

Labor Gives Obama Wild Welcome at National AFL-CIO Convention

By MARK GRUENBERG

PITTSBURGH (PAI)—Amid a tumultuous welcome that could have raised the roof of Pittsburgh’s convention center – had that been do-able – Democratic President Barack Obama drew repeated roars and cheers from the AFL-CIO convention on Sept. 15 as he linked labor’s goals with his own.

The opening ovation for the chief executive, elected last November with strong labor support, went on so long and was so fervent that Obama tried to calm the

and that’s because the Secret Service wouldn’t allow it.

And no sooner had everyone quieted down than they jumped on their feet again when he declared that “the White House is pretty nice, but there’s nothing like being back in the House of Labor.”

The scene during his speech was repeated over and over again, especially when Obama reiterated his commitment to one of labor’s biggest causes, passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

“If a majority of workers want a union, they should get a union,”

cussing health care and the economy, while also pointing out the key role, both historically and in the present, which organized labor has played in past economic progress.

“It isn’t just organized labor, it’s the middle class. When organized labor succeeds, the middle class succeeds. And when the middle class succeeds, America succeeds,” he said.

Other high points of Obama’s address included:

- “One of the fundamental reasons I ran for president was to stand up for hardworking families, to ease their struggles, lift their hopes and make possible the dreams of middle-class Americans. Your stories are what drive me each and every day.”

- The stimulus law that he pushed through and labor strongly supported stopped prior economic bleeding. But the U.S. faces “a fundamental test” of whether it will become a nation of “the very rich and the very poor, of the haves and the have-nots” or a nation where “the success of all of us is built on the success of each of us.”

To create – or re-create – the latter nation, the president said he shares the AFL-CIO’s goals of universal, affordable health care, investment in infrastructure, workers’ rights, quality education, “creating jobs for the future” in “green” industries and “laying down tough rules of the road” for Wall Street “to ensure we never experience another crisis again” like the financial chaos that greeted him in the Oval Office on Jan. 20.



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, after a tumultuous welcome at the AFL-CIO Convention in Pittsburgh, emphasized health care and the economy and restated his support for the Employee Free Choice Act. Passage of EFCA is likely to be his biggest battle in 2010.

3,000-plus person crowd down by saying “You guys are going to make me blush.”

It didn’t work. The cheering, chanting, jumping and sign-waving went on and on. About the only thing the crowd didn’t do to celebrate his presence on the podium was dance in the aisles –

Obama declared. The law, designed to level the playing field between workers and bosses in organizing and bargaining, faces a planned GOP Senate filibuster – but Obama did not say what he’d do about that.

Obama spent much of his speech dis-

**REPORT FROM YOUR
FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREASURER**

By Wayne Fletcher

Brothers and Sisters: I hope that everyone is doing well. It has been a long and difficult year. Local 33 has had on average about 30% unemployment. The West Virginia districts have been busy and have called other districts for man power which has put some of us to work. When laid off you can put your name on other districts' unemployment list, but you have to go to the other districts to sign up. The Cleveland District has started to pick up and there is some indication that work will be substantial for awhile.



Wayne Fletcher

The recession has decelerated a bit with the market on an upswing. The Pension Fund, Health & Welfare Funds and the General Funds are starting to rebound. We are still waiting on the Health Care Reform bill from Congress and Senate to slow down this double digit inflation on health insurance.

**Increase in 2010
IA Work Assessments**

Effective January 1, 2010 there is a \$.03 increase in the hourly International Work Assessment for the following classifications: Building Trades Journeymen, Conditional Journeymen, Testing & Balancing Journeymen, Service Tech Youngstown, Residential Journeymen, Residential Trainees, Apprentices and Testing & Balancing Apprentices.

We will be sending out notices to all classifications that will have a dues increase for 2010 in the near future.

SMWIA Scholarships

It is time again to apply for the International's Scholarship Program which could benefit you if you have a son, daughter or spouse under the age of 25 years going to college. The Sheet Metal Workers' International Association strongly supports the advancement of education throughout the unionized section of the sheet metal industry to assure full participation in an expanding economy. In support of this objective, a Scholarship Fund was established and since 1988 scholarships have



been awarded annually. If interested, please contact the hall. Applications are available through February 15th and must be post-marked no later than March 1st.



*Membership Meeting
& Christmas Party*

The Regular Membership Meeting/Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 8th at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall in Parma, Ohio – 12515 Corporate Drive.

