

The Newsette

Local 310

Volume 40 Issue 2

Printed Union

February 2010

IUOE

Business Manager's Report

What's Inside

- Business Manager's Report
- A History Lesson on Sidney Hillman
- Democrats Warned: Focus on Jobs, Jobs, Jobs
- President's Report
- A Proper Thanks to Wall Street
- Tennessee Helps Fund VW Plant, But Who's Getting the Jobs?
- Dissatisfied With Your Work? You're Not Alone, Survey Finds
- Unemployment Woes Continue, Labor Demands Push for Jobs
- Power Plant District Director Report
- Obama's 1st Year Not Change He Promised
- NFL Players Expect 2011 Lockout, Union President Tells House Panel
- Salvation Army Thanks Local 310 Member
- Public Workers Nationwide Feeling Recession's Wrath
- McCain Cripples Labor Board, Cases Go Unheard for Years
- Teamsters Urge More Rest Time for Truck Drivers
- Eldercare Benefit for Union Families Meets a Growing Need
- Gubernatorial Candidate Threatens to Derail State's Recovery
- Membership Anniversaries
- Welcome New Members

Old Man Winter has dealt us a pretty normal winter and by this time I was hoping that global warming would have made the Wisconsin winter a little more tolerable. Maybe a lower utility bill and some above average temperatures would have been nice but it seems it fits into the same category as the Swine Flu epidemic. I would like to be able to deliver an optimistic report primarily because I'm sick of bad news but it gets harder each month to find the shining light.

We've had a rise in discipline and even several terminations recently, which at first glance you might say Management is getting a little more rigid but in review these are the same people doing the same things that got them in trouble in the past. Unions have gotten a bad name through the years for protecting those who continually screw up while in reality we demand that members are treated fairly and given an opportunity to change, for some this change never happens and they find themselves out of a job. The jobs we represent also happen to be some of the best benefit packages available in the communities in which we live, for that reason it is hard to see a member lose their livelihood.

The donations to the United Way from our members at Dominion and WPS are up and in these economic times having our members recognize the needs in our communities makes

me very proud. We have members that are involved in a great number of charitable organizations and events and shining a light on those in the Awards Winning Newsette would be a good thing. Please send in a short article on the things you do to make the world a better place to live.

The events over the last year have been very trying for our Executive Board. The Executive Board has risen to every occasion and can proudly say that we have done our jobs in the best interest of the Membership. I would like to thank all of you that have stated that support to the Board. Unlike a business the Union Members are the owners and management and the Executive Board works for you. I know that the frustration levels in our current situation are very high and having the best people in these jobs has made a great difference to the entire Membership. My hats off to the members for electing this group and a huge thank you to the Board for your personal commitment to this organization.

Safety, safety, safety, we need to keep "mind on task" in everything we do. The amount of issues facing all of us can be daunting yet safety is the first thing that has to be on our minds. Taking responsibility for each other and watching out for your Union

(See **Business Manager's Report** on page 2)



A History Lesson on Sidney Hillman

Sidney Hillman (1887-1946) was born in Lithuania and immigrated to the United States in 1907. He began working in the garment industry as an employee of Hart Schaffner & Marx, a prominent manufacturer of men's clothing. When a spontaneous strike by a handful of women workers there led to a citywide strike of 45,000 garment workers in 1910, Hillman was a rank and file leader in the strike. By 1914, he had risen from union ranks to president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, a position he held until 1946. Under his stewardship came some of labor's greatest gains. Hillman pioneered such reforms as the 40-hour workweek and the setting of wage scale standards.

He promoted union-management cooperation and such novel ideas as cooperative housing and banking. In 1938, Hillman said "Certainly, I believe in collaborating with the employers! That is what unions are for. I even believe in helping an employer function more productively. For then, we will have a claim to higher wages, shorter hours, and greater participation in the benefits of running a smooth industrial machine..."

Hillman was also a co-founder and vice president (1935-1940) of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and the

chairman of the powerful CIO Political Action Committee (1943-1946).

Sidney Hillman was a supporter of the New Deal and Franklin D. Roosevelt from the outset. FDR named him to the Labor Advisory Board of the National Recovery Administration in 1933 and to the National Industrial Recovery Board in 1934. Hillman provided key assistance to Senator Robert F. Wagner in the drafting of the National Labor Relations Act and to Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins in winning enactment of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

As an influential advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Hillman enjoyed such political clout that "Clear it with Sidney" became a presidential catch phrase during the 1944 presidential campaign and later would become a catchall phrase regarding labor issues. Hillman also co-founded the American Labor party (1945) and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

*Great Labor Quotations
Sourcebook and Reader*
Peter Bollen
Redeye Press, Inc

A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strength; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

William Arthur Ward

Treat your friends as you do your pictures, and place them in their best light.

Jennie Jerome Churchill

One of the hardest tasks of leadership is understanding that you are not what you are, but what you're perceived to be by others.

Edward L. Flom

Share your success and help others succeed. Give everyone a chance to have a piece of the pie. If the pie's not big enough, make a bigger pie.

Dave Thomas

Business Manager's Report

(Continued from page 1)

Sisters and Brothers are job one. We need to be more vigilant than ever about working safe while being observant of everything that is happening around us.

CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the time of year again for the Integrys Code of Conduct. To satisfy reasonable inquires from our shareholders, government and regulatory agencies, customers and

employees, Integrys needs to provide written assurance that we are conducting ourselves in a manner that complies with company policies and guidelines, along with applicable laws and regulations, as identified in the company's Code of Conduct. We encourage the Local 310 Membership to participate in this process. You will be given Company time to read the Code of Conduct and fill out the questionnaire. Do the right thing all the time.

