



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

Volume 9, Issue 8



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
DISTRICT COUNCIL 58**

The Holiday season is upon us once again and no matter what one celebrates, it is the time of year we stop to give thanks for our blessings, family and friends. The staff of District Council 58 would like to wish each member and their families a healthy Happy Holiday and New Year.

As we look into 2008 for DC 58, the Industrial sector is expected to boom again, with a number of new facilities being built throughout our jurisdiction. The Commercial field outlook also looks to be good for our area, although as we all know, the Residential market is in a downturn which will result in a lot fewer hours worked for our members in 2008. Overall, hours of work should increase for the year with the expected Industrial work.

In preparation for 2008 and the semi boom in Industrial hours, it is projected to require an additional 200 plus members to fulfill the manpower estimates. Also in 2008, the country has a Presidential election that could impact labor and the growth of the country in numerous ways. Some of the candidates support the labor movement and some are extremely anti-labor (Union), therefore we as labor people need to be involved and vote to support those who support our goals and beliefs as the working class. The General President asked that each member of the IUPAT vote on a candidate for each party, to see who the members thought should receive the IUPAT endorsement for President. This is a fight for the IUPAT. The General President genuinely cares about the voice of the membership and all of us should appreciate his respect for our thoughts.

We as a District Council and members of the IUPAT have plenty to look forward to in 2008, but in closing of 2007, I would like to again wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a prosperous New Year.

*Gregg A. Smith
BM/ST*



Tunes 4 the Troops



Tunes 4 the Troops and Firm Foundation Home School Is Supporting the Troops through CD & DVD Donations

WANTED: USED & NEW CD's, DVD's and BOOKS ON CD

WHY: To support our brave men and women in the United States Armed Forces

WHERE: Combat zones all around the world

GOAL: 500,000 items delivered to military personnel By Christmas of 2008

Please tell everyone you know about this great way to support our troops. It's easy! Clean out your CD's, DVD's and books on CD and we will do the rest (clean and ship them). Please send the e-mail addresses of your family and friends serving in combat zones so a shipment may be made to their location.

Send your collected CD's via media-mail (your best rate) to:

Heather Cummings, 603 Burke, Jerseyville, IL 62052 or for more information please call (618) 498-8646 or e-mail cummingsx5@frontier.net

God Bless America & Our Troops!



We Want to Hear from You!

District Council 58 would like to hear from our members. If anyone has questions, please submit them to the Council office.

If your address or telephone number has changed please notify District Council 58. Without your current address you will not receive any correspondence from our office.

Notice to all members of Local Union 120

The location of your local union meeting has been changed to:

District Council 58
940 California Avenue
Collinsville, IL 62234

The day and time remains the same:

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Dues should be made payable to the order of Local Union 120 and mailed to the District Council 58 office.

**Illinois State Painters
OBA Midwest
Health & Welfare News**

Please inform the Health & Welfare Office of any changes to your address, marital status, dependants, etc. it is vital to your benefits that the office has your most up to date information.

The Death Benefit has increased from \$5,000 to \$20,000. That benefit doubles if the member's death was related to an accident. The Dental benefit is now \$1,400 per person per year. Weekly disability benefits have been raised to \$350.00 per week effective 07/01/2007.

Also, make sure that any doctor you are seen by is a Blue Cross Blue Shield doctor. This will ensure the greatest savings for both you and the Fund.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Housing and Urban Development Committee, chaired by Rep. Eddie Washington (D- Waukegan), held a subject matter hearing on affordable housing in the State of Illinois. **Allan Lauher**, Painters Local 90 and District Council 58, joined Jason Keller of the Illinois AFL-CIO, to testify how important affordable housing programs are to all working families. It was emphasized that construction of additional housing would bring additional jobs to many communities. Members of the committee expressed their gratitude for organized labor taking the lead on this issue.

- *Legislative Update
AFL-CIO*

Accidents, Sickness & Deaths

Jeff Allen, LU 120, is still off work from back injury.

Rick Arensmann, LU 471, is recovering from back surgery.

Bill Deutsch, LU 849, is having health issues.

Tony Eckstein, LU 1168, is having health issues.

Vicki Ettinger, LU 288, is off work due to injury.

Joe Johnson, LU 288, is off work due to injury.

Doug Ketrow, LU 85, is battling cancer.

Dale Maddox, LU 288, is having health issues.

Dennis Maycroft, LU 363, passed away.

