

BUSINESS MGR.'S REPORT

By Reggie Hohenberger

Health Costs to Double If America Doesn't Act

Greetings Brothers and Sisters: Health Care, Health Scare, Obama Care, Socialism, Hitler, Death Panels, Threats, Outlandish Statements.

As you know, we have been clobbered with talking points about this issue since July and there is no relief in sight. President Obama is taking this problem head-on at town hall meetings that have amounted to a carnival in some places.



Reggie Hohenberger

Have you ever seen so many idiots at a microphone in one place? I have no problem with a good, spirited debate about this issue, it makes for good government. However, it's hard to debate and speak about the facts intelligently when you're better off talking to the "dining room table" as Congressman Barney Frank stated when trying to speak to an uninformed town haller.

Funny how this country forgot all about WMD's (weapons of mass destruction) and the lies that manipulated our country into the Iraq war. Where was the outrage from United States citizens when they found out they were lied to?

I make that statement because here we are as a nation at the crossroads of trying to do something good for the American consumer — *that's right, you the consumer* — and you see this phony outrage of people wanting to protect insurance companies. We have been beat down, beat up and flat taken advantage of by those friendly health insurance companies, all in the name of profits, profits, profits.

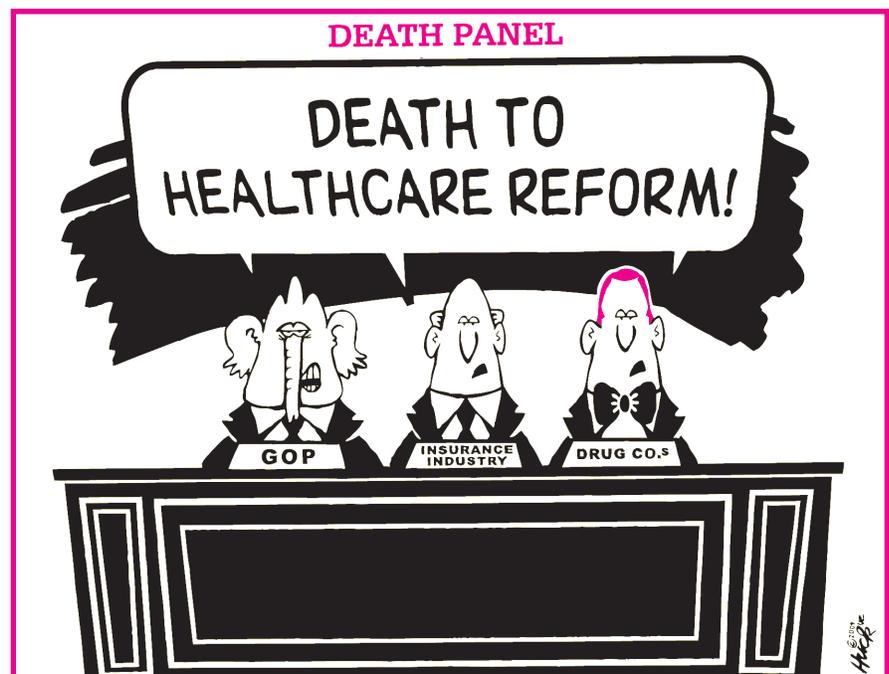
You have heard "government doesn't work," that the private sector does a bet-

ter job of managing things. People say they don't want their health care dictated to them. Well, here is a list of things that *have* worked: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, OSHA, and Unemployment Benefits, just to name a few. And what political party did those benefits come from? *I think you already know.*

The fact of the matter is, insurance companies *already dictate* what kind of care you will receive. They tell you:

- What doctors you can see
- What hospitals you can go to
- What is covered
- What is not covered
- How much they will pay or not pay at all
- You're in network or out of network
- We won't insure you (because of a pre-existing condition)
- Raise your rates *anytime.*

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REPORT FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREASURER

By Wayne Fletcher

Brothers and Sisters, I hope you had an enjoyable summer. As one journeyman told me, you only get so many summers; when they are here you must make the most of your time.

We are still in the worst recession since the Great Depression in 1929. This recession started in December, 2007 and has devastated the Health & Welfare Funds, Pension Funds and the General Fund with the losses in the stock market. All of the funds had losses of 25% to 35%. Local 33 has also had unemployment of up to 30%.

With President Obama's stimulus package we are looking for the economy to turn around and some reports are saying the recession will be ending soon. The Stock Market has started to post gains, which is helping the health care and pensions regain the 25% to 35% that they lost when the market declined. We need the politicians to pass the Health Insurance Reform to stop the double digit inflation that health care has gone up in the last eight years. We also need a Pension Reform to help pensions get fully funded again.

The Officers and the staff of Local Union 33 hope all the members and their families enjoyed a happy and safe Labor Day.

