

# Tri-Fund

SPRING 2005

NYS LABORERS'  
APPRENTICE...

**“You’re Trained!”**



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# Tri-Fund

Spring 2005

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# MESSAGE FROM

## THE IUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT

### Putting our money to work for members



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Funds that are set aside to provide workers' retirement security are estimated to hold \$5 trillion in assets. Laborers' funds hold a sizeable portion of this. Throughout our union, the value of more than 200 funds held for members is about \$27 billion, more than \$1 billion of which is held for members of the Eastern Region.

With assets such as these comes considerable power for our members. Too often, we have found that companies that we own through our funds' stock holdings, and the investment managers we employ to manage funds, have policies that are harmful to our fund participants.

Here are some examples of what can be accomplished when we put our money to work for us:

The Laborers' Greater Kansas City Pension Fund and the Construction Industry Laborers' Pension Fund in Jefferson City, Mo., are both clients of the Waddell and Reed investment firm, which had allied itself with a group advocating privatization of Social Security. When the firm heard from fund trustees, they quickly bolted the anti-Social Security group and vowed to be neutral, weakening the forces trying to destroy Social Security.

Laborers' funds are shareholders in El Paso Gas, a major pipeline company that directly and indirectly employs Laborers. The union developed a relationship with the company while advocating for corporate accountability reforms. Since then, that relationship has come to include a policy that requires 50 percent of all contractors on El Paso's bid list to be union contractors.

The Laborers' Local Union and District Council Pension Fund is a shareholder of IBM, a past leader among corporations in seeking to block expensing stock options, which would benefit shareholders by making excessive executive compensation more visible. When the fund placed a proxy proposal before shareholders, IBM reversed itself and voluntarily began the immediate expensing of stock options.

In Montana, officials of the Laborers' Union have met with the governor and his staff to explore how public and union funds might be used to stimulate local economies and create good family-supporting jobs. The talks, while in the early stage, illustrate how funds, public entities and private investors can work together.

These are just a few examples of the power of organizing our money.

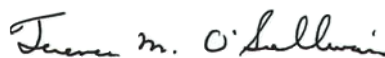
Leaders in the New England Region and Eastern Regions have done a remarkable job of building strong, healthy funds on behalf of our members, and I am confident that the great power of these funds will continue to be put to use to benefit all our members.

I urge every local union, district council and fund to take the next step and organize Laborers' money so that it works for members by providing a secure retirement and ensuring that Laborers' voices are heard on Wall Street – and throughout corporate America.

When our money talks, our union is stronger.

*'Leaders in the New England Region and Eastern Regions have done a remarkable job of building strong, healthy funds on behalf of our members.'*

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Terence M. O'Sullivan  
General President  
Laborers' International Union of North America

# MESSAGE FROM

## THE LIUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

### Recognizing the many benefits of apprenticeship programs



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

LIUNA members have participated in many exciting changes in our union over the last 20 years. None is more exciting – or important – than the implementation of apprenticeship programs.

When we first proposed apprenticeship programs for union construction Laborers, most other building trade unions and many contractors were united in opposition to our programs. Somehow they viewed the acknowledgement of our construction skills in a formal, state-recognized apprenticeship program as a threat to their trade.

We fought back – and got the recognition and legitimacy that our work skills and training programs deserved. Gradually, federal and state agencies approved our programs. Contractors that opposed LIUNA apprenticeship programs learned of the benefits of these programs and became supporters.

By the time our delegates met at our 2001 convention shortly after the World Trade Center tragedy, they were ready to approve mandatory apprenticeship programs for all new members entering our craft.

New members with adequate work experience must demonstrate their skills and experience in order to be recognized as journeymen. All others must start as apprentices and learn the necessary skills through training classes and job experience. Our studies of our apprentices show that they advance faster and earn more than their counterparts who do not participate in apprenticeship programs.

As illustrated in the article in this magazine, our New York state locals are making great strides in embracing apprenticeship programs. Throughout the state, our local union and district council apprenticeship programs are recruiting skilled and committed young people to become Laborers. These apprentices appreciate the training that they receive and are productive construction Laborers for their union and contractor employers.

Apprenticeship programs have other advantages. They demonstrate the commitment of our union to our communities. We recruit young people reflecting the diversity of these communities and provide many with opportunities to learn skills and to earn a decent living that might be difficult for them otherwise. The community benefits of apprenticeship programs have been recognized by many local government leaders who have required that contractors on local public projects have apprenticeship programs.

