

I am certain that I am not alone in being relieved that April is behind us.

What began on a good note quickly became one of the worst months in this Local's recent history. Management at ClearEdge Power had been optimistic and were talking about hiring twenty to thirty hourly employees and adding to the facilities; then the bottom fell out. Late Thursday April 24th I received a conference call from Jack Landers, Vice President of Human Resources, and Mashanda Ashton from ClearEdge Power. At that time Landers stated that the purpose of the call was to give us notice about the company's inability to meet its' financial obligations and that they would be filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection within the next few days. All bargaining unit employees would be paid through Friday and then the Company would be closed down.

When asked about the West Coast facilities, I was told that the entire company was affected. Also, when asked they informed me and Vice President Ted Durkin that there would be no severance pay.

This decision affects 99 members of Local Lodge 1746 with seniority ranging from 4 months to 44 years of service, which would entitle them to up to 24 weeks of severance pay along with insurance coverage for the same number of weeks.

As the days went on with little communication from the Company, we were able to get the State of Connecticut's Rapid Response team

in on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. There were still many unanswered questions and Mashanda Ashton from ClearEdge came to the meeting to answer some of them. The Rapid Response team is conducting workshops on resumes, interviewing and job search for the next two weeks.

Bargaining Unit employees FINALLY received a letter at home on Thursday, nearly a week later, spelling out that they were terminated.

Our legal team is currently going over the official letter and preparing a strategy for us. We



"If you don't think your vote counts...
just count the number of jobs this country has lost."

### **Machinist Club Golf Open**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual MACHINIST CLUB OPEN Golf Tournament will be held once again on a Friday in September at TWIN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB Route 31 in Coventry CT. All proceeds from this tournament will be donated. We will keep you updated as to the date and benefitties.

## Olive Garden Lunch Fundraiser

On May 20<sup>th</sup> the Pratt FLPs will sponsor a fundraising event with 100% of the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

For a donation of \$ 8.00 they will deliver and serve a meal consisting of Salad, Pasta and Breadsticks from the Olive Garden between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM.

To reserve your meal send an email to <u>Jason.Kushner@pw.utc.com</u>. Remember to include the time you would like your meal delivered and your location.

# Health and Safety and The Weingarten Rights

The March Insight reminded us about the importance of the Weingarten Act. "The right to have a steward present during an interview with management if he or she reasonably believes the investigation will lead to disciplinary action"

The UNION does not endorse discipline in the area of Health and Safety! Unfortunately some of Company representatives have been using discipline after an injury or a perceived Cardinal Rule violation. This has led to disciplinary action up to and including termination. A Cardinal rule investigation qualifies as an event that you would exercise your Weingarten rights to have a Union Steward present.

There are times we have become injured at work. You may be asked to participate in an injury investigation or a DIVE. When your supervisor asks you to participate in the injury investigation, you need to ask if the company has classified the injury as a "Cardinal Rule Violation" or if this could lead to disciplinary action. If the person answers yes, immediately request to have a UNION Steward present during the questioning.

Your Union Health and Safety Representatives will be attending the injury investigation to help protect you from work place hazards, Your Steward will be there

to witness the and try to pro-

questioning tect your job.

Your Union Safety Reprehave been reremind you of garten rights. Health and sentatives quested to your Wein-

Stay safe, proand protect your tect yourself rights.



# Workers Memorial Day 2014 By Deb Belancik

This was an event that was well attended by workers and Unions all over the state of Connecticut. There was one ceremony in Groton Ct, One in New Britain and one at the state capitol in Hartford Ct. We then proceeded with a march with bag pipes playing to the tune of Amazing Grace to lay the wreathes for the fallen workers who died on the job at the Workers memorial monument in Bushnell park. A bell was rung for each worker that died on the job. It was a very moving ceremony.

I would like to thank everyone that attended this year's worker's Memorial day. World Day for Safety and Health at work – April 28<sup>th</sup>,2014 Deb Belancik

International Labor Organizations (ILO) celebrates the world day for safety and health at work on the 28<sup>th</sup> to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus international attention on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health and the magnitude of work related injuries, diseases and fatalities worldwide.

The 28<sup>th</sup> of April is also a day in which the world's trade union movement holds its International Commemoration Day for dead and injured workers to honor the memory of victims of occupational accidents and diseases and organize worldwide mobilizations and campaigns on this date.

The celebration of the World Day for Safety and health

at Work is an integral part of global strategy on occupational safety and health at work of the ILO and promotes the creation of a global preventative safety and health culture involving all stakeholders. In many parts of the world, national authorities, trade unions. Employers' organizations and safety and health practitioners organize activities to celebrate this date. The 2014 theme for world day for safety and health is::

Safety and Health in the use of Chemicals at work

As you can see that April 28<sup>th</sup> isn't just workers memorial day in the USA, It's also a day for SAFETY AND HEALTH AROUND THE WORLD.

Note: please make sure that you know what chemicals you are working with on the shop floor and get them put in your medical records.





# The Next Monthly Meeting is May 18, 2014 at 11:00 am

Happy Memorial day to all of our troops, past





"You'll need a bathroom pass signed by the plant manager...
unfortunately, he took the afternoon off."

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

Nancy Flagg <u>president1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net</u>
Ted Durkin <u>vp1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net</u>
Howie Huestis <u>st1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net</u>
Rodney Conlogue rs1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net



### **EAP Corner**

For IAM Local Lodge 1746: P&W in East Hartford and Clear Edge 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.

Lenny Ward-EAP Coordinator
LAP-C Certified
NAADAC / NCAC Certified
AFL-CIO Union Peer Counselor
SAP (Substance Abuse
Professional) Certified.)

Fax 203-787-4180 Cell 203-444-0267



### **WEBSITES:**

www.iamLL1746.org www.iamdistrict26.org www.goiam.org



#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

President Nancy Flagg; Vice President Ted Durkin; Recording Secretary; Rodney Conlogue, Secretary Treasurer; Howard Huestis, Conductor/Sentinel; Roy Chambers, Trustees: James Bullock, Brad Chase and John C. Taylor

#### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Linnea Thrall-Mason -Editor, layout and design, Leon Hall-Cartoonist, Nancy Flagg and Deb Belancik