HOLIDAY CLOSING – The offices will be closed on the following days:

- November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving
- December 24th and 25th for Christmas
- December 31st we will be open until Noon and closed January 1st for New Years.

The Officers and Office Staff of Local 33 would like to wish every member and their families happy and safe holidays. Remember the men and women in the Armed Forces in harm's way who are separated from their families this time of year. Remember them in your prayers for a safe return.

DEATHS

- Akron:** Steve Lakatos, Carroll Labbe, Raymond Doan, Ervin Miller
Charleston: James Cunningham
Cleveland: James Roeble, Louis Andrews
North Central: William Oldaker
Parkersburg: William Beckett
Toledo: Lester Armitage
Youngstown: Robert Martell, Paul Marquette

RETIREMENTS

- Akron:** Gary Stanford, Vaughn Davis, David Lemley, James Chester
Cleveland: Ralph Heimburger, George Csepegi
Charleston: Carl Smith, Jr.
Toledo: Daniel Hafner
Vermilion: Kenneth Yarosh

2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

Location	Trustees Executive Board	Regular Meeting
JANUARY — YOUNGSTOWN	9th	12th
FEBRUARY — AKRON	6th	9th
MARCH — CLEVELAND	6th	9th
APRIL — CLARKSBURG	10th	13th
MAY — TOLEDO	8th	11th
JUNE — CLEVELAND	5th	8th
JULY — WHEELING	10th	13th
AUGUST — VERMILION	7th	10th
SEPTEMBER — CLEVELAND	11th	14th
OCTOBER — CHARLESTON	9th	12th
NOVEMBER — PARKERSBURG	11th	14th
DECEMBER — CLEVELAND	6th	9th

AKRON • CANTON • MANSFIELD

KEITH BARKER • JERRY DURIEUX • TOM WIANT

At this time we have 135 members available for work. Work in and around Canton is slow and jobs to bid on are few and far between. We have been using the Target Fund on private jobs, trying to help secure more work.

We recently lost the New Philadelphia MRDD job to Henry Heating & Cooling. It is a Prevailing Wage job and we will be pulling all reports to check their wages paid.

There are some multi-unit complexes going out for bid in Canton, Coshocton, and Minerva; we have a good chance at getting all of them.

The Air National Guard in Mansfield is building a new bed-down building that goes out for bid in December. This is estimated to be a \$10-15 million project. There is talk of building new schools in Shelby and Madison counties. The City of Mansfield is also talking about building a new industrial park where Tappen and Westinghouse were. Two of our contractors, Schmid Mechanical and Standard Plumbing, bid on Med Central Hospital; we are still waiting to see who is awarded that job. The Wadsworth City school job will be out to bid soon and is estimated to be a \$108 million project.



The kids/family Christmas Party is December 10th from 5 - 9 p.m. Santa is scheduled to be there from 6 - 9 p.m. You must bring your own camera for pictures.

The Members' Christmas Party is December 15th beginning at 7 p.m.

From everyone at Local 33, we wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season!!



If you need work done on your furnace, here is a list of service contractors in our district:

Air Comfort Inc. 330-434-8107 Akron

All Comfort 330-454-2665 Louisville

Best Commercial Energy 330-773-5198 Akron

Brust Sheet Metal 330-297-6111 Ravenna

C.R.Kurtz 330-454-5305 Canton

Crown Heating & Cooling 330-499-4988 North Canton

Greer Heating & A/C 330-673-5636 Kent

Hudson Heating 330-655-2933 Hudson

Hybrid Heating & Cooling 330-896-1010 Akron

Lowery Furnace 330-745-4822 Akron

R.B. Fox Heating 330-833-6743 Massillon

Safco Heating & Air Conditioning 330-678-1400 Streetsboro

Simic Sheet Metal 330-830-1116 Massillon

Wright Heating 330-673-3507 Kent

The Akron/Canton Retirees meet on the 3rd Thursday every month in Massillon at 11 a.m.

The Mansfield Retirees meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at noon; please stop in and say hi.

PLEASE CALL US if your Drug Card has expired so you can take another test!

Akron JATC

John Nesta, Training Coordinator

We will be holding a welding certification examination at the Akron Training Center in January 2010 (*tentative date is Saturday, January 9th*). At that time we will be set up to test under AWS D1.1 - Steel (3/8" plate, E7018 - 3G & 4G) and AWS D1.1 Galvanized (18ga & 10ga - 4G) and Stainless (18ga & 10ga - 4G). If you are interested in testing contact the training center to register. *If you do not register in advance, test materials will not be available.*

Spring Semester class will begin late January; watch your mail for the Training Class Schedule.

