

# insight

May, 2005

Volume 8, Issue 5

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

## Hiring at P&W



With the bulk of our workforce over 50 years old, it's nice to see the company starting to hire younger workers to carry on our tradition of building *the best jet engines in the world*. Additions to the head count have, or will be taking place in all the manufacturing areas in East Hartford. Most of these additions are a direct result of increased volume. A second reason for the employment increases is because many of our senior members will be

leaving at the end of the year, because of the Special Severance Program (SSP) negotiated last fall. 200 senior members will be leaving the bargaining unit, with a replacement of at least seventy five percent called for in the contract.



Those of us who have lived through the downsizing of the 80's and 90's remember that when people went out the door, for whatever reasons, they weren't replaced. When Louie Chenevert asked the Negotiating Committee to open the contract early in 1998, he expressed great concern with the demographics of the workforce. The age was getting up there, and the company wanted to offer a "great retirement package" so they could start bringing in some young blood. That didn't happen in 1998 but it seems to be happening now. The workforce is 7 years older now... and something had to give.

It's refreshing to see the hiring, it's refreshing to see young people in the plant. We urge our new bargain-

ing unit members to join the IAM, and to attend our union meetings.

**Our Monthly Meeting will be held this Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at**

**11:00am.** Monthly meetings are usually held the Second Sunday of each month.

Also, weekly meetings are held every Monday for Stewards, activists and interested members at 2:00pm & 4:00pm. You are welcome to attend any of these meetings as well.

Become involved in your union and become involved in the process. Good union manufacturing jobs were plentiful in our country at one time. Corporate greed and the global economy have caused many of these union manufacturing jobs to be sent out of the country. When good manufacturing jobs disappear, they're usually replaced with low wage service jobs, if at all. Our young brothers and sisters will be part of the fight to regain our country's leadership in manufacturing.

Some of our new members will be here for a short time, and some will make a career working for UTC. We encourage you to take full advantage of all the benefits available. Your 401K, educational assistance, medical and other benefits are there for you. Be sure you know what is available and use them to benefit you and your families.

The staff at *insight* joins the Officers and Members of IAM Local 1746 in welcoming all new bargaining unit employees.

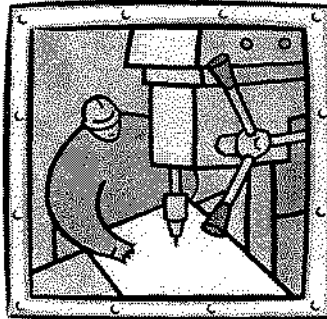
We urge you to get involved with  
**Your Union.**



## “No Work” at J T Slocomb

There has been continuous downsizing at J T Slocomb since Jake Limato, the former plant manager died a couple of years ago. While we hate to equate workload with any one individual, it is clear that Jake was the individual that kept work in the shop.

The remaining jobs at J T Slocomb are in real danger of elimination. While the leadership of Local 1746 and District 26 have tried to assist management in getting some work in the plant, the members need to **take care of Number One**.



At a recent meeting, management laid off the remaining Slocomb bargaining unit for two weeks, with hope of getting more work in the plant. Shop Steward Don O'Connor told the membership that Pratt & Whitney was hiring, and if they brought their resume to the union hall President Stone would get that resume into the right hands. To date only one member has done so.

**Take care of Number One:** if you work at JT Slocomb and are interested in a job at Pratt & Whitney, they are hiring, and you may have skills they are looking for.

Bring your resume to the union hall and it will be forwarded to Pratt.



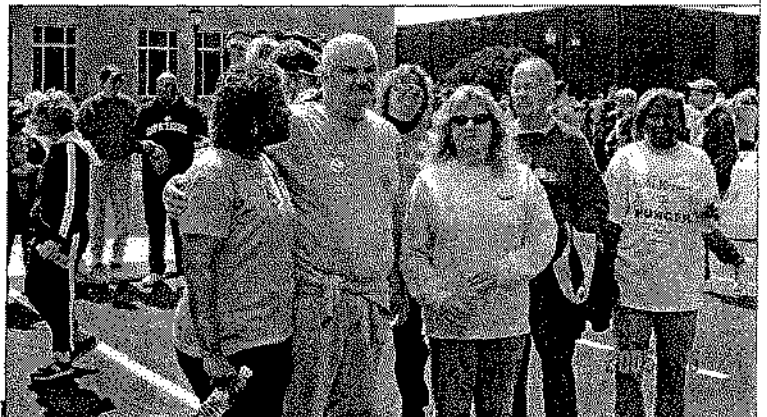
## Congratulations to “Team 1746”

### Local Lodge members raise over \$2,100 in Hartford Area Walk Against Hunger

On May 1, 2005 a team from Local 1746, along with teams from other unions, community groups and area businesses, walked in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk Against Hunger in Hartford. The three-mile walk raised more than \$290,000 to help feed the hungry in the Greater Hartford Area. Money raised will go to Foodshare and other anti-hunger programs in urban, suburban and rural towns in the region. These agencies provide food for union members on strike, or out of work, as well as other families in need.