The *American Income Life Newsletter* recently featured an article about *defined benefit* and *defined contributions*. It is worth sharing:

Retirement Income Security: The Oxymoron

By: Thomas J. Mackell, Jr., Ed.D.

We are going through an incredibly frightening environment permeated by muddled objectives, conflicts of interest and what has been characterized as a "legacy of misplaced priorities."

The world's financial system has collapsed and global central banks are faced with new, unproven strategies to deal effectively with these turbulent uncharted waters.

Through all of this economic crossfire we have observed that many members of Congress cannot walk and chew gum at the same time as they move toward an epic debate over the right kinds of strategies to get us out of the quagmire.

There is a new world order that is taking shape and it will have a profound effect on the ability of the American workforce to enjoy their so-called "Golden Years."

Retirement income security has become an oxymoron that is a result of the "deinstitutionalization" of pension plans. The great

risk shift of retirement responsibility from the shoulders of the institution to the shoulders of the individual in the private sector has placed the burden of obtaining a secure retirement squarely with the American worker.

For most workers, the notion of designing a long-term asset allocation model is anathema to them. The average individual does not know the difference between a stock and a bond. This evolution of moving from defined benefit plans to defined contribution plans as a stand-alone benefit program is criminal, and as a result of the financial crisis and the recession that point has smacked us in the face in a most vicious way.

The "three-legged stool" is no longer part of the retirement planning culture and most workers under 40 years of age are totally unfamiliar with the term.

Shame on the cast of characters who by their action or inaction are responsible for and contributed to this debacle of incredible magnitude. This will be one of the most profound tectonic shifts the likes of which we have never seen before in the history of the world.

When 77 million Baby Boomers, many of whom are ill-equipped economically to retire, begin to lose the ability to work, society is in for a rude awakening.

Will the average worker have the ability to retire with some modicum of decency in their old-age or will many elderly workers be relegated to skimping on meals and living under bridges or in open fields, harkening us back to the images and visions of the Great Depression when millions occupied the many hobo villages and shanty towns that popped-up alongside the highways, byways and railways of America?

With the battle having been won in the private sector, the next battlefield will be over the defined benefit pension plans covering public sector workers.

Over the last two to three years there has been a dramatic move on the part of elected officials at the state, county and municipal levels of government who fostered initiatives to freeze the defined benefit plans and create new tiers of benefits coverage for newly hired workers and to roll the defined benefit plans for existing seasoned workers into defined contribution plans.

It has been easy for corporations to change

their benefit programs, claiming that in order to be globally competitive they had to relieve themselves of the liabilities associated with defined pension plans. There was very little push-back on the part of employees and Congress was willing to create enabling legislation to accomplish that goal.

The net result is that we went from some 60% of the private workforce covered by defined benefits plans in 1979 to almost 80% covered by defined contribution plans by 2006.

It was a complete flip of retirement program coverage. Now the mantra in the public sector is that we should do the same thing and dismantle the defined benefit programs for public sector workers and eliminate that burdensome long-term liability.

They argue that if it was done successfully in the private sector, then we should do it in the public sector. The notion of a "social contract" no longer has any meaning and the loyalty both up and down the institution, from employer to employee and vice versa, is a thing of the past.

As a nation during significant crises and periods, we have always had the ability to be creative, innovative and bold when our backs were to the wall.

Tearing down walls and recreating society has been part of our nation's culture and what has made this country great, and this retirement income insecurity issue cannot be allowed to bog us down for many years to come. We could work in a tripartite way – industry, labor and government – to forge a new hybrid retirement system that would enable all Americans to retire with decency.

The newly created White House Task Force on the Middle Class, chaired by Vice President Biden, will be dealing with retirement income security in the months ahead and hosting town hall meetings that are being scheduled to take place throughout the country.

Every citizen, young or elderly in the public and private sectors, should *plan on attending these sessions* to stand up and be counted on this most critical issue.

The late Senator Hubert H. Humphrey appeared in the well of the Senate shortly before he passed away and in a speech to his fellow senators made the point that "*you can judge a society by how it treats those at various stages in their lifetime; those in the sunshine – the children, those in the shadows – the misfortunate and those in their twilight – the elderly.*"

Today's political leaders should think about those remarks every time they deal with a thorny issue that will have serious consequences for the well-being of working Americans – the folks who start the engine every day and make this country run.

Failure to do so should be categorized as unpatriotic. Retirement income security is a critical issue. The decisions we make today or fail to make will dictate what kind of society we will have in the future. ***Let's make a secure retirement a reality.***



Wayne Fletcher

AKRON • CANTON • MANSFIELD

KEITH BARKER • JERRY DURIEUX • TOM WIANT

At this time we have 113 members off and we look for it to grow with more members being laid off.