All of us can help make these apprenticeship programs even more successful. Help to recruit good young people from your community to join your local's program. If you're on a job with an apprentice, help him or her to learn more about the skills needed to be a good construction Laborer.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Armand E. Sabitoni". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Armand E. Sabitoni

General Secretary-Treasurer  
Laborers' International Union of North America

*'Throughout the state, our local union and district council apprenticeship programs are recruiting skilled and committed young people to become Laborers.'*



# NYS LABORERS' APPRENTICE ... "You're Trained!"

*General President Terry O'Sullivan,  
keynote address,  
LIUNA centennial celebration,  
Las Vegas, April 13, 2003*

## BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR TRAINING

'At our first convention in 1903, our fledgling Union was challenged to do everything possible to help members of the craft secure gainful employment. Today, we look to mandatory apprenticeship and mandatory training to do exactly that... We need to organize at least 100,000 new members each and every year to ensure the viability and strength of our organization...

### Training. Education. On-the-job experience.

All three are essential for NYS Laborers, and all have been provided by the union, ever since the Department of Labor recognized the work of a Construction Craft Laborer as an apprenticeable craft in 1994.

Two years ago, LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan set the tone for making apprenticeship programs even more integral to union membership.

Under its mandatory apprentice program, the Laborers' Union is building a well-trained workforce with a diverse set of skills and abilities that are imperative for the craft Laborer. In short, the Union is equipping contractors and the industry with productive, qualified professionals.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in New York, where NYS Laborers' courses are busier than ever.

At state-of-the-art union training



Apprentices participate in classroom training at the Mason Tenders Training Fund.

centers from Long Island to Buffalo, apprentices are learning core job and worksite safety skills in new and traditional construction tasks.

From its earliest days, the Laborers' Union has worked against the unfair practice of taking workers "off the street," with questionable skills and no experience, and paying them the same rates as members who have worked in the field for years. It's not only unjust, it's unsafe – and safety is

another longstanding union priority.

"Mandatory apprenticeship is the only answer," said General President O'Sullivan. "As our organization moves into the future, it will grow and adapt with the goals of the locals across the state."

*As the Laborers' apprenticeship program continues to evolve, please look to your local district councils and local leaders for the latest training opportunities and information.*

## MASON TENDERS TRAINING FUND

The Mason Tenders Training Fund apprenticeship program is growing strong. At its start in 1998, there were about 50 apprentices; the year-round classes are now topping out at 300.

“Everyone involved will agree that our programs have made great strides in a very short period of time,” says Apprenticeship Coordinator Timothy Warrington.

Timothy, who was both a business agent and a training instructor before becoming apprentice coordinator, notes that the Mason Tenders’ program began to grow as apprenticeship programs across the state started developing. The Training Fund makes it possible for New York State Laborers to take classes from certified instructors to increase their job skills, security, safety, productivity and potential earning power.

“We built the program to help those Laborers going out under the Mason Tenders name and to be in compliance with the International resolution,” he said, noting that the program is very much a joint effort, with important input from regional managers.

“Apprenticeship is a learning process for everyone,” Timothy says.

If the present is strong, the future looks even more promising for the Long Island City training site. Plans include a bigger facility, slated to open in summer 2005, with state-of-the-art equipment and more room for classes and hands-on work.

There will also be a stronger focus on mentors.

“There is incredible value in having experienced Laborers look out for and help steer new Laborers in the right direction,” Timothy says. “Overall, we aim to stay as current as possible with new courses and new construction techniques. Whether it’s knowledge gained through literature or training conferences, the goal is to keep everyone up to date while maintaining strong ties to the construction industry.”



**ANDRE STRICKLAND:**  
Journeyman and  
Shop Steward

“I was working as a telemarketer when I heard from a friend about the benefits that Laborers enjoy. The timing was perfect – the very next day, the Mason Tender Training Fund held its annual application day. I went, I stood on line, I was accepted. I was on my way.

My instructors and classes were great. Each class had a huge impact for different reasons, and all are something I reference at some point throughout the day – sometimes

without even knowing it. What the instructors shared as their personal experiences have become the personal experience of those in the class. You learn from others’ mistakes about potential dangers.

I completed my apprenticeship in May 2004. Now I’m a journeyman. Apprenticeship changed me dramatically. The skills I learned not only help me on the job, but in my personal life, too. What started as an opportunity to get more money turned into much more. From the instant I entered the program, I realized this was more than an avenue to raise my income. I was offered opportunities I never would have discovered on the career path I was on.

For example, I’m a shop steward, and I volunteer for the PAC, staying active in rallies and phone banks and distributing literature. I’ve received a greater knowledge of the political process and of how the union works with politicians to get things done in the city.

