

Local Lodge 1746

# insight

September 2006 Volume 9, Issue 9

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

## Contract Negotiation Update for UTCPower

The word is out that the Negotiating Committee met for the final time prior to the Membership Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>. A flyer has been distributed to all members outlining the major concerns as reflected by the member surveys. The committee also addressed each and every personal comment written on the surveys. As always, we are extremely proud of the high percentage of participation among the membership in this unit. While the committee feels it has outlined a clear and acceptable proposal to bring to the company, we again want to urge ALL of the membership to mark their calendars for **September 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Local Lodge 1746.**

Bring yourself and bring your voices!

**Note: Only Members in Good Standing Employed at UTCPower Can Attend This Meeting**

## Smoke in the Sandbox?

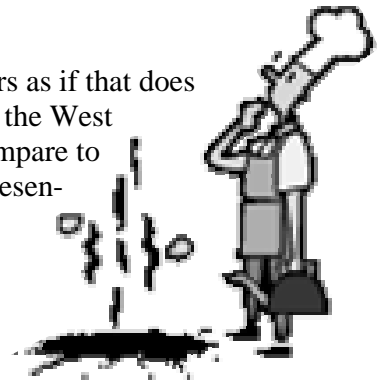
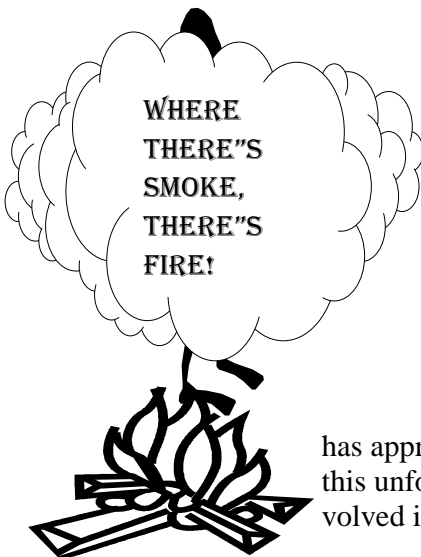
We have all heard the catch phrase “**Safety Is Everyone’s Business**”. Well it appears as if that does not hold true at UTCPower. There was a recent incident involving smoke and fire in the West Engineering Lab at the South Windsor plant, an area which company reps like to compare to a “*giant engineering sand box*”. Human Resources informed our Chief Safety Representative, Dave Crandall, that it was “none of his concern”. Obviously, the current HR drone does not feel that the agreement between the bargaining unit and the company applies to this particular ‘salary sand box’.

It should be an embarrassment to the leadership of UTCPower that this was not only the position of H.R., but also the company’s Lead EH&S person. Contrary to what the H.R. drones and the blinders-on, rubber-stamp EH&S director may say, **THIS ISSUE IS OF MAJOR CONCERN to every employee in the facility.**

There are many people involved in regular safety audits of ALL areas of this shop, including this “GIANT SAND BOX”. The company has an obligation to guarantee and assure that safety practices and procedures are followed in **ALL areas of the facility.**

That having been said, and as clear as it seems to most “RATIONAL” people, we should take a moment to remind everyone at UTCPower that both HR and other upper-level company representatives seem to feel that not only contractual agreements, but also corporate policies are made to be broken. SO, keep a watchful eye. Obviously you are on your own to look after the safety of yourself and your fellow employees. Remember, **WHERE THERE’S SMOKE, THERE’S FIRE!**

As of *Insight* publication deadline, UTCPower Operations Director Steve Bennett has approached IAM Safety Rep Crandall, who was invited to attend a follow-up meeting on this unfortunate incident. We hope this is a sign that the union’s Safety Rep will be fully involved in the remaining investigations with this occurrence, as well as any in the future.





## United way in September

Earl Schofield, United Way Co-chair

September kicks off many of the United Way activities at Pratt & Whitney. The first big event was the **Leadership Reception**

for all employees that were Rentschler or United Way Leadership Donors last year. This event was held at the Rentschler Field Stadium on Tuesday, September 5. The Leadership Reception is our way to say **thank you** to these donors for their leadership in giving, and their commitment to changing lives and improving community conditions thru United Way.

**On Saturday August 9th the P&W United Way Day of Caring** is held. Once again the Unions from the IAM, IFSOA, and IAFF will be working at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford. There are also other events scheduled throughout the state with other union and salary folks participating, and giving support in the form of labor to community agencies that normally are helping us and our community friends.

