
- Jan 8-10, 2009** STP I
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Collinsville
- Jan 15-17, 2009** STP I
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Decatur

If you would like to attend please contact Wendy at (618) 345-6646 to confirm your attendance.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS...

Any marital changes or births need to be reported to your Health Insurance Group within 30 days to be eligible for coverage. Copies of Birth Certificate, Marriage License are required.

Please remember to keep copies of your pay-check stubs. If you should have problems regarding your Health & Welfare eligibility and Pension credits, these funds require these statements as proof of credit hours.

Also, please remember to keep your designation of beneficiary card up to date with the IUPAT, District Council 58, and your Financial Secretary.

If your address has changed please notify us.

By the Numbers

MORE VOLATILITY- The S&P 500 had 29 trading days in 2008 that experienced at least a 1% gain or loss (i.e., measured from the close of business on consecutive trading days) or approximately 1 every 9 trading days. The number of at least 1% up or down days increased to 65 in 2007 or approximately 1 every 4 trading days. Through the close of business on August 21, 2008 the number of at least 1% movement days is 66 YTD or approximately 1 every 2 ½ trading days. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index of 500 widely held stocks that is generally considered representative of the US stock market (source: BTN Research).

STILL MADE MONEY- In the last 30 calendar years (1978-2007), the S&P 500 has experienced 4 different bear markets (i.e., a decline in the index's value of at least 20%). The 4 bears had drops of 26%, 33%, 20%, and 49%. In spite of the tumbles, the S&P 500 has been up +13.0% per year (total return) over the entire 30-year period, even after the negative impact of the 4 bear markets (source: BTN Research).

THE DEAD RISE- On August 13, 1979, Business Week ran a cover story that was titled "The Death of Equities." The S&P 500 gained +17.6% per year (total return) in the decade following (i.e., 1980-89) this sobering assessment of stock valuations (source: Business Week)

FROM OIL'S PEAK- Since the price of oil hit an intraday high of \$147.27 on July 11, 2008, the small cap Russell 2000 has gained +7.5% and the large-cap S&P 500 has gained +3.1%. Performance numbers are through the close of business August 21, 2008 and do not include the impact of reinvested dividends. The Russell 2000 index is an unmanaged index of small-cap securities which generally involve greater risks (source: BTN Research).

MONTHLY NUMBERS- Although the month of September is the 2nd worst performing month for the S&P 500 since 1990 (down ½ of 1% on average on a total return basis), the months of October-November-December rank 1-2-3 in terms of average monthly performance. The last 3 months of the year have collectively gained +6.3% (total return) on average since 1990 (source: BTN Research).

RISING PRICES- Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, advanced +1.9% in just the last 2 months (June and July). As recently as calendar year 2003, inflation for the entire 12-month period was 1.9%. The consumer price index is a measure of inflation compiled by the US Bureau of Labor Studies (source: DOL).

I'M NOT THAT SICK- 22% of Americans (i.e., 2 out of every 9) have reduced the number of doctor visits they are making in order to save money as a result of our slowing economy (source: DOL).

GOING INTO DEBT- 39% of the average college student's annual tuition expense is paid for with borrowed funds (source: Sallie Mae).

OUT OF BUSINESS- An average of 99 publicly-held US companies have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection per year over the last 5 calendar years (2003-2007). 71 companies have filed for bankruptcy protection YTD in calendar year 2008 (source: Bankruptcy-Data.com, USA Today).

BUY AND SELL- YTD through the end of June, US purchase of Chinese Imports (\$154 billion) exceeded Chinese purchases of US exports (\$37 billion) by more than 4-to-1 (source: Department of Commerce).

KATRINA- Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi 3 years ago August 29, 2005. Katrina was the costliest hurricane ever, causing \$81 billion of damages. An estimated 1,833 people were killed as a result of the storm, the deadliest US hurricane in 77 years (source: National Hurricane Center).

LONGER LIFE- The life expectancy of an average American was 62.9 years in 1940, 5 years after Social Security was created in 1935. Life expectancy is 78.1 years today (source: Center for Disease Control).

THEIR BIGGEST CONCERN- 56% of American adults believes the greatest risk to the success of their retirement years is living too long (source: MetLife Mature Market Institute).

POLITICAL STAT- August 29, 2008 is John McCain's 72nd birthday. If he wins on November 4, 2008, McCain would be the oldest US elected president, beating out Ronald Reagan who was within 1 month of age 70 at his first inauguration. McCain's mother Roberta is 96 years old. McCain's father died at age 70 (source: BTN Research).

FAST FOR HER AGE- German swimmer Britta Steffen beat American Dara Torres by 0.01 of a second to win the gold medal in Women's 50-meter freestyle race in Beijing, China at the 2008 Summer Olympics. The combined age of Steffen and 3rd place finisher Cate Campbell of Australia is less than Torres' age of 41 years. 135 days (source: BTN Research).

If you have questions regarding your PDC 58 401 (k) Plan please contact Joe Camaioni at InterSecurities, Inc. at (888) 848-6466 ext. 502 or you may also contact Gateway Pension Services, (Plan Administrator) at (888) 303-1255.

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