

# insight



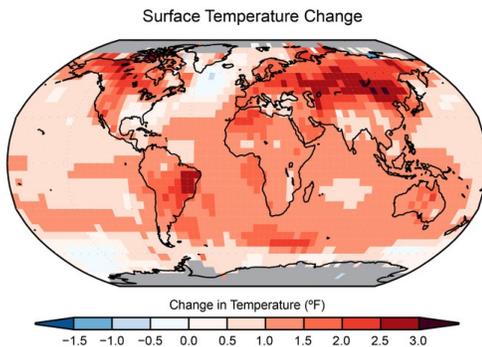
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Local Lodge 1746 December 2018 Volume 18 Issue 10

## The Heat is On

Last month, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) delivered its Climate Science Special Report following its Fourth National Climate Assessment, and that report was grim, to say the least. According to the report, average surface air temperatures across the globe have rising by about 1.8° F since 1900, and we are now living in the warmest period in the history of modern civilization. The dominant cause of this warming is greenhouse gas emissions brought on by human consumption of fossil fuels.

The effects are approaching catastrophic levels. Sea levels across the planet have risen by 7 to 8 inches across the planet, and if the problem is not addressed these levels could increase several inches in the next 15 years, and 1 to 4 feet (and possibly has much as 8 feet) by the year 2100. Daily tidal flooding is already becoming a problem in Atlantic and Gulf Coast cities, and the problem is only going to get worse without intervention. Shrinking snow cover, melting glaciers, and rising ocean temperatures all contribute to an increase in atmospheric water vapor. This has led to more heavy rainfall and flooding incidents in the United States, and larger, stronger, and more frequent hurricane activity.

Earlier spring thaws and reduced snowpack are affecting our water management systems, while rising atmospheric temperatures are expected to increase heatwaves and decrease cold waves, leading to more and longer droughts, and more western wildfires. The USGCRP predicts that surface air temperatures could rise by 2.5° F between 2021 and 2050. A little simple math shows that this is *five times* the acceleration rate of the temperature rise from 1901—2016. And it's not like these effects won't be realized until Stardate 3275.4. This is happening in *your lifetime*.



## Looking Back at 2018

By Kirby Boyce



This year has been one of the fastest years that I can recall. The East Hartford plant has gone from a little over 1,200 members in May 2016 to close to 1,600 members today. Even though we have some attritions, the company has continued to hire at a consistent rate. Right now the job posting boards are filled with plenty of job opportunities. For all of the new hires that have more than a year with the company, you can post for some of those openings if you like.

I still believe that the company can do a lot better with training new hires than they have been doing. The notion that you can have a Labor Grade 7 with little experience with the company, train another Labor grade 7 with the same amount of experience or less has been occurring and the company has done nothing to do the training correctly.

The same scenario is occurring with the labor grade 5's. What our new ambitious members do not realize is that by getting the subpar training that they have been receiving, decertification and variations have been happening in the background. We have several new employees that have been decertified for a variety of reasons and the biggest one is lack of training. Training is being portrayed by as going well and I do not see it.

I am sending this message to our members. If you do not feel comfortable on what you are being trained on, let your supervisor know right away. Do not allow management to force you in to saying that you feel comfortable if you do not. Everyone learns differently and some not as quickly as others. Just because we are human does not mean that it should be held against us. If training was done equally and fairly then this would not be an issue.

Another thing to keep in mind is that once you are decertified, you lose out on overtime. The company will list you as NQ, which stands for not qualified. How you can be qualified during the week but not on weekends is beyond me. If you are decertified, call a shop steward out so that they can look in to it on your behalf. I'm hoping that the company comes up with a better training plan next year as they continue to hire because the current one isn't working.

I want to say to each and every one of our members, have a happy holiday season with your families. We have approximately 12 working days left.

The Trump Administration has been accused of downplaying the report, which may seem like harsh criticism until you consider its track record on the environment. From withdrawing from the Paris Agreement (signed by 197 countries), to appointing science-denier Scott Pruitt to run the EPA, to pushing a rollback of automobile emission standards, to making a stand at the G20 summit by choosing not to sign a joint statement on global warming. President Trump has displayed time and time again that he's no friend of the environment.

Perhaps the incoming Congress will have an effect on the president's thinking come January, but the stakes are too high to sit around waiting for the world to change. There are plenty of things we can do ourselves to contribute to a solution. To Pratt & Whitney's credit, they do take initiatives to control pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and to comply with the regulations that are in place. Many of us are shareholders in the company through our 401K plans, and as shareholders we have a voice (however small) in the way United Technologies conducts its business throughout the world. Pressuring our leaders to pressure their vendors and suppliers to work in an environmentally sound manner is one course of action we can take. Getting involved in sustainable initiatives when we have the opportunity to do so is another.



There are other ways, too, through our union, our communities, our wallets and pocketbooks, and our ballot boxes. If nothing else, the Climate Science Special Report is a wake-up call that we must make caring for our planet and our environment more of a priority in all of our decisions. Not in a tree-hugging, daisy-planting kind of way, but in a fire-and-brimstone, storm-surgings, head-for-the-hills and run-for-your-life kind of way. Take a step back and look around. The California wildfires, the blistering summer heatwaves, the super-hurricanes—how many of these did we experience 20 or 30 years ago, and how often? Then

think about what you can do—and what you can do differently—to make a change for the better. The phrase “Think Globally, Act Locally” might sound trite, but it’s applicable here. One or five or twenty of us can make a difference, but if we can come together and agree that thwarting the rising temperatures is a worthwhile goal, then we can generate some momentum and truly make a change.