The biggest benefit is that the apprenticeship program saves lives. Coming in off the street without a general knowledge of construction would have been a huge problem had I just been put on the job. My increased health and safety knowledge helps the men on the job and the general public, which benefits from having workers who are knowledgeable and skilled.

The Mason Tenders’ program has helped me make the most out of my life. I can now afford to do things I’ve always wanted to do. As a result of my PAC participation, I’m a college student, taking labor studies at Queens College. It’s a four-semester program, and I’m halfway through.

As I move forward in my career I’m looking forward to advancing in the union in some capacity. ))

## CEMENT & CONCRETE WORKERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION FUND

The numbers tell the story: Last year, there were eight apprentices with the Cement & Concrete Workers Training and Education Fund. Currently there are more than 40 apprentices; 700 applicants applied to join the program, which has room for an additional 40-50 new apprentices.

To accommodate the tremendous surge in interest and the growing need for professional training in the field, the Fund recently moved into a new, bigger training facility at 29-18 35th Avenue in Long Island City. There, the staff is rigorously screening applicants to find the cream of the crop, those future members of the Concrete Workers District Council and New York State Laborers.

The new facility has three instruction classrooms and two training bays, while the parking lot is used as much for hands-on training as to help apprentices find those desirable city parking spots.

“I was drawn in by the emphasis on safety,” said Dennis O’Gorman, apprenticeship coordinator and full-time

instructor since 2003, with years of part-time teaching experience. Dennis, Training Director Carmine Datello and five part-time instructors comprise the new center's training staff.

"Over the years, I have seen so many needless accidents," Dennis noted. "Training is a critical aspect that was too often overlooked."



**JASON DELGADO:**  
**Bonds of Brotherhood**

"Since being involved in union labor, my life has changed for the better. I am a high school graduate with no plans for college, and I was a machinist before becoming an apprentice. The union opened a lot of doors.

As an apprentice, working your way up the ladder, you feel a sense of accomplishment with each stage you pass. It's unlike other businesses, where you are thrown into the work, trained on the job. Here, with each next level, you get a chance to prove yourself and improve your quality of life with a salary increase and other excellent benefits. There is also an unwritten level of respect you get once you've made it through the process.

One thing I've learned is that if you go on the job green, not knowing anything, the bosses will treat you like you don't know anything. When you come in having passed courses and paying your dues, you are treated much better.

I've been with the same guys for the past four years. You form bonds of a true brotherhood, different from working in an office. You are often doing things where you depend on others for your safety, and those bonds are important for the trust that's needed to do the job. ☺

### **LOCAL 589, ITHACA**

When a recent editorial in the local newspaper near Local 589 painted a less-than-favorable picture of apprenticeship in the area, representatives of Local 589 got together with the local building trades and other organizations to set the record straight.

They launched an education campaign to help change the idea that apprenticeship is, as the paper suggested, "a waste of time." Testimonials were collected, meetings attended, strategies planned.

The effort has paid off. The result is the Skilled Trades Diversity Committee, designed to strengthen the apprenticeship program in Ithaca and the surrounding area.

Formed in 2003, the committee already has achieved

a number of goals that have had a positive impact on public opinion.

These include hosting the first Construction Career Day (to be an annual event); increasing the number of under-represented populations and women in the skilled trades; and developing an exit interview survey for individuals who have left or are leaving the skilled trades.

Local 589 Business Manager David Marsh, the committee chairperson, called the group the foundation of a pre-apprenticeship program in the local area.

"We are pushing the envelope whenever possible to make this program valuable and successful to all involved," David said. "The end results can only help each one of us, from business manager to Laborer in the field, as we work each day. Everyone gains from having skilled, involved workers."



**ALEX PARILLO:**  
**'A Foot in the Door'**

"Before becoming a Laborers' apprentice, I was a machinist. When the trade took a downturn and shops began to close, I was laid off. I looked to the construction industry. In high school, I worked in non-union construction, so it wasn't foreign to me.

But this time, I wanted to enter the industry on the union side.

This apprenticeship opportunity gives you a foot in the door that you would otherwise be missing. You learn the skills, and if you are fortunate enough to be sent on a job receptive to apprentice workers, you are given hands-on experience you can't achieve anywhere else.

I completed my training in the Oswego center, but I still take classes in the off months, from October until April. The classes have been very beneficial. Getting the training in a classroom setting vs. on the job reduces the amount of stress and pressure. People are more forgiving and more willing to spend the time necessary to give you a definition of the lingo used on the work site and to walk you through tasks. ☺

### **EASTERN NEW YORK LABORERS TRAINING CENTER**

If you build it, they will come.