Steve McFarlane

Published by Local 310 of The International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, for the views of interest and the dissemination of information to its members, members of other unions, their families and others in the communities in which we live, work and play. Articles of interest as well as comments and suggestions may be submitted to:

Paul Beimborn
P.O. Box 8323
1250 Radisson St.

The editor reserves the right to reject or edit any article. Articles containing vulgarity, slanderous statements or do not conform to normal ethical and moral standards will not be printed. Articles may be typed or written legibly with the senders name, phone number and signature. Names may be withheld upon request.

**Member of the Midwest
Labor Press Association**

a

Democrats Warned: Focus on Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Why did Democrat Martha Coakley lose to a Republican in January’s special election for the late Ted Kennedy’s senate seat in Massachusetts? As Bill Clinton used to say, “It’s the economy, stupid.”

Poll results show that Massachusetts voters punished Coakley—and Democrats—for neglecting the issue most vital to them: jobs. If politicians had studied earlier polls or attempted to actually get in touch with mainstream, Main Street Americans, or just listened to AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, they’d have known to focus on jobs. The message of Massachusetts should be clear: If Democrats want to save their own jobs in the midterm elections this fall, they must create jobs now.

A poll taken in the first week in December exposed voters’ anger over the economy. The bipartisan Battleground Poll showed this: A huge majority of those surveyed ranked improving the economy and jobs as the most important tasks for Congress. It was 40 percent, compared to healthcare reform, at just 15 percent.

As pollster Celinda Lake said about the results, the number one thing Democrats have to do is prove they really have a jobs program and an economic program that is going to sell on Main Street.

People are hurting. Pay attention, politicians. Pay attention.

They didn’t. In the Massachusetts race, they were talking about terrorism and baseball.

Among those who voted for Obama in 2008 but Republican Scott Brown this month, 51 percent said they believed Democratic policies helped Wall Street more than Main Street.

It’s the economy, stupid. The Main Street economy.

Similarly, in a Hart Research Associates poll conducted on election night in Massachusetts, 79 percent of voters said electing a candidate who would strengthen the economy and create more good jobs was the single most important factor in their decision. They were looking for someone who would fix the economy.

The Great Recession of Bush II is more than two years old now. Workers are frightened and angry. They see bailouts for Wall Street, big bonuses for bankers and unemployment continuing to rise.

They will vent their frustration on politicians. Massachusetts showed it. Trumka said it earlier in the month in a talk at the Press Club:

“At this moment, the voices of America’s working women and men must be heard in Washington—not the voices of bankers and speculators for whom it always seems to be the best of times, but the voices of those for whom the New Year brings pink slips and givebacks, hollowed-out health care, foreclosures and pension freezes—the roll call of an economy that long ago stopped working for most of us.”

He went on: “Working people want an American economy

that works for them, that creates good jobs, where wealth is fairly shared.”

Trumka called for immediate action, not going slow, not taking half steps. Those who seek delay are “harming millions of unemployed Americans and their families,” he said, and jeopardizing economic recovery.

He ended with this warning:

“The reality is that when unemployment is 10 percent and rising, working people will not stand for tokenism. We will not vote for politicians who think they can push a few crumbs our way and then continue the failed economic policies of the last 30 years.”

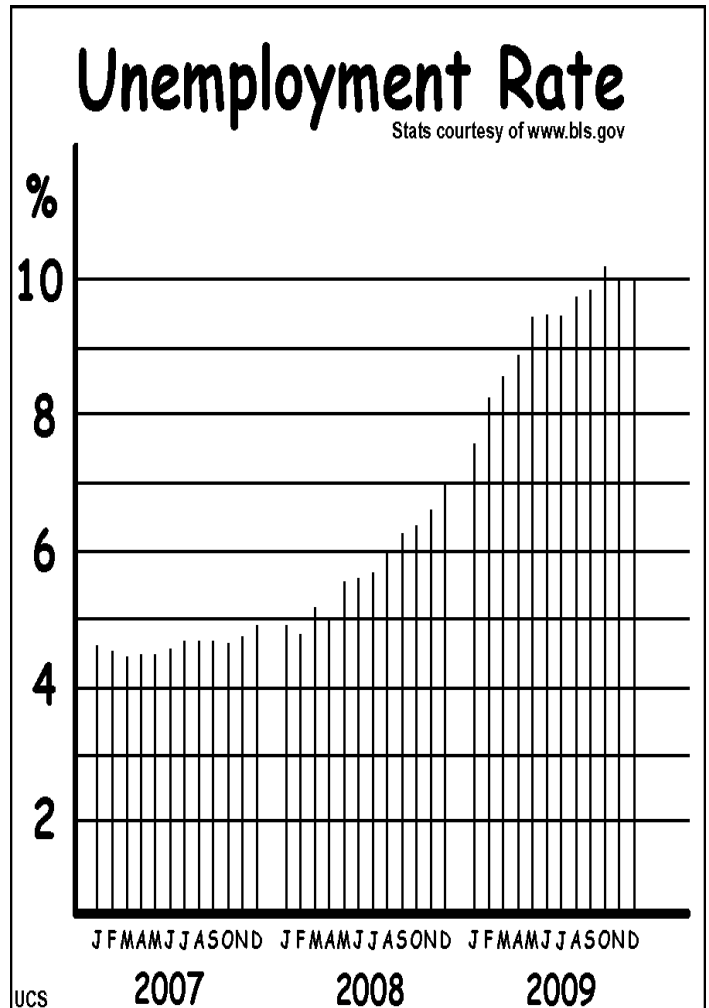
Workers executed that warning in Massachusetts.

