

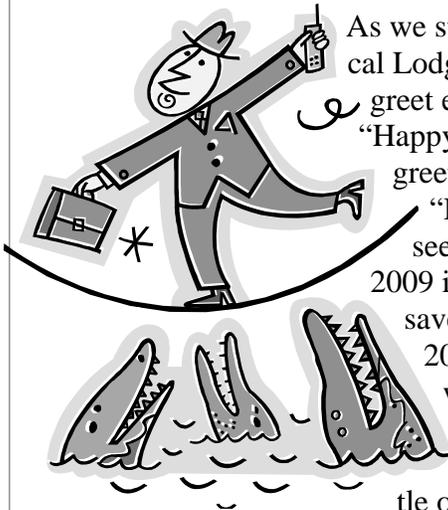
Local Lodge 1746

# insight

357 Main St.— East Hartford, CT. 06118 – Telephone: 860-568-3000

January 2010 Volume 1, Issue 13

## The Year of Living “Dangerously”



As we start 2010, we from Local Lodge 1746 would like to greet everybody with “Happy New Year” and other greetings. Is it really “Happy”? Well, let’s see, we finished the year 2009 in Court, fighting to save our Jobs. Now it’s 2010, and we continue with the court case to save the jobs here in CT. We resume battle on January 11th and

12th at the Bridgeport Federal Court Building after two days in December 2009 where we found out how the Company had planned the closings as early as the year before the announcement, last July 2009.

Whatever happens at the end of this trial is not going to be the end of the fight. We know how vindictive this company is! We also know that we’ll never give up and with that on the Horizon, is there more? Of course there is! We have another round of “Furlough Days” for this year. We have terminations, suspensions, warnings and other grievances on the arbitrator’s waiting list. We also have numerous disagreements with H.R. and their idea that they can refuse to arbitrate at will. Let’s see where that takes us? CARO’s management is already getting ready to surplus people into TMC for training. This Local Union has advised against it, since the trial is not over, and who will do the Job in CARO when we WIN. The Company is going ahead anyway because they believe that they have already WON.

Brothers and Sisters remember that this year the contract ends 12/05/2010, we must start getting ready and if necessary take action now for our future jobs. If you want Peace, you must prepare for War. The Company has already shown how they want to use an Iron

Fist approach and dispose of us as they see fit. This year is going to be very difficult to work in peace in the East Hartford Plant. Management with the Help of the H.R. gang will be disciplining; suspending; and terminating people for God only knows what excuse they will use.

- **Remain vigilant, do your Job and don’t engage in any discussions with supervision, the consequences could be very serious and you could end up outside with your grievance on the arbitration list.**
- **Always call your Shop Steward and let the Union represent you and state your case.**
- **Request copies of your employee record. This way you know what is in there.**

A warning that the Union had won for it’s removal, but the Company “Forgot “ to take out, could still be on your record! The Company will surely use it against you in the future.

Hamilton Sundstrand will have their contract negotiations this May, at that time we could get a glimpse of how bad UTC is coming after us. To be strong and survive, we must remain United. We could defeat all attempts against us. Another Year, another fight. Happy New Year 2010!!!!



## CT Congressional Delegation Calls on Obama to Halt Cheshire/ CARO Pratt Closings

In a joint letter to President Obama, the delegation took the unusual step of urging the president to become directly involved and “use every measure at your disposal” to block the decision by Pratt & Whitney to shutter the two factories and move many of the defense-related jobs to overseas locations. To read the full letter, click [http://www.goiam.org/publications/pdfs/12\\_07\\_2009\\_Pratt\\_POTUS\\_12\\_09.pdf](http://www.goiam.org/publications/pdfs/12_07_2009_Pratt_POTUS_12_09.pdf).