Work in and around Canton is slow, just like the rest of the country. There are not many jobs to bid, but our contractors are aggressively bidding on anything they can. Local 33 has been assisting contractors by targeting projects to help get them awarded to our contractors. In fact, we recently turned a job around in Coshocton and were able to help Johnson Plumbing take the job from a non-union shop in the area. Some members are doing their part as well by rotating days off to ease the burden to our Brothers and Sisters; *Thanks — we appreciate it!*

On the bright side, Shearer Foods new plant is starting now. That means there should be nice work for HVAC and specialty fabricators. In addition, NPR Builders is working with the City of Massillon to turn a four story building into a senior assisted living center and apartments. Kraft Foods in Coshocton is expanding their building and production line. The Canton Federal Courthouse job is going well and we should be on site in the next few weeks.

The Conesville shut down is still scheduled for September, but we were recently informed that it will be considerably smaller than originally planned.

Finally, we ask that you **do not patronize Kiko Heating**; we have pulled all our men from their company for not paying benefits.

Work in the Mansfield, Ashland, Crawford and Medina areas are slow; there is not much to bid at this time. There was a small job bid for the Medina Elementary School. Also, in Medina, a learning center that is part of Tri-C will be accepting bids; this is an expected nine million dollar job. Barberton Middle School bid and the apparent low bidder was Mecon, though the job has not been awarded yet. Sheet Metal Crafters was awarded the assisted living facility in Burbank. The local Ashland paper reported that a shaving cream factory would soon be coming to Ashland. Get your razors ready! In addition, Wadsworth School will be out for bid soon.

I would like to say "You da' man!" to **Jarod Snair** (*Anyone who sees him please tell him too*).

Five new Akron Schools are coming out to bid, thanks to the Akron School Board for agreeing to Project Labor Agreements on three of them. Demolition on the State Road Shopping Center in Cuyahoga Falls will be completed by September, with construction of new mix use development to follow. Firestone's New World Headquarters and Tech Center

should be under way by October.

Congratulations to Lucky Cantu, Jr. on his full-time teaching position!

If you need work to be done on your furnace or your a/c unit, here is a list of our service contractors:

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
DK Air Service 330-627-5700 Carrollton
Greer Heating & A/C 330-673-5636 Kent
Hudson Heating 330-655-2933 Hudson
Kiko Heating & Air Conditioning 330-455-5456 Canton
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

The following apprentices will become journeymen in 2009: Michael Cogan, Brent Hanna, Louie Leatherman, Marc McKnight, and Darin Yarnell. *Congratulations to each of you.* May the skills you acquired during your apprenticeship continue to serve you throughout your Sheet Metal career.

In July, Daniel Finefrock resigned as Lead Instructor for the Akron JATC. On behalf of the trustees, we thank Dan for his service and wish him all the best in the future. **Luciano "Lucky" Cantu** stepped up from part-time HVAC instructor to fill the Lead Instructor position. The Trustees are committed to continue the advancement of the Akron training program

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.

CLEVELAND

TIM MILLER • TODD ALISHUSKY
MIKE COLEMAN

Work in the Cleveland area has picked up; we currently have 80 members available for work at this time. We are hopeful this trend continues. Some projects have finally started putting members to work. Keep your contact information up to date with the union hall. *If we don't have current phone numbers, you could miss a job opportunity.*

On-going and upcoming projects in the Cleveland District include: Ahuja Medical Center, University Hospital Cancer Center, C.S.U. Campus, Tri-C College, Juvenile Justice Center, Cleveland Clinic Cardiovascular, Cleveland School District work, Baldwin Wallace College, and Tri-Point Medical Building.

We want to remind our members to follow the rules of our *Collective Bargaining Agreement*; this agreement was signed by both Sheet Metal Workers' Local #33 and the contractors. You can be sure that when you contact a Business Agent concerning a contract violation, it **will** be kept confidential.

It is important for our members to keep upgrading their skills, if a contractor needs a welder, we should be able to provide one. The more skills a member has, the more opportunities for employment there are for that member, and the more aggressive our contractors can be in bidding on work.

The new *Collective Bargaining Agreements* are currently being proof-read and should be going to print. As soon as we get them in they will be available for members.

Remember: 4th Tuesday – Union meeting at the hall, 7 p.m.

Do Not Patronize List:

Ruby Tuesday
 Circuit City
 Tradesman Tavern
 Atlas Cinemas
 Pat O'Brien Chevy, Willoughby Hills
 Rite-Aid
 Quaker Steak and Lube, Mentor

Cleveland JATC

John Nesta, Training Coordinator

The following apprentices will become journeymen in 2009: John Bobrowski, Michael Brown, Raymond Carpenter, Steve Foster, Bradley Goetz, Michael Krawetz, Terry Lashley, Alex Maglionico, Victor Nesta, Jeremy Osborne, Andrija Pesorda, Michael Pobega, Eli Ralich, Molly Rosvig, Jacob Sawyer, Michael Skala, Todd VanThoor, Richard Wulfert Jason Yarmesch and Matthew Zuelch. *Congratulations to each of you.* May the skills and knowledge you developed during your apprenticeship

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serve you well throughout your career.