That's certainly the case with the Eastern New York Laborers Training Center, constructed on 58 acres in Glenmont, just south of Albany, in 1989. In the past decade, more and more members have turned to the Glenmont facility, which offers a wide range of courses in everything from asphalt paving to hazardous waste abatement. With two

large classrooms, hands-on training rooms and various living and administrative areas, it attracts members from the Capital Region and beyond.

But it's not only about the building. The Eastern New York Laborers' Training Program really took off after the right people were put in place.

One of those people is Apprenticeship Coordinator John Crisorio, a former field rep who has been a member of the union for 18 years and who teaches skills in scaffold building. John recruits potential members by giving talks to EOC groups on a regular basis. But lately, through word of mouth, apprentices have been approaching the training center. There are 62 potential candidates currently hoping for an opportunity to participate.

"I'm happy to be involved in developing new members from the very beginning," John says. He notes that the apprentice admissions process is not easy, but a background in the industry with vocational or related construction experience will help make candidates stand out.

"Ultimately, after the proper training, we are able to put members in the workforce who will stand out and be prepared for the days and work ahead of them," he says. "Being prepared is a priceless advantage."



**RICH LONG:  
Seizing the Opportunity**

"I was working in the masonry and chimney field when a fellow worker turned me on to the Laborers. It was mostly his explanation of the union benefits that got me interested to make the call.

The greatest benefit to training is that when you have a question, there is always somebody to ask. Everyone has been more than willing to help. The instructors explain everything on a level that is so easy to relate to. And having worked in the field before, they are more than accommodating to the apprentices' schedules. I'm in my last year of training, going to school in the morning and working afternoons. I'd like to get involved in the superintendent classes next.

To be honest, when I first thought of apprenticeship training, I thought it was a step backward. But I can say it changed my life and my career and ultimately made me a better all-around worker. Laborers are intelligent, well-trained workers with a lot to offer the craft. I'm proud to say I'm a trained member. ))

## APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

Asbestos, Lead & Hazardous Waste Laborers' Local 78  
30 Cliff Street - 6th Floor, New York, NY 10038  
Jorge Roldan, 917-807-1019

Buffalo Laborers' Training Fund, Local 210  
1370 Seneca Street, Buffalo, NY 14210  
Daniel Hurley, 716-825-0883

Cement & Concrete Workers Training & Education Fund  
3504 30th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106  
Carmine Datello, 718-567-3374

Eastern New York Laborers Training Center  
668 Wemple Rd., PO Box 339, Glenmont, NY 12077  
John Crisorio, 518-465-1254

General Building Laborers' Local 66 Training Fund  
1600 Walt Whitman Rd., Melville, NY 11747  
Sean Brennan, 631-454-2330

Laborers' International Union JAC Local 7  
98 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905  
William Silvestri, 607-723-4345

LIUNA Local 589 JAC  
622 West State St., Ithaca, NY 14850  
David Marsh, 607-272-3122

Laborers' Local 633  
7051 Fly Rd., Suite A, E. Syracuse, NY 13057  
John Shannon, 315-471-1591

Laborers' Local 1000  
PO Box 128, 44 Haight Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12602  
Philip Benante, 845-471-2470

Laborers' Local 103  
PO Box 571, Geneva, NY 14456  
Carmen Serrett, 315-539-4220

Laborers' Local 1358 Joint Training Fund  
157 Prescott Ave., Elmira Heights, NY 14903  
Tom Norconk, 607-732-5912

Laborers' Local 91 Education Training Fund JAC  
2556 Seneca Ave., Niagra Falls, NY 14305  
Richard Palladino, 716-297-4722

LIUNA Laborers' Local 35  
112 South St., Utica, NY 13501  
Joseph Dicesare, 315-732-7965

LIUNA Local 17  
451A Little Britain Rd., Newburgh, NY 12550  
845-565-2737

LIUNA Local 157  
105 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305  
Timothy Standhart, 518-374-6704

LIUNA Local 186 JAC  
PO Box 928, 23 Elm St., Suite 400  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
John Donoghue, 518-561-3240

LIUNA Local 235  
41 Knollwood Rd., Elmsford, NY 10523  
Dario Boccarossa, 914-592-3020

LIUNA Local 322 JAC Massena  
PO Box 361, 49 1/2 Maple St.  
Massena, NY 13662-0361  
Scott Hilyard, 315-769-8731

LIUNA Local 731 - Training Fund  
34-11/19 35th Ave., Astoria, NY 11106  
Barbara Paventi, 718-752-9860

