

Local Lodge 1746

insight

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

March 2007 Volume 10, Issue 3

Inside
Issue

Cover Story

*Ham/Sun
Court Ruling*

Page 2

*Contract awareness &
cost of living in CT
charts*

Page 3

*Weingarten Rights
Healthcare message*

Page 4

*Workers Comp
Reminder*

Page 5

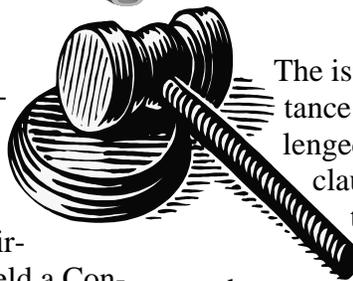
*Cancer Update
Political issues
Wear Red on Fridays*

Page 6

*Announcements:
Committee members
Websites*

IAM Wins Connecticut Court Ruling on Arbitration

Members of Local 743 employed at Hamilton Sundstrand in Windsor Locks, CT won a key victory recently when the Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Connecticut District Court's decision compelling arbitration of a grievance filed by the Local.



The issue took on added importance when the company challenged the contract's arbitration clause, arguing its right to transfer work was beyond the scope of the contract and beyond the authority of any arbitrator. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed, finding that the contract "contemplates an ongoing good faith cooperative process to jointly address potential problems impacting job security."

In 2005, Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation, a division of United Technologies Corporation, announced it was transferring bargaining unit work out of state, a move that would result in the permanent loss of 77 members' jobs. The company decision came despite contract language requiring the company to share plans regarding "manufacturing costs, productivity, scheduling, business and staffing plans affecting the bargaining unit."

Thanks to the Appeals Court ruling, Local 743 will now be able to arbitrate this grievance, and hopefully ensure that Hamilton Sundstrand will comply with the collective bargaining agreement now and in the future. Arguing the case for the IAM was labor attorney Mary Kelly, daughter of the late GLR Paul Kelly.

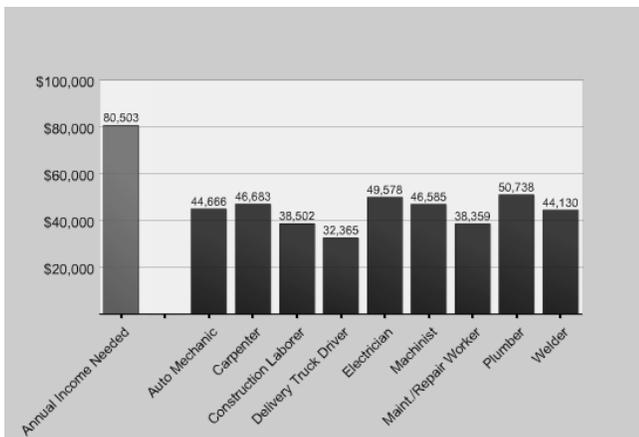


Contract Expires in 9 months! Don't wait too late!

We need to start thinking about our contract. Members at UTC Fuel Cells had some changes in their new contract. The most significant changes pertained to Health Care benefit costs. Plan on the company trying to increase our health care benefits costs here at Pratt & Whitney also. Another issue is wages. Without a good cost of living increase it will be hard to survive in Connecticut. The increased cost of fuel, heating oil and food makes it more challenging to make ends meet! These are some of the major issues.

Wages and the Cost of Housing in Connecticut

When it comes to the health and vitality of America's and Connecticut's communities, affordable housing is key. If we can't afford to pay our gas, heat electricity, food and insurance because our housing expenses are too high, then no matter how good of job we have it will not be enough. Below is a link that shows how living paycheck to paycheck can affect a person and how much a person would have to make just to live here. It is amazing! IAM members have a good-paying jobs, or so we think! Look at the charts below and see how much a person has to make to afford to either rent or own a home in Connecticut.