What Americans want is jobs.

By Leo Gerard,

President, United Steel Workers

– Excerpted from an article on the Steelworkers blog.



a

President's Report

Deb and I are driving on Hwy 40 about one hour east of Albuquerque heading to Chandler, AZ to visit number two daughter, number two son and number three grandchild. It is sunny and 50 degrees. The speed limit is 75 mph and the sofa in the back of the truck hasn't moved since leaving Two Rivers two days ago. We visited with some locals at a tavern in Independence, IA and traveled Hwy 54 from Wichita to Tucumcari to get off the big highways and see some of rural America. I am sad to see that small towns in this country have seen better days. I was taken aback by the cobblestone streets in Pratt, KS. To think all those bricks were laid by hand is amazing. So far the trip is relaxing.

Public Information

I am very disappointed to report that the 'members' only' section of the Local 310 website is not as confidential as I thought it to be. I was informed that a copy of one of my posts found its way to management. If my post is public, then one must also wonder what other info has been compromised. This is truly sad and as a result, Local 310 has requested the website be added to blocked websites that cannot be accessed from company computers. Because of this breach, what had started as a good idea is no longer. Because of this lack of respect, members can no longer freely express their thoughts and we have all lost.

In addition to the web site, a typed version of one of Vice President Paul Beimborn's voice mails has surfaced in the hands of management. Now I admit that Paul does not put out controversial voice mails, but these are Paul's and no one has the right to print any of these voice mails without his permission. Any member can get on the Local 310 voice mail and Paul always asks that the information be shared with others not on the Local 310 voice mail listing. That does not mean typing the email word for word and making it public.

So thanks. Thanks to those that make public our posts, voice mails, emails and even meeting minutes. The members want information and to be represented, yet this is how we are treated. These actions hurt everyone in Local 310 and disgust me.

Voluntary Severance

At this moment the membership at WPSC is voting on a furlough and Voluntary Severance Benefit (VSB) proposal. The furlough proposal is for a mandatory two weeks of unpaid time off in 2010 with options for one additional week on both 2011 and 2012. The VSB is two weeks of pay for every year of service with a minimum of 6 weeks and a maximum of 52 weeks pay. To receive the maximum 12 months of severance benefit, an individual would need 26 years of service.

Dominion has also just announced a Voluntary Severance Plan (VSP). The VSP is one month's pay for every year of service to a maximum of 18 months, employees must be 55 years of age by May 1 and have at least 3 years of service. To receive the maximum 18 months of severance benefits, an individual would need 18 years of service. There is no furlough attached to this proposal.

Both options are voluntary and the employer reserves the right to allow someone to take the voluntary severance. In addition, neither severance plan impacts other benefits specifically retirement and post retirement medical and dental insurance.

What Is Going On?

My appearance at the recent Central District Meeting in Green Bay in which I spoke at the open mike is not something I am proud of or wanted to do. There are a lot of reasons that caused me to take this action that I am not going to share, but understand that I did not do this on a whim. Do not interpret my action as dissension within the Executive Board or between Business Manager Steve McFarlane and me. Nothing could be further from the truth. Every member of the Executive Board is doing the best they can under very extreme situations. Remember that our Executive Board is 70% first term officers and they are all learning very quickly.

Keeping Local 310 members working and benefits in force for families is an utmost priority. In the same vein, understand that we are all bound by our Labor Agreement and must abide by the instructions of that document. During these times this can be a daunting task that sometimes presents conflicting options. Remember, the actions of Local 310 did not put us in this situation. Your continued support and confidence is critical. We must stick together and have faith in those we have elected to lead our Local.

Work Safe

With all the talk of layoffs, furloughs, voluntary severance, and budget shortfalls, it can be easy to become distracted. There is never a time to become complacent, but at this time there is plenty to take our mind off of the task at hand. We all face risks and work with unforgiving commodities. Some of these are very high energy and do not care if you are in the way. There is no bypassing the laws of physics, so when you are in challenging situations, take a moment to think about what you are doing. Clear your mind of all these distractions and concentrate on the job at hand. All this other stuff will work itself out, but whether you come home to your family safe is up to you. Slow down a bit, take a deep breath and be safe in all you do.

Greg Veith

Aptitude tests show that you will succeed in a business where your father is the boss.

Jimmy Cannon

I don't see any way you can justify somebody making \$1 million or more a year when the low-level workers aren't making enough money to afford a house.

Ben Cohen

a

A Proper Thanks to Wall Street

No doubt you'll want to join me in sending a heartfelt "thank you" to Lloyd Blankfein, Jamie Dimon, John Mack, and Brian Moynihan.

They are, respectively, the chief banking whizzes at Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and Bank of America — the four biggest Wall Street firms whose get-rich-quick recklessness brought our financial system to its knees and wrecked our economy. During the last year and a half, these four collected nearly half-a-trillion of our tax dollars to bail out their sinking institutions.

Despite this public generosity to save them, these too-big-to-fail giants still are not meeting their obligations to us. Instead of making loans that America's cash-starved businesses must have so they can start generating jobs again, the Wall Streeters have gone right back to the same sort of high-risk investment gimmicks that caused our country's economic mess.

They've also used our money to take over some smaller

banks in order to make themselves even bigger. And — of course! — they've returned to the charming practice of lining their own executive pockets with multimillion-dollar bonuses.