Apprentice applications are now being accepted for Akron District on the 2nd Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you know someone looking for a career opportunity, please encourage them to apply. The best way to find good people is through the recommendation of our members.

VERMILION

DAVID LARSON

At the writing of this article work is still slow in the Vermilion District. Currently we have approximately 23 members on the Available for Work list. The employment outlook doesn't look like it will change much as we move into the winter months. With some work coming at Lorain Community and Oberlin College things will pick up a little later this winter. The local shops all seem to be holding their own by keeping as many people as possible busy.

With work being as slow as it has been and the possibility of some large industrial projects starting in our neighboring districts next year, members who haven't kept their **welding certifications** current should consider contacting the Training Center to retest. The work will start up again in Northern Ohio, even if it is in a neighboring district, and when it is does you should be as prepared as you can be. *Taking the welding tests will cost you nothing but your time.*

If you have specific questions about the test requirements please don't hesitate to give me a call. All members need to consider further training as an avenue to improve their employability during these very difficult times.

If you haven't received a class schedule from the JATC you can call them at 216-267-0151. Scheduling for the winter/spring semester will start after the holidays.

On September 1, 2009, **J.D. Indoor Comfort**

in Sheffield, Ohio signed an agreement with Local 33 and became a signatory contractor with the Vermilion District. J.D. specializes in service, refrigeration, residential and light commercial work. J.D. currently has ten employees and is taking applications for experienced service techs. Please consider J.D. Indoor or another union contractor if your home heating and cooling system needs service or replacement. The union contractors listed below are experts in residential service and installation and employ Vermilion District members:

- Advanced Comfort Systems, 440-355-6761
- Luxury Heating Company, 440-931-6130
- J.D. Indoor Comfort, 440-949-8758
- Gundlach Sheet Metal Works, 419-626-4525
- Hohler Furnace and Sheet Metal, 419-625-7474

The Vermilion District Rec held its Second Annual Golf Outing and Steak Fry on September 12th at Fox Creek Golf Course in Lorain. Eight four-man teams participated in the golf outing and approximately 40 members and their families enjoyed the dinner portion of the outing. The weather was perfect and I hope all who attended had a good time.

The Rec fund has scheduled this year's **Christmas Party** and service pin presentation for Tuesday, December 22nd at the Vermilion hall starting at 6 p.m. Watch your mail for the notification and *please R.S.V.P.* so appropriate arrangements can be made. Hope to see you there.

YOUNGSTOWN

TRAVIS HOSKINSON

Greetings from Youngstown! Work is still slow in our area, but looks good for next year. I'm still waiting on GM to see about the big job at the stamping plant to go at the end of this year. If you haven't heard, **Thompson Heating & Cooling** is a Union shop. I would like to personally thank everyone who helped out on the pickets and say what a great job our Organizing Department did. *It has definitely sent a message to our competition in the area; they are willing to talk now.*

With work being slow everywhere we are starting to see more people coming out of the woodwork. Shane and I have been playing Wack-A-Mole with the non-union. If you see anything, please feel free to call me. That being said, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

**NEW PHONE?
NEW ADDRESS?**

LET US KNOW!



CLEVELAND

**TIM MILLER • TODD ALISHUSKY
MIKE COLEMAN**

Work in the Cleveland area has picked up. We currently have 45 members available for work. We can't say it enough, *to keep your contact info updated with the union hall*. If you can't be reached you could miss an employment opportunity.

Some on-going projects include: Ahuja Medical Center, C.S.U. Campus, Tri-C College, University Hospital Cancer Center, Geneva Schools, Chardon Surgery Center, Baldwin Wallace College, Willoughby Municipal Center, and Cleveland Clinic Cardio Vascular Center.

Some up-coming projects include: Ashtabula Schools, Juvenile Justice interior, Tri-C Eastern Campus, Lake Hospital Systems, Lake Erie College, and Cleveland Schools.

We had our wage disbursement. With \$1.00 coming, the members in attendance voted to put .15 into the Health Benefit Fund, .25 into the Local Pension Fund, .30 into the Annuity Fund, and .03 for dues, leaving .27 that will go into your check until Jan. 1, 2010, at which time .03 will go into the International Work Assessment. If the dues increase passes, the balance of .24 will go into that.

