

Local Lodge 1746

# insight

August 2006 Volume 9, Issue 8

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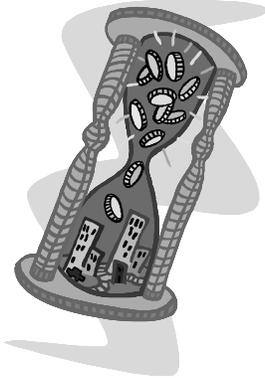
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## SSMO: ANOTHER POOR BUSINESS DECISION

Over the next couple of months the Occ Group 901 (Materials) jobs in SMMO will vanish in P&W's never-ending exodus from CT. The company is keeping it under the radar, but our members in SMMO know all too well that the jobs they have been trained for, become experts at, and made a career of are heading to Dallas. Some members will find similar jobs awaiting them in Middletown or Cheshire, but many will be forced to learn new jobs at different labor grades or be forced to work different shifts.

If you remember back three years ago when Kits and Spares moved to the Georgia Distribution Center you'll recall that the company couldn't even bring themselves to say "Georgia Distribution Center" let alone admit making a horrendous business decision. Anything negative was referred to as "customer pain and sales force anxiety" with customers being far from "DELIGHTED". Rumor has it that Pratt spent plenty of time in court with UPS over the Georgia fiasco. PWA has a bad habit of moving work from areas of high competency to areas that are suspect. Why would SMMO move to Dallas when the *number one customer is the overhaul center in Cheshire, CONNECTICUT?* It's simple...they can't do anything right but in spite of themselves they still make money...at the expense of customers, workers and taxpayers.

## UTC-Power Contract Preparations Continue

The IAM Negotiating Committee at UTCPower (Fuel Cells) will be meeting on August 23rd, for final preparations before presenting a Bargaining Proposal to the membership. The entire committee, along with leadership from both the Local and District offices, hopes to present a quality proposal to the membership. They have worked hard to come up with a proposal that directly reflects the concerns and feelings of the members at UTCPower.

Though some may feel that having a proposal begin to take shape means that the bulk of the work is complete, that is FAR from the case. This proposal must be presented to the membership in its entirety, discussed and VOTED on BY THE MEMBERSHIP, before it can truly be finalized. Only then will it be time for the real work to start: **NEGOTIATING WITH THE COMPANY!**

There isn't that much time left before we will be in full swing for this contract; we all know how quickly just a few short months will pass by. The next step in this process will be the discussion and ratification of the Negotiating Committee's proposal by the membership. Mark your calendars now for **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> at 1:00 pm.**

**BE THERE!!!**





## Cancer Study Information Update -August 2006

Lori Pelletier (Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO) set up a meeting in July with State Senator Edith Prague, Carol Shea (from *Worked to Death*) and I to discuss the Brain Cancer Study. Senator Prague was very concerned about the cancer study at Pratt and Whitney. We explained the project from when it first surfaced in Pratt's North Haven Facility and how it grew to encompass all the other Pratt sites, including Georgia and Florida. The study comprises about 250,000 workers employees that entered the workforce at Pratt & Whitney. The researchers have to break it down by areas of work / departments and job codes.

We gave Senator Prague the fact sheets from the study past and present. We also spoke on the Statute of Limitations on environmental / health and safety issues. This law needs to be revised and a new statute should be written to benefit workers and their families. This needs to be done through the Legislature's Labor Committee by concerned citizens. Carol Shea and I are coordinating efforts on this.

The statute now states that you have 2 years to file a claim for work place injury or illness. The problem is that if you hurt yourself in the work place you know **when** you did it and **how** you did it; but if you have an illness from environmental hazards you may not know exactly when the exposure occurred. By the time you find out, it could be too late and past the deadline to file a claim. If you are late just one day, they reject your claim. This happened to 71 people that had a glioblastoma multiform brain tumor. There are only 20 cases that can proceed forward for Workers' Compensation.