LIUNA Local 754  
215 Old Nyack Turnpike, Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977  
845-425-5073

Mason Tenders Training Fund Local 79  
75 Varick St., Suite 501, New York, NY 10013  
Timothy Warrington, 212-965-1730

Pavers & Road Builders District Council JAC  
Local 210  
136-25 37th Ave., Flushing, NY 11354  
J. Montelle, 718-961-6963

Road & Heavy Construction Laborers' Local 1298  
1611 Locust Ave., Bohemia, NY 11716  
Edward Horbach, 631-218-1376

Rochester Laborers' Local 435  
20 Fourth St., Rochester, NY 14609  
Jimmy Haynes, 585-546-8460

Southern Tier Laborers' JAC Local 621  
1521 North Union St., Olean, NY 14760  
Don Giardini, 716-372-2639

West/Putnam Construction Craft Laborers  
Local 60  
140 Broadway, Hawthorne, NY 10532  
Augusto Rosa, 914-769-2440



## LOCAL 1000 ADVANCES WORK ON EAST FISHKILL IBM PLANT

The world's most technologically advanced chip-making plant, the IBM plant in East Fishkill, Dutchess County, has been so successful it is now undergoing an expansion, with Laborers from Local 1000 in Poughkeepsie on the job since last summer.

The \$1.9 billion expansion of IBM Building 323 is a combined effort of many partners, including New York state, IBM, Sony, Toshiba, Samsung, Infineon, AMD and Charter. As part of the current project, 380,000 square feet will be added to the building's existing structure, already a massive 140,000 square feet. Local 1000 Laborers have been busy at the site, located two hours north of midtown Manhattan, since August.

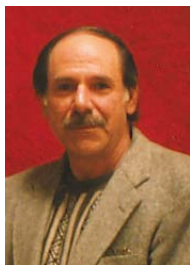
Work on Building 323 includes excavation, site utility relocation and concrete work. There is additional work in the tooling of the building, the process of hooking up the pipes and electricity to the machines once they are placed.

"With perseverance, we've been able to keep our members employed on this project – and continue to have them contribute to the growth in the East Fishkill area," said Local 1000 Business Manager Phil Benante, who worked on the original chip plant construction project in 1982. "Having my local involved in the expansion is quite satisfying, especially since this job and many others these days are using the latest technology, which can take a lot of men off the job."

To date, some 35 Laborers have been involved in the expansion; currently, 20 members are on the job. The project is tentatively scheduled to be completed in the fall. 🌄

### A BIT OF CHIP-MAKING HISTORY

IBM's decision to build a state-of-the-art computer chip development plant in upstate New York more than two decades ago was cited as part of an historic change in the state's business environment and a key part of New York's transformation to a high-tech economy. The original East Fishkill facility, designated as IBM Building 323, went dark in the early 1990s during IBM cost-cutting measures, but it was reborn in 2000 when IBM invested \$2.5 billion to transform it into a leading-edge semiconductor fabrication factory. The largest private-sector investment in New York State history, the new facility combined, for the first time, IBM chip-making breakthroughs on 300-millimeter (mm) wafers. The chips are used in computers, servers, cell phones, video games systems and other electronic devices.



## PROFILE OF A BUSINESS MANAGER: PHIL BENANTE

After graduating from Dutchess County Community College in 1965, Phil Benante went to work for IBM – and quickly realized that a cubicle in a corporate environment was not how he envisioned his future. So in 1968, he joined Local 1000. He knew the local union from several years of summer work, including laying concrete, beginning in 1964. Once he became a member, he just as quickly got involved in union issues, becoming secretary-treasurer, auditor, vice president and president. In 1997, he took over the job of business manager from Frank Marchese Sr.

"I've always enjoyed working with my hands, whether doing a remodeling project on my own home or a union project in the area," Phil said recently. "There's a special satisfaction in looking back at the buildings and roads that you had a hand in creating. They're accomplishments that you can see on a regular basis. I often find myself driving across bridges or looking at buildings that I helped build."

Phil also enjoys the opportunity to help his members find work. As one who's seen a lot of changes in the industry during the past four decades, he is hopeful about the future of organized labor. He'd like to see ways in which technology can help, rather than hurt, LIUNA members. For instance, rather than

downscaling the role union Laborers play in construction projects, he'd like to see technology help today's better-trained workers complete tasks in a more timely manner.

