

# Tri-Fund<sup>1</sup>

FEBRUARY 2004

## Laborers get the lead out at ferry terminal



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# Tri-Fund

February 2004

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PHOTO BY JOHN HICKEY



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COVER PHOTO BY DON POLLARD



PHOTO BY ROBERT SORENSEN

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# MESSAGE FROM

## THE IUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT

### Fight for immigrant workers among proudest moments



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Our great Union recently experienced one of its proudest moments as thousands of Laborers stood up for justice for immigrant workers during the Immigrant Workers' Freedom Ride.

From California to New York, Laborers rallied, marched and sent the message last September and October that hard-working immigrant workers deserve respect for their contributions to our country.

The level of activism was a tribute to today's Laborers – and to the tens of thousands of immigrant working men and women who founded our union a century ago. At our founding, as today, the Laborers' Union stands for fairness for all workers, whether immigrant or native-born. Nowhere was that commitment more

evident than in New York, where Laborers helped lead the Immigrant Workers' Freedom Ride as thousands rallied at the Statue of Liberty and in Queens.

While the Immigrant Workers' Freedom Ride was a proud moment in our history, the fight for immigrant worker rights must go on. We must fight on two fronts – in Congress and in our own communities.

In Congress, we must achieve significant immigration law reform that honors the contributions of immigrants by granting legal status to those who work hard, pay taxes and raise families, yet whose only crime was crossing our border in search of a better life.

Too often, immigrant workers are forced to live in the shadows of our society because of their legal status, making them prone to employer abuse and exploitation. That allows employers to drive down standards for all workers, whether immigrant or not, and it won't change until immigrant workers can leave the shadows and proudly join together in unions.

As we fight to change the law, we also must continue our activism in every community to recruit immigrant workers. Immigrant workers are among the most exploited, and also the fastest growing group of workers in many of our markets. Organizing with immigrant workers is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do.

I am proud that New York State Laborers have taken the lead in reaching out to immigrant workers. Local unions and district councils in the state responded to the call during the Immigrant Workers' Freedom Ride, and they continue to set an example with groundbreaking organizing efforts among immigrants in communities across the state.

I know the coming year will be even better. Together – as brothers and sisters, immigrant and non-immigrant – we can make our union stronger.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Terence M. O'Sullivan

General President

Laborers' International Union of North America

*'At our founding,  
as today, the  
Laborers' Union  
stands for fairness  
for all workers,  
whether immigrant  
or native-born.'*

# MESSAGE FROM

## THE IUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

### Launching a new century, advancing workers' rights



**D**ear Brothers and Sisters:

With 2003, our centennial year, just ended, and the New Year here, we take this time to look back at our accomplishments while anticipating the promise and challenges that lie ahead.

2004 certainly looks to be a challenging year. While the U.S. government tells us the economy is recovering, no one can guarantee this economic uplift will translate into new public and private construction work to support our industry and our members. As federal, state and local governments struggle to recover from the recession, it is unclear how much construction support to expect from them next year.

We trust that in 2004 we will have a renewal of TEA-21, the federal support for transportation construction. As you'll read in an article in this issue, this legislation will be critical to the amount of transportation work in New York for the next several years. New York state's budget decisions this spring also will impact the amount of work for our members and affiliated contractors in 2004.

We also have questions about some other significant construction projects in New York state. Another *Tri-Fund* article describes the successful fight by NYS LECET and PAC, along with our contractor associations, to get the Croton Water Filtration Plant approved.

There are many other large projects that we hope will get started next year, ranging from the new World Trade Center buildings to the much delayed Millennium Pipeline. We will pressure our local, state, and federal officials to keep these projects on track.

This issue also illustrates the many different ways that our union and our Tri-Funds work to improve the lives of our members, from supporting the Immigration Freedom Ride to helping start a construction training school program on the Seneca Allegany Reservation in Western New York. We are always looking for new ways to provide better jobs for our members and to partner with other organizations in these efforts.

Local 621's educational and construction training work with the Seneca Nation is modeled on the charter school for Construction Laborers that was pioneered by our organization in Cranston, R.I. As you can see, innovative ideas and approaches in one area can be adapted to different settings.

I can't address the challenges of 2004 without mentioning the November election.