On September 23rd & 24th NEMI will be holding a class and certification examination for HVAC, Fire Life Safety Systems, Level One Supervisor at the Cleveland Training Center.

On November 4th, 5th & 6th NEMI will be holding a class and certification examination for HVAC, Fire Life Safety Systems, Level Two Technician at the Cleveland Training Center.

For more information you can go to the NEMI website (some of the dates on this page have not been updated) at <http://www.nemi-online.org/registration/schedule.html> and to register for these courses proceed to the International Certification Board page at <http://www.icbcertified.org/site/classes/index.php> (these dates are current).

The Cleveland JATC will be holding additional HVAC Fire Life Safety Systems, Level One Technician during the fall semester, these dates TBA.

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 Rec Fund

We hope everyone had a great summer with families and friends. The Cleveland Rec Fund Picnic at Cedar Point was a great time and the Golf Outing was even better. If you came out to those we hope you enjoyed them, and if you couldn't make it, we hope you can fit them in next year.

Please mark your calendars for our annual **Lunch with Santa**. This year it will be held on Saturday, December 5. We will be mailing out RSVP forms so keep an eye on your mailbox and *get those back to us*.

Cleveland Retirees Club

Dave Gaeta, President

Our meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Local Union No. 33 Cleveland District Union Hall, 12515 Corporate Drive, Parma. It is located off W. 130th and South of Brookpark Road (Rt.17) and just North of Snow Road.

Our next meeting dates are: October 7th, November 4th, December 2nd, January 6th, February 3rd and March 3rd.

Our luncheons are served at 12 Noon with the meeting following. We serve coffee, donuts and pizza. Also at all meetings we have an optional attendance prize pool, 60/40 split pot and we collect for a Mega Bucks Ohio Lottery pool.

All you retirees who are not members can

help us grow by joining the Club for \$12 per year. (*The \$12 dues you pay to the Club are in addition to any monies you pay to Local 33.*) The larger we grow, the more we can do. We do spend all monies we collect for the year on that year. All retirees who are not Club members are welcome at any luncheon, but at a greater cost than a Club member.

Ask your families to use the Sheet Metal Workers logo in your death notice. This is the size of the logo that will appear in the *Plain Dealer* Death Notice if requested, at no cost to your family.



Retirees' Calendar

• **Wednesday, October 7th** — Stuffed cabbage luncheon, \$3 for members and \$9 for nonmembers and a *possible casino trip* on Wednesday the 14th or 21st. Also maybe a clam bake.

• **Wednesday, November 4th** is a regular meeting, serving coffee, donuts and pizze also this is our election of 2010 Club Officers. The four positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. I hope this election fills all four positions.

• **Wednesday, December 2nd** is our annual Christmas luncheon at the union hall. All info will be coming in the form of a letter. This is open to all Club and nonClub members. The kids' Christmas luncheon with Santa will be **Saturday, December 5th**. Also, the Cleveland District Christmas party will be **Tuesday, December 8th**.

• **Wednesday, January 6th** looks like a regular meeting so far, starting at 1 p.m.

• **Wednesday, February 3rd** looks like a regular meeting so far, starting at 1 p.m.

Remember, if you miss the deadline for any of our events, call, even if it is the same day of the event. We will try and make it happen for you.

President – Dave Gaeta; Phone (440) 888-0904 – 1700 Rustic Trail, Parma, Ohio 44134.

Vice President – Margaret Pehotsky; Phone (216) 226-1573 – 1430 Parkhaven Row, Lakewood, OH 44107-4506

Co-Treasurers – George & Barb Rak; Phone (330) 483-3216 – 5723 Sleepy Hollow Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280-9354.

DEATHS

Akron: Kenneth Derreberry, Marvin Parker, Jr., William Elliott

Cleveland: James French, Russell Walsh, Stanley Szczesniak, Robert Bacik, Robert Halsey

Parkersburg: Frederick Scott, Jr.,

Vermilion: James Camp

N. CENTRAL W. V.A. STEVEN PERDUE

Fall is in the air and the weather will be changing soon. Hopefully, so will the Economy. The “Tea Party Republicans” were in West Virginia trying to promote their cause of keeping health care high and prescriptions even higher and planting fear in the minds of our seniors and telling all Americans that government intervention into the business world is “socialism” and that’s “anti-American.” The difference is, in our democracy the government sometimes *must intervene* to protect us from *corporate greed and corruption* by doing what is best for the country and its people.

The Republicans don't speak of the trillion dollar surplus that they started with when Bush took office, nor do they speak of the trillions of dollars in debt they handed to the new president. Their goal is to make President Obama fail at all cost so they can get back in power in the next election.