The study is ongoing and we hope to have some preliminary findings in late 2007 / 2008 time frame. Please feel free to contact me at any time for more information:

**DEB BELANCIK – 860-565-4766**

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: (More information will follow)**

**Pratt and Whitney Brain Tumor Study Annual Meeting.**

**Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006; 7:00p.m to 10:00p.m**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center...100 Berlin Road, Cromwell Ct.**



## DeLauro Tells Drive-Time Radio Listeners: Zero Tolerance for Gas Price Gouging

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (Conn.-3) today appeared on drive-time morning radio shows in the state to discuss the recent spike in gas prices. The price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas is now as high as \$3.55 in parts of the district. DeLauro told the listening audience that at a time when the major oil companies are enjoying record profits, we should have a zero tolerance policy for price gouging.

“At a time when the CEO of Exxon-Mobil is receiving a \$400 million golden parachute, it is imperative that the Congress investigate the possibility of price gouging by big oil companies,” said DeLauro. “With record gas prices on the horizon, American motorists deserve nothing less.”

Last week it was announced that Exxon-Mobil CEO Lee Raymond received a retirement package of \$400 million. This news follows an announcement by Exxon-Mobil that its revenue reached \$340 billion last year, a 25.5 percent increase over 2004, and had \$36.1 billion in profits, the most by any U.S. company in history.

DeLauro has introduced the Fuel Price Fairness Act (HR 4029), which would give the Federal Trade Commission that ability to investigate price gouging throughout the gasoline supply chain.

# United Way Bus Tours



To increase knowledge of the United Way and some of their agencies, there will be 2 bus trips for individuals interested in seeing first-hand how United Way donations help people in our communities. We have had tours this year for the United Way Campaign Cabinet, and other teams. This is an opportunity for others to witness and take back to their work areas, just how important participation by donating is to those in need.

The first tour will be on August 16, from 2-4 pm. Bus will leave from the PW Hangar at 2 pm. The second tour will be on August 17, from 8-10 am. Bus will leave the PW Hangar at 8 am. Seating is somewhat limited, and you will need approval from your supervision prior to attending.



## Other Important Dates for Campaign 2006

### Tuesday, September 5, 2006 Leadership Reception At Rentschler Field

If you donated at the Leadership levels last year, you will be invited to attend this early evening event. There will be guest speakers from United Way, and individuals that received services. Non-alcoholic beverages and food will be served.

### Day of Caring, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2006

This is the annual PWA event of hourly and salary employees assisting various agencies within our communities to help with needed maintenance and other jobs. The different sites are available on ISITE, or see your local Union representative, or supervisor, for more information.

### Fastbreak

Monday Sept. 11 at the Hangar area. This is the morning event where last year's Leadership Giver's meet the Presidents of PWA, and United Way, and other invited guests. Participants can make their 2006 donations on e-Way, and receive a bag lunch (breakfast). You may also use paper pledge forms if you prefer. Hourly folks are noticeably not participating, and are encouraged to attend.

### P&W Solicitation Period

The Solicitation of all PW employees is during the weeks of Sept. 11 thru the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hero Rooms with some laptops for e-Way pledges will be available. Paper forms will also be available. Refreshments are offered for participants, and gifts will be available, as usual. Donations may be made from home, or at the Union Hall via computer on e-Way, if desired also.



## UNION COLLECTION FOR NATIONAL GUARD IN AFGHANISTAN

The Union in East Hartford is also requesting donations for our soldiers serving overseas. There is a box available in the main Union hall to drop off articles. Please see your local union activist, or bulletin boards in the shop for more particulars, as many items should be non-perishables, or may be offensive in some countries.

Toiletries, batteries of all sizes, (appropriate) magazines, CDs or DVDs, coffee, tea bags and non-perishable food (canned tuna, Cup of Soup, Slim Jims, crackers,

# 2006 United Way Pratt & Whitney and Unions

By Earl Schofield



Regrettably, I begin these United Way articles with news of the passing of George Bahamonde, President and CEO of United Way of the Capitol area, on Thursday, July 20. George was vacationing in Maine, and suffered a heart attack. He would have been 61 on Aug 1, 2006. He led the United Way for Hartford since 1994; and it was George that invited me to join the Board of Directors in that same year. George came from a union family and always kept a special place in his heart for union folks. With his leadership, United Way amassed a dedicated and caring staff. Under his guidance, many important things came possible for those in need in our communities. George and I fished together on my boat on several occasions, and shared many private thoughts together concerning our community and labor. He was a true friend, and I, like so many others, will miss him deeply. You may not have known George Bahamonde, but if you met him once, you would know him as a friend.