### Retired Connecticut IAM Member to Serve on Incoming Governor's Transition Team

IAM Retiree John Harrity will be serving on the Energy Committee for Connecticut Governor-elect Ned Lamont's Transition Team. Lamont was endorsed by the Connecticut State Council of Machinists (CSCM), who also turned out in force to support the campaign by knocking on doors and calling union members across the state.

Harrity retired last March and is a 38-year member of IAM District 26. He is a founding member and current Chair of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate & Jobs, a coalition of labor, environmental and religious groups working to shape public policy in the face of looming climate threats.

Harrity has long concentrated on climate change as his area of focus for continuing activism, and authored the resolution passed at the 2016 IAM Convention designating climate change as a priority for the Machinists.

“Climate change is the most critical issue facing all of us for the rest of our lives,” said Harrity. “But addressing this threat should also mean the creation of millions of new jobs in renewable energy, transportation and other fields.”



“Our retirees are not only one of our most valuable assets,” said Eastern Territory General Vice President Jimmy Conigliaro, Sr. “They also continue to be an asset to working families all across this country. Whether it’s fighting for legislation, or like Brother Harrity working with governing bodies to assure that the voice of working men and women is heard at every level. We’re proud of John’s continued service to the IAM, and our members.”

Harrity continues to serve on the Board of the Connecticut Green Bank, a quasi-public agency that helps finance renewable energy projects in the state, and has been invited to join the Board of the Labor Network for Sustainability, a national organization focused on jobs and a sustainable environment.

(Reprinted from goiam.org)

# Union Stories on Film

By Therese Hervieux

While looking at union historical events, I came across the Karen Silkwood story. For those that either may not have been born or just don't know, Karen was a union health and safety activist in the 1970's who worked in a plutonium plant in Oklahoma. She discovered some strong health & safety violations had reported these unsafe conditions to the Atomic Energy Commission. She died in a mysterious death on the night she was traveling to reveal her documents to a union representative and a reporter with the NY Times. Her documents were never found. According to "This Day In History" at history.com, she died on November 13, 1974. This month is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movie that tells this story, starring Meryl Streep, Cher, and Kurt Russell.

With the winter season upon us, you may be home watching TV more so I looked up several union related movies that would be interesting and inspiring to watch for our union members. Watching historical events or fictional stories based on union related events is a great way to start to understand the importance of how unions can affect your work and home life and why we think fighting union issues is so important. It also may inspire you to find your niche in working in the union. These movies reveal many different issues still experienced and faced by workers around the world and even here in the USA. Many of these are award-winning movies with top actors and actresses. So put these movies on your watch list or on your Christmas list. Maybe Santa can drop a few in your stockings!



How Green Was My Valley (US, 1941)

Native Land (1942)

The Organizer (1963)

Harlan County U.S.A. (1976)

Norma Rae (1979)

Matewan (1987)

The Molly Maguires (1970)

Silkwood (1983)

Made In Dagenham (2010)

North Country (2005)

Salt of the Earth (1954)

The Burning Season: The Chico Mendes Story (1994)

The Triangle Factory Fire Scandal (1979)

With Babies and Banners: Story of the Women's Emergency Brigade( 1979)

Still the Enemy Within (2014)

This should be a good amount to get you started. If you're having trouble finding any of these, let me know and I'll be happy to help. Happy Holidays!

## New Snow Removal Contractor on Site

The winter months have arrived and so has the increased risk of slip trips and falls related to snow and ice. There is a new snow removal contractor in East Hartford. This is a large facility with a complicated layout, so I'm guessing that some areas might get missed until the new company learns the real estate.

When unsafe areas are identified, they need to be addressed as quickly as possible, preferably while the contractor is still on site. For this type of hazard, the RIDII process is not the fastest method. A RIDII submission can take a couple of shifts by the time the union safety rep is able to see it. Submitting a RIDII should not be the first step.

So where should a person start to get a snow related issue addressed? Please call the F&S Help Desk (internal phone number is 5-9999, for an outside line or cell phone use, 860-565-9999). This number is posted on most entry doors. Look for a white sticker with a blue snowflake. This line is monitored by CBRE, the company that over sees the snow removal contractor. If no one answers, please leave a detailed message describing the condition and the location, especially the parking lot ID number or what side of the factory or office building needs attention. Your information will be relayed to the contractor.

The Union does not have access to the call log, so for tracking proposes you can submit a RIDII. Please include the hazard area and the approximate time you called 5-9999 before you submitted the RIDII. We should all look out for each other's well-being and report unsafe conditions, this will help prevent additional slips and falls.

I want to take the time to thank the union activists and all the union members for their contributions in Health and Safety in 2018. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season, and best of health in 2019!

—Chief H&S Rep John Hanusovsky





The Next Monthly Meeting is  
December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 11:00 am.



# Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Friday's!

In Memory of :  
Henry Lemire



The EAP Coordinator for IAM LL 1746 is Lenny Ward.



Contact Lenny with any personal issues or concerns and be assured that he will work with you with respect and complete confidentiality.

Phone 203-444-0267 Fax 203-787-4180

Here are some of the officers email addresses to contact with your concerns and suggestions.

- \* Kirby Boyce  
[President1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net](mailto:President1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net)
- \* John C. Taylor [vp1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net](mailto:vp1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net)
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### WEBSITES:

- [www.iamLL1746.org](http://www.iamLL1746.org)
- [www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)
- [www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)
- [www.ctaflcio.org](http://www.ctaflcio.org)

## DO YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE?



Email your answers to [1746news@gmail.com](mailto:1746news@gmail.com) under the subject "contest". One winner with the most correct answers will be randomly chosen to receive a holiday gift basket courtesy of LL 1746 & friends. Deadline for entries is Dec 31st, 2018. Happy holidays!

### LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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