

Local Lodge 1746

insight

357 Main St.— East Hartford, CT. 06108 — Telephone: 568-3000

April 2008 Volume 11, Issue 4

UNINTENTIONAL CONSEQUENCES?



In the whirlpool of activity of Local Lodge 1746 a constant background noise is heard and felt. Jobs are trickling away. Those who retire are not replaced, those who are terminated are not replaced and those that venture to find other ways to

make a living are not replaced. The hiring of new workers is halted with the idea of absorbing those who are surplus into other areas and other job classifications. Bruckner, salary and subcontractors expand their turf to absorb what are historically and contractually “bargaining unit” tasks. Pratt & Whitney: we have a problem! Hello?

A look at numbers from 2004 to present for the bargaining unit for CANMC shows a net loss of 188 workers. During this time frame tubes, seals and cases work was offloaded and promises were made to absorb the displaced workers into the more “high tech” work that

was coming in. Is this work still on its way? Is it lost in the mail? Has it been redirected to parts unknown? At the last letter 22 meeting the Union learned that vendors and “others” are better at doing **OUR** work than we are. Someone has some explaining to do!

The perception in Facilities & Services is that management is going full bore using subcontractors be-

fore the contract language which was won through negotiations can be implemented.

For years the F&S workforce has been shrinking. A common excuse to hire subcontractors was that we do not have enough “*arms and legs.*” An effort to replace those who left should have started at least 10 years ago but management heard grievances with that *deer in the headlights look.* It is time to stop the bleeding.

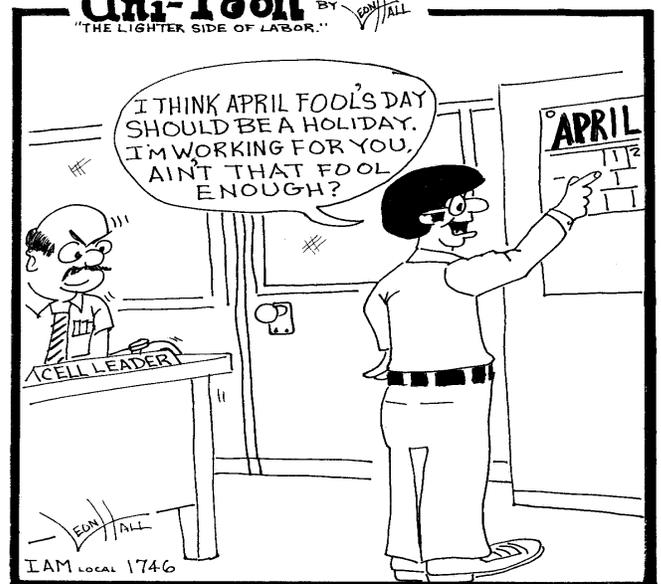


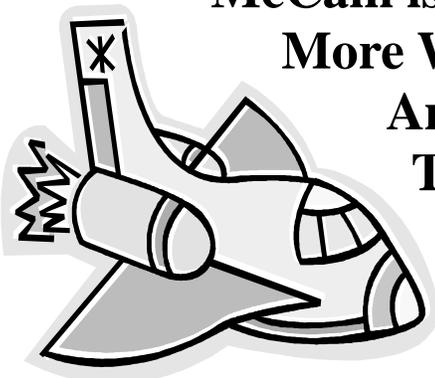
At recent Letter 22 meetings in CARO and EHRO the Union suggested that they hire more materials workers (Occ. Group 901.) The response was to the effect that, “We would love to, but we can’t.” Why not?

These are just a few examples of the source of that background noise. Members all over the shop live and breathe this reality every day and it is reflected in the grievance activity. *Until the time comes that we see a genuine commitment to the workforce here through some positive actions, the fight for good union jobs will continue.*



Uni-Toon BY *ED HALL*
“THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LABOR.”





McCain is Stealing More Work from Americans THIS TIME IT'S FROM YOU!

The Pentagon's recent decision to award the KC-45 refueling tanker to Airbus is another example of the Bush administration's continued outsourcing of good American manufacturing jobs. This blatant disregard for American workers and the ripple affect it will have throughout our economy is just the latest in a long line of outsourcing decisions by this administration. The presumed Republican nominee for President, John McCain from Arizona and his team lobbied for Airbus. On March 12th The Washington Post reported, "McCain finance chairman Thomas G. Loeffler and Susan E. Nelson, who left Loeffler's lobbying firm to be McCain's finance director, both began lobbying for Airbus's parent company in 2007, Senate records show. William L. Ball III, a former secretary of the Navy and frequent McCain surrogate on the trail, also lobbied for Airbus, as did John Green, who recently took a leave from Ogilvy Public Relations to serve as McCain's legislative liaison.