To date, the Bush administration has gone out of its way to attack and harm labor unions. The most recent attack has been the finalization of stricter union financial reporting requirements that will cost your local unions thousands of dollars each year to implement, with very little, if any, benefit. For these reasons, we must make our voices heard in November and elect candidates who will support the type of government that will benefit working people and their families.

In hope of a happier future for America's workers, here's wishing you and your family a productive and prosperous year.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Armand E. Sabitoni

General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager  
Laborers' International Union of North America

*'We must make  
our voices heard  
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# Getting the lead out

## Local 78 tackles haz-mat project at Staten Island Ferry

When Local 78 members began an extensive lead abatement project at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal in lower Manhattan, they became involved in converting an old building for new uses – and using new technology to solve an old problem.

In so doing, they've joined the many other Laborers who are working hard to rebuild New York City post 9/11.

Removing lead-based paint from the battered exterior of the Battery Marine Building is the first phase of a planned four- to five-year project, begun under Tishman Construction this past summer, to restore the beautiful but deteriorated century-old ferry building to its original grandeur.

The city of New York owns this landmark, with its breathtaking view of the Statue of Liberty and New York harbor and its prime waterfront location.

Now used as the terminal for ferries to Governor's Island, the refurbished building will facilitate redevelopment on the Island, which recently reverted from federal to state control.

Along with the entire surrounding lower Manhattan neighborhood, the site also will become an important destination as a result of significant hotel, retail and other development.

"This work is very painstaking and tedious," said Local 78 Business Manager Sal Speziale. "But we use thorough training, state-of-the-art protective equipment and a very effective and safe technique to remove this serious environmental hazard."

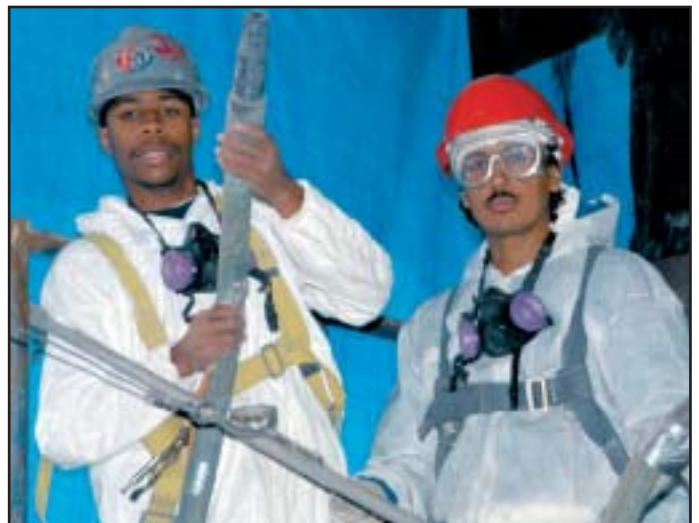
Working from scaffolding, two shifts of Local 78 Laborers use a blasting technique that liquefies the paint for removal, then vacuum the liquefied paint into secure, sealed vessels for safe removal and storage.

Front-line blasters wear air-supported hoods and welder-style face masks with their haz-mat suits, while back-line Laborers on the job also wear haz-mat suits with full face masks and respirators.

"The single most important concern is health and safety," said NYS Laborers Health & Safety Fund Executive Director Mickey Kelly. "That's why Local 78's trained, experienced and well-equipped environmental specialists were chosen for this important work." 🌄



Leading the way – Member Patrick Bellefleur talks with Local 78 Business Manager Sal Speziale, left, Assistant Business Manager John Keenan, second from left, and NYS Laborers' Health & Safety Trust Fund Executive Director Mickey Kelly, at right.



Expert abaters – Local 78 members Patrick Bellefleur, left, and Freddy Pulla are using their specialized skills to rebuild lower Manhattan.



State-of-the-art – Freddy Pulla is well-equipped for the job.

PHOTOS BY DON POLLARD



## LECET brings “magic to children” through Make-A-Wish-Foundation fundraiser

The NYS Laborers’ 2nd Annual Golf Classic at the Saratoga National Golf Club once again produced substantial proceeds donated directly to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast New York.