Members of the **Local 1746**

**Team** are: *Steve Merrick*, District 26 Business Rep; *James Bullock*, LL 1746 Vice-President Elect; *Nancy Flagg*, LL 1746 Secretary-Treasurer; *Earl Schofield*, District 26 Senior EAP Rep; *Mozel Amaker*, newly elected Shop Steward, and *Dian Mitchell*, our Local’s Secretary, who is a member of OPEIU (Office & Professional Employees International Union) Local 376.



*Team 1746 ready to Walk Against Hunger*

[Photo by James Bullock, not in picture]

Team 1746 would like to thank all the members who sponsored them through their personal pledges, and also the Local, who was an Organizational Sponsor.

The guards & firefighters Union from P&W (IFSOA—Independent Fire & Security Officers Association) also participated in Sunday’s walk, raising over \$1700.



*IFSOA Team assembles for Walk*

## A Seat at the “Round Table” at UTC Fuel Cells



Before delving into the information from the latest Round Table discussion with UTC Fuel Cells head **Jan Van Dokkum**, there is some gratitude and recognition due to some public officials that have come through with some valuable initiatives that will greatly help UTC Fuel Cells. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (HR-6). Three key provisions were:

- 1) A \$100 per kilowatt or 15% fuel cell investment tax credit led by Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT).
- 2) A \$50 million five-year fuel cell transit bus demonstration advocated by Rep. John Larsen (D-CT).
- 3) Increased RD&D spending nearly doubled the 5-year DOD allotment from \$2.5 billion to \$4 billion. This due to an amendment by Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE) and Rep. Michael Doyle (D-PA).

It's great to see that there is still some good bipartisan activity in D.C. Please take time to send thanks to our State Congressional Representatives, and those from other states, for their efforts on behalf of the American People.

## Now on to the Round Table:

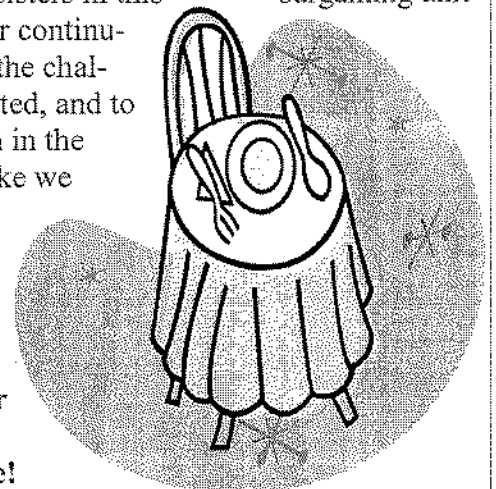
CEO of UTC Power/ UTC Fuel Cells **Jan Van Dokkum** has regular round table breakfast meetings with employees. While recognizing that there are plenty of negative thoughts and emotions to go around, let's take a look at the positive.

While reiterating the fact that the demise of the PC-25 program *was an error of colossal proportions*, Mr. Van Dokkum also expressed continued resolve and support for the resurrection of this product line. He also stated that his goal and intention is to work toward the recall of some production workers in this area by spring of 2007. Pleasure was expressed at some progress toward mending fences and improving relations between management and the bargaining unit. While stating that it was neither as much as he would like, nor as much as he feels is needed, it is none the less a good beginning and he recognizes the need for better communication and interaction on this front.

A most interesting piece of information from Mr. Van Dokkum was the fact that he termed as “quite an enlightening” dinner conversation with former fuel cell leader **Bill Podolney**. There are still a few employees around that remember Bill, and feel that he was probably the last true “**champion**” of fuel cell employees and business. It appears as if Mr. Van Dokkum feels it is imperative that we work toward returning to the *cooperative and collaborative* environment of the past. While recognizing the need to progress and change, we also need to realize that ‘past practice’ is not a dirty word, even for management. The futures of the brothers and sisters in this bargaining unit depend on our continuing to rise to the challenges presented, and to come through in the clutch- just like we always have.