Over the years, he said, "it's been great to see the strides we've made as an organization, particularly in our union training programs. These programs alone have made our membership more competitive as a group against non-union workers." 🌄

### 5

#### "FILL IN FIVE"

Tri-Fund magazine asked Phil to fill in the blanks on five questions about himself:

1. People who I've worked with all these years would be surprised to learn that: I used to do volunteer work for child protection services.
2. My first job was: Working at a gas station
3. The last movie I saw was: "Man on Fire" with Denzel Washington
4. My favorite song on the radio is: "Live Like You Were Dying" by country music superstar Tim McGraw
5. My favorite saying or quote is: "Learning is the slow erosion of your ignorance."

## TRANSPORTATION BUDGET UPDATE: LABORERS, ROADWAY COALITION



“The transportation system is under stress unless New York State dramatically changes the planning, investing, managing and institutional relationships that drive the system.”

– *New York State Advisory Panel on Transportation Policy for 2025 (November 2004)*

In January, on the same day the governor’s budget was to be announced, the New York Roadway Improvement Coalition (NYRIC) launched an advertising campaign calling for additional transportation funding.

The two-page newspaper spread, which ran in several publications, included a letter urging Gov. Pataki to act on the recommendations of his own advisory panel and an ad promoting NYRIC’s new three-point transportation strategy.

In the coming months, as part of a plan to stop the continuing deterioration of the state’s road system, NYRIC members will expand the campaign to include radio ads and billboards. NYRIC is a broad-based group of transportation, labor, community and business organizations that have joined together to promote cost-effective investment in the state’s transportation infrastructure.

“The problem is that while everything looks good on paper, proper funding is not being given to a state like New York,” says NYS Laborers’ Tri-Funds Administrator Dr. Jim Melius. “Through our PAC and LECET funds, we will continue to put efforts toward the battle just to keep our current level of funding.”

The state panel organized by the NYS Department of

Transportation held hearings around the state last summer to get input on transportation needs from local officials, business leaders and transportation industry representatives.

“At every hearing, from Long Island to Buffalo, we heard about the critical importance of maintaining and improving our transportation infrastructure to support economic growth for New York state,” said Jim, a member of the 12-person panel. “Now it is up to the governor and Legislature to come up with a way to support these transportation needs. New York state needs bold leadership if the state is going to keep up with other parts of the country.”

While our state leaders are wrestling with this problem, our representatives in Congress are working on renewing federal support for our information infrastructure. This so-called TEA-21 renewal provides much of the funding for transportation improvements as long as the state provides matching funds. Unfortunately for New York, President Bush has insisted that any increased spending for transportation be limited, which may well leave New York with less money than in the past.

Elected officials can help. In early February, newly elected Congressman Randy Kuhl of the Finger Lakes area and Brian Higgins, representing Buffalo and the surrounding areas, were

## SOUND THE CALL TO ACTION FOR NYS GOVERNOR, LEGISLATORS

named to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. For the last few years, Kuhl has chaired the NYS Senate Transportation Committee and has been a strong advocate for improving New York's transportation infrastructure. The presence of these individuals on this key House committee should help push New York's needs in the upcoming battle over TEA-21 renewal.

As part of the overall effort, the NYS Laborers are in the

process of updating "Break the Bottleneck," an award-winning brochure produced and distributed in 2000. The industry has gone through many changes since then, and the new brochure, "Curb the Crisis," will discuss the problems, impact and long-term effects of neglecting the state's transportation system.

More importantly, it will suggest initiatives and pinpoint viable, responsible ways to help curtail the transportation funding crisis in New York state. 🌄



## TWO FIRSTS FOR 7 WORLD TRADE CENTER

**7** World Trade Center – the first building completed in Lower Manhattan since the collapse of the WTC Towers and a unique model of safety and efficiency – is scheduled for completion in early 2006, culminating two years of hard work by New York City Laborers.

At 52 stories tall, slightly higher than the previous 47-story structure, the new 1.7 million-square-foot building is located at the entry to the rebuilt World Trade Center. In addition to being the first building completed, 7 WTC is raising the bar on existing commercial building codes and setting new standards. It will incorporate a range of safety enhancements that are expected to become the prototype for new high-rise construction, including the Freedom Tower and four other buildings that Silverstein Properties will construct on the site.

“The level of concrete work that went into this building is tremendous,” said Local 6A Business Manager Frank Agnello, noting that the entire building is erected around a concrete core. The first seven floors are 100 percent concrete, considered revolutionary for a building of this kind.

Local 6A is one of the many NYC locals working on the project. Construction began in February 2003, and during its peak, approximately 75 Laborers were on the job. Currently, there are about 20.