A full field of 144 golfers enjoyed the day’s festivities in Saratoga Springs, and in the process they raised \$20,100 to benefit the foundation, which grants the special wishes of children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. The Northeast chapter, based in Latham, serves 15 counties north of the Hudson Valley.

“We were happy to help out again through this year’s event,” said NYS LECET Executive Director Frank Marchese. “Hearing first hand from a family about the impact Make-A-Wish has on the lives of these children makes this day that much more special,” he added.

He offered “sincerest thanks to the LECET staff whose efforts made this day possible and all those whose generosity will help grant a special wish to these most deserving children.”



In the swing of fund-raising – NYS LECET Executive Director Frank Marchese addresses participants during the NYS Laborers’ 2nd Annual Golf Classic in Saratoga. Also pictured are, from left, Field Representative Frank Marchese Jr. and Dr. Jim Melius, NYS LECET administrator. The event benefits the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast New York.

Participants learned about Make-A-Wish from foundation representatives, and they also had the opportunity to hear from a “Wish” family that had traveled to the San Diego Zoo so their daughter could fulfill her dream of being a zookeeper for a day.

“Thanks to your hard work and dedication, we will be able to continue to grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical

conditions,” said Bryan LaVigne, Make-A-Wish’s Northeast New York executive director. “Donors like you help us bring magic to children when they need it most. With your very generous help, almost four wishes can be granted, and I thank you on behalf of all the children and families we will serve.”

The efforts of all organizers and participants in the Laborers’ Golf Classic were highlighted in the Make-A-Wish *Wishmaker* newsletter as well as on Fox 23 News in Albany. But the satisfaction of joining together for this important cause provided its own reward to the Laborers and their guests. 🍷

## A lesson in union construction



When the New York State School Boards Association held its statewide convention in Rochester recently, NYS LECET and the Mason Tenders District Council exerted a powerful and persuasive presence. Staffing a booth with the Laborers’ new informational display, LECET and MTDC reps delivered important messages to those attending. In addition to building general awareness of Laborers as the source for trained, experienced and cost-effective construction labor, they also advocated for language in school construction contracts requiring apprenticeship programs – an important initiative that would ensure an adequate supply of skilled Laborers for future needs. Shown discussing the benefits of union membership to one student are Robert Asaro of the MTDC PAC, center, and Field Representative Joseph Biengardo, right.

# Transportation funding vital to NYS

Most of the funding for building and repairing the roads and other transportation infrastructure in New York state comes from the federal government and is largely paid for through our gas taxes.

Every five or six years, Congress passes the legis-

lation necessary to authorize this program for the next five or so years.

The most recent legislation passed more than six years ago was called the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, better known as TEA-21.



## *The legislative battle: what you can do to help*

**Q:** How much money does New York get from the federal government to support highway and other transportation infrastructure work?

**A:** Approximately 90 percent of the more than \$1.5 billion that New York state spends every year on building and maintaining our transportation system comes from Washington. While this sounds like a lot of money, it is not enough to maintain our current system in a good state of repair, let alone support the big projects that we need, such as the Second Avenue subway and a new Tappan Zee Bridge.

**Q:** Why does New York need to spend so much on roads when we have fine subways and commuter railroads?

**A:** Although these commuter systems help get millions of New Yorkers to and from work, many people in the New York City area and upstate must rely on automobiles to get to and from work. Many homes and jobs are not near public transportation; people must drive to get to work. Good highway transportation access is often key to attracting new industries to locate in the state. We also must spend money to support the infrastructure needed for our subways and trains.

**Q:** Are we still in danger of the kind of accidents that occurred several years ago when a Thruway Bridge collapsed?

**A:** Although the state has tried to improve bridge inspections and repairs, it still has not caught up with the complete backlog of necessary bridge repairs, and our bridges continue to deteriorate. New York ranks near the bottom of all states based on a national survey of bridge and road conditions. These problems also make our roads much less safe than the rest of the nation.



**Q:** So when will Congress give us more money to address these problems?

**A:** The last two renewals have greatly increased the amount of money to the state for our transportation system. This round will be more difficult because of the slow economy and increasing budget deficit. Some in Congress have proposed a higher gas tax, but others oppose it. The Senate, House of Representatives and president all propose a higher budget for highways, but they differ greatly on the amount of the increase and how to pay for it.