The letter was delivered to the White House as President Obama focused attention on the issue of joblessness across America. The CT delegation concurred with the urgency of the issue, stating: **“We believe that every effort must be made to preserve America’s industrial base.”** The delegation letter to the President was signed by both **Senator Dodd and Senator Lieberman, as well as Representatives Larson, Courtney, DeLauro, Himes and Murphy.**

**IAM District 26 has filed suit** in federal court to force Pratt & Whitney to abide by agreements to work with the Machinists Union on ways to keep work in Connecticut. Between the State of Connecticut and the IAM offers, Pratt & Whitney has more than suffi-



cient incentives to continue these operations here. **James Parent, chief IAM negotiator for UTC issues, stated:** “We are grateful to the Connecticut Congressional delegation for taking this extraordinary step. It shows that they understand that Connecticut cannot afford to absorb job losses of this size – there’s too much suffering out there already without needlessly adding more people to the unemployment rolls. Parent continued: “We urge the President to act on this request and reach out to UTC. The company needs to be reminded that taxpayers are among their biggest customers, and we don’t want to pay for corporations to throw people out of work and send jobs overseas. Especially during such hard times.”

The IAM will this week encourage its members and people across the state to get in touch with the White House, through its website or switchboard, to **urge President Obama to do whatever he can to help save these Connecticut jobs.** The White House website is <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>. The White House can be reached by phone at: 202-456-1111.

Source:

<http://www.goiam.org/index.php/territories/eastern/6536-president-urged-to-act-on-pratt-factory-closure>



### “Trial Update”

The lawsuit file by the Machinist Union against Pratt & Whitney is in the middle of the trial phase with the Union presenting its case before Judge Janet Hall in the Federal Courthouse located in Bridgeport. The Union

began presenting their case on

December 21 and 22 and the trial will resume on Monday January 11, continuing on January 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> if needed. At stake is the closure of Pratt & Whitney’s overhaul facility located in Cheshire as well as CARO, which is located here in East Hartford. Approximately 1000 of our member’s jobs are hanging in the balance and depend on the outcome of the case.

During the testimony Thomas Mayes, Pratt’s vice president in charge of jet engine overhaul facilities around the world stated that the Union workers had been coop-

erative and that their efforts had brought about an approximate 50 to 60% increase in on time delivery.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal continues to be a loyal ally for working people in the State of Connecticut and has filed brief in support of Machinist members calling Pratt and Whitney’s talks with the State and the Union a sham also stating that the company betrayed its moral and legal duties to its workers, and to the state.

To clarify where the company is coming from with their decision to close these two facilities Pratt’s president for commercial engines and global service, Todd Kallman, gave the most telling sign when he was asked by Union attorney Gregg Adler, “No amount of savings for one year would have changed the decision, correct?” said Adler. “Even if the union had come up with hard savings of \$53.8 million you still would have closed these facilities.” and he responded with one word. “YES!”

## **WISHES FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**From your District 26 E.A.P.**

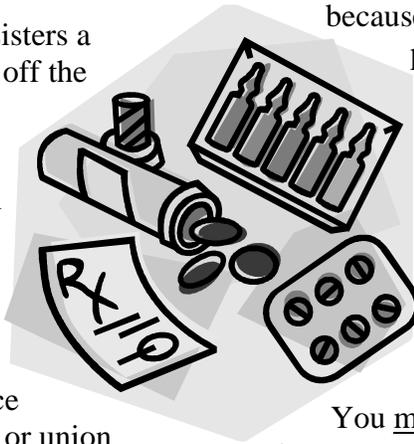
Wishing all my union brothers and sisters a safe and happy new year as we start off the year 2010!

The year 2009 brought a lot of stress, anxiety, and drug and alcohol problems. Some of the problems have been compounded by layoffs, and the looming threats of plant and departmental closings.

Many workers have sought assistance and advice from either the company or union EAP representatives. It has been a busy year for us, especially for those located within the Cheshire plant.

However, we are there to assist and guide you through these difficult times. In many cases, it simply involves answering some questions; at other times it might necessitate referral to an outside company or professional.

The important thing to remember, is to make that phone call before your problems become too big to



resolve easily.