In regards to the influence McCain had on the deal, Machinist President R. Thomas Buffenbarger said, "*Airbus, I have to give them credit, they know they need that kind of lobbying help. And they went after people who could deliver.*" The staff of *insight* isn't taking a position in presidential politics; it is however taking a stand on American jobs and more importantly the engines that would be built at Pratt & Whitney if the Boeing version had been selected. On Friday March 28, Congressman John Larson led a rally at Local 1746 over the decision. He stated that dismantling the workforce which provides the products that defend our nation is unacceptable. If the air force doesn't want to do the right thing, Congress needs to line out the tanker when it comes time to appropriate the money. The air force can't seal the deal if Congress doesn't write the check.

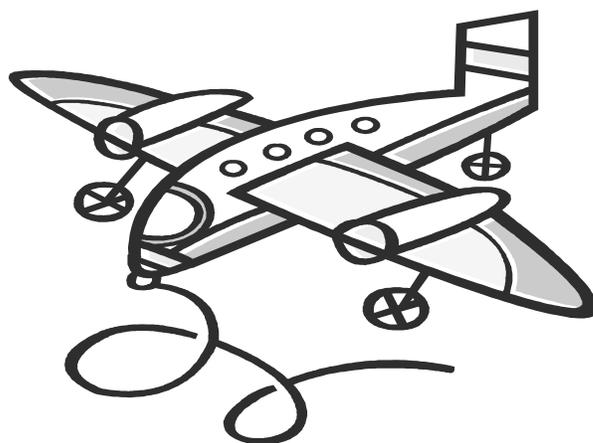
The fight is not over brothers and sisters. Congress is receiving an overwhelming amount of contact from their constituents. We need to keep up that pressure. Please take the time to contact your member of Congress and let them know you're mad as hell that the Air Force wants to award a foreign government with the next generation of refueling tanker. By contacting this link from the IAM's web page, you can send a letter to your Congressperson and Senators. <http://capwiz.com/iamaw/issues/alert/?alertid=11106876>.

You can also sign the letters (next page) to Governor Rell and CT Senator Lieberman—who have both been strangely silent on this critical issue—asking them to take a stand & provide some leadership in the fight.



Joe Lieberman's endorsement of Republican John McCain for president says a lot about Connecticut's junior senator...**and brings into question his commitment to fight for a US made tanker and American Jobs.** Tell "**JOE & JODI**" to keep this US-taxpayer-financed contract with American companies that will provide good jobs to American workers & Machinist Union members at Boeing, P&W and Hamilton/Sundstrand. Please return signed letters to your union representative, or bring them over to the Union Hall.

**Join the fight!! The job you save may
be your own!**



Dear Governor Rell,

We need your help on the Air Force's Tanker decision. We urge you to take an active leading role in the effort to reverse the tanker decision. This decision can mean more jobs and tax base for our state. This contract could mean a boost to our state's job base, economy, and survival.

Our government signed away the tanker to a foreign company. We need to keep our tax dollars in the U.S. of A.

We ask you to contact Senator McCain and others in the House and Senate to ensure they cancel the contract, and award it to Boeing-an American Company. Keep America working not some foreign country. The tankers are paid for with American tax dollars. Not foreign money.

Signed : _____

Date: _____

Dear Senator Lieberman,

We need your help on the tanker decision. You have to demand that the contract to a foreign company be pulled and re-evaluated. The United States of America should have been given the contract to keep Americans working and to help our failing economy.

You are the senator from Connecticut and should be looking out for our interests. The decisions needs to be reversed. This tanker project would have ensured at least 4000 jobs to Connecticut alone.

This project is also funded with our US Tax dollars. The outrage that our government awarded this to a foreign land is repulsive and a slap in the face for all Americans.