Today, Organized Labor has two main objectives, Health Insurance Reform and the Employee Free Choice Act! The Chamber of Commerce is spending hundreds of millions of dollars a week to keep working class Americans away from joining Unions. **WHAT ARE THE COMPANIES AFRAID OF?** What is wrong with a person wanting to make a livable wage and having decent affordable insurance?

We all need to be outspoken for Labor when it comes to Free Choice and Health Insurance Reform.

Work in the area is good due to the bigger jobs, but for the most part the local contractors are down, partially because of the out-of-state contractors flocking here because their area is not doing so good. I have expressed the concerns of some of my contractors to the State of West Virginia in that they seem to be losing bids by 6%, which is the State Tax paid by our in-State Contractors on materials needed to perform the work and expressed concerns with the Dept. of Labor on Prevailing Wage Jobs. *Are Contractors paying the proper wages and benefits?*

We have another problem that has hit home in North Central WV and that is the new interpretation of the **4-man rule**. It seems that after five years in existence a new twist has been added: Contractors with shops outside the State of West Virginia (Local 100 & 24) can bring in four Journeymen into our area before hiring from the Local Union Hall on HVAC Jobs, which has always been understood to be under the two man rule. I have discussed this issue with the WV Agents and my local contractors, along with Business Manager Hohenberger, and we will try and resolve this issue. It seems very

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discriminatory that any signatory Local 100 Contractor — whether in Maryland, Virginia or D C — can bring four men into LU 33 in West Virginia while we *cannot* send four men into Maryland, Virginia or D C!

The Power House work has added a few Journeymen to the job site, with the coming fall and winter months to add more. There are two large projects to be bid this fall and depending on who the winning contractors are, will be good for the area for 2010 & 2011. Remember that **Welding Certs** will be in demand on many of the positions that will be needed to be filled, along with OSHA 10 and clean drug test. To be able to compete in today's world we must be the best at what we do, and sometimes that isn't enough, but we learn and improve and work together to get the job done.

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The North Central Rec. Fund is set up to start functioning and will be better to serve the North Central Area members who weren't able to attend functions in the past. My thanks goes out to the new committee for their efforts.

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The SMWIA LU 33 Production Workers at **The Ruskin Plant** in Fairmont have taken a hit in manpower with the company laying off some of its workers. Hopefully the economy will pick up and no more layoffs are needed and those that are laid off will be called back soon. We have several Grievances and Arbitrations that haven't been settled yet. The company's recent actions have put the Union in a position that Labor Board Charges have had to be filed.

Members need to work together and get along in order to produce a timely and quality product. This helps keep off the foreign competition and keep the plant open. The construction end has picked up some and hopefully will get the demand for Ruskin-Made Union-Made products on the move again and keep people working.

I would like to thank Chief Steward **Todd King** and Stewards **Mark Boyce** and **Beverly Chickerell** for their efforts in dealing with the daily issues at the plant. I would also like to thank those who serve on the Safety Committee and those who help with the everyday issues at the plant.

RETIREMENTS

Akron: James Dawson, Larry Carlson
Cleveland: Jesse Harris, Roger Boris
N. Central: Michael B. Venettozzi
Toledo: David Heinze

YOUNGSTOWN

TRAVIS HOSKINSON

Things have slowed down a little, but we are still holding our own.

The Building Trades had a meeting with the Vice President of Aker Solutions on August 21st. We will be working under the National Construction Agreement and they are still looking at breaking ground in Wellsville the first quarter of 2010. We should be in the Steel plant in North Jackson relatively soon. The floors are out for bid and the furnace is in the country.

The Constitutional Convention was a very good learning experience; I was able to meet a

lot of people I had only talked to on the phone. I also got a lot of creative ideas from other representatives and left with a great deal of confidence in the fact that we really do have a lot of good people at every level trying to do the right thing.

I hope this has been a good summer for those of you reading this, and I wish all of your families my best.

I hope everyone had a good time at the Golf Outing and hope to see you at the District meetings on the *fourth Tuesday of each month*.

PARKERSBURG

DEAN TUELL

We have 35 Journeymen, 6 Apprentices, and around 8 Industrial workers available for work. The local shops are still slow, but seem to be having a little work starting to come in. I am still optimistic that we will be back in DuPont soon with Aker Construction. This has taken longer than I expected to turn around.

Thanks to everyone who came to our **Family Picnic**. A good time for fellowship with your Brothers and Sisters. Hope everyone had a good time.

We extend special recognition to those who received service pins at our picnic. Thanks for your leadership and dedication to this Union...