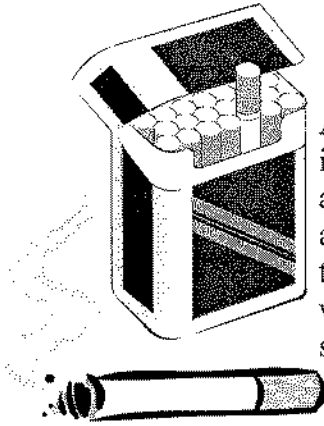
We also urge all of you to stay active and involved.

**Reserve your seat at the Round Table!**



# EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE CORNER

## SMOKING



According to the American Cancer Society, smoking results in 400,000 deaths every year in this country. No doubt everyone knows about the strong relationship between smoking and lung cancer, but did you know that smoking also increases the risk of mouth, pancreas, and uterine cancer, stroke, and heart disease? Smokers have more colds and upper respiratory infections too. Women who smoke during pregnancy may give birth to low-birth-weight babies, and smoker's babies are also more likely to die from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

The nicotine in cigarettes is what gets you hooked. Nicotine addiction is powerful. It has been likened to other dependencies such as heroin and cocaine addiction. That is why it is so difficult for smokers to quit, even though they may want to.

Even if you don't smoke, smoking may be threatening your health or that of your children. Just breathing cigarette fumes, or second-hand smoke, can increase your risk of disease, especially if you live or work with a smoker. The American Cancer Society says that children exposed to second hand smoke run a greater risk of suffering from infections of the respiratory tract, have poorer lung function, and experience more middle ear infections.

Your unhealthy habits may affect the health of your child. Cigarette smoke, and other environmental toxins, can damage the man's sperm, and may lead to birth defects. If you smoke more than half a pack of cigarettes daily, your baby is more likely to die at birth, and your child may suffer later on as a result of delayed brain development thought to be caused by cigarette smoke.

When you quit, you may put on a few pounds. In fact, many women still smoke for that very reason. Why the extra pounds? There is the obvious answer, of course. When smokers quit, they often substitute food for cigarettes. To make matters worse, nicotine increases your metabolic rate, so when you smoke, you burn more calories. However, the weight gain may only be temporary, especially if you start exercising regularly. Just remember the threat of lung and heart disease far outweighs the irritation you may feel at carrying around a few extra pounds...and it's easier to get rid of the extra pounds than it is to get rid of cancer.

In addition to the myriad of deadly health problems that smoking entails, smokers are often deficient in vitamin C. They require nearly double the RDA of this vitamin, because smoking depletes the body's supply.

After you quit, many of your other lifestyle habits will improve, too. Your diet will probably get better, largely because food will be tastier now. Smokers typically have poorer diets, because they may not eat enough, and they eat too many high-fat foods and too little fresh produce.

If you are a smoker that is considering quitting, please see your doctor, *your union EAP representative*, or the Health Wellness Coordinator at your plant medical department for assistance. The American Lung Association, and Heart Association, are also great places to seek help in "quitting the habit".

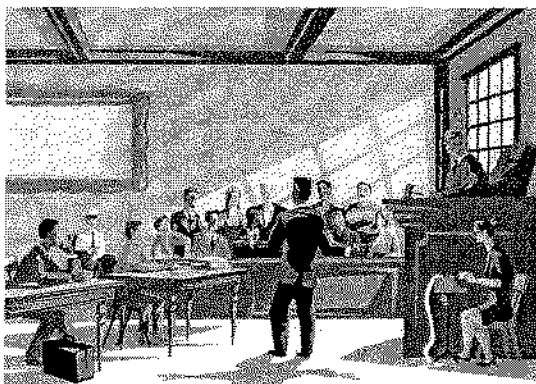


Your Local Lodge EAP Coordinator for East Hartford is: Lenny Ward. He is available on his pager at 708-4186. During the day District EAP Coordinator Earl Schofield is available at the Union Hall (568-3000) to provide you with information and assistance.

*(Information from "Live Longer and Better")*



## Hardly a "Class Act"



What's in a name? In the case of the newly passed **Class Action Fairness Act**, a bunch of hidden agendas and mistruths. This act was recently pushed through Congress by the Bush administration after a whole lot of lobbying (spending) led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, not exactly the most labor-friendly group in America. The perception (deception) portrayed to the public, according to Greg Tarpinian of the Labor Research Association, was that this act was aimed at curbing frivolous lawsuits from personal injury cases. John C. Haymond, eat your heart out.