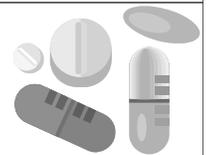
Signed : _____

Date: _____



WHY IT'S CALLED ADDICTION

Earl Schofield, Sr. Union EA Professional—District 26



You go to work and you're using drugs or alcohol. You're driving to work this way. Even worse, you're in the covered work pool where you're employed. You realized that it's only a matter of time till you get caught. Yet you still use your drug of choice. You spin the wheel and hope you get by once again. Just this one more time. Till the next time. And the next..... This is the disease called addiction. It is baffling and cunning. It's a demon in your head that says: "It's okay". "You won't get caught." "I will make everything better."

If this is you, and you are suffering from *addiction*, you need to know you are not alone. Millions of people across America suffer from addiction. It may be cigarettes, coffee, drugs or alcohol. They all have one thing in common: They are dictating your life-style; and they will destroy you.

They can cause you to lose your loved ones, your jobs, and yes, even your life.

But there is help available. It is not an easy battle, but it is one which can be won. There are so many services available from self-help groups to professional organizations. Here at Pratt & Whitney, you have a vast array of Employee Assistance opportunities available to you. There is a company EAP person, your local and District EAP reps, or you can seek help from your primary care physician.

There is one common theme with each organization/person: getting you the care you need.

Once you get started with your care-giver, it is important that you keep seeing them, and follow their instructions even when you are "feeling well". Most people slip back into their old, bad habits because they do not maintain their aftercare recommendations.

If you feel as though you have an addiction, or are just having everyday problems which are affecting your job and work, seek out professional help. Too many good brothers and sisters are losing their jobs and families because of addiction. Give us the chance to assist you. I am waiting for your call.....

Earl Schofield, CEAP, SAP, LAP-C (860) 568-0326 Machinist Union Hall—2nd Floor Office



Safety Is Everybody's Business

We hear that preached all over the shop and see it in all management distributions. But... does it apply to "ALL AREAS" of the shop? We want to believe it; but if you ask any F&S bargaining unit tradesmen, they could tell you some stories. Someone could tell you about "OPPI'S LAND--Two sides of Safety". It goes like this:

- 1) If you are a B.U. employee, and happen to cut yourself with your knife OPPI will take away all your knives and try to issue you a "Wooden Knife" if they could get away with it. Then of course they would report it and try to figure a way to hit you with a "**Cardinal Rule Violation**".
- 2) If you happen to have an accident while working and that results in "loss of production", you, my friend, are looking at disciplinary action and God knows what else.



Well that's one side of the story from OPPI'S LAND.

If you happen to belong to the **Army of Yellow Badge Mercenaries** that invade our shop to do tradesmen work everyday, *then the story changes:*

- 1) Have an accident, bleed all over the place and OPPI will get someone to clean up your blood, get you an ambulance and fix everything like it never happened. No contractor "hit" on the safety data base.
- 2) Tackle some dangerous work; do "ORAL" tailboard meetings; cause an arc flash; shut down part of one building, and stop production. Don't worry!!! OPPI won't even put in a Near Miss Report; even though the only thing you missed was knocking down power to the entire facility. OPPI will fix everything like it never happened. No contractor hit on the data base. That's the **OTHER** side of the story.

If **ANY OF OUR TRADESMEN BROTHERS** dare call a Union Safety Rep on the *mercenaries'* safety violations or puts in safety complaints on them, OPPI has an answer for them: "**IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS** what happens to **yellow badges.**" What are we to do, brothers and sisters, to correct this double standard?

Turn up the Heat on "**The Untouchables**"!!! Put in near misses; call your union safety Rep and file Safety Complaints; get contractor complaints put into the data base. Let's document the "Real DATA" on **The Untouchables'** record so they don't look on paper like the safest outfit amongst the mercenaries armies. Don't let "**Grandpa Nice**" buy you off with custom fit ear plugs!!



Call your Union; report it. We are here for you.



“WORKERS’ MEMORIAL DAY”

April 28th, 2008.

Good Jobs, Safe Jobs For All!

Deb Belancik



On April 28th, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers’ Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew the fight for safe workplaces. The toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths is enormous. Each year, thousands of workers are killed, and millions more are injured or diseased because of their jobs. April 28th is recognized also as an International Day of Mourning, to acknowledge the injured along with those no longer with us.

More than 3 decades ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, to ensure every worker the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make this promise a reality, winning protections that have saved hundreds of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries.