**Q:** What should New York's share of this new funding be?

**A:** In addition to the issue of how much money should be available, the states are also fighting about their relative shares. States in the Southwest and West argue that they contribute more in fuel taxes and deserve more back. New York and other Northeastern states get more back than they contribute in gas taxes, but they argue that their infrastructure is older and more difficult to maintain and requires more support. Overall, New York state gives more to the national government in taxes than we get back. New York deserves some additional highway funding.

**Q:** What are the NYS Laborers doing to support the need for more funding?

**A:** We are working closely with our contractor associations and other groups to fight for more funding for New York. We also are working with Gov. Pataki and his representative, John Faso, on this issue to push New York's case. Both of our senators, Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer are being very helpful, and our House delegation has selected Congressmen Jerold Nadler from New York City and Sherwood Boehlert from Utica to coordinate our efforts in the House. We are also working with other Northeastern states through an organization called the Northeast TEA-3 Coalition to coordinate our efforts with neighboring states.

**Q:** What can you do to help?

**A:** You can assist by being politically involved through your union. Write your Congressional representatives and indicate your support for this vital legislation. Your business manager or union hall can provide sample letters and the appropriate addresses, or call the NYS Laborers at 800-797-5931 for more information. 🌄



## Labor-management cooperation helps Croton water treatment project get off the ground

A Bronx water filtration facility is on its way to becoming a reality, thanks to hard work by unions and contractors who banded together in an aggressive community outreach effort.

During the fall, the NYS Laborers' Tri-Funds, working in collaboration with the General Contractors Association of New York State and the Operating Engineers, succeeded in getting state approval to build a \$700 million water treatment plant in the Bronx despite vigorous local opposition to the project.

After the Environmental Protection Agency mandated New York City to build the plant to filter water from the Croton reservoir, the Department of Environmental Protection selected the Mosholu Golf Course in Van Cortlandt Park as the best site for the Croton Filtration Plant.

Plans called for the plant to be built below ground, with the golf course rebuilt on top of the treatment plant. Because the city was to use parkland for the facility, a state court required state approval for the construction project.

Local community residents and politicians had strong objections to the project, which they publicized to the state Legislature and governor. Some environmental groups also protested the use of parkland for the project.

Facing this opposition, the involved construction unions and GCA fought back. Working with NYS LECET, GCA arranged a meeting between the unions and community politicians to demonstrate the benefits of the plant project.

Locals 731 and 147 and the Mason Tenders District Council have many members and apprentices who live in the Bronx. As such, they shop in the community and use community hospitals and a range of other facilities.

"The community would benefit from having its residents working on the project, in addition to deriving all the other economic benefits of a large construction project," said Frank McArdle, managing director of the GCA.

After the outreach effort, local opposition to the project moderated, and many Bronx politicians became supportive. The City Council soon gave its approval, and a bill to do the same was introduced in the Legislature.



The NYS Laborers' PAC, GCA and other supporting groups pushed the Legislature to approve the project. In return for building the project on parkland, the DEP agreed to provide funding to develop other parks and recreational areas in the Bronx. The Legislature agreed to approve the project, and the governor signed the bill.

The many months of effort paid off – resulting in work for hundreds of Laborers and other building trades.

"This effort shows the power of labor and management working together and being able to convince the public and our public representatives of the community benefits of this type of project," Frank said. "Without our help and outreach, the city would not have been able to get this project approved." 🌄

*'The many months of effort paid off – resulting in work for hundreds of Laborers and other building trades.'*

## IN MEMORIAM: PATRICK PISCITELLI

The career of Patrick Piscitelli was tragically short but undeniably brilliant in terms of inspiring leadership and transforming working conditions for the thousands of members he served.

Just 53 when he died on Nov. 5 of complications from diabetes, Pat helped lead the 15,000-member Mason Tenders District Council of Greater New York and Long Island and served as business manager and secretary-treasurer of General Building Laborers Local 66 in Melville, a major building construction trade union on Long Island.

"In these roles, he showed his concern for members' welfare and his skill in advocacy and negotiation," said LIUNA Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager Raymond M. Pocino, noting that he effectively worked to improve health and retirement benefits and to provide better wages and working conditions. "Through these efforts, he also enhanced the power and market share of the district council and its locals."

