



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

Volume 9, Issue 6



Happy Holidays from District Council 58

It is that time of year for people to look back and be thankful for the good things that have happened and remember the blessings we have been provided such as family and good friends. Those of us who have experienced trials and tribulations must concentrate on the positive issues and continue to look forward in the future.

During the holiday season no matter what one celebrates, Christmas, Hanukah or Kwanza, feelings for the most part are religious and a celebration and this is what puts us in the holiday spirit.

I would personally like to wish each of you and your families on behalf of myself and the District Council 58 staff a blessed, healthy holiday season.

*Gregg A. Smith
BM/ST*



**Collective Bargaining
Agreement Discussion**



There will be a meeting on the following dates to discuss the Contract Language and working conditions for up-coming negotiations.

January 02, 2007: LU 32 Meeting Hall at 6:30 p.m.
9416 Technology Drive
Carterville, IL 62918

January 03, 2007: LU 288 Meeting Hall at 6 p.m.
234 W. Cerro Gordo Street
Decatur, IL 62526

January 04, 2007: District Council 58 Ofc. at 6 p.m.
940 California Avenue
Collinsville, IL 62234

All meetings will be open forum for suggestions on Contract Language.

Ice Storm forces District Council 58 to close its doors...



The ice storm seen all across the Metro-Area and Vicinity on Thursday, November 30, 2006 caused the District Council 58 office to close its doors Friday, December 01, 2006 through Tuesday, December 05, 2006 due to severe power outages.

Political Action

Recently By-Law Language was passed to allow District Council 58 to participate in the Political Action Fund. This is a tremendous benefit for the Council in more ways than one; most obvious is the amount of money that can be raised to allow us to contribute to the Politicians, regardless of political party, who supports our labor issues, safety, working conditions, whether the issue is project labor agreements, health insurance, or pension. All of the issues affect us both at work and when we are at home with our families. Both affect the present and future of us as individuals and as a District Council on International.

By donating money to a larger number of Politicians puts both the Council and the IUPAT in a position for a stronger presence in the political arena at a local, state, and federal level.

By participating in the political program, it opens the door for our organizing efforts. Starting January 01, 2007 the International will begin providing District Council 58 grant money on a monthly basis. This will allow us to fully implement our organizing plan throughout the District Council.

Both of the above programs will present a benefit to our District Council at no additional cost to the membership. All money to participate in the program will be provided from the existing dues check-off structure.





On behalf of District Council 58 and Patch, we would like to thank all who participated in the recent Texas Hold-Em Tournament to benefit the Painters & Allied Trades for Children's Hope Foundation. Through your support the District Council raised over \$3,000.00 which will be utilized to provide assistance for children with special needs.

An array of items has been placed on display in lighted display cases at the District Council 58 hall. These items are on loan from Drew Bain, Local Union 849. Anyone who wishes to display their items should contact District Council 58.



Accidents, Sickness & Death

Jeff Allen, member of Local Union 120, is still off work w/back injury.

Randall Keck, member of Local Union 120, passed away December 09, 2006.

Gerald Manka, member of Local Union 120, passed away September 03, 2006.

Bill Petterson, retiree of Local Union 85, has recently been diagnosed with blood cancer.

Tim Rice, member of Local Union 363, suffered a broken collar bone and broken ankle.

Rickie "Big Rick" Shaw, member of Local Union 471, passed away September 19, 2006.

Earl Smith, retiree of Local Union 288, passed away November 29, 2006.

William Smith Jr., member of Local Union 288, passed away in early October.

Charles Struckhoff, member of Local Union 849, is being treated for stomach cancer.

Ronald Wiggins, member of Local Union 120, passed away August 14, 2006.

The father-in-law of Rich Williams, Local Union 849, recently passed away.

Congratulations to the following Retirees...



Allen Wells
Business Agent to Local Unions 363/1705
August 20, 1987 to October 31, 2006

Important Financial Secretary Information for members of Local Union 120...

Your Financial Secretary has changed...please send all correspondence to the following address:

Chuck Hering
20 Grandview Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234

Death Benefit Fund

Due to the Death Benefit Fund increase, please contact your Financial Secretary regarding a change in dues increase.



Apprenticeship & Training News...

Apprenticeship classes will resume after the holiday break beginning Monday, January 8, 2006. Please remember to keep your workbooks up-to-date.

Anyone who currently has an IL or MO Lead License needs to complete an 8 Hour Lead Refresher course in order to re-new their license. This should be completed no later than February 28, 2006. All licensures must be completed by March 31, 2006.