The number of folks failing their FAA/DOT Drug and/or Alcohol test each month, has finally seen a major drop in volume. This is at last, a great thing, because it means less people losing their jobs, pay, or entire career occupation.

For those involved in the random pool there are some very important facts to remember:

If you fail a drug/alcohol test, you will be sent home without pay.

You can only fail 1 test; upon your 2<sup>nd</sup> failure, you will be terminated.

You must complete the SAP recommendations.

Even if marijuana is legalized, it is not permissible under the Federal laws/guidelines.

Your only prevention is abstinence. Call for assistance before you make it a matter of record.

*Earl Schofield,  
CEAP, LAP-C, SAP, NCAC-I  
District 26 Senior Union EAP  
(860-568-0326)*

## **Members at UTC Power Ratify New 3-Year Agreement**

Members at UTC Power overwhelmingly approved a new 3-year agreement on December 6 providing many improvements for our members working under that agreement. These were some tough negotiations during some tough economic times. The memberships threw their solid support behind the negotiating committee and as a result, the committee was able to negotiate a contract that they were able to recommend to the membership.

Highlights of the new three-year agreement include:

- 2.5% General Wage Increase in each year
- Increases in matched contributions to the 401K plan each year to a max of \$66, \$68 and \$70
- Increases in the unmatched contributions to the 401K each year to a max of \$125, \$150, and \$175

- Increased training benefit for laid off employees to \$3000
- \$1000 signing bonus
- \$5 dollar increase to the pension with a new max of \$55 dollars per month for each year of service.

While there are increased contributions and usage fees to the medical plan, the committee believed the package addressed the memberships concerns and needs.

*“Congratulations to our members at UTC Power, and to the negotiating committee “well done!”*





**The Next Monthly Meeting is**  
**January 10th @11:00 am**

**“We all need to be-aware of what’s going on, so let’s start the New Year with regular attending the monthly meetings!”**



**December 13, 2009 Election results**

**Connecticut State Council of Machinists:** Ben Belancik, Brad Chase, Juan Gelabert, John C Taylor, Geronimo Valdez  
**New England Conference of Machinists:** Bruce Hall, Howard Huestis, Jeff Santini  
**Local Lodge Audit Committee:** Howard Huestis

**The Machinist Club “Dinners”**

Will resume beginning Friday January 15, 2010  
 from 4 PM to 8 PM.

**Call 568-4234 to order**

Fish & Chips

Center Cut Pork Chops  
 w/ Potato and Veggies

Cheese Ravioli  
 w/ Meatballs

Meatball Grinder w/ Fries



**EAP Corner**

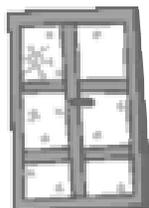
For IAM Local Lodge  
 1746: P&W in  
 East Hartford and UTC  
 Power in  
 South Windsor.

*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](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)



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

- ☺ Juan A. Gelabert [prezjuan1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net](mailto:prezjuan1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net)
- ☺ Rodney Conlogue  
[vp1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net](mailto:vp1746@l1746.comcastbiz.net)
- ☺ Denise Kniss [rs1746@l1746.comcastbiz.com](mailto:rs1746@l1746.comcastbiz.com)
- ☺ Nancy Flagg [st1746@l1747.comcastbiz.net](mailto:st1746@l1747.comcastbiz.net)



**Let's all Stand together in Solidarity!**

**LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

**President** Juan Gelabert; **Vice President** Rodney Conlogue; **Denise Kniss**, Recording Secretary; **Nancy Flagg**, Secretary Treasurer;  
**Roy Chambers**, Conductor/Sentinel; **Trustees:** Jeff Santini, John Spinelli and Tom Wheeler

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

**Juan Gelabert**, Linnea DeManche-Editor, layout and design.  
**Mike Stone**, Deb Belancik, Jose Carranquinha,  
**Earl Schofield**, and **George Rogers**