The son of an Italian immigrant who owned a gas station in Westbury, Pat learned his leadership skills early on by excelling in competitive sports. A football star at Westbury High, he earned a baseball scholarship to John F. Kennedy College in Wahoo, Neb., where his pitching coach was former New York Yankee Bob Cerv.



Patrick Piscitelli

After graduation, career plans to teach physical education changed as Pat became involved in construction work on Long Island. He rose through the ranks to shop steward and foreman through the 1970s and 1980s, then became assistant administrator of the General Building Laborers Fringe Benefit Funds in 1992. In 1997, he was elected Local 66 business manager and secretary-treasurer; a year later, he became president of the MTDC.

The Piscitellis live in Wantagh. Speaking of his work with the NYS Laborers, his wife, Karen, said, "He thrived on it."

Pat also was an active volunteer and community leader. In 1998, the Outreach Project for Long Island, a program for at-risk children, named him "Man of the Year." Diagnosed with diabetes in the 1980s, he was active in the Long Island chapter of the American Diabetes Association. At the time of his death, he was awaiting a kidney donation.

In addition to his wife, Pat is survived by daughters, Lauren, 10, and Kaitlyn, 9, brothers Nick and Amil ("Buddy") and his large family of fellow NYS Laborers. Observing the extraordinary crowds at his funeral, a lifelong friend, quoted in *Newsday*, said, "He ran it with a strong hand but also a compassionate hand and heart. It was a tribute to the passion he showed the guys. He came from them. He was one of them." 🌄

## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, BUILDING CAREERS

Bigger and better than ever: That's how students, NYS Laborers and other building tradespeople described Construction Career Day at

the Monroe County Dome Arena in Henrietta recently. Laborers Local 435, under the leadership of Business Agent Tom Plante, worked with the state



Career-driven – Students from throughout the Rochester area visited the Monroe County Dome Arena to learn about careers in construction.

Department of Transportation, Construction Industry Association, Alfred State College, Builders Exchange and other groups to build on the success of the past five years of area Construction Career Days.

Representatives of these groups combined efforts to show more than 1,000 high school stu-

dents what the construction industry has to offer them after graduation.

Laborer representatives guided the students through many hands-on activities, including pouring and finishing concrete, while representatives at other work stations offered a look at masonry, welding, laser technology and operation of backhoes and loaders.

"This combination of information and experience gives students a clear perspective of our work," said Tom. "I'm sure they understand the construction industry much more clearly now than ever before and appreciate the challenges of what we do to build New York and our communities." 🌄

# IMMIGRATION FREEDOM RIDE: LABORERS JOIN NATIONAL EFFORT

Empowered by compassion and an idea whose time has come, Laborers came out in force to support the National Immigrant Freedom Ride as it crossed New York state, making their way from Buffalo to a climactic rally in Queens.

The new Freedom Riders joined buses of immigrant workers and their allies from Los Angeles to Seattle, from Miami to Boston, growing in numbers and spreading a concern for workers' rights. As buses crossed New York in early October, NYS Laborers stood proudly with fellow workers and raised their voices in English and Spanish in support of organizing rights for immigrant workers.

Modeled after the 1960s Freedom Rides in which activists rode buses into the Deep South to challenge racial segregation, the National Immigrant Freedom Ride focused the nation's attention on the need to create a road to citizenship for all immigrant workers, reunite immigrant families and protect immigrants' civil and job rights.

Labor unions and community and immigrant rights groups sponsored this massive national effort, as the Freedom Riders visited more than 100 cities en route to a massive Washington rally. At each stop, riders and their allies called for much-needed immigration reform.



## Buffalo rally

A support rally at the Buffalo Convention Center drew together Laborers from Local 210, including Business Manager William Hoffman and Business Agent Joe Biondo, as well as other building tradespeople. In mutual solidarity, the riders in turn joined with local union demonstrators at the Adam's Mark Hotel, where the Laborers displayed a large inflatable rat, symbolizing the hotel's resistance to organizing its employees. As elsewhere in the state, the riders eagerly donned message T-shirts provided by union members.



Commitment to the cause – Local 435 members gathered in Brockport, an agricultural community where many immigrants work, to advocate for immigrant reforms.