COST OF HOME OWNERSHIP AND ANNUAL WAGES IN CONNECTICUT, HARTFORD AREA. 2006 MEDIAN PRICE HOME: \$235,000

ORGANIZING:

UTC has been slowly but surely outsourcing our jobs overseas and to other states. Manufacturing jobs have been diverted overseas before, but now even the high tech jobs are leaving. Some of jobs in the high tech areas have been going to countries like India and Poland. Where does it end? Outsourced or off shored, downsized or laid off most of these jobs are gone forever. We need to organize now!!

Organizing

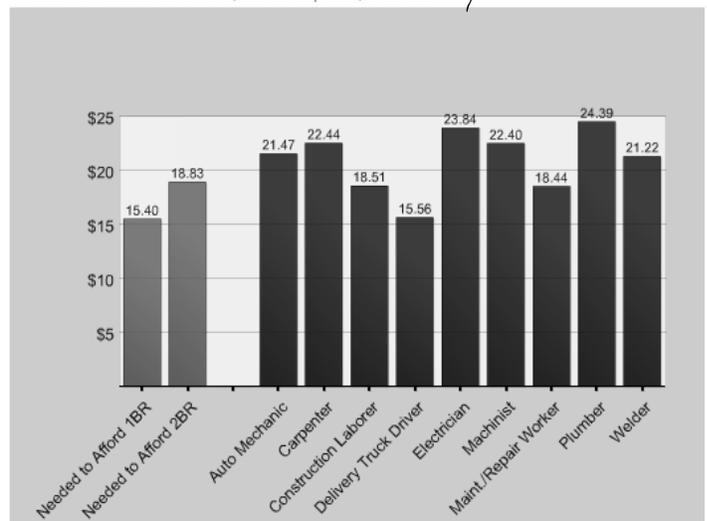
Organizing is a good way to Defend our Jobs. Our future contracts depend on more of our members in each industry gaining power at work. As each bargaining unit works towards an industry leading contract, each contract improvement leads to an increase in the contract at the next company, creating a constant cycle of improvement for working families. Now is the time we need to all stick together and decide what the needs and expectants are going to be for our new contract. What if we have to go on strike to ensure our futures? Are we ready?

Let's show solidarity and organize now before it's too late!!!



Rental Market

2006 Fair Market Rent: 1BR \$801/month, 2BR \$979/month



RENTS & HOURLY PAY; HARTFORD, CT WAGE & RENTAL DATE FROM 2006

Weingarten Rights

Intro: In 1975, in NLRB v. J. WEINGARTEN, INC., 420 U.S. 251 (1975), the U.S. Supreme Court announced the rights of employees in the presence of union representatives during investigatory interviews. Since that case involved a clerk being investigated by the Weingarten Company, these rights have become known as Weingarten rights. **Summary:** When management begins to ask you questions that could lead to your being disciplined, you don't have to face it alone. If you have a reasonable belief that answers you give could be used by the supervisor to discipline you, the U.S. Supreme Court says you can refuse to answer any questions until the union steward is on the scene and has had a chance to talk things over with you first.

It's your right to have the steward present during the questioning to advise you, ask supervisors for clarifications, and provide additional information at the end of the session. The employee subject to the interview must reasonably believe that the investigatory interview will result in disciplinary action. A meeting called by the employer for the purpose of informing the employee of the imposition of discipline already decided, is not an interview subject to Weingarten rights.

CLIP AND SAVE!!!

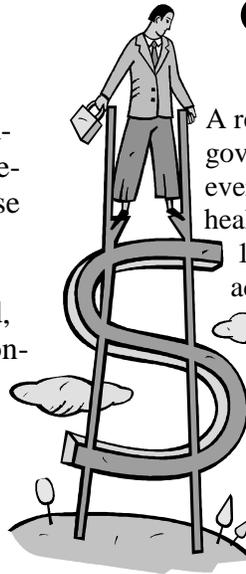
WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or have any effect on my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union steward, representative or officer be present at this meeting. Without union representation, I choose not to participate in this discussion.



