

Local Lodge 1746

insight

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

March 2008 Volume 11, Issue 3



Letter 22-Roundtrip or “One-Way?”

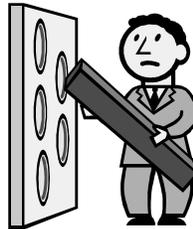
The third Tuesday of every month is a special day for Local Lodge 1746. It's Letter 22 day! The company is supposed to supply data and meetings are scheduled to discuss the vending of work. The format for indirect workers, only recently incorporated into Letter 22, has not been established yet. We are asking for a scheduling of meetings and the development of a process to enforce the contractual intent for the indirect workers. Development Operations, we find, has not had a Letter 22 process. The company says they don't have regular work “presently and normally manufactured by employees in the bargaining unit.” This is a problem and we'll be working to fix it.

The day begins with CANMC and the recently installed Manager Jeff Smith. Among the numerous topics was the vending of coatings work to West Palm Beach, Florida. The response from Mr. Smith; “It's not on the list because they are part of us and they are Union (IAM) too.” Local Lodge 1746 is responsible to enforce our Collective Bargaining Agreement for our dues paying members! Work sent to Florida is considered vended work because it is work we “presently and normally manufacture.” When the Industrial Relations Representative saw the Union's reaction, she said, “We'll take that discussion offline.” That's code for maybe Mr. Smith forgot what he was supposed to say.

Next on the agenda is Hollow Fan Blade and the good news is that the new ETOPS Furnace is being installed and is scheduled to start debugging around mid-March. This news is dampened by the fact that the work generated by this new equipment will be absorbed by “cold-side” workers coming over to the “hot-side.” The company is already into the process of off-loading “cold-side” work. Also slated for HFB is the ability to do Sonic Inspection here in East Hartford. This has been a

Letter 22 issue for at least 8 years and the projected date-April 1, 2008...April Fools' Day. (I can't make this up!)

Repair Operations came up next and they had just had voluntary furloughs in January due to delivering high volume in December and an interruption in parts coming to the shop. The dialog was limited here because some of the major players on the company's side were excused. An issue in EHRO is the “Capacity Center,” where parts are routed from our shop to a vendor. The company's proposal? Assign an hourly inspector to go to the vendor! Why not keep the parts here and work them here? Another issue was vending 4 pieces because the hoist could not lift the weight of the part! CARO continues to have a multitude of problems from mismanagement and an inability to develop processes such as EDM and coatings.



For the grand finale, we met with management from TMC. To their credit they did absorb some of the surplus from CANMC by filling the vacancies left by the Voluntary Separation Option. TMC still has numerous issues to deal with regarding Letter 22. They are getting away from Aluminide coatings to get more of the “higher tech” work, but that process will have to be monitored. The EDM shaped holes for some reason has been an ongoing problem and the Union proposed some possible solutions. A notable dispute arose when the Union found that the hourly function of calibrating CMM's was being absorbed by a vendor onsite. Our statement to the company was: **this is unacceptable.**

So round and round it goes and wherever the Union suggests adding to the workforce here in East Hartford, the company pushes back. Just because we may act paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get us! We will continue the fight and develop a Letter 22 process that is more systematic and responsive to our member's needs.

By John Cloutier, President

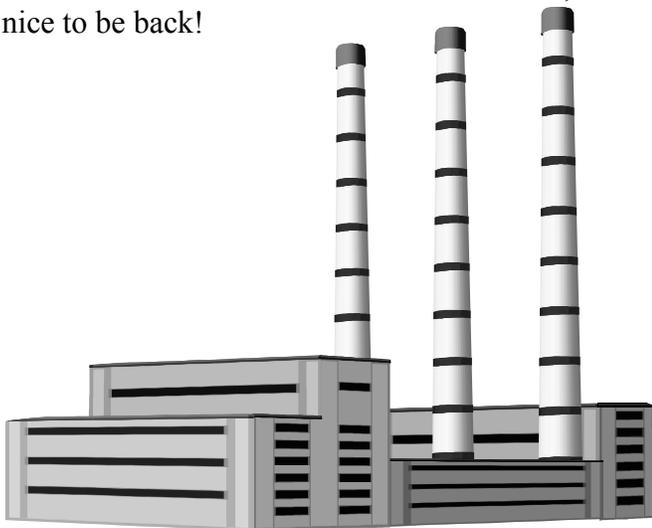
An Update from UTC Power

By George Rogers



With the first quarter of 2008 well underway at UTC Power in South Windsor, the bargaining unit finds itself in a much improved position from that of the past couple of years. Not that last year was all that bad mind you; things were definitely on the upswing then. 2008 finds this bargaining unit running at a head count of close to 150, including last year's additions to Occupation Group 642 (Fuel Cell Mechanic) and this year's long needed additions to the trades, with some more in the works.