PHOTO BY JOHN HICKEY



Social justice – Local 210 members displayed their solidarity with other building trades members and the Freedom Riders, who are waging a battle for social justice for millions of immigrants.

## Rochester riders

Local 435 members participated in a vibrant rally in Brockport, an agricultural community where immigrant workers toil on farms. A second rally at the Colgate Rochester Divinity School included a festive dinner where Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson Jr. and state Assembly Labor Committee Chairwoman Susan John addressed the excited crowd. Assemblywoman John called it "disgraceful" that farm workers do not have the right to organize a labor union.

## On to NYC

Continuing on their journey of advocacy and empowerment, the Freedom Riders delivered their calls for fairness before members of the U.S. Congress. They were then honored at a daylong Celebration of America's Immigrants in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens. LIUNA was a major financial supporter of the rally.

"Our union has long been a pathway to opportunities for newly arrived Americans," said LIUNA General President Terence M. O'Sullivan. "We favor equality. In our challenging work world, we know that rewards come to anyone willing to strive, cooperate, work safely and produce value – and they should."

Attending with General President O'Sullivan was LIUNA Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager Raymond M. Pocino, who vowed, "Our Union will continue to fight for the rights of immigrant workers and look forward to joining with others for these important events. This country was built by immigrants." 📌



Fight for fairness – The diverse crowd converged on Queens. Pictured above are LIUNA Vice President Raymond M. Pocino, left; LIUNA Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President Dennis Martire, second from left; LIUNA General President Terence M. O'Sullivan, third from left; and LIUNA Vice President-at-Large and Minority Advancement Director George R. Gudger, second from right.

*'Our union has long been a pathway to opportunities for newly arrived Americans.'*



PHOTOS BY DON POLLARD

# IT TAKES A NATION – AND A UNION

## Groundbreaking training program unites Local 621 with Seneca Indians

**T**hey punch the clock fifteen minutes early, eager to learn. Every morning, 17 Seneca Indian teens gather to learn at the Basic Construction Training Center on the Allegany Reservation in Steamburg, near Salamanca.

A unique alliance between NYS Laborers and the Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI), the training facility was inspired by the successful New England Laborers/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy in Rhode Island and reflects the shared vision of Local 621 Business Manager Don Giardini and President Kevin John.

Both men saw opportunities for work as a result of the Seneca Nation's plans to build a large gaming casino in Salamanca. Construction began in November on a 125,000-square-foot temporary casino, while work on a permanent casino will start next year.

"There were young people needed – and they had to be trained," Don said.

Kevin, a Laborer for 26 years and a Seneca like 30 percent of the local's membership, is particularly concerned with improving job creation for his Nation's younger generation.

"We want to make young people employable and put pride back on the reservation through work," he said.

Unemployment is chronically high in the Seneca Nation, fluctuating seasonally between 35 and 68 percent. But construction work is not new to the Seneca Nation. Its members have been involved in building since 1964, when the Kinzua Dam forced 160 families to relocate to new residences on two reservations.

The current expansion of casino



PHOTOS BY ROBERT SORENSEN

Eager to learn - Seneca Nation of Indians Chief of Staff Duane "Jim" Ray, center, and Local 621 Business Manager Don Giardini, seated in back, work with students at the New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy in Rhode Island.

gaming on Indian reservations represents another exciting opportunity for both the Senecas and the construction trades. The Nation's Tribal Employment Rights Office requires 51 percent of all workers in construction projects on SNI land to be Indians.

Laborers and Seneca Nation launched the Basic Construction Training Center last spring after Seneca leaders visited the Construction Career Academy in Cranston.

"They were very impressed," Kevin said.

"Ninth through 11th grade kids were learning how to work in the trades and what we do on the job."

He noted that at the new Allegany center, students learn by doing construction and other work on the historic

building itself. "The tribal elders who come by marvel to see how our students have cleaned up and showcased the place," he said.

Students also are involved in renovations at the Seneca Nation's Highbanks campsite and, as part of the program's emphasis on community service, they provide firewood and home repair services to tribal elders.