On July 24, he was remembered by Congressman John Larson on the floor of the House. Among his comments: ***“What truly made George special was not just that he cared about the communities he served, he cared about each individual in those communities. He was a great friend to many and will be remembered for his quick smile, his wit, and his professionalism. He was always willing to share a laugh, talk baseball, or offer words of advice or encouragement. The Hartford area has lost a truly caring person and a quietly effective leader. However, George’s work will be carried on by those who believe in his vision that we can make each person’s life better.”*** We will proceed with his wishes, and continue to accomplish great things that make our communities so much better. What better way to continue George’s legacy than to support the United Way campaign in his honor.



## Company/Union United Way Partnership



To demonstrate more of the cooperative efforts in our campaign, we are making great strides in bi-partisan efforts. The Union Community Services Committee is more involved in this Campaign, and is demonstrating the commitments of our Unions in Community activities.

Our unions have been more involved in decision-making with the company. There will even be Campaign Cabinet level meetings held within each local lodge this year, which will afford our salary counterparts to see where we work, and find out some of our Community involvement over the years. The first such meeting will take place at the East Hartford Local (1746) on August 9. There is, and always has been a spirited mutual sense of cooperation in the United Way Campaign. This opportunity will demonstrate the commitment of both parties, and make this commitment more visible to everyone. Contact your local lodge community services representative in your department if you have further questions/concerns/comments.

## 2006 Poker Run



The Poker Run generated more than \$6770.00 this year, which is the highest amount ever, and the largest increase over the previous year. Thanks to everyone that made this event fun and generated so much money in support of the United Way. This includes the IAM Community Services Committee, Eures Food Services, P&W Facilities and Services, and the IFSOA and IAFF Unions. This event is hosted annually by facilities and services dept. under the leadership of Tom Reitsma, and Ron Oullette.





## Out of the Frying Pan...

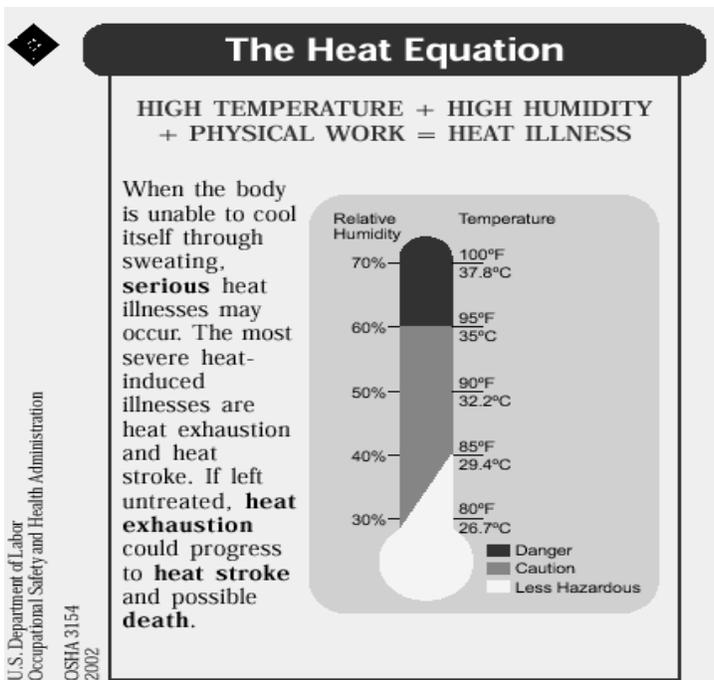
Look, if you work in the shop, no one has to tell you how hot it is, especially if you're in A, J, or L Building, where the heat indexes seem to hit the century mark on a daily basis. Maybe if you make pie charts for a living, it's easy enough to shut off your computer and go home when the announcement comes over the PA system to shut off all "non-essential electrical equipment". As for the rest of us, it's life in the **Sweat Shop**, in every sense of the word. It's vitally important to take care of ourselves and each other by drinking plenty of fluids and recognizing the warning signs of heat-related illness. Many shop areas provide water during periods of excessive heat, and sometimes it's even cold. Workers should

have a cool area available to them to take breaks, and breaks should be more frequent when the temperature rises. Heaviest work should be done in the coolest part of the day, and the buddy system should be used to keep an eye on each other. The following OSHA chart discusses heat-related illnesses, using the "**Heat Equation**":