The continuing work on UTC Power's PC 50 fuel cell power plant development project has things moving at a hectic pace in the Bidwell Road building. Delivery of new equipment, newly designed components and an aggressive roll-out schedule for the year promises plenty of challenges for everyone. At the same time, PEM technology continues with equally aggressive plans on bus development and the S-80 program, each of which face their own sets of challenges. These endeavors will keep the main building at Governors Highway hopping as well. These are large scale development projects looking toward production implementation that will challenge and push us all. But heavy work loads and challenges are things we are familiar with. It may have been a while since we've been there, but it's nice to be back!



Union Safety Committee Appointments

Union president John Cloutier has recently appointed new Safety Representatives:

- ☺ Chief Union Safety Representative:
- ☺ **Rodney Conlogue**
- ☺ Assistant Chief Union Safety Representative:
- ☺ **Juan Gelabert**
- ☺ 1st Shift Safety Representatives:
- ☺ **Dan Langlois and Jose Carranquinha**
- ☺ 3rd Shift:
- ☺ **Paul Koretz Sr.**

There will more appointments made soon for both first and second shift, to meet the number that the contract allows and to better serve the members.

Local Lodge 1746 would like to thank Mike Healy for all his time spent representing our membership as Union Safety Representatives, and also to wish him the very best in his future endeavors.



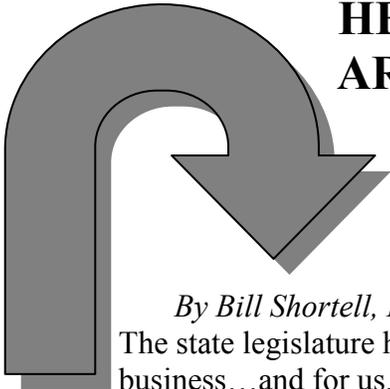
CHEST X-RAYS

By Steve Merrick



1986 – Doesn't seem that long ago does it? One of the things that happened at Local 1746 was the Mobile X-Ray Trailer from Yale-New Haven was set up on several occasions in front of the Union hall to take chest X-

Rays. I believe this was due to concerns over asbestos exposure. During a remodeling of the Union Hall, a box filled with chest X-Rays turned up. They are identified by Social Security numbers on the film. If you believe that you had an X-Ray taken and would like yours, please contact Business Representative Steve Merrick to make arrangements. In looking at the names, some are retired and some are on salary. You can still get your X-Ray by contacting Steve, provided that we have it. You will be required to sign a release that you received it.



HELP TURN AROUND THE HEALTH- CARE CRISIS

By Bill Shortell, Local 700

The state legislature has just opened for business...and for us, too. Every year more of us have no health insurance, and the rest of us are paying more. This is the year to do something about it.

TAXES AND UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

We have an opportunity to gain ground on both the issues. We call it "Pooling."

This means putting all public employees in Connecticut into one big health insurance pool...saving tens of millions of dollars. Right now every one of the 169 towns and cities in CT have their municipal employees in one or more small "pools" for group health insurance. ***The smaller the pool, the higher the premiums.***



All state employees are already in one pool, with about 200,000 workers and dependents. They have a good plan with good benefits, at a much lower cost than any of our towns are paying.

State Rep Chris Donovan, the Majority Leader from Meriden, has been taking a traveling road show to many of the towns in

the state. He has looked at the costs to our towns and showed that Meriden, for example, **would save \$2 million a year by folding its workers into the state pool.** That's \$2 million our town governments could use for education or fire departments, or just to hold the line on rising property taxes.

State law needs to be changed to do this. The insurance companies hate the idea. They are the ones

who will have to cough up those savings. There are also bureaucrats in some of our cities who want to keep high-paying jobs that control these little pools.



TIME TO CHIP IN

We are asking all our members to contact their State Representatives and Senators to vote for the Pooling Bill. Your local Legislative Committee will be meeting soon to put together a strategy to get the job done. Members are: Juan Gelabert, Carl Hervieux, Geronimo Valdez, David Batchelder John Perretta and Bruce Hall. Talk to us. Help us plan. Your Stewards and officers will soon be contacting you on what you can do to help.

WHAT IS UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE?

Pooling is a big step toward a system where everybody in Connecticut, then the whole US is in one big pool. No one left out. Costs driven down. Millions of people all over are involved in making this happen. All candidates for office have to talk about it, and so does Pratt and Whitney.

A GOOD CHANGE IN THE CONTRACT

Hundreds of you filled out cards last fall. They helped the company see the light and agree to a joint union-management committee to explore the benefits of Universal Healthcare. Our first meeting was held on Feb 19, and pooling was on the agenda.





March is Women's History Month

By Deb Belancik

Women's History Month started in the United States to honor the contributions of women to events in history. March has been set aside for this occasion.

Women's History Month actually traces back to the first International Women's Day celebrated in 1911. In 1981, responding to a growing popularity of the event, congress passed a resolution making Women's History Day a national holiday. This was well received, and soon after, schools across the country began holding their own local celebrations. The next year, leaders from a California group shared their project at the Women's History Institute at the Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants not only became determined to begin their own local Women's History Week projects, but also agreed to support an effort to have congress declare a National Women's History Week.