In training the students, Kevin occasionally is assisted by fellow instructors from the Laborers Upstate Training Center in Oswego. The program also has attracted assistance from the Laborers-AGC National Training Center in Pomfret, Conn., which supplies curriculum materials to the center; several local school systems; the School of Technology at Alfred State College; and Seneca One Stop, an SNI enterprise that helps screen and supervise students.

Students receive a basic stipend, funded through the SNI Employment

*'Ninth through 11th grade kids were learning how to work in the trades and what we do on the job.'*

and Training Department as well as programs for economically disadvantaged students and those with handicapping conditions.

“Our students are the ones who are often falling through the cracks in regular schools,” said Kevin John. “They’re the ones getting left behind.”

Not any more. After a six-week session combining classroom instruction and hands-on training, they graduate with a General Basic

Construction Certificate. And the results that students achieve through the new center are so impressive that labor, academic and tribal leaders are taking notice.

“This is the beginning of thinking about job training and creation in new ways for many other Indian nations,” Don said. “A group came here from Cornell University and was awed by what we’re doing; tribes from New Mexico and Arizona also have visited.”

Acknowledging the hard work of Kevin John and the Seneca leaders, Don Giardini called the historic pilot program “a win-win that helps both the Laborers and the Seneca Nation.”

The considerable time and energy that have gone into the program are clearly worth it.

Most training graduates join Local 621, but several have joined Local 91 in Niagara Falls or gone to work full time with private contractors. Several others have enrolled in Alfred’s School of Technology, and four who had dropped out of high school have returned to finish.



Unique alliance – Local 621 and Seneca Nation officials modeled their training facility after the Construction Career Academy in Cranston. Shown during a visit to Rhode Island are, from left, New England Laborers Training Trust Fund Administrator Jay Sabitoni; Seneca Nation of Indians Chief of Staff Duane “Jim” Ray; Seneca Nation Councilman Ron Jimmerson; Bill Duke of the Laborers’-AGC; Local 621 President, Instructor and Seneca Nation liaison Kevin John; New England Regional Vice President Vincent R. Masino; unidentified; Michael Traficante of the New England Laborers Health & Safety Fund; Laborers’-AGC Education & Training Fund Executive Director John LeConche; Chan Whitford, owner of L.C. Whitford Construction Co.; and Don Aldrich of L.C. Whitford Construction.

Seneca Nation President Rickey L. Armstrong said the training center will not only teach job skills that can lead to gainful employment, but “enhance the pride and respect within our Seneca communities. It’s another step in the Seneca Nation’s quest to become self-sufficient.”

Kevin John agrees that as students learn, lives improve.

“This program is a chance to change their lives and better themselves,” he said. “We’ve seen the pride grow in every student that’s been here.”

## THE THINGS THEY LEARN

The Basic Construction Training Center in Steamburg, Cattaraugus County, gives students broad-based workplace preparation by teaching skills through an eight-part program that develops:

- a sound work ethic and cooperative attitude
- an understanding of safety issues
- construction math, metric math and appropriate reading level
- proper tool use and maintenance
- blueprint reading
- demolition, rebuilding, repairing and construction skills
- orientation to the various building trades and their unions
- job referrals upon graduation.

Says Local 621 Business Manager Don Giardini: “Whichever craft they go into, they’ll know something about it after this training. They’ll also have a leg up on other students because they have a better idea of what they want to do.”



United front – Seneca Nation of Indians Chief of Staff Duane “Jim” Ray, center, and Seneca Nation Councilman Ron Jimmerson (in blazer) pose among students, instructors and construction company officials at the New England Laborers’/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy in Rhode Island. Standing in back, right, is Local 621 Business Manager Don Giardini.

## LOCAL 435 CELEBRATES 85TH ANNIVERSARY

**B**efore Xerox or General Motors came to Rochester, Local 435 was already building quality projects and improving the community through volunteer work and financial support.

Local 435 celebrated its 85-year history recently in the Rochester Convention Center – which, fittingly, the local had built. In addition to Sen. Chuck Schumer, LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer Armand E. Sabitoni, LIUNA Vice President Vincent R. Masino and other LIUNA visitors, the gala dining and dancing event attracted 800 of Rochester's best and brightest.

The local also honored retired Business Manager Anthony Castagnaro, who traveled from his Florida home to join his former colleagues. A large plaque honoring him and naming the large meeting room of the local's Fourth Street union hall was presented at the celebration, and he was hailed by General Secretary-Treasurer Sabitoni for his steadfast leadership and dedication.