Meanwhile, we taxpayers are still owed about \$120 billion that we doled out to save the financial system — money that should now be going to other budget needs. To get it back, the White House has proposed a new Wall Street tax on the 50 largest banks — most of which are now raking in huge profits from speculative investment schemes that bankers developed by using dirt cheap federal funds.

Yes, a proper way to thank Blankfein, Dimon, Mack, Moynihan, and others for the way they're treating us is with this tax. But it will be paid by the banks, not by the bankers who did the damage. So, let's also show a little personal gratitude to the greedheaded bank barons by assessing a windfall tax on the absurd bonuses they plan to pay themselves.

Jim Hightower

Tennessee Helps Fund VW Plant, But Who's Getting the Jobs?

When Volkswagen of America won a \$566 million incentive package from the state of Tennessee to build a new plant in Chattanooga, state officials said it was worth the money because of all the jobs the plant would bring.

Well, it's not working out that way, says a local group, Volunteers for Local Hire. According to the group, there was nothing in the 2008 deal that required the company to use Tennessee labor to build the plant. As a result, the workforce "is increasingly being comprised of out-of-state workers employed by out-of-state contractors, as well as many foreign workers from countries such as Honduras, Mexico, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico," the group says.

"With an unemployment rate that reached 11 percent in the summer of 2009," the group says, "there is a plethora of qualified Tennessee contractors and workers who could, and should, be employed on this project."

Another side effect of the deal, the group says, is that because of the giveaways to Volkswagen, the city of Chattanooga is increasing the stormwater fees that it assesses on

local business and schools. The agreement stipulates that all fees and taxes on its site at Enterprise South are to be paid by local governments, not the corporation.

Thus for Hamilton County schools located in Chattanooga it means an increase from \$115,000 per year to \$385,000 — an increase of over 300 percent.

"These costs are going to have to come from our reserves and our classrooms," said Hamilton County Board of Education Chairman Kenny Smith. "That's a very hard cost to absorb at this time of year."

Volunteers for Local Hire identifies itself as a not-for-profit grouping of local organizations and individuals organized to ensure that current and future local commercial and industrial development funded through, or in part, with Tennessee taxpayer funding, should adhere to stringent "local hire" provisions that mandate preferred status to local contractors and workers in the awarding of contracts for both project construction and operation.

UCS News Service

Dissatisfied With Your Work? You're Not Alone, Survey Finds

Fewer than half of Americans are satisfied with their work—even though many feel fortunate to have it, according to a new survey.

The 45 percent satisfaction rate for 2009 was the lowest level ever recorded by the Conference Board research group in more than 22 years. In 2008, 49 percent of those surveyed reported satisfaction with their jobs.

The drop in workers' happiness can be partly blamed on the worst recession since the 1930s, which made it difficult for some people to find challenging and suitable jobs. But worker dissatisfaction has been on the rise for more than two decades.

"It says something troubling about work in America. It is

not about the business cycle or one grumpy generation," says Linda Barrington, managing director of human capital at the Conference Board, who helped write the report.

Workers have grown steadily more unhappy for a variety of reasons: Fewer consider their jobs to be interesting, incomes have not kept up with inflation, and the soaring cost of health insurance has eaten into take-home pay.

When the Conference Board's first survey was conducted in 1987, most workers—61 percent—said they were happy in their jobs.

The survey of 5,000 households was conducted for the

(See You're Not Alone continued on page 9)

a

Unemployment Woes Continue, Labor Demands Push for Jobs

The nation's bleak job picture continued into the new year, with some 17 percent of the workforce – 26 million people – unemployed or working part-time because a full-time job couldn't be found.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka warned the Obama administration that jobs were the number one issue of the American people, and Democrats will be in real trouble in this year's elections unless more action is taken to help working families.

He reiterated labor's call for a program to put the economy back on track:

- Rebuild America's schools, roads and energy systems.
- Increase aid to state and local governments to maintain vital services.
- Put people to work doing work that needs to be done.
- Put emergency TARP funds to work for Main Street, not just Wall Street.

Trumka says because it has taken "years of financial abuses and corporate giveaways to get us into this deep hole, we will only climb out if we keep our foot on the accelerator."

Some 7.2 million jobs have been lost since the Great Recession began in December 2007. There has been no job or income growth for workers for the last decade.

The most recent data show that the typical unemployed worker had been jobless for an average of 29 weeks in December, the longest period since the government began tracking such numbers in 1948. Roughly 4 in 10 unemployed workers had been jobless for six months or longer.

As bad as things were, a year earlier they were much worse: when George W. Bush left office the nation was losing more than a half million jobs every month. That provided little comfort to the millions looking for work now, however, or holding a job but scared to death of losing it.

Most economists don't see the jobless rate improving for years, with estimates of 7 percent unemployment through 2012. Economic Policy Institute president Larry Mishel says estimates by Goldman Sachs and economy.com predict unemployment could worsen to 10.5 percent this fall — and will decrease to 9.7 percent only with a vigorous jobs initiative by Congress.

Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Policy and Economic Research, noted that experts assume the economy needs to add about 100,000 jobs a month just to keep pace with new people entering the work force.

"There's really no dynamism in this economy," Baker said.

UCS News Service

None of us are responsible for our birth. Our responsibility is the use we make of life.

Joshua Henry Jones

When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments; tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become.

Louis Pasteur

Power Plant District Director Report

As for the timing of this article vs. the time you read this, we will have a vote counted for our current furlough agreement. Which ever way you chose, I commend our membership for informing themselves on the information that was conveyed by listening, digesting and asking questions that can bring us forward as a Union with that vote. This is and will be a very difficult time that we all are going to be exposed to for, well...let me look into my company-issued crystal ball...