• **25 years:** John F. Ballengee, Franklin B. Chenoweth, James M. Knopp, Willard R. Miller, Earl E. Webb

• **40 years:** Oval J. Barker, Jr., Joseph W. Belch, Gary C. Cesa, Donald E. Cowan, Herbert L. Ewing, James L. Huber, Vernon W. Lohr, Sr., David E. Mahoney, Kenneth L. McPherson, Charles R. Miller, David K. Roach Jr., Asa T. Sadler, Thomas E. Slider, Jimmie L. Staats, Gerald Davis

• **50 years:** Charles R. Stout

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With all the political infighting going on about everything that is put out to help the working families, this should be an interesting Fall. The Right seems to think that if they tell mistruths and spread scare tactics it will stop the Administration from working on their Working Families agenda. They don't seem to get a few principals that they say are so precious to them; they are so misguided by themselves and don't do anything for the average person. Do you *really think* that the health plan is going to implement Death Squads? That's what the Right wants you to believe and are betting on it.

This is some of their mis-info put out: Mastermind of conservative talking points Frank

Luntz has authored a 26-page report advising Republicans on how best to frame the debate over health care reform, the *Politico* reported last week. Luntz advised that Republicans must acknowledge there's a "crisis" and warn against a "Washington takeover" that could lead to bureaucrats "making people stand in line and denying treatment like they do in other countries with national healthcare."

Think about healthcare in America: why does it have to go up double digits every year? Do you think some insurance company that makes record profits might be taking advantage of the system? How can the Right be so set against something like health care for all? Do you not think that they (Insurance Companies) already have their own Death Squads? They deny coverage, cancel or raise premiums with no oversight, *yet the Right seems OK with that*. They say we can't afford it, but they never asked that question of themselves — if we could afford two wars before they marched into them. It looks like if you're a poor, lower class American you don't need health insurance, you can just die.

According to Michael J. Sullivan, General President of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association, "*Access to health care coverage is a major problem facing millions of American families. That's why we support a strong public option, an employer mandate and no tax on healthcare benefits.*" Stand up for what is right and don't sit back and let the losers (last November) ruin this for all America.

We will be having a **West Virginia Retiree Orientation** on October 24, at Grand Point Conference Center in Vienna, WV. Make sure you send back your invitation to Randy Gombos. Those who were born in 1956 and before were invited.

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SASMI: Underemployment can be filled out for anyone working under 750 hours, so let me know. If you took a 90 day draw, make sure you do this. You have until the end of September to apply for it. If you have been off for a while you can file for advanced supplemental underemployment for the "B" period, fill it out if you have been unemployed and drawing State Unemployment for 90 straight days.

Tri-County: If you encounter a problem be sure to let BeneSys or a Trustee know. Any questions, call BeneSys (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.sheetmetalworkers33benefitfunds.org>

Apprentice Committee: WELCOME BACK! School has started, 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 on our web page (<http://www.wvjatc33.com/>), or by phone at 866-222-5282.

REMEMBER TIME SHEETS: DUE THE 6th = (PAY RAISE)!

WHEELING

SCOTT MAZZULLI

Work in Wheeling still remains good at the time of this writing. We still have travelers working in the area and have about 60 travelers that have signed the available for work list. Please remember to call and let the Business Representatives know when you return to work because your name is supposed to come off the lists of the areas that you signed. The Boiler and Tie-in outages should have begun at the Sammis plant by the time you read this article. Unit 6 goes down September 3rd followed by Unit 5 the first of October. Those 2 outages run to the 1st of the year. Then Unit 7 and Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 will run consecutive until May or June. Hopefully by that time the work on the Switzerland of Ohio Schools will start. As written in the past there are 6 new schools to build as well as 1 complete remodel. Cameron school should be going by then as well. We have several large residential projects going on. H.E Neumann has a large job in Wheeling and AA Samuels has a couple projects on the Ohio side. We have two residential members currently working for Samuels. Johnson Boiler had bid five projects and were only successful on one. We should see work next year at the Ethanol plant in Cadiz and Bio Mass project at the Burger plant.

We still have had many problems at the Sammis plant with members not getting along.

Sometimes I have to wonder if work has been too good and members get spoiled or just what it is that is causing such animosity amongst fellow brothers. Work all over the country and in Local 33 has been bad for quite some time; we will see those days again here, it always happens. Every contract or Union problem that we had was dealt with accordingly. Like when they tried to change break and lunch times without clearing it through the hall. It was handled and the breaks were what WE, the Local, said it would be. The supplying of the tools when working composite was handled. There are no contract problems at all on the job. But yet we still have issues.

I know that a lot of problems get created by management, but just like at the Mitchell plant we dealt with every one of them. After showing up on the job site numerous times and making several speeches about being a brotherhood and that we should help each other out and stand united, to make us look good as a Union to the customer and the contractor, there is still arguing, members writing about other members in the Porta Johns and venomous hatred towards each other. I am only writing about this because I want all the members to know the problems on this particular project. *I am also challenging all members to stand up and help curb this problem.* It will not take much to fix it. A conduct detrimental charge and a trip in front of the Executive Board would do it. It should not have to come to that.