Healthcare Movement Gaining Momentum

By Joe Durette

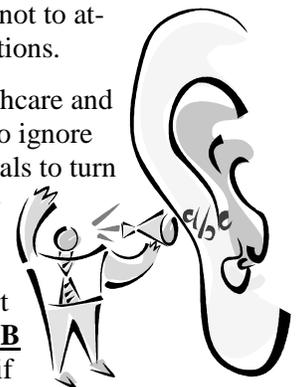


A recent Quinnipiac poll asked if it was “the government's responsibility to make sure that everyone in the United States has adequate healthcare.” The results were a staggering 2 to 1 margin in favor of either state or federal administration of a universal healthcare plan (64% in favor to 31% against). Even when the prospect of paying taxes for such a plan was raised in the poll, a clear majority (53% to 42%) still supported the notion of health care for all.

Last week, at a forum in Manchester on the single-payer healthcare bill and local residents were invited to relate their own healthcare nightmares to a host of state representatives, headlined by Sen. Mary Ann Handley. Neighbors and relatives related stories of the quandaries they faced, of tough choices between bankruptcy and illness and the daily financial and medical risks they face due to lack of proper medical coverage.

Dr. Larry Deutsch, a pediatrician from Willimantic, and Dr. Jim Russell, Professor of Sociology at ECSU, reported on the bleak condition of current U.S. healthcare: 47 million Americans live without medical insurance; 18,000 people die each year due to lack of insurance; the World Health Organization ranks the U.S. 37th in overall healthcare despite spending the most money of any country in the world. Rep. Tom Kehoe disclosed that a relative of his could not afford a mammogram and ultimately died from breast cancer. Rep. Jack Thompson reiterated his 20 years of support for universal healthcare, while Rep. Henry Genga and Sen. Handley pledged their support by signing the Institute of Medicine Principles. Notably absent were Reps. Michael Christ and Chris Stone, who chose not to attend or even respond to their invitations.

Every year we spend more on healthcare and get less in return. We can't afford to ignore the issue or allow our elected officials to turn a deaf ear to our needs. The time to act is now. LL1746 urges you to call your state senators and representatives and tell them you support the single-payer healthcare bill, SB 1371. We need everyone involved if we are going to overcome the disastrous status quo. The greatest country in the world deserves the greatest healthcare as well.