**On Monday September 11 the United Way Fastbreak Solicitation** takes place at the P&W Hangar area for all Leadership givers from 2005. (6:30-9:00 a.m.). Company, Union, and United Way Chairpersons will be there to greet members. Enjoy a light breakfast and make your pledge for 2006 on-line with United Way's *e-Way*, or with paper pledge forms.

**On Tuesday, September 12, the annual Breakfast with the Boss** will be held at the Willow Street Café. P&W President Steve Finger will be serving along with other P&W Business Unit leaders. For us Union folks, John Taylor, President of Local Lodge 1746 IAMAW, will be serving. Please attend and show your union support. Tickets are \$5.00 for a reasonable breakfast. Don't forget to leave a generous tip in John's tip jar!! Last year Dave Durbin, President of LL 700 was given the award for most tips raised that day. Let's do it here in East Hartford!

**September 11- 22** is also the **Solicitation** period for all folks at Pratt & Whitney. Please support the campaign with a pledge, no matter how small or large. Your union Community Services personnel, along with all the P&W volunteers, hourly and salary, work hard each year to insure union involvement and recognition. Please take the time to recognize their efforts by making a pledge this year. If you have any questions or concerns about United Way. Please see the union activist in your area for directions to the proper United Way Union representative.

For those of you that do not have any particular agency to support, your union recommends the **United Labor Agency** (agency # 5098). They are the only Union agency supported by United Way funding. They are always on the scene here at PWA for folks facing job reductions, terminations, or just being down on their luck. Please consider them in the coming weeks when you complete your solicitation. **Please consider designating your donation to agency number 5098.**



## SPECIAL SEVERANCE PACKAGE

Pratt & Whitney recently approached the Union with the offer of a Special Separation Package (SSP) for the 100 most senior employees covered under our collective bargaining agreement. The offer includes the IAM Local Lodges in East Hartford, Cheshire, and Middletown. Although the Union is negatively impacted by the loss of another 100 members in IAM District 26 we know that many long-time members are ready and willing to accept this package, so we have agreed and signed off on it.

In the three Local Lodges there are **1,703** employees who meet the requirement of 55 years of age with at least fifteen years seniority. Many of the top 100 most senior eligible employees will not want, or be ready for retirement yet. For those of you who are curious, the three most senior eligible have **1956** hire dates; the cutoff at (# 100) started in **1965**. As mentioned earlier there are many who are eligible but who will not be taking this package and the cutoff number will definitely go higher than the one hundred most senior eligible.

There is always the "possibility"- **and I stress "possibility"**- that the company may take more, if the volume of those wanting to participate is substantial; but at this time, it is NOT official. If you qualify and are interested you must sign and submit the appropriate form (from supervision) to HUMAN RESOURCES - no later than **September 23, 2006**. **PLEASE HAND DELIVER YOUR FORM, IN PERSON, DIRECTLY TO YOUR LOCAL HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE.** Employees participating in this Special Separation Package will be given consideration for requested departure dates between **October 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006**. Good luck and God bless you all.



## LCLAA

### Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

#### *Report from Local Lodge LCLAA Delegate, Juan Gelabert*

I would like to thank the Local Membership for sending me to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of LCLAA (Labor Council for Latin American Advancement), held in San Antonio Texas in early August. The IAM has been a Silver Sponsor of LCLAA for a number of years, and this year we have stepped up to Platinum Sponsor.

#### *What is the purpose LCLAA, and what is its importance in relation to us?*

Today Latinos are about 13% of the US labor force; by 2012 the Latino labor force is expected to increase by 6 million.

The issues Latinos face are the same as all working people: the political and economic climates are hostile to them.

The issues addressed at the convention workshops were: Organizing, Politics, Healthcare Reform, Demographic Shifts, Prevailing Wages and Immigration.

The IAM had nearly 45 Delegates present at the 2006 LCLAA Convention.

LCLAA represents the interests of 1.6 million Latino workers who are members of unions in 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

IAM Southern Territory Vice-President Robert Martinez and Gary Allen of the Western Territory are both Executive Board members of LCLAA, and chaired the IAM's LCLAA Caucus. Rick De la Fuente from the IAM Legislative Department reported on the importance of upcoming elections this fall. GVP Martinez reported there will soon be Leadership Classes in Spanish at the WWW Education Center in Maryland.

#### *Machinist delegates were challenged with the following action items:*

- 1] To take back LCLAA membership forms and sign up least new members.
- 2] To report back to membership meetings on active ties of LCLAA.
- 3] To encourage formation of new IAM-LCLAA chapters in their areas.
- 4] To post information on LCLAA on local lodge websites.
- 5] Double the size of the IAM delegation to the next LCLAA convention in 2008.