“This project is exciting on so many levels,” Local 731 Business Manager Joseph D’Amato said. “From an emotional perspective, being involved in the rebuilding of the area is great. This building will change the future for these types of structures. Future building in this city and other cities will, I believe, follow this model. We learned a lesson in 2001 that no one wants to repeat.”

This new process, while costly, “is priceless,” he said.

The Mason Tenders have been involved with World Trade Center rebuild activities since the beginning. “We are pleased to see this first building almost to completion and know the hard



7 WTC was designed by David M. Childs of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and glass artist/designer James Carpenter. The reflective façade will change with the patterns of sunlight and weather.

work and effort that every man and woman on the job has put into it daily,” said Mason Tenders District Council Business Manager Robert Bonanza. “You can’t help but feel like you are a part of something special working on this project, and to be working on a building with expectations so much higher than anything else we’ve been a part of is thrilling.”

Tishman Construction General Labor Foreman Frank Noviello called 7 WTC “the smoothest job I’ve been a part of during my 23 years in the industry. With the local unions working hard, this job has excelled on many levels, including quality, safety and timeliness. Currently on schedule, the end result will be something everyone can be proud of.”

“We are one of the model jobs in the construction industry right now,” said Silverstein Properties Vice President Jack Klein. “We are the one to watch. We are at every meeting, addressing building code. This building has already changed the way things are done. It is a tribute to the NYS Laborers’ training and abilities that they are able to perform the project’s tasks at a newly mandated level. We’ve stepped it up on many levels, and they’ve been right there for this exciting opportunity.”



New York City labor leaders, NYS LECET staff, Silverstein Properties President and CEO Larry Silverstein and Tishman Construction representatives gather at 7 WTC as it nears completion.



## HELPING TO ROLL THE DICE: LOCAL 17 BACKS 5-CASINO PLAN

It's not a new topic for the Sullivan County Legislature, but an initiative presented late last year by Gov. Pataki put the controversial, decades-old question of casinos in the Catskills back on the table. After much discussion, in February the Legislature voted, by a 6-3 margin, to approve the governor's resolution to build five Indian casinos in the county.

With the help of the NYS LECET, Local 17 in Newburgh got involved in the project primarily because of the major potential for job creation and revitalization of the county. The casinos would give the region an economic shot-in-the-arm, generating more than 10,000 construction jobs and greatly boosting the ranks of local Laborers.

Local 17 worked with the Catskill Casino Coalition to encourage building trades members throughout Sullivan County to contact their county legislators before the deciding vote. The staff helped write letters and gather signatures of support.

"It is important that we get involved in these efforts at the grassroots level," said Local 17 Business Manager Todd Diorio. "In the end, it benefits members by providing greater work opportunities."



Casino supporters gather at the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello, NY.

According to project supporters, in addition to construction jobs, the casinos would generate jobs for 20,000 permanent employees, increase sales and property taxes, boost new housing construction, attract 30 million visitors each year and bring billions in slot machine revenue for the state.

The law providing for the five Indian casinos ultimately would need state and congressional approval. As this initiative moves forward, Local 17 and NYS LECET will continue to be involved and keep job opportunities a priority in New York state.



## WTC screening program extended: Laborers and other rescue workers encouraged to participate

Laborers from the New York City area and tri-state region who responded to the attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) or were involved in the restoration of essential services and in the removal of debris from Ground Zero are encouraged to participate in the free, confidential World Trade Center Worker & Volunteer Medical Screening and Medical Monitoring Programs.

The program for first-time screening has been extended to

encourage more participants. It is part of an effort to address the lack of care and improve the health and wellness of those involved in the WTC efforts. It is made possible with the help of the Mount Sinai-Irving J. Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, along with the support of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Laborers who qualify or believe they qualify are encouraged to call the WTC phone bank at 888.702.0630 to check their eligibility.

# SOCIAL SECURITY: WHAT'S WRONG WITH BUSH'S PLAN

More than two months since President Bush announced his vision for overhauling the nation's 70-year-old Social Security system, the picture remains blurred, at best – and blind to the realities of working Americans' needs and a program that has proved dependable and durable.

Using a combination of spin, lies and scare tactics, the president is proposing to dismantle the most important, efficient and longest-lasting family security program in U.S. history.

He wants to replace it with a gamble that would *hurt*, not help, working families; make retirement *less*, not more, secure; and *damage*, not restore, the economy.

## THE FACTS:

In fact, according to figures and analysis from the Center for Economic Policy Research, the Congressional Budget Office, the Social Security Trustees and a host of other sources, there is no immediate crisis with the Social Security system, in which today's workers pay to support today's retired workers, disabled workers, survivors of deceased workers and their dependents.