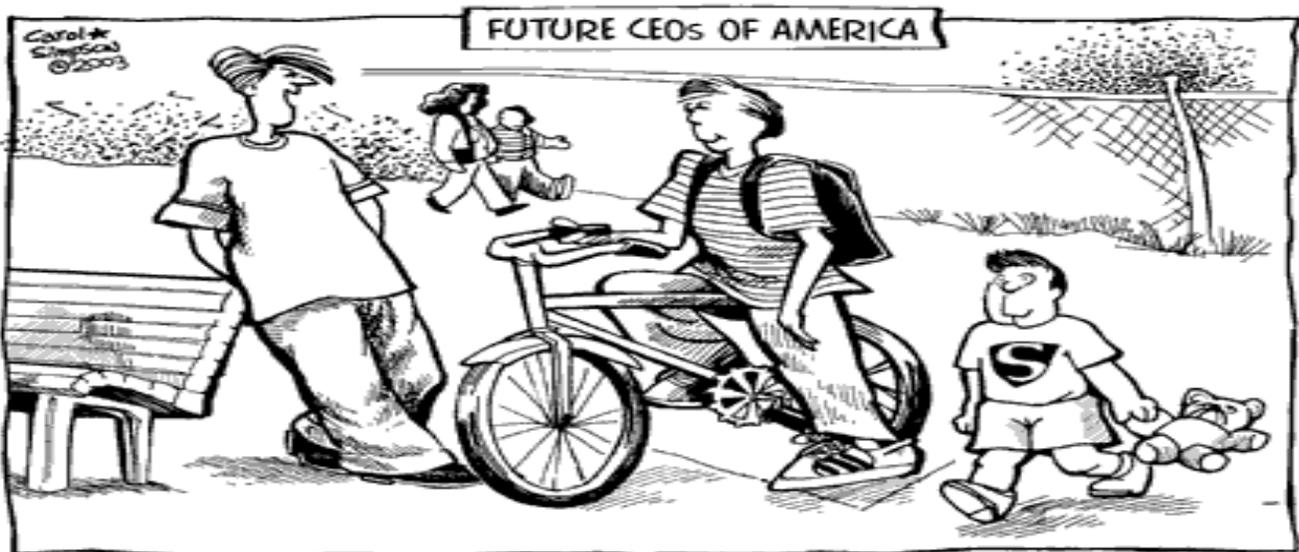
Workers' Compensation Reminder

Below are a few simple steps that you should follow if you ever are injured at work:

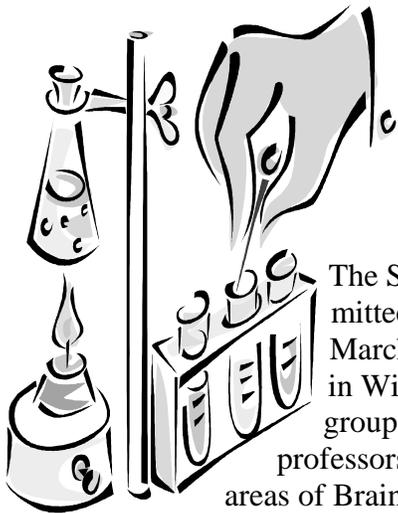
- 1] Tell your supervisor and try to have a witness there when you talk to him/her. Also ask to go to plant medical to report your injury.
- 2] Once you have reported your injury to plant medical, ask to see the PPO list for Workers' Compensation to get names of specialists that handle your type of injury. (UTC Power/Fuel Cells does not have a PPO list). You may want to get your Primary Care Physician to recommend someone. If medical refuses to let you see the PPO list, make sure to notify **the UNION HALL** (568-3000) as soon as you can.
- 3] You have a right to see a doctor of your choosing from the PPO list, once you have received initial treatment and evaluation from plant medical. For those at UTC Power/Fuel Cells, make sure the doctor that you see is in the **State of Connecticut**. They don't have to cover out of state doctors, *even if the claim is recognized*.
- 4] You **do not** have to accept treatment from plant medical *beyond the initial reporting*. You **do** have to keep them informed of your medical situation.
- 5] According to the Workers' Compensation laws in Connecticut, in order for your claim to be officially reported you **MUST FILE A "FORM 30-C" within one year of your injury.** Your Union Business Representative can help you fill out this form or you can get them from the Workers' Compensation office.
- 6] If you receive a **Voluntary Agreement (VA)**, a four page form which is currently green in color, sign it and return immediately. The VA is supposed to be issued whenever there is any lost time in a *recognized claim*.



Please contact IAM Business Representative Steve Merrick with any questions-568-3000.



"I know. Let's go beat up some kid whose parents can't afford medical insurance."



Cancer Research Update

By: Deb Belancik

The Scientific Advisory Committee will be meeting on March 14, 2007 at the Marriot in Windsor Ct. The advisory group consists of doctors, professors and specialists in the areas of Brain Cancer and neurology.

Sheldon Samuels is on the committee, recommended by Mike Flynn, Director of Safety and Health from the IAMAW.

There is progress being made. I have gathered up Material Safety Data Sheets from coolants, metal cutting fluids, coating powder, solvents and other chemicals that were used and are still being used in processes. This also includes any biocides that were put into coolants to keep the bacteria and odor low. The advisory group will go over what we have done so far to date. I will update this as information becomes available.