According to this chart, we are in **danger** of heat-related illness when the temperature reaches 95° and the relative humidity is at least 60%. Signs of heat exhaustion include headaches, dizziness, irritability, confusion, nausea, vomiting, and pale-clammy skin. If someone is suffering from these conditions, move him or her to a cool area, remove any heavy clothing, cool the body with cool compresses, fanning, or spraying a light mist of water, and have the victim drink some water (unless they are sick to their stomach.) Heat stroke is a serious medical condition, signified by dry, red skin that is hot to the touch. Mood changes such as irritability and confusion may be present, as well as incoherency, seizures and fits, and unconsciousness. This condition requires medical attention immediately!

The question inevitably comes up: other Pratt buildings are climate controlled, why isn't East Hartford? The answer always comes back the same: money, to the tune of millions of dollars. But what about the **indirect costs** that the company suffers during these blistering days? What about lost productivity and quality? What about the company's EH&S Policy, which states; "*Pratt & Whitney will not be satisfied until its workplace is safe from hazards and its employees are injury-free.*" What does it say about Pratt's policy **when a significant portion of its workforce is routinely subjected to physical work for long periods of time in temperatures deemed dangerous by OSHA?** What is the true cost of a serious heat-related illness or fatality on the job, and how much more susceptible is our aging workforce to this risk?

Now that F, H, and South Production Test buildings are demolished (saving both tax and insurance money) is the idea of climate control really so far-fetched? Maybe over the years we've **lowered our expectations** to the point where *we're happy just to have the roof stop leaking on our heads.* What we really need is an **air-conditioned East Hartford facility** that reflects our "world-class" nature; one that can lead us forward well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.





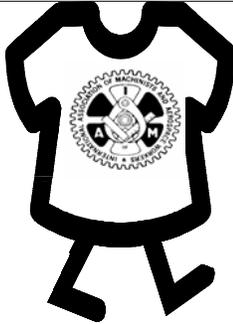
# “Next Monthly Meeting”

## August 13th at 11:00

Local Lodge 1746 would like to wish everyone and their families a safe and Happy Labor Day!



**RED FRIDAYS** The first thing a soldier says when asked, "What can we do to make things better for you?" is..."We need your support and your prayers!" Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, *by example; and wear some thing red every Friday.*



Lets show **SOLADARITY** with our troops united we stand IAM brothers & sisters:

**WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS!**

## More United Way Events

Local Union Members at UTC Power helped raise over \$600 for **United Way** at a car wash held in July.

The next United Way event at UTC Power is a **Silent Auction**, "coming soon".



**Save the Dates:**

**TMC – CT Repair Organization – DO/ME CAR SHOW** Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

**TMC – CT Repair Organization FASHION SHOW**, Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>



*Andy Gorski and Linda Kolpak*~Thank everyone for their support after the death of Andy's son Daniel Gorski. Everyone's support and concern was greatly appreciated.



## WEBSITES:

[www.iamLL1746.org](http://www.iamLL1746.org)

[www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)

[www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)

[www.shopunionmade.org](http://www.shopunionmade.org)

*We are looking for letters from you the members!*

Report your news, announcements or anything you would like to share!

Please email your announcements & messages. Items for the next issue must emailed by September 1st 2006.

[locallodge1746@snet.net](mailto:locallodge1746@snet.net)



## LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Taylor, President; James Bullock, Vice-President;

Bill Coney, Recording Secretary; Nancy Flagg, Secretary Treasurer;

David Batchelder, Conductor/Sentinel; Howard Huestis, Brad Chase, Ron Ouellette; Trustees

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