We would like to congratulate the Sheet Metal Workers' Softball Team. In the Labor Day weekend Building Trades Tournament they finished 2nd in the "A" bracket, losing in the Championship game. They did a great job!

We want to thank those members who helped out during this election season. Once again the

Sheet Metal Workers' were actively involved with lit drops helping labor-friendly candidates and issues that will benefit our membership. We supported and helped with the state Casino issue. The Cleveland Building Trades met with Dan Gilbert and he gave his assurance the Casino here will be built with *union labor*. This project will run somewhere around \$500-600 million.

Dates to remember:

- **3rd Tuesday** — Stewards meeting at the hall, 4 p.m.
- **4th Tuesday** — Union meeting at the hall, 7 p.m.

Do Not Patronize List: Ruby Tuesday, Circuit City, Tradesman Tavern, Atlas Cinemas, Par O'Brien Chevy (Willoughby Hills), Rite-Aid, Quaker Steak and Lube (Mentor).

Cleveland Rec Fund

Upcoming Rec Fund Events include our annual **Lunch With Santa** on Saturday, December 5. RSVP cards have been mailed out; hope to see you there!

Our **Reverse Raffle** will be held on March 7 at St. Paul's Hellenic Center in North Royalton. The cost this year will once again be \$50 for each ticket with the total prize money being \$4,000. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and there will be plenty of door prizes and of course, dinner with beer, wine and wash provided. *Bring your own bottle*. See any Cleveland Rec Fund member about tickets, as they are *available now*.

The entire Cleveland Rec Fund would like to take this opportunity to wish all Local 33 members and their families a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season and a very prosperous New Year!

After winning the "B" Division championship in 2008, Local 33's team went on this year to capture 2nd Place in the tougher "A" Division — the first team in the 28 year history of the Cleveland Building Trades Softball Tournament to make such a leap.

Cleveland JATC

John Nesta, Training Coordinator

A Welding Certification exam was held on October 24th. Congratulations to Brian Chilenski, Jim Goggin, Dave Larson, Eli Ralich and Dean Sutter for successfully certifying. The next certification date is December 12th; take the opportunity to validate your skills.

In 2010 NEMI will be holding classes at the Cleveland Training Center. These include TABB Supervisor, Sound & Vibration, Commissioning, and IAQ Technician. Additional information is available on the NEMI website <http://www.nemionline.org/registration/schedule.html>.

To register for these courses proceed to the International Certification Board page <http://www.icbcertified.org/site/classes/index.php>

Spring Semester class will begin late January; watch your mail for the Training Class Schedule.

Apprentice applications are accepted for both the Cleveland District and the Vermilion District on the 2nd Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you know someone looking for a career opportunity, please encourage them to apply.

Cleveland Retirees Club

Dave Gaeta, President

Our meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Local 33 Cleveland District Hall, 12515 Corporate Drive, Parma, off W. 130th and South of Brookpark Road (Rt.17) and just North of Snow Road.

Our next five meeting dates are: December 2nd, January 6, February 3rd, March 3rd and April 7th.

At all our regular meetings we have coffee, donuts and pizza. All our luncheons start at 12 Noon with the meeting following (1 p.m.). We have an Attendance Prize Pool, 60/40 Split Pot and we collect for an optional Ohio Lottery Mega Bucks.

All you retirees who are **not** club members: Take the time now to mail a \$12 check (made out to the *Cleveland Retirees Club*) for the 2010 year and mail to Co-Treas. George Rak, 5723 Sleepy Hollow Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280-9354. The hardest part is to mail that check. Once you do that, the rest is easy. All club members receive a monthly postcard with event reminders.

I would like to thank all you retirees who are now club members. and remind you dues for 2010 are due by January.

Don't forget to let your family know the the Sheet Metal logo is on file at *The Plain Dealer* to be used in your death notice if requested, at no cost to your family.



Retirees' Calendar

- **Wednesday, December 2nd** — annual Christmas luncheon at the union hall. A letter with all info was mailed to all retirees in late October. *This is open to all club and nonclub members.*

- **Saturday, December 5th** — Kids Christmas Luncheon with Santa (one morning and one afternoon shift) by the Rec Fund. You must have a reservation to attend.

- **Tuesday, December 8th** — Local 33 Cleveland District Christmas Dinner and awards.

- **Wednesday, January 6** — Regular meeting so far at 1 p.m.