In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland) co-sponsored the first congressional Resolution proclaiming a "Women's History Week". Soon other state departments of education began to encourage celebrations of a National Women's History Week as a way to promote equality among sexes in the classroom. With the support and the encouragement from governors, city councils and school boards the US Congress legally expanded from the week-long focus to a whole month in 1987. Since then the Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support both in the house and the senate.



One famous woman comes to mind; Mary Harris Jones also known as "Mother Jones". She had many hardships in her life, losing a husband and four children in 1867 in Memphis to yellow fever. Her husband was an active part in his union, the Iron Molders Union in 1861. Then moving to Chicago, she set up a seamstress shop and it was burned down along with her home in the Chicago fire in 1871.



After the fire in 1871, Mother Jones became a full time Trade Union Organizer, specializing in helping miners to fight for decent wages and improved working conditions and to end child labor. She began making speeches, recruiting members, and organizing soup kitchens and women's auxiliary groups during strikes. After the formation of the United Mine workers Union in 1890, Jones became one of its officials. Mary Jones who was in her 60s, was always affectionately called "Mother Jones" by other trade unionists. There is so much fabulous and fascinating reading on Mother Jones and her victories for unionism and workers. There is also much solidarity and compassion in her soul for all workers.

In 1925 Mother Jones published her autobiography. She defiantly wrote, "In spite of oppressors, in spite of false leaders, the workers continue onward. Slowly his hours are shortened, slowly his standard of living rises to include some of the good and beautiful things in life. Those who create the wealth of the world are permitted to share it. The future is in labor's strong, rough hands." Other notable quotes of Mother Jones include:



"Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living"
"Sit down and read. Educate yourself for the coming conflicts"
"My address is like my shoes. It travels with me. I abide where there is a fight against wrong"



District 26 EAP Office Has Moved!

By Senior Union EAP Coordinator Earl Schofield

For the past 8 years my office has been in the basement area of the Machinist Building.

I have moved, and now occupy a new office area on the 2nd floor. This move will allow a lot more confidentiality when meeting with clients who wish to see me for any reason.

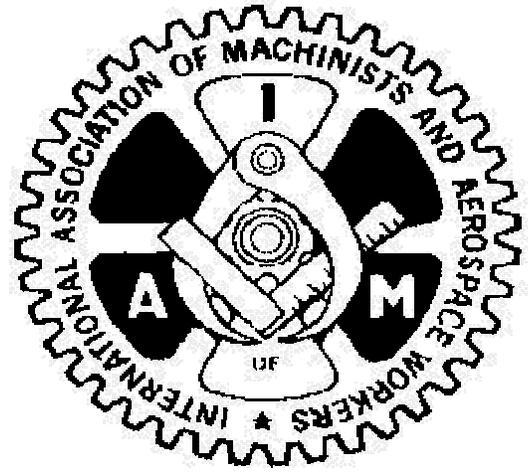
I have my credentials as a Certified Employee Assistance Professional (CEAP), Substance Abuse Professional (SAP), and Certified Labor Assistance Professional (LAP-C). These credentials are recognized by the company, government, and external treatment providers including Value Options Company. These credentials allow me to provide you with professional services, on a short-term basis free of charge. I also am recognized as a Certified AFL-CIO Union Counselor.

All cases and situations are handled with extreme confidentiality. Your records are accessed by no one but me, unless you permit it in writing. Even at this point, only pertinent information is granted.

I have been working mainly as a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) for those in the FAA/DOT drug program here at P&W; a service that is provided entirely free of charge by myself in this capacity. However, I also meet with, and refer, clients that might have mental health issues, or financial, or various other problems that might be affecting you at work.

Whatever your problem or situation, I will do my best to help you resolve it where possible.

My new phone number is (860) 568-0326, and an answering machine is available for after normal business hours. I am usually in the office 7AM- 5PM. Please call ahead for a meeting.

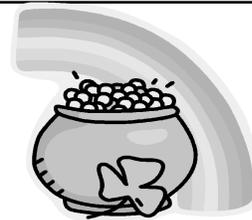


SHOP STEWARD ELECTIONS
Will Be Held On
Wednesday, March 19th
At The Union Hall From 6am until 8pm
(No Absentee Ballots)





The Next Monthly Meeting is
March 9th at 11:00 am
 May Luck be to those who be there!



Dinners are being served at your
"MACHINST CLUB"
 every
 Friday night from
 4:00 to 8:00 PM
 Dine in or Take Out



Machinist Club Dinner
 Menu for Friday, March 7, 2008
Fish & Chips: Donation, \$8.00
Kielbasa & Kraut: Donation, \$7:00
Cheese Ravioli & Meatballs: Donation \$6.00
Meatball Grinder & Fries: Donation \$6.00



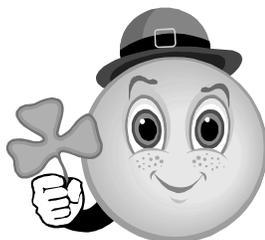
Enjoy NASCAR on the big screen at the Machinist Club
 every Sunday during race season.
 Come in, relax, shoot some pool, play darts or just chill out!!!



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 April 1st, 2008.

locallodge1746@snet.net



Don't Forget to Wear RED on Fridays



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