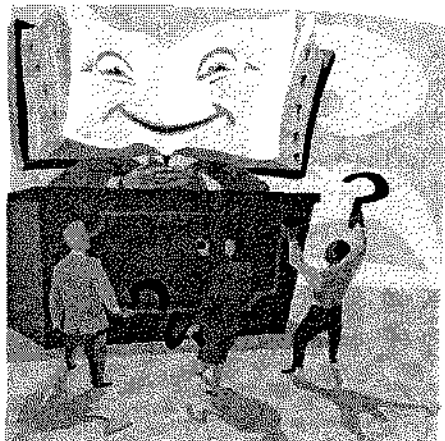
Okay: now just about everybody besides a handful of lawyers and some idiotic jury can agree that suing McDonalds for millions of dollars because their coffee cup didn't tell you their coffee was hot might be considered "frivolous". Suing Winnebago because you crashed your RV when you put it on cruise control to go make a pot of coffee might be considered "frivolous". Most normal, sane people can understand this. So did we really need an Act of Congress to straighten this stuff out? Couldn't we just empower our judges to clack the heads of these lawyers together and kick them in the seat of the pants all the way out of the courtroom?

So you're thinking, maybe the Class Action Fairness Act isn't such a bad idea after all. Maybe I shouldn't be allowed to sue Burger King for the size of my gut because the box didn't specify that I shouldn't eat more than four Whoppers in one sitting. Maybe I shouldn't be allowed to sue Mattel because my son played with Barbie dolls and now he's a cross-dresser.



See, there's the red herring. What *normal, sane people* think is frivolous might be quite different from what **Corporate America** thinks is frivolous, and there's nothing to stop the Class Action Fairness Act from applying to workplace situations. Got canned because you make a better wage than your co-workers? *Frivolous*. Company won't pay you overtime because they say you're exempt? *Nope, that's frivolous*. Passed over for promotion because your boss doesn't like the color of your skin? *Sorry, that's frivolous too*. Paid less than your male counterparts because you're a woman? Are you kidding? *Women are always frivolous*.

Oh, you can still file a suit against your employer in these situations. But before this act was passed, most of these suits were heard at the state level, where the response was often favorable to the plaintiff. With the passage of the act, if your case has the potential to affect 100 or more people, it must be removed from the state courts and heard in the over-burdened Federal court system, where the Bush administration exerts more control and where everything... sort of...grinds...to...a...halt. Sure, you can file charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, but only a handful of those cases ever went to court even *before* this act was passed. In the end, it all means weaker worker rights because of less enforceable employment laws like the Fair Labor Standards Act. So while the so-called Class Action Fairness Act may seem innocent enough at first glance, it may turn out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing for American working people.



For more info on the Class Action Fairness Act, go to [www.laborresearch.org](http://www.laborresearch.org).

# Next Monthly Meeting

Sunday, May 15th, 2005 @ 11:00 AM  
*Installation of New Local Lodge Officers*



## ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS ~

### “Thank-You” Letter



*To My Union Brothers & Sisters;*

I would like to extend a very heart-felt “Thank You “ to you all on behalf of myself, and my family for your generosity and kindness during this difficult time. I have gained strength from the support I got from you , as well as from the cards, letters and other gifts of caring. Please know that you have done much to make it easier. I and all of my family appreciate you and all that you have done very much.

*With our Thanks,  
 Marie and Phil Woods & the Kudla family*

### To: **Cynthia Boyd**

**Blender In Caro “J” Building**

**April 22, 2005**

*“Happy birthday”  
 Special Lady*

**Love, Dianne**



## Make Your Vacation A Union Vacation

To Make Plans check out the  
 Union Vacation Planner at:

[www.unionlabel.shopunionmade.com/travelplanner](http://www.unionlabel.shopunionmade.com/travelplanner)



### WEBSITES:

[www.iamLL1746.org](http://www.iamLL1746.org)  
[www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)  
[www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)

### Insight is looking for announcements from our members!

- *Birth Announcements*
- *Any loved ones fighting overseas*
- *Retirement announcements*
- *Anything that you the member, would like to share, on a monthly bases.*

Please email your  
 announcements at least  
 1 month prior to the day:  
[locallodge1746@snet.net](mailto:locallodge1746@snet.net)

*Or just email us any idea that may be of  
 interest which you would like to share!*

Messages for the next issue must  
 emailed by June 1st.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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