- **Wednesday, February 3rd** — Regular Meeting so far at 1 p.m.

- **Wednesday, March 3rd** — Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Sandwich Luncheon starting at 12 Noon. Also our annual March breakfast on Wednesday, March 11th or 18th with more info to come.

- **Wednesday, April 7th** — Regular meeting at 1 p.m.

I would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

If needed, call President **Dave Gaeta** at (440) 888-0904 or Treasurer **George Rak** at (330) 483-3216.



Labor Day Parade in Brook Park (Cleveland District)



TOLEDO

JOHN SCHLAGHECK • JOHN RUSSELL • DONALD HAFNER

Greetings Brothers & Sisters: By the time that you receive this, hopefully we have elected a mayor that is going to help us with issues in the City of Toledo. Building Inspection was screwed up enough, save the fact that the mayor decided to lay-off inspectors and gut one-third of the department. This action nullified the department's ability to perform their primary function of inspections. What a friend he was to labor. The NWOBCTC even offered to volunteer their services to help check jobs for the city, but we were shot down on that. Even though the trades are actively involved in politics we still need some of our members to get involved with the city council, school boards and township meetings.

Since taking office in June, I have found out how many people are against our cause. *The problem is that they are not informed about the benefits that we can bring to the community.* When they hear the word *union*, all that comes to mind is the perception they have of the UAW,

and how "lazy and selfish" they are. As Reggie would say, pigs get fed, hogs get slaughtered. Most people don't realize that we are nothing like the UAW. Our leadership locally and abroad is always moving forward. This type of progressive thinking is what positions us for a brighter future. Some lead, some follow and some get the hell out of the way.

The weather is getting colder and the leaves have fallen by this time. If you are an avid hunter you are probably looking to put meat in your freezer. If you are driving from dusk till dawn, *be careful of the deer*, they are all over. I have seen more road kills this year than any other year that I have been driving. I hope that everyone is enjoying the fall weather and are looking forward to the holidays that will be coming. Keep your eyes peeled for children that are playing in those leaf piles. They are probably having fun, but definitely not thinking about you

• Continued on Page 6

 • Continued from Page 5

driving down the road. Also, a lot of people are still on their motorcycles, so let's look twice, it could save a life.

The **Christmas Party** invitations should be to you by this time. *Please send your RSVP and reservation money in by December 4th.* This will help get an accurate count for the caterer. We want to remind the members that this party is for you and *one* adult guest. If you bring more than one guest we will turn you away at the door, so please be courteous and follow this policy. We want everyone to enjoy the food, spirits and fellowship on Friday, December 11th. Cocktails are at 7 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. Then we will do presentations, music and dancing 'til 11:30 p.m.

If you are laid off and you need to go and take the whiz quiz, please stop at the hall and pick up a *chain-of-custody* paperwork. Also if you have been laid off for three (3) consecutive months you are eligible for the Meijer's gift cards. Please understand that if we turn you away, don't be offended. We have to have some rules; this is not the "Wild Wild West." The Hardship Committee is also giving \$125 dollars to the members that get a job out of town in another district or local. This money is to help you to get down to the area that you have a job in. If you do get a job in another area, *please let us know when you start and when you get laid off*, so we can update our records accordingly.

WHEELING

SCOTT MAZZULLI

Work in Wheeling still remains good at the time of this writing. We still have travelers working in the area and there are a lot of travelers on the Available for Work list. We have a lot of work coming in 2010, but we *need our local contractors to bid the projects.* Because work has been bad elsewhere, out of town contractors are bidding everything and it puts us behind the 8 ball with the 2-man and 4-man rules if our local contractors are not the successful bidders. The Performing Arts Center for Wheeling Park has been put out for rebid (thank goodness for the bid criteria, because the electrical would have been non-union). The general contractor from Pittsburgh was union but obviously has no problem bringing rat subs from Pittsburgh. Our local general contractors were under budget for the project, but were substantially higher than the others because our locals' used all union subs. The Wheeling hospital project is a go and should be a lot of work.

I attended the Belmont County Commissioners meeting on the day they awarded the contract for Eastern Division Court. After several conversations with our Building Trades attorney Ron

Macala and the Commissioners, **Matt Coffland** decided to take care of personal business instead of enforcing the bid criteria and protecting the integrity of it like he promised to do. Like Gordie Longshaw — another commissioner that we got elected failed us miserably on the first job assignment. As I promised this membership in the past, I will hold all politicians accountable. That's why I attended the commissioners' meeting. Matt Coffland knew that I was upset when I spoke at the meeting. He came to the next week's Building Trades meeting and tried to cover his ass in front of all the crafts. I am glad he did. I was a lot more brutal in that setting than what I was in the Belmont County Courthouse.