Local 435 Business Manager Robert Brown emphasized the local's generous community support, noting its close



involvement with Park Ridge Hospital, the Open Door Mission and other charitable organizations. Each year, 50 to 60 members volunteer in the



**Special honor** – The local honored retired Business Manager Anthony Castagnaro, seated with his wife, who traveled from Florida to join the celebration. Pictured with the Castagnaros are LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer Armand E. Sabitoni, LIUNA Vice President Vincent R. Masino, Local 435 Business Manager Robert Brown and members of the Local 435 Executive Board.

United Way Day of Caring.

In addition to the Convention Center, Local 435 also built Rochester's "Can of Worms," the complex interchange linking Interstate 490 with the Onondaga Parkway, as well as the Ginna Power Plant, Van Lore Sewage Treatment Plant and many other significant projects.

However, the exuberant mood at the anniversary celebration was one of anticipation more than nostalgia, with this vibrant local looking ahead to new, challenging projects and new progress. 🍷

## ALBANY PIN CEREMONY



**They're golden** – Celebrating 50 years of service are members of Local 190, joined by LIUNA leaders. Pictured in front row, from left, are: John Nardolillo, Otto Languish, Nick Manocchio, Local 190 Business Manager Anthony Fresina, LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer Armand E. Sabitoni, Eastern New York Laborers District Council Business Manager Samuel Fresina and Leonard Trianni. Second row, from left: Joseph Welter, Leo Guilbeault, William Cade, Anthony Conti, Robert Ferrier, and Otho Everett. Third row, from left: James Green, Henry Weisel, Guy Poulin and Dominick DiBlasi. Fourth row, from left: Louis First, Chester Stancil and Salvatore Schipano.

# MESSAGE FROM

## A LUNA VICE-PRESIDENT

### Celebrating Tri-Fund magazine: 10 years – and counting



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This edition of the New York State Laborers' *Tri-Fund* magazine marks the 10-year anniversary of this publication. The *Tri-Fund* was launched in December 1993 by the New York State LECET, Health & Safety Fund and Political Action Committee as a way of communicating with our members, contractors and friends in New York state.

Our first edition noted that the magazine would outline the activities undertaken by all three funds on behalf of our 40,000 union members and contractors. It also explained how the PAC operates – including our support for New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi, an underdog candidate who triumphed with

Laborers' support and who now, of course, is the state comptroller.

Turning the *Tri-Fund's* colorful pages, readers then found a description of how NYS LECET encourages job growth for the construction industry and a look at the Health & Safety Fund. The magazine's health and safety coverage has increased over time as the Fund expanded its activities. This coverage has evolved into *LaborSAFE*, an award-winning, four-page newsletter bound into *Tri-Fund* and also printed in Spanish for separate distribution.

The first *Tri-Fund* contained several profiles, including one of LECET Trustee Paul O'Brien of the Building Contractors Association in New York City. Paul continues to serve as the very capable co-chair of LECET and Health & Safety. The "Action Around the State" section documented our local unions' involvement in economic development, charitable work and advocacy.

A decade later, the magazine continues to demonstrate how the funds serve our members and contractors and how these members and contractors contribute to the well-being of New York and New Yorkers. It shows Laborers meeting challenges, contributing and triumphing in many areas, forging ahead with dedication and success. In documenting these achievements, the *Tri-Fund* has won many national and international awards, both for general excellence and for single striking photos and articles.

The *Tri-Fund* and similar publications from the International and the New England and Eastern Regions are important for communicating to our members the achievements of our union and its affiliated funds. The publications tell only part of the story and only some of those achievements, but even then, they demonstrate the strength and power of this great union.

We are proud of the *Tri-Fund's* 10-year history and our union's 100-year history, but we still face many challenges, and we plan to document our efforts in many more issues of this magazine.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Vincent R. Masino  
Vice President  
Laborers' International Union of North America

*'It shows Laborers meeting challenges, contributing and triumphing in many areas, forging ahead with dedication and success.'*



**INSIDE: Laborers demand fairness and justice for immigrant workers, pages 10-11**

PHOTO BY DON POLLARD



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