Shifting gears, let us look at another set of issues that are related and pending such as contracting, possible unit retirements and the elimination of job classifications which directly may turn into reallocation of duties and more possible layoffs.

Unit retirements, in my view, can bring this whole layoff issue back around to front and center again, but that mostly lies with the EPA and our Company lawyers. Though not immediately in front of us, this may come to light within the next six, ten or twelve months.

The elimination of job classifications has already begun at Pulliam with the elimination of the Screen Room position. Talks should be initiated and progressed to redistribute job duties.

Contracting. This is in my opinion, the largest issue to argue layoff at not only Weston and Pulliam, but throughout the Company. I still am trying to come to terms with the idea of staffing reductions while maintaining a continuing contractor base. This issue is going to be one of my most concentrated efforts in the coming months.

Finally, I would like to address and publicly apologize for the way I conveyed myself on January 20 at the Wausau/Weston Joint Branch Meeting. I did convey myself badly and also incompletely. I, in no way, was insinuating or inferring that the Weston stewardship was or is in the need of training. I hold these people in high regard and respect what they do on a daily basis and handle themselves with the issues that they are exposed to. I was moving to the point of suggesting improving relationships and suggestions for the grievance processes, while holding true to the Contract.

Kevin Dessell

Power Plant District Director

a

Obama's 1st Year Not Change He Promised

A year ago a new President, having been elected with a mandate-sized majority, took office with his party holding solid majorities in both houses of Congress. A year later it is fair to ask how this new government is doing.

Barack Obama and his party took over the government with a huge mess to clean up and an ambitious agenda. The country was fighting wars on two fronts and back home the economy had collapsed. The voters gave them control of the government in order to fix those things, but also to finally fix a broken health care system and to address a myriad of problems which had been exacerbated by the-government-for-the-rich previous administration.

They started off pretty good, passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which many economists credit with preventing the Recession from getting even worse. However, legislative efforts have pretty much gone down hill since then. And, the economy still sports an official unemployment rate of 10 percent and a devastating rate of over 17 percent if you count the underemployed and those who have stopped looking for work.

The new President used his bully pulpit to get the ARRA passed and included in that legislation a tax cut for the middle class, which he promised during his campaign. Also, in the first weeks of his administration, he reversed several of Bush's anti-union Executive Orders, including a ban on Project Labor Agreements for federal government construction projects. The first piece of legislation he signed was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. And he appointed a decidedly pro-labor Secretary of Labor, who has since worked hard to reverse DoL's neglect of wage violation claims.

On the other hand, the new President reappointed Bush's Secretary of Defense, plucked his Treasury Secretary and other appointees from Wall Street, and is now attempting to reappoint the same Federal Reserve Chairman who presided over the financial collapse.

More War, Fewer Good Jobs

On foreign policy, the new President's deadline for "withdrawal" from Iraq by this August probably won't be met, but probably no one will notice anyway since "withdrawal" for him means leaving over 40,000 troops in that country. Meanwhile, in the midst of saber-rattling over Iran and Yemen, he has escalated the war in Afghanistan and set himself up for a Lyndon Johnson-type legacy.

In the campaign to elect this new government, organized labor was all in. For its efforts, it has received a few bones as noted above, but its number one priority—the Employee Free Choice Act—has been pushed to the back burner; and as nervous politicians watch the next election approach this November, may wind up being completely removed from the stove.

Unkept Promises

Perhaps no where has this new government flubbed things more badly than in the long drawn out effort to pass a health care reform bill, a key issue in the elections that put this government into power.

During the primary season, Obama's main opponent, Hillary Clinton, floated the idea of forcing everyone to buy health insurance, sort of the like the requirement to carry automobile insurance. That trial balloon landed with a thud and Obama stated his belief that a public option was a necessity in order to down costs and make sure everyone was covered.

McCainCare

In the general election, Obama's opponent proposed taxing health care benefits. For union members, especially, and for many others as well, this was a rallying point against that opponent and in favor of Obama, who proclaimed that health care reform should be funded with a tax on those making over \$250,000.

(See Obama Disappoints in First Year on page 9)

NFL Players Expect 2011 Lockout, Union President Tells House Panel

The president of the National Football League Players Association says that players expect to be locked out by team owners in 2011.

Testifying before a congressional subcommittee, Tennessee Titans center Kevin Mawae declared: "We are fully anticipating a lockout and are educating all 1,900 of our players... We are anticipating that because right at this moment all indications are that way."

The subcommittee deals with courts and competition policy. Mawae told the panel that the league is seeking to unfairly increase its economic power through an antitrust case, American Needle vs. the NFL, that is before the Supreme Court. If that case goes the league's way, it could have antitrust implications that would unfairly strengthen the owners' hands in contract

negotiations, Mawae said.

Speaking to a Washington Post reporter after the hearing, Mawae said "there's no sense in us sitting here painting a rosy picture about what's going on in the negotiations. That would be an injustice to the players. We hope there isn't a lockout. But if there is one, the players are going to be prepared for it."

He objected to public comments by New York Giants co-owner John Mara that the union has not responded in a meaningful way to a proposal by the owners.

"We've responded in meaningful ways," Mawae said. "I guess the same could be said of them. When they ask us for a 20 percent rollback of salaries, they haven't demonstrated to us the need for a 20 percent rollback."