To make a long story short, Commissioner **Ginny Favede** called Ron Macala (our attorney) and asked for additional language for bid criteria. The document states that through a combined bid by a general contractor, all of that contractor's subs are required to comply with the same paperwork that prime contractors have to fill out. That's a major victory. Commissioner **Chuck Probst** has been trying to do that for us for a while. He never had any help. Commissioner Probst voted against Matt Coffland on the project. Commissioner Probst has been there for us on every issue. *His election is in 2010. He will need our help.* If we lose him, non-union will retake Belmont County. It's because of Chuck that Johnson Boiler no longer has any service contracts for Belmont County. It will be because of Chuck that we get HVAC licensing in Belmont County. If you see Commissioner Probst, be sure to thank him for all he does for us.

In the last article, I related the problems that are going on at the Sammis plant. I wanted the members who care about this Local to know what I have had to deal with pretty much daily on that project. Sad to say, the childish writing in *Porte Johns* still continues. I don't know if it's one individual or if it's a few. *I am just letting everyone know that all this does is make our craft look bad.* People are always going to have differences and not like each other, but *whoever you are that is continuing to write such childish rubbish, you are only hurting Local 33.* I hope you are proud of yourself.

We had our most successful Golf Outing to date on August 29th. A big *thank you* to all involved that put it together. It is without a doubt the biggest turnout we have ever had. We also had a lot of hole sponsors. It was good to see some first-time golfers show up and have a great time.

2010 will be the mid-term elections and the PAC funds will be meeting soon. If you are interested in the local politics that are important to our membership and would like to be active, please call the hall. We can never have too many people helping out.

Rec Fund Functions for 2009: Christmas Party is December 5th at the Elm Grove Civics; doors open at 4 p.m.

Rec Fund Functions for 2010: March 14th **Bowling Party** at Park Legion Lanes, Martins Ferry, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

June 5th **Picnic** at Benwood Park, 1 p.m. to ?; December 4th **Christmas Party** at Elm Grove Civics.

RETIRES MEETINGS for 2010: January 27th, March 24th, May 26th, July 28th, September 29th, November 17th (Holiday Breakfast). All meetings are at the First Ward in Martins Ferry.

Reminders:

WE ARE A BROTHERHOOD.

You need to **get a referral** when you are called out to work, even if on recall.

If requested by a contractor I need the proper request form.

Apprentices: OJT sheets are due by the 6th of every month.

Meetings are the 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m.

CHARLESTON

JIM KING

Work in Charleston has picked up as of this writing; there are currently 10 on the AFW list. The John Amos Power House shutdown is getting ready to start and should last until February, 2010. I do not foresee a large callout for manpower on this project. With the 10 local hands and 40 plus on the out-of-district AFW list we should be in good shape.

The Putnam County School Bond Levy passed in September and the Fayette County School Bond Levy was headed for a vote as this article was being written. Both counties have adopted the 18 point bid criteria. School work in West Virginia should be steady over the next couple of years.

11 Dedicated Members Earn SMW Salute

At the October 13th meeting in Charleston, we recognized some special members with their service pins:

25 YEARS: Randy Osborne and Robert Titus

40 YEARS: Orville "Butch" Atkinson, Lewis "Steve" Canterbury, Daniel Childs, James Cunningham, Dale Exline, Joseph "Jay" Harrison, Hubert "David" Payne

60 YEARS: Harold Hughes and Charles Miller

Thanks for your dedication and leadership to this Union.

A reminder the **November Charleston Meeting** has been *changed to the 17th*, and the **December meeting** has been *changed to the 15th* because of the holidays.

I would like to wish all of our members and their families a Joyous Holiday Season and a New Year of Happiness and Hope for a World at Peace.

NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA

STEVEN PERDUE

From the East Coast to the West Coast the National Chamber of Commerce is creating problems for the working class people. There are several issues, but first let's concentrate on the Prevailing Wage Rate. The National Chamber of Commerce, The National Right to Work for Less and their non-union partner, the ABC Contractors, all have their lobbyists putting pressure on the State Dept. of Labor as well as the U.S. Department of Labor in an effort to discredit the established Prevailing Rate, the union contractors and union workers, as well as the Department of Labor itself when it is *doing what it was set up to do*, and that is to protect the American worker.