In the near future there will be a fire Life Safety Class that will be taught in the Union

hall. No journeyman will have to travel to Parkersburg for this class. *The 4th year apprentices are now required to have a certification in fire before they advance to 5th year.* The class makes you certified in fire damper inspection, so you will know the proper way that they are to be installed. This certification will be a leg up on the non-union and will also put fire marshals and fire departments in our corner as we make our push for Contractor and HVAC licensing. The length of the class, including the certification test, will be about 14 hours. Stay tuned for updates at future union meetings for when a date for the class will be set. If you do have an interest in the class, please feel free to call the office and your name will be put on a list.

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

- Christmas Party is December 5th

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

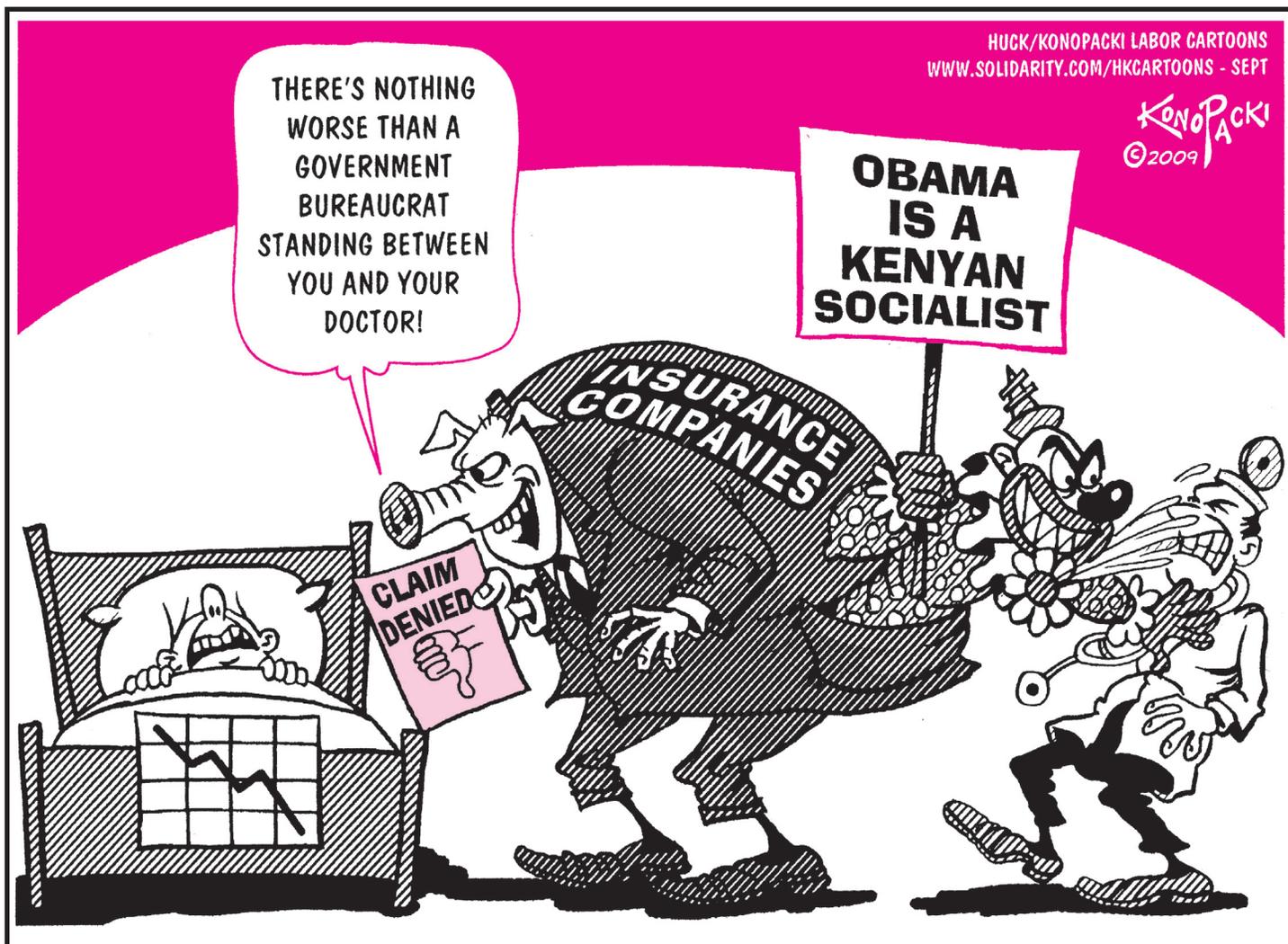
Work in the Charleston is decent as of the end of August; currently there are 10 on the Charleston out of work list. The John Amos Power House has picked up and put back to work around 8 guys this month, for a total of about 15 Local 33 guys on site. Still not sure about the 2nd shutdown at Amos that was scheduled for the end of December. There is talk that it is a go and there is talk that the project has been set back to later in 2010 or 2011. AEP is not even sure. Tri-State Roofing and Sheet Metal will be starting the hanger job at the WVANG in the next week or so and should pick up a few extra guys. There is still a lot of school work bidding or getting ready to out to bid in the Charleston District. On August 29th the residents of Putnam County voted on a school bond levy. The School Board has plans to build four new schools, five auxiliary gymnasiums and two remodels and additions in Putnam County and the Board has assured the crafts that these will be Union Built.