## Pratt & Whitney Cancer Study Update,

September 2006-A publication of the Communications Facilitation Workgroup.

Deb Belancik – District 26 EH&S Coordinator

#### **Research Update:**

The brain cancer research study is being conducted in three components:

#### **epidemiology, exposure assessment and genetics.**

Below is a brief update on each of these. For more information, please visit this web site: [www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us)

#### **Epidemiology: Gary Marsh, Ph.D**

#### **Principal Investigator, University of Pittsburgh**

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh have completed identification of over 250,000 individuals to be included in the study. These people worked during any year and for any length of time between 1952 – 2001 at any or more of the eight Pratt Plants in CT: North Haven, East Hartford, two in Southington, Cheshire, Middletown, Rocky hill, Manchester. This group is called the cohort study. In Addition, the epidemiology research team is currently working with the Department of Public Health Tumor registry to identify people with brain cancer, and to trace the cause of death for all deceased individuals in the study.

#### **Genetic: Frank Lieberman, M.D.**

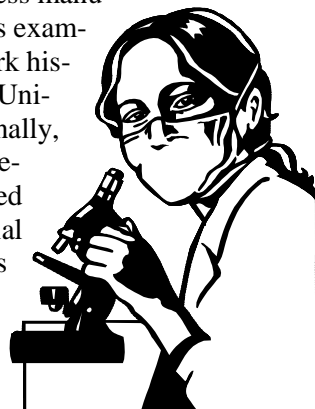
#### **Principal Investigator, University of Pittsburgh**

In 2005, Dr. Lieberman assumed the role of Principal Investigator for the genetic component of this study. Dr. Sydney Finkelstein remains as Co-Principal Investigator. Recently, the genetics research team began receiving brain tumor tissue specimens from individuals who worked at Pratt and underwent surgery as part of their treatment for brain cancer. The team is conducting DNA analysis on these specimens.

#### **Exposure Assessment: Nurtan Esmen, Ph.D.**

#### **Principal Investigator, U. of Illinois at Chicago**

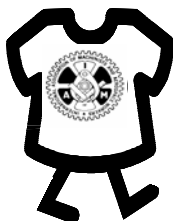
The exposure assessment team is currently focused on completing the collection and analysis of documents regarding part and process manufacturing operations, as well as examining over 300,000 unique work history entries received from the University of Pittsburgh. Additionally, The University of Oklahoma researchers have received scanned images of over 50,000 industrial hygiene records. These records will be provided to The University of Illinois at Chicago as part of the exposure reconstruction effort.





**Engagement announcement:**  
 Andy Gorski & Linda Kolpak  
 would like to announce their re-  
 cent engagement while on vaca-  
 tion in Hawaii.  
 Best wishes and Good Luck to  
 you both from all of us at  
 IAM Local Lodge 1746.

**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!" Get the word out  
 and lead with class and dignity, *by ex-  
 ample; and wear something red every  
 Friday.*



**SHOW SOLADARITY** with our  
 troops united we stand IAM brothers &  
 sisters. **WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS!**

**IAM at Hydro Honing on Strike**  
 28 IAM members at Hydro Honing in East Hart-  
 ford are on strike as of September 1st. The aver-  
 age wage is \$10.56 an hour, and they must pay  
 55% of insurance premium costs...as high as \$140  
 a week. Join the picket line at Hydro Honing on  
 Eastern Park Blvd, off Burnham St, E. Hartford.



*Local Lodge 1746 would like to of-  
 fer our deepest condolences for all  
 the family members of our IAM  
 brothers and sisters.*

We note, with sorrow, the passing  
 last month of Mr. Elmer Stone,  
 father of Business Representative  
 Mike Stone; and of Mrs. Velma Bullock, mother  
 of Vice-President James Bullock.



**JOIN THE CROWD!**

**at the  
 UNION  
 MEETING**

**Sunday  
 September 10th  
 At 11:00 am**

**UTC Power Members:  
 Contract Proposal Meeting  
 Starts at 1:00 PM**



## **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)

## **LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

**John Taylor, President; James Bullock, Vice-President;  
 Bill Coney, Recording Secretary; Nancy Flagg, Secretary Treasurer;  
 David Batchelder, Conductor/Sentinel; Brad Chase, Howard Huestis, Ron Ouellette, Trustees**

## **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

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