Women's Issues + Family Issues = Political Issues

There are several versions of the Family Leave Bill that will be on board during Connecticut's current General Assembly Session. I sent in testimony about how unpaid family leave burdens the people that have to take care of illnesses, eldercare or other family emergencies. This should be a paid leave, even if only for 2 weeks as a start.

Women's health issues are also in the sights of law makers. We would like to see paid mammograms for the women who have no-or inadequate-insurance coverage. We need to get some legislation on board with this. There are children's health issues that need to be addressed as well. There is a need for specialized education for children with disabilities. As a group, we must not let these children fall through the cracks in Connecticut. Remember...we are still the wealthiest state in the USA, by per capita income.

These issues concern men as well...Many are caretakers for children, parents or grandparents. You get the picture.

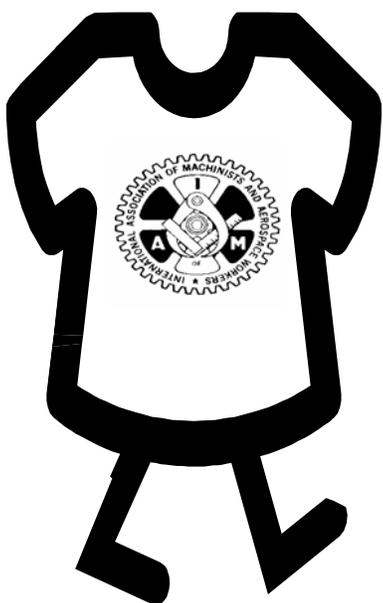


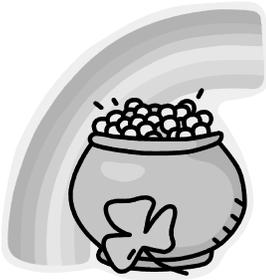
RED FRIDAYS

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 something red every Friday.*

Lets show **SOLADARITY** with our troops. United We Stand, IAM brothers & sisters.

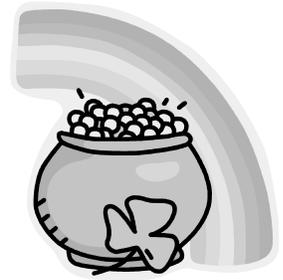
WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS!





The Next Monthly Meeting is
March 11th at 11:00 am

Luck of the Irish to You!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



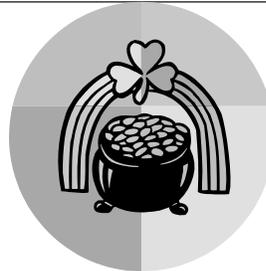
Elections for LL 1746 **P&W Negotiating Committee** (5 positions).
Wed. March 14, 2007; Union Hall.
Polls open from 6:00am-8:00pm.

Grinders will be available at the Machinist Club, from at 11am throughout lunch, as well as after work. Also available during 2nd Shift dinner hours. Call 568-4234 to order.

Shop Steward Elections will be held on Wed, March 21st, at the Union Hall. Polls open from 6am-8pm. Please see shop bulletin boards for more details, and if your area has a Stewards' Election.



Please email your announcements & messages. Items for the next issue must emailed by April 1st, 2007.
localodge1746@snet.net



WEBSITES:

- www.iamLL1746.org
- www.iamdistrict26.org
- www.goiam.org
- www.shopunionmade.org

March 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

9 Months Until New Contract

Last Month for Club Dinners

Every Friday Night at the Machinists Club. Take out orders are available, portions are BIG and the price is right..

To Order: Call 860-568-4234 after 2:00pm

Call Early... to ensure availability!

Weekly Menus are posted in the shop and at the Union Hall.



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

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Dave Batchelder-Editor, Linnea Demanche-Co-Editor, layout and design. John Taylor, Joe Durette, Gerry Martin, George Rogers, Earl Schofield, Deb Belancik & John Peretta