This affects us directly! The registration of rates this year are being highly scrutinized and they plan on contesting any rate they can, so it is very important that we do our best to see that all the proper forms are filled out and done correctly and accurately to keep the Anti Union at bay. The corporate greed that we have been seeing affects all workers, union and non-union alike, along with their communities.

Next, the Chamber of Commerce has raised over \$200M to help defeat the Employee Free Choice Act. The Chamber of Commerce and the insurance lobby are spending over \$1.4M *per day* to defeat National Health Care for Americans. The Chamber of Commerce, National Republican Party, National Right-to-Work and the corporate lobby are fighting unemployment benefit extensions for those laid-off workers that will be running out of unemployment and fighting the funds for the retraining of Americans whose jobs were shut down and relocated in China and other foreign countries.

But they *did support* using our tax dollars to help companies relocate to China and other foreign countries. No problem with MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR BONUSES for CEO's. The Panama Canal will be made wider in order to be able to bring over the newest super tankers full of import goods to sell to Americans who have lost their jobs — due to these same imports.

In the last few years there have been a flood of illegal workers. Former President Bush said that they are "just doing the work that U.S. citizens wouldn't do", but that appears to include the death squads of the DRUG DEALERS who are poisoning our streets. I don't hear the Chamber of Commerce complaining. **The ABC Contractors are big users of documented and undocumented workers** now trucked to every part of the country. *The U.S. worker is the next endangered species.*

on (so far, anyway). Our local contractors are bidding against tough opposition to get work for our members. There are contractors coming into our area bidding extremely low in order to get work, but what cuts are they making in order to get the work? Quality in material and workmanship usually are first, and it goes downhill from there, cheating employees out of their money by classifying them as Laborers instead of as Sheet Metal Workers. The list goes on and on, how employers take advantage of workers. The out-of-state contractors know they won't be around after the job is done, so they aren't concerned with how the job looks or how long it will last.

In North Central WV we are facing out-of-state contractors bringing in four workers, knowing we can only take two of our workers into their area. *This is wrong!* The General President is supposed to be addressing this issue. Soon, I hope! We have enough issues, like the prevailing rate, non-union employers, other crafts taking our work and on and on.

The FBI Complex is starting with a \$20M Parking Garage. There will be more work next fall when the main building starts. Fort Martin is holding its own for now but the problems on the big fans has the power company concerned about getting back on line and the cost. Longview has taken on four people with more to come in a few weeks with a few trickling in from time to time. Summerset Steel will be taking five people in a week or two at Longview. Local contractors are still a little slow and we hope that changes.

Camp Dawson is not fully determined who gets what. The Non Union is trying to get their foot in the door.

• • •

The Fire Life Safety Training Class will Start November 12th from 6 - 9 p.m., November 13th from 6 - 9 p.m. and on Saturday it will be from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. We are limited in the number of people that we can get into the first class and it is already full, but for those that didn't make the first class there will be a second, so just be patient. It is very important that we get most of our people involved in this, as we will be working on Legislation in the near future to help the Sheet Metal Worker to keep our market share. After this training is complete, we will be setting up for the next phase.

Ruskin Members

The Ruskin Plant has had three layoffs. So far the numbers are low but the numbers don't matter when it's you that is being laid off. The smaller the layoff numbers, the sooner that it's your turn to return to work. Workers and management are trying to put a package together that will hopefully get more work for the Fairmont Plant.

There are several grievances and arbitrations

coming up and there have been several times when I thought we would be able to resolve many of these issues, but each time we run into problems that stop the process. The company looks for ways to cut cost, the electric, gas bill, water bill, your pay check and the list go on. In the past the company has done things a certain way and that's how we accepted it, nothing in writing in the contract but everybody knew how it worked and that's how it did work, till now. If it's not in writing it doesn't mean anything according to management and their attorneys. *They can't afford to give raises to the employees, but can spend money to arbitrate cases that could be settled in-house.* Why settle when they can arbitrate and even get more from the employees by the stroke of a pen and maybe even get a bonus?