UCS News Service

Salvation Army Thanks Local 310 Member

Many of our members share their time and resources to assist local institutions and charities. They donate their time to help build or remodel homes for Habitat for Humanity or projects that work with other unions in our area to make sure that furnaces are running properly and ready for the heating season. They work through area schools and volunteer for events and help coach athletics. We have a long and proud history of doing the things to help those that are less fortunate.

Another instance of how much people and organizations appreciate the things we do are reflected in the following letter Local 310 member Dave Mehrer received the from the Wausau Corps of the Salvation Army.

Dear Dave,

I want to express a heartfelt thank you for the time and effort you gave this Christmas season to the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. Through your hours of ringing you raised \$358.04 out of our \$140,000 goal, which we exceeded by \$21,000. These funds will be used throughout the coming year

to assist the many people who come to the Salvation Army for assistance.

As you probably know, all funds raised are used locally to fund programs and expenses of the Salvation Army. This past year these services included: the noon feeding program which provided 23,907 meals, (not including the 15,102 meals provided in the shelter), the shelter program that provided 249 people with over 7,551 nights of lodging, and the emergency assistance office which provided over 1,406 grocery orders from our food pantry.

Thank you again for your help. I look forward to your continued support this coming year.

God bless you for all you do to help others.

Sincerely,

Brian Goodwill
Captain

Public Workers Nationwide Feeling Recession's Wrath

In the old days—make that a couple of years ago—working for your town, county, city or state was seen as a secure thing: you didn't make a lot of money, but you could count on a steady paycheck.

Well, welcome to 2010.

As the Great Recession continues to batter the country, public workers are no better off today than their counterparts in the private sector. In many cases they're doing even worse.

Here's an unscientific look at what a variety of public employees across the country were facing in January. The list is by no means all-inclusive.

Tulsa, Oklahoma: Mayor Dewey Bartlett said he would lay off 135 police officers and 130 firefighters—in addition to cuts to other city personnel—unless the police accept a 7.5 percent pay cut and firefighters take an 8.6 percent hit. Other city workers would see a 5.2 percent decrease. Some firemen said their concession would amount to a 20 percent loss of benefits.

Los Angeles, California: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Council leaders have begun laying the groundwork for the elimination of at least 1,000 more jobs by July 1. This comes only one month after 2,400 city employees were offered early retirement. All this follows the imposition of furloughs, rolling back salaries and cutting some city services.

State of California: Arnold Schwarzenegger is threatening to reduce the hourly pay of 230,000 state employees to the federal minimum wage—\$7.25 an hour—unless the Democratic legislature gives in to his budget demands.

Sheboygan, Wisconsin: City workers represented by six unions will get no pay increase this year and will take on a

bigger portion of their health care costs by now paying deductibles and co-pays for prescription drugs.

Muskegon, Michigan: Firefighters are giving up their 2010 pay raise, but may get it back next year. City clerical employees are being asked to give up their raises as well.

Pawtucket, Rhode Island: The city employees' union representing the public works department, water supply board and city hall employees has agreed to wage freezes, 12 furlough days and increased employee contributions to health benefits.

Cleveland, Ohio: Sixty-six police officers, 37 firefighters and six emergency medical technicians have been laid off, but will be rehired if their unions accept 4 percent pay cuts. The unions earlier denied the demand.

Puerto Rico: The commonwealth has laid off 2,400 employees, the majority from its Department of Education. Some 7,800 government workers had been laid off earlier.

Hollywood, Florida: Full-time city workers voted to take 20 hours of furloughs and part-timers will take shorter furloughs as part of a deal to keep nine workers from losing their jobs.

Little Rock, Arkansas: Police officers agreed to defer a scheduled 4 percent pay raise until at least July.

Irvington, New Jersey: Roughly 200 civilian employees will be furloughed once a month through June. They'll also lose six paid holidays.

Vermont: Vermont state workers are taking temporary, 3 percent pay cuts. The Vermont State Employees Association says the contract temporarily cuts wages by 3 percent and leaves them frozen until June 30, 2012, then restores the cuts.

UCS News Service

a **McCain Cripples Labor Board; Cases Go Unheard for Years**

The National Labor Relations Board, the federal agency which oversees the labor laws governing unionized workers and unionization drives, has been functioning for the past two years with only two of what should be a full complement of five members. The result is a huge backlog of cases and the potential that dozens of cases agreed to by the two members may be tossed out in court.

The reason for the short-staffed panel? Sen. John McCain. He doesn't like one of the Democratic nominees, so he's delayed the confirmation process for everyone.

President Obama has nominated three lawyers to the board, but Sen. McCain, Obama's opponent in the presidential election, has delayed confirmation of the three-person package for months by placing a hold one of them, Craig Becker, an associate general counsel for the A.F.L.-C.I.O. and the Service Employees International Union.

Wilma B. Liebman, the board's Democratic chairwoman, told the New York Times: "This reflects how our political process is paralyzed at the moment. This is not the way government is supposed to function."

She said the board's two-member status has meant years of delay for many aggrieved workers. For instance, workers at a home for the developmentally disabled in New York voted to unionize in June 2003, but they do not have a union because they are awaiting a decision from the board.

Even though the two functioning members of the panel are one Democrat, Liebman, and one Republican, Peter C. Schaumber, they've still managed to agree on 80 cases. Even those decisions are threatened, however, because of a court challenge over whether decisions can be issued when the Board is three members short.

UCS News Service

You're Not Alone

(Continued from page 5)

Conference Board by TNS, a global market research company.