Bill Petterson, LU 85, is still receiving Chemotherapy treatments.

David Pierce, LU 90, is recovering from surgery.

Matt Roberts, LU 1168, is having health issues.

Richard Tramboble, LU 2007, has been reported to have cancer.

Louis Weber, LU 471, passed away.



**1st Annual Apprenticeship
Christmas Party**

The 1st Annual Apprenticeship Christmas Party will be held on 12/18/2007 at the District Council 58 office from 6-8 p.m.

Apprentices and their families are invited to join in this celebration of the holiday season. Desserts and refreshments will be available. A 50/50 drawing will be held with proceeds benefiting a local charity in or around our community.

If you would like to attend please contact Wendy at the District Council 58 office at (618) 345-6646.

BY THE NUMBERS

MANY UP 3rd YEARS – Calendar year 2007 is the 3rd year in the current presidential cycle (2005-8). The last time any 3rd year resulted in a negative total return for the S&P 500 was 1939 or 68 years ago. 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).

REMEMBER NOVEMBER – The 6-month period from November 1st to April 30th has produced a positive total return from the S&P 500 stock index in 12 of the last 13 years. (i.e., 1994-2006). 7 of the 13 half-year periods generated at least an 8% total return (source: BTN Research).

SIZE BY SECTOR – Financial stocks in the S&P 500 comprise 20% of the index's total market capitalization as of the end of last month, the largest single sector in the index. The 2nd largest sector is technology, which makes up 16% of the index's value (source: S&P).

NOT FOR ME – 13% of 401 (k) participants do not have any of their pre-tax retirement money invested in the stock market (source: Fidelity Investments, Wall Street Journal).

MANY MONTHS AGO – The last time the US Fed cut interest rates was 6/25/2003 or 50 months ago. That rate cut was the 13th reduction to interest rates by the Fed over a 2 ½ year period from January 2001 to June 2003 (source: Federal Reserve).

WHAT WILL THEY DO? – The median prediction made last week by 37 economists forecasts that the US Federal Reserve will cut the 13th Interest rates twice before the end of 2007. Each of the 2 rate cuts is projected to be ¼ of 1%. The Fed has 3 more scheduled meetings this year (source: USA Today).

EXTRACTING EQUITY – Over the 6 years from 2001-06, Americans pulled \$6.1 trillion of cash from the value of their appreciated homes, more than \$1 trillion per year on average. The freed-up dollars came from 1) the sale of homes where the seller downsized, 2) home equity loans, and 3) cash taken out in a refinancing transaction (source: Federal Reserve).

2 OUT OF 50 - Just 2 states (California and Florida) accounted for 32% of all the home foreclosure filings in the nation during the month of July 2007 (source: Realty Trac).

DOUBLE OUR INFLATION – Inflation was up + 2.4% in the USA for the 1-year ending 7/31/2007, less than half the +5.6% inflation that took place in China over the same period. The Consumer Price index, used as the US inflation number, is a measure of inflation compiled by the US Bureau of Labor Studies (source: DOL, National Bureau of Statistics, Wall Street Journal).

IVY LEAGUE FOES – Harvard University's endowment fund earned +23.0% for the 1-year ending 6/30/2007, better than the +20.6% total return achieved by the S&P 500. Harvard fund, the largest university endowment in the world, is worth \$35 billion. Yale's \$18 billion endowment fund is the 2nd largest (source: Boston Globe).

NOT TELLING THE TRUTH – At least 61% of sole proprietors underreport their taxable income, leading to an estimated \$68 billion of unpaid taxes annually by this group (source: IRS).

TILL DEBT DO US PART – 3 out of every 10 married couples argue about finances at least once a month (source: Marriage Partnership).

NO JOKE – Tommy Thompson, the former Republican governor of Wisconsin, formally announced on TV his run for the 2008 Presidential election on 4/01/2007. Thompson became the 1st declared presidential candidate to drop out of the race for the White House when he stopped campaigning on 8/11/2007 (source: Thompson Camp).

2 YEARS AGO – Hurricane Katrina struck the southern coast of the USA 2 years ago. Katrina had winds of 175 mph, caused more than 1,300 deaths and inflicted at least \$80 billion in damages, the costliest storm in US history.

If you have questions regarding your PDC 58 401 (k) Plan please contact Joe Camaioni at InterSecurities, Inc. at (888) 848-6466 ext. 502