It's been this way for a long time; the locally-owned businesses are all but gone and we are dealing with multinational corporations. The people in the Dept. of Labor so far have leaned toward letting the Arbitrator rule on the case and then they make a move, instead of being up-front. *They must be left over from the Bush Administration.* With this being said, the workers still must do their part and expect for the company to do theirs. Work safely and smart and do quality work, get yourself trained on different jobs that could help you down the road. (All we have to sell is our labor.) These words have been around long before we came to be and will be the same after were gone.

There seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel, but we aren't there yet. **You must stick together;** the company sees members fighting amongst themselves and they report it to the higher ups.

I have met with a person in Charleston who is trying to get some assistance for those laid off which, if it happens, would help for insurance premiums, retraining, monetary assistance and more. I should know something in a few weeks.

I have talked to the contractors on the Hazelton Prison and other projects, asking them to consider using Fairmont Ruskin Products, which they are open to, and Ruskin Company has agreed to assist us in supplying some fire dampers for training purposes. People in marketing are talking to the contractors in order to get more business and with the Fairmont Plant being in the area of the construction and the ability of the workers to deliver a quality product on time should make the difference on who gets the business, and in turn keep Fairmont production workers working.

There will always be issues that divide us, but we all must find a common ground and hold together. **Common sense tells you that there is strength in numbers.** Try and support the Stewards in their efforts in dealing with the company.

I would like to thank Todd, Mark and Beverly and also our secretarial and safety people for their efforts.

• • •

The work in the North Central Area is holding



**SHEET METAL WORKERS
LOCAL 33**
12515 Corporate Drive
Parma, Ohio 44130

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 30

November • December
2009



Page 8

LOCAL 33 LAYOUT

November • December 2009

PARKERSBURG

DEAN TUELL

We have 25 Journeymen, 3 Apprentices, and around 10 Industrial workers available for work. The local shops are picking up some; they seem to be having work starting to come in. We have three at DuPont with Aker Construction; hopefully this is a start to DuPont doing something. Work hours for the year in the Parkersburg District are down, but with a new year coming, we hope it brings those hours back. This has taken longer than I expected to turn around.

This administration's attempt to re-gain some resemblance of the country we were when we had a robust economy, to rein in health care, to bring back jobs that have left this country, has been consistently opposed by Republican conservatives. The last administration started with a surplus, but with their policies of tax breaks (don't pay for anything) and pillage industries to the bottom, we lost our manufacturing base to low-wage, high-profit countries. Just one trip to <http://www.factcheck.org/> can help you get through the mistruths from health care to "cap and trade." We sit back and listen to the Right say all the bad things this is going to do to our country, claiming that the administration wants

to make us a "communist" nation, and are going to "deny care" if they so desire. Funny part of that is, *it happens now*. What is morally wrong with wanting the citizens of this country to have access to health care and make a good wage with benefits? That's the difference between sides in this debate.

We had our **West Virginia Retiree Orientation** on October 24, at Grand Point Conference Center in Vienna, WV. This was a very informative day for all. Thanks to all who attended, and to Randy Gombos for setting it up.

SASMI: If you have been off for a while you can file for advanced supplemental under-employment for the "B" period. Fill it out if you have been unemployed and drawing State Unemployment for 90 straight days. Underemployment can be filled out for anyone working a set amount not determined yet (we should have them around the first of December). *We can submit them after the first of the year; let me know if you want to apply for this benefit.*

TRI-COUNTY: If you encounter a problem be sure to let BeneSys or a Trustee know. Any questions, call BeneSys at **(866-599-3176)** or ask your Agent. Please be patient and read

all communications from the fund. You can also check the web site for more information: (<http://www.sheetmetalworkers33benefit-funds.org>)

APPRENTICE COMMITTEE: School has started, some are already done for the year; those who have not started yet, remember to do your **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**, and these were handed out at orientation! With our new Debit Cards being implemented, try not to lose yours. If anyone is interested in Welding, CADD, or any other training, let the Committee know. You can respond by our web page, or by phone – 866-222-5282.

REMEMBER TIME SHEETS: DUE THE 6th. (<http://www.wvjatc33.com/>)

Flu shots were given at the hall on the 29th of October. *Those who did not make it can get one, pay for it themselves and PMCA Drug & Education will reimburse you.* Or if you want to wait, Mid-Ohio Valley Doctors office in Vienna, WV will have more mid-November.

Meeting Changes: Main Meeting on November 10 with bylaw vote; District Meeting on November 17th and December Christmas Party on the 15th.

Have a joyful Thanksgiving (DEER SEASON) and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

Remember those who are less fortunate than yourself and the reason for the season.