One clue that may explain workers' growing dissatisfaction: Only 51 percent now find their jobs interesting—another low in the survey's 22 years. In 1987, nearly 70 percent said they were interested in their work.

Conference Board officials and outside economists suggested that weak wage growth helps explain why workers'

unhappiness has been rising for more than 20 years. After growing in the 1980s and 1990s, average household incomes adjusted for inflation have been shrinking since 2000.

Also, compared with 1980, three times as many workers contribute to the cost of their health insurance—and those contributions have gone up. The average employee contribution for single-coverage medical care benefits rose from \$48 a month to \$76 a month between 1999 and 2006.

Obama Disappoints in First Year

(Continued Obama's 1st Year from page 7)

In recent weeks Obama has backed off both those positions and at this writing, as legislation limps toward passage, we are looking at the likelihood of a law that requires people to buy health insurance from private carriers and that at least partially pays for any new costs by taxing employer-provided health insurance. Several labor honchos, who have been negotiating against themselves from the beginning of this debate, got some compromises from the President on the benefits taxation issue, but nevertheless allowed organized labor to be implicated by not holding to its bottom line—absolutely no taxation of benefits.

Health Insurer's Still Control Senate

The failure to produce genuine health care reform can be blamed largely on the U.S. Senate and its undemocratic filibuster rule which essentially requires 60 votes, rather than a simple majority of 51 votes, to pass legislation. The minority party, determined and unified, holds 40 votes. The Senate leadership thus had to seek the 60 votes from some of the more conservative members of its own party and, especially, from the partyless Senator Joe Lieberman, one of the most unprincipled individuals to ever sit in a U.S. legislative body. Lieberman, who supported Obama's opponent during the campaign, has backtracked on many positions he had previously proclaimed.

He even refused to support allowing people between the ages of 55 and 65 to buy into Medicare with their own money. It is clear that he and a few of the more conservative members of the majority party would support no legislation that might in any way impinge upon the insurance industry's profits.

With a president apparently willing to back any compromise and a few recalcitrant Senators willing to do the bidding of the private health care industry, the Senate eventually passed, on Christmas Eve, a totally inadequate bill. Meanwhile, the House had passed a better, though far from perfect bill. Hanging over efforts to mesh the two bills is the Senate's tyranny-of-the-minority filibuster rule. And that pretty much guarantees the end product, after preoccupying this new government for over half of its first year, will be legislation that has maybe a couple improvements like rules about pre-existing conditions but that in no way fixes a broken system.

So then, how is this new government doing? The kindest word I can come up with to describe its first year is: "disappointing." And that is a big understatement.

Jim Cavanaugh
SCFL President
Union Labor News
February 2010

a

Teamsters Urge More Rest Time for Truck Drivers

The Teamsters union is urging federal regulators to reverse a Bush-era regulation that increased the number of hours truckers can drive.

The regulation, first issued in 2003, raised the number of hours drivers can spend behind the wheel from 10 to 11 consecutive hours each shift, and from 60 to 77 hours of driving each week. The rule cut off-duty rest and recovery time at the work week's end from 50 or more hours off duty to as little as 34 hours off duty.

"We must protect our truck drivers' health and safety," Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa told a hearing by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration "Study after study shows that more time behind the wheel is dangerous for

truckers and for the driving public."

LaMont Byrd, Director of the Teamsters' Health and Safety Department, charged that the agency "issued a rule that favors increasing driver productivity and increasing the profits of motor carriers over driver health and safety. The current rules regarding hours of service, the 34 hour restart provision and the sleeper berth provision must be changed."

Byrd said the union opposes the provision that allows drivers to return to work after only 34 hours off duty. The percentage of fatal crashes that result from driver fatigue rose 20 percent from 2004 to 2005, the first year in which the longer hours of driving were allowed.

UCS News Service

Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't.

Pete Seeger

Only you can be yourself. No one else is qualified for the job.

Unknown

The truth is that there is nothing noble in being superior to somebody else. The only real nobility is in being superior to your former self.

Whitney Young

I have never seen a monument erected to a pessimist.

Paul Harvey

Eldercare Benefit for Union Families Meets a Growing Need

Today 4.5 million union members are caregivers to their elderly family members. Caregivers spend countless hours searching for information and resources, spend money on eldercare services, and experience the enormous stress and anxiety that comes from worrying about loved ones while managing their own lives.

That's why Union Plus has developed the new Eldercare Services Program, provided by the eldercare resource management company Aging with Grace™. The program helps union members and their families simplify the search for eldercare services, save on the increasing cost of eldercare, and lower their stress levels, while providing top quality customer service. In short, the program provides invaluable peace of mind, at a price that's surprisingly affordable.

Union members and their families are entitled to a free initial consultation with an Aging with Grace eldercare specialist who can provide knowledgeable advice, answers to routine question, and assistance with immediate needs. Those seeking a wider range of services, or who want full-time support, may choose to receive a 12-month membership for an annual fee of \$24.95 that reflects a special union discount. Benefits include:

- Unlimited telephone access to an experienced eldercare specialist for short and long term planning of eldercare needs;
- A 15% discount on a wide array of geriatric care management services, including home visits,

assessments, written action plans, counseling, and comprehensive services to handle all aspects of a senior's move;

- Provider quality assurance and member satisfaction assurance monitoring programs;
- A savings of up to \$1,250 for independent and assisted living communities, in-home care services, adult day care programs, and other senior services and programs, from participating providers;
- A monthly caregiver newsletter and online member caregiver support groups.