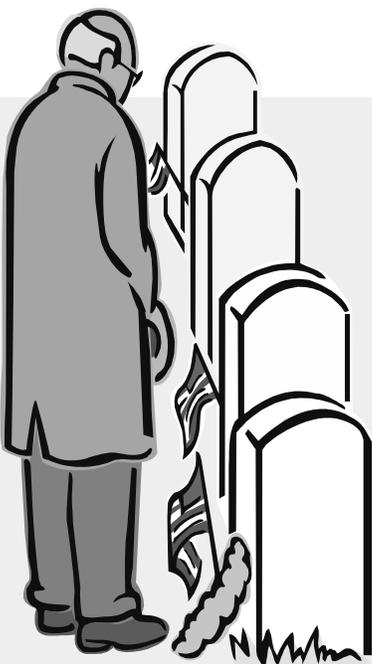
Our fight for safe jobs has gotten harder because for the last seven years, the Bush administration has refused to act. Instead, at the behest of corporate interests, the administration has moved to roll back and weaken protections. Progress has ground to a halt and may be reversing. Many workers have little or no protection, and major hazards remain unaddressed. This year, with the election, there is an opportunity to change the direction of the country and make workers’ safety a priority.

On Workers’ Memorial Day, we will continue that fight. We will fight to create good jobs in this country. We will continue to fight for health care for all, we will fight for the freedom of workers to form unions and, through their unions, to speak out and bargain for safe jobs, respect, and a better future. We will demand that the country fulfill the promise of safe jobs for all.

MOURN FOR THE DEAD. FIGHT FOR THE LIVING.

(Mother Jones)

(Continued, next column)



(Workers’ Memorial Day, cont.)

On Monday, April 28th, Connecticut will be celebrating Workers’ Memorial Day with 2 ceremonies, One in Groton at Washington Park at 6:00 am and one at the State Capitol in Hartford (North Capitol steps) at 12: noon. All are welcome to attend. With this said, take care and watch out of each other on and off the job. Your family and friends depend on it.



Food-share Walk **Against Hunger** **May 4th @ 1:00P.M.**

Local Lodge 1746 will once again be participating in this annual event and is looking for members to join our team. Our Team is ***IAM Local Lodge 1746***. The walk is only three miles and at your own pace.

This is a non-competitive event. Water, orange slices, and rest rooms are provided along the way. Every dollar raised purchases ten dollars worth of food for those in need. This benefits many of our surrounding communities, as well as deserving agencies. We encourage our walkers to donate to the John Driscoll United Labor Agency, but the choice is of course yours.

Please consider joining up and participating with your brothers and sisters from Local Lodge 1746. To sign up you can contact Howard Haberern @ pager 708-1355 or the Union hall @ 568-3000. Leave your name, clock number and phone number, or join up on the Food-share web site. The site is **www.foodshare.org**. Please sign up under team **“IAM Local Lodge 1746.”** For those of you who can not attend and want to donate, please do so by pledging to a fellow employee walker, calling the hall, or contacting ***Howard Haberern Pager: 860-708-1355*** Thank you in advance, and we look forward towards your participation.

Howard A. Haberern,
Chairperson IAM Local Lodge 1746

Community Services Committee



The Next Monthly Meeting is Sunday, April 13th at 11:00 am

Spring into action and grow at the meeting!



Friday, April 11 is the last night for dinners this season served at your **"MACHINST CLUB"**



Friday night from
4:00 to 8:00 PM

Dine in or Take Out
Call 568-4234-after 2:00pm



**Machinist Club Dinner Menu for Friday,
April 11th, 2008**

Fish & Chips: Donation, \$8.00

Prime rib: Donation, 15.00

***The Tony Lee Band
will be playing !***



EAP Corner

For IAM Local Lodge 1746:
P&W in
East Hartford and UTC
Power in South Windsor

*Please feel free to contact me
with any of your issues or concerns
and know that it will be
in total confidentiality.*

Cell: 203-444-0267

Pager: 860-708-4186

Lenny Ward

WEBSITES:

www.iamLL1746.org

www.iamdistrict26.org

www.goiam.org

www.shopunionmade.org



Please email your
announcements &
messages.

Items for the next issue
must be emailed by
May 1st, 2008.

localodge1746@snet.net



"Okay, we move the White House to Mexico...the Congress to Indonesia...the Supreme Court to Nigeria..."

Don't Forget to Wear RED on Fridays



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