2006 LMCI Finishing Industries Forum



On Monday, November 13, 2006, the Painters and Allied Trades Labor Management Cooperation Initiative (LMCI) opened the Second Annual Finishing Industries Forum (FIF) to great success.

Last year, an even split of over 300 union leaders and contractors attended this event. This year, the Forum grew to over 400 attendees – mostly employers. "The response was incredible," said LMCI Administrator Bill McDevitt, organizer of the event. "It's encouraging because the success of the event is directly tied to those who attend. As this form grows, so grow our accomplishments in the field."



BY THE NUMBERS
December 10, 2006 Edition



1. **BIG RETURN** – The S&P 500 has produced a total return **greater than +20%** in 39% of the calendar years since 1950 (i.e., the 56 years from 1950-2005), or nearly twice every 5 years (source: BTN Research).
2. **THE YEAR AFTER** – The average annual total return for the S&P 500 since 1950 has been +11.9%. The average return for the stock index for those 17 calendar years **that immediately follow** years that were up less than +6.0% (i.e., less than **half the long-term** annual average) is +15.8% per year (source: BTN Research).
3. **FROM LOW TO NOW** – From the **bear market low** on 10/09/02 to 11/30/06, the total return of the large-cap oriented **S&P 500** was +94% vs. a gain of +153% for the small-cap **Russell 2000** index (source: S&P, Russell).
4. **EURO NEWS** – **Slovenia** will become the **13th country** to join the euro zone on 1/01/07, i.e., their national currency will become the euro. Great Britain is **not part of** the euro zone (source: ECB).
5. **FOUR IN-A-ROW?** – The Fed's 8th and final scheduled meeting of 2006 will take place tomorrow (12/12/06). The last 3 Fed meetings have **resulted in no change** regarding interest rates after 17 consecutive rate hikes that began on 6/30/04. The Fed funds futures market is priced to reflect a **91% chance** of another “no-action” result from the meeting (source: Chicago Board of Trade).
6. **FOREIGN INFLUENCE** – When the Fed began **raising short-term interest rates** on 06/30/04, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note was 4.59%. By 09/30/06 (or 2 ¼ years later), the Fed had raised rates 17 times (increasing short-term rates by 4.25%), but the **yield on the 10-year Treasury note** had increased only 4 basis points (i.e., 0.04%) to 4.63%. Foreigners were **heavy buyers** of Treasury securities during the 27 month period, purchasing an average of +21 billion of notes and bonds each month, keeping bond prices up and yields down. By comparison, foreigners bought a monthly average of just +\$10 billion of Treasury

- notes and bonds during calendar year 2002 (source: Treasury Department).
7. **AT WORK** – 1.6 million Americans **have gained employment** since the beginning of 2006, a monthly average increase of +149,000 new jobs (source: DOL).
 8. **BIGGER THAN IT SOUNDS** – The govt. revised its **GDP annualized growth** rate for the 3rd quarter 2006 to +2.2% from an original growth rate of +1.6% issued just a month earlier. Every one-tenth of 1% change in the GDP growth rate is equivalent to **\$13.3 billion of annual economic activity**. Thus, the recent adjustment equates to +\$80 billion of additional growth. GDP is the annual market value of all goods and services produced domestically by the US (source: Commerce Dept.).
 9. **PENSION LIVES ON** – The maximum annual amount paid out by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC) for **defined benefit pension plans** that fall in 2007 will be \$49,500 to an individual retiring at age 65. In spite of the maximum benefit limitations imposed by the agency, **over 90%** of the 1.3 million Americans that had their plans taken over by the PBGC **have not** experienced any reduction to their monthly pension (source: PBGC).
 10. **HOPE IT'S ENOUGH** – Less than 1 in 3 Americans (30%) have determined what **lump sum amount** will be needed in the future to fund their **desired retirement lifestyle** after their working years end (source: Wachovia, Richard Day Research, Money Magazine).
 11. **REAL ESTATE RICH** – 85% of American **homeowners** within 10 years of retirement view the **equity in their homes** as a reliable source of income during their post-employment years (source: Prudential REA).
 12. **A FEW HAVE A LOT** – The **richest 10% of adults** in the world own 85% of all global assets (source: WIDER).

If you have questions or inquiries regarding your PDC 58 401 (k) Plan please contact Joe Camaioni at InterSecurities, Inc. at (888) 848-6466 ext. 105.