Finding and coordinating eldercare services requires an in-depth knowledge of complicated systems such as health care, insurance and housing options. Most caregivers, who are juggling their own jobs and family responsibilities, simply don't have the time to research all their options and ensure they are making the best decisions for their older relatives.

But with the Union Plus Eldercare Services program, quality information can be a click or a call away. Members can call (866)570-8588 for more details on benefits and other information or visit UnionPlus.org/Eldercare. Members who sign up for the program will get access to detailed online resources, caregiver toolkits, helpful tips and tools for managing caregiver stress, links to preferred providers and additional information.

Union Plus

a Gubernatorial Candidate Threatens to Derail State’s Recovery

Scott Walker, Republican Candidate for Wisconsin Governor, is threatening to turn down \$823 million in recovery dollars designated for high-speed rail as part of his recently announce job creation plan.

“Walker’s plan would certainly create jobs,” says Phil Neuenfeldt, Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO. “The problem is that those jobs will be in Illinois, Minnesota and other states smart enough to accept the federal stimulus funding that he would turn away.”

Even by conservative estimates, high-speed rail will create more than 4,700 Wisconsin jobs and generate economic activity by providing 14 million passengers with fast, convenient access across the Midwest every year.

If Wisconsin were to reject the project, these job-creating resources could not be directed to other Wisconsin transportation projects. Instead they would simply be reallocated to projects in other states.

The Hiawatha Service between Milwaukee and Chicago proves rail can work—its grown from 460,000 in 2004 to 740,000 in 2009—or 56,000 more riders every year.

“We need a jobs plan for Wisconsin—not Florida, Oregon, Tennessee or Missouri. Hopefully Walker will reconsider,” said Neuenfeldt. “After all, he flip-flopped one year ago, when he was against the economic recovery act. He turned around and supported the \$130 million in projects for Milwaukee County.”

Membership Anniversaries

25 YEARS

Kenneth Sikorski
Mark Hirst
Pablo Chavez
Eugene Steffen
Dennis Carter
Glen Smith
Charles Backus
Richard Dunton
Anthony Klapper
Lyle Banser
Kenneth Sigl

Green Bay
 Dominion
 Pulliam
 Merrill
 GBSC
 Two Rivers
 Dominion
 Dominion
 GBSC
 Merrill
 GBSC

30 YEARS

Mark Steurwald
Michael Schettl
Robert McTavish
Jim Spychalski
Robert Gajeski
Craig Gussert

Stevens Point
 Pulliam
 Weston
 GBSC
 Pulliam
 GBSC



Complete care for every one of your smiles.

At Dental Associates, we have all the expertise you need to ensure your family’s dental health. From regular check-ups to periodontal surgery, braces to bridges, our caring professionals will treat your family’s dental health needs throughout your lives.

We remind you and your family to stay healthy with regular dental check-ups and cleanings. Schedule your exam and dental cleaning appointment today – for expert, personalized care that will keep you smiling!

Your smile does a lot. So do we!

Choose any of our convenient Dental Associates centers.

Appleton
 4660 W. College Ave.
 Appleton, WI 54913
 (920) 730 0345
 (866) 428 2345

North Appleton
 2115 E. Evergreen Dr.
 Appleton, WI 54913
 (920) 734 2345
 (866) 602 0111

Greenville
 N1737 Lily of the Valley Dr.
 Greenville, WI 54942
 (920) 757 0100
 (866) 602 0083

Green Bay
 430 Main St.
 Green Bay, WI 54301
 (920) 431 0345
 (800) 414 0274

Fond du Lac
 545 E. Johnson St.
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 (920) 924 9090
 (800) 398 0672



Local 310 Volume 40 Issue 2

Non-Profit

U.S. Postage

PAID

Green Bay, WI
Permit No. 728

a

Local 310 AFL-CIO
International Union of Operating Engineers
P.O. Box 8323
Green Bay, WI 54308-8323



Local 310 Executive Board

E-mail us at local310@local310.org or visit our website
at www.local310.org

Business Manager	Steve McFarlane	1699-6719
920-437-2750	1-800-636-8480	Cell 920-621-2064
Fax 920-437-3122	E-mail address	steve@local310.org
President	Greg Veith	1699-6782
920-793-3808	E-mail address:	greg@local310.org
Vice President	Paul Beimborn	1699-5149
920-491-0394		Cell 920-660-2294
	E-mail address:	paul@local310.org
Recording Secretary	Lori Wunsch	1699-7909
920-889-1538	E-mail address:	lori@local310.org
Financial Secretary	Roger Zimmerman	1699-6708
920-255-1128	E-mail address:	roger@local310.org
Treasurer	Rob Harteau	1699-6788
920-680-4468	E-mail address:	rob@local310.org
Central Director	Patrick Kelly	1699-6781
920-327-2624	E-mail Address	pat@local310.org
Eastern Director	Chris Satterburg	1699-6742
920-684-3485		Cell 920-323-7685
	E-mail address	chris@local310.org
Power Plant Director	Kevin Dessell	1699-6741
920-676-2274	E-mail address	kevin@local310.org
Western Director	Mark Kopetzky	1699-6813
715-581-2114	E-mail address	mark@local310.org

Labor Relations Legal Consultation (including Workers' Compensation Issues)

Law Offices of Mark A. Sweet, LLC

1-866-784-2344

Mark A. Sweet
705 E. Silver Spring Dr
Milwaukee, WI 53217
msweet@unionyeslaw.com

414-332-2255

Fax 414-332-5430

Welcome New Members

Soulee Xiong
James Drake
Russell Klesmith
Corey Ferg

KPS—Dominion
Green Bay Transit
Weston
Wausau