I received two separate calls this month about Charleston members cussing and/or being rude to the secretaries of some of our

funds. Let this be a warning to the Charleston members: if you call and cuss or are rude to the girls at the Health & Welfare, SASMI, SMWNPF, Annuity or the Cleveland office and it gets back to me, I will file charges on you and I am sure the Business Representatives in the other districts would agree and do the same with their members.

The Charleston District Picnic was held on August 8th. We had a decent turnout with good food, fun and fellowship. *Thanks to Danny Barnhouse, Travis Baker, Wayne Mays, Jr., Randy and Charlotte Gombos and my wife, Suzanne for their help.*

**NEW PHONE
NUMBER?
LET US KNOW!**



BUSINESS MGR.'S REPORT By Reggie Hohenberger

• Continued from Cover

As a union member you have seen your rates double since 2000, and experts predict that *if nothing is done* to reign in these costs your health care will double again by 2016. It is imperative that we have a public option to compete with the private insurers to bring our cost down *so health care is affordable to all*.

Some in our union would say "I don't want to pay for these deadbeats that don't carry insurance or choose to take extra money on their check in lieu of coverage." Sad to inform you, but you are **already paying** for those who don't carry insurance. It's called cost-shifting, and hospitals and insurance companies do it seven days a week.

The current bill requires an employer mandate to pay into the system and provide health care for their employees. There is also talk of exempting employers who have a payroll of less than \$500,000.

Congress needs to grow a set of kahunas and tell the insurance companies *enough is enough*; private insurers making healthy profits know they will lose a sizable chunk of customers when the baby boomers move into the Medicare system. (*There's that word profit again*).

These insurers make money by setting rates based on the health of the enrollees and turning down people with pre-existing conditions. On the other hand, hospitals deal with below-cost Medicaid reimbursements, the expense of treating the uninsured and have to deal with an outdated record keeping system.

The other piece of this puzzle is

doctors are facing high malpractice-insurance costs, so in turn they try to cover their butts by performing more tests and services rather than fewer, to avoid lawsuits. And to make matters worse, this nation is suffering a shortage of some 16,000 doctors in the primary care business.

Health care reform is a very complex problem. There are few issues that touch Americans as directly and deeply as the health and well being of themselves and their families. That is why we need meaningful discussion about how we fix this broken system, not the mindless disruption of shouting someone down and calling out labels such as Obamacare, Obamacare, Socialism, Hitler, Death Panels and outlandish threats. We, as a nation, are better than that. Please call your Congressmen and encourage them to *say yes* to a public option.



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LOCAL 33 LAYOUT

September • October 2009

TED KENNEDY

The death of Sen. Edward Kennedy leaves a void in the lives of working families that will be hard to replace, if ever it can be. Kennedy fought throughout his life with one goal in mind: to improve the lives of working people.

Kennedy wasn't just a co-sponsor of the *Employee Free Choice Act*. He helped create it, and he was the first to introduce it in the Senate.

He called health care reform "the cause of my life," and as early as 1966, introduced his first health care bill.

Despite the fact that he never convinced many working folks that his proposed solution to immigration reform was either practical or fair, it was a notably rare disagreement, after consistently standing shoulder-to-shoulder with unions on everything from passing the Occupational Safety & Health Act to hiking the minimum wage and protecting Prevailing Wage requirements on federal construction.

Ted Kennedy has been rightly called the greatest senator of the 20th century—and even in the entire history of this country. In a magnificent career, he achieved considerably more than did most presidents, and he proved to be one of the finest friends in public life American working women and men ever had.

It may seem odd for someone who came from vast wealth and privilege, but his relationship with workers and their unions was one of deep affection and—one hesitates to say it—love. Anyone who ever spotted Kennedy at a Labor Day event or local union meeting could see it. He always listened closely to us. He understood and enjoyed us. He was one of us.

Addressing the 2005 AFL-CIO Convention, Kennedy said: **"We stand together in our founding purpose to improve the lives of workers and their families and to achieve social and economic justice. And we will emerge from these times bigger and stronger than before, better prepared to**



SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY speaking at a labor rally at Cleveland Sheet Metal Workers Hall in 2002.

take on the challenges, the global economy, and guarantee that America's workers are always put first."

Over Labor Day weekend, as we remembered those who made the Labor Movement what it is, it was fitting that many observances included a salute to one of the most passionate warriors Labor has ever had.