Social Security remains the foundation of the American retirement system. Currently, more than 47 million



Americans receive Social Security benefits, and the system's administrative costs are less than 1 percent. Trustees of the system say it can pay full benefits until 2042. After that, even with problems, Social Security payroll taxes will be able to fund nearly 70 percent of the payments owed to beneficiaries.

But Bush is proposing to replace these longstanding guaranteed benefits with so-called private, or privatized, accounts.

Bush allies and other privatization supporters claim that such a plan would be voluntary, produce more benefits and give individuals a say in their retirement investments. However, privatizing Social Security could remove the safety net for millions of Americans.

## BUSH'S PRIVATIZATION PLAN WOULD:

- **mandate risky private accounts** for all retirees, in place of guaranteed benefits.
- **slash guaranteed benefits** by 40 percent, even if the retiree doesn't choose a private account. (Average retirees would lose \$152,000 in benefits if they live for 20 years after they retire, according to the Center for Economic Policy Research.)
- **penalize workers** further by taking 70

cents in retirement benefits for every \$1 in their private accounts and return the money to the government.

- **explode the deficit**, passing on trillions of dollars in U.S. debt to future generations (an estimated \$4.9 trillion over the next 20 years alone, with most of it owed to foreign countries).
- **prohibit workers** from controlling their private retirement investments.
- **encourage corruption**, with government-picked Wall Street investment firms poised to make billions in inflated fees from managing the private accounts (an estimated \$940 billion windfall over 75 years, according to a University of Chicago study).

With retirement security dwindling as a result of corporate bankruptcies and downsizing, and traditional employer-based pensions under attack, strengthening the current Social Security system is critical.

This plan, however, could have the opposite effect, potentially pushing many retirees into poverty and forcing family members and taxpayers to make up for the loss of Social Security's guaranteed benefits.

But this must be done with carefully considered, responsible measures – not by rushing into a plan that guarantees only one thing: more downside than benefit for working Americans. 📌

Say no to damaging privatization plan. *Strengthen, don't slash, Social Security*

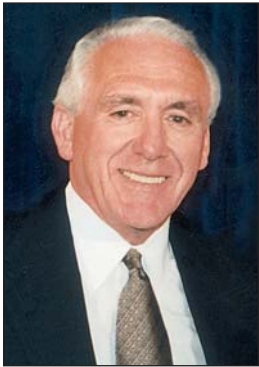
## DON'T:

- Cut guaranteed benefits to pay for private accounts.
- Increase the federal deficit and saddle future generations with trillions in debt.
- Raise the retirement age.
- Freeze the standard of living for retirees by pegging Social Security benefits to the increase in prices rather than wages.

# MESSAGE FROM

## A LUNA VICE-PRESIDENT

### Rebuilding the Empire State



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This issue of the New York State Laborers' *Tri-Fund* magazine illustrates the important role that union construction Laborers are making in the rebuilding of the Empire State.

The major jobs described here and the many other large projects that are planned promise many thousands of jobs for our union members – a very exciting prospect.

New buildings are starting to go up at Ground Zero, with construction of the first one well under way (please see story, page 12). This rebuilding effort will also include major transportation projects to provide better and more efficient access to lower Manhattan.

In the Catskills, discussions continue to focus on new casinos that will bring a welcome economic stimulus to an area that badly needs more jobs (story, page 13). Casinos are also being built or planned for other parts of the state. In the Hudson Valley, the new, multi-billion dollar IBM plant will provide many construction jobs in the short term and many permanent jobs to the Hudson Valley as that region develops as a major center for technology development and production (story, page 9).

We are also finally getting closer to the additional transportation funding that New York State needs (story, page 10). Congress appears to be about to pass new federal funding (the so-called TEA-21 renewal). The governor and state Legislature also approved increased state funding to support transportation construction. This effort will include a Bond Act to be put before state voters in November, and the federal and state funding should support many major transportation projects across the state ranging from the new Second Avenue Subway in New York City to the Rooftop Highway in Northern New York.

However, we can no longer just sit back and wait for these projects to be funded. We need to be actively involved in promoting major projects and monitoring their implementation. As we learned with the Croton Filtration Plant, an aggressive campaign involving the local community, elected officials and environmental groups can ensure that issues are addressed and badly needed projects can move forward.


Our NYS LECET and PAC funds are leaders in the state in promoting these projects and ensuring that our members and contractors are actively employed. You can do your part by being involved with your local union's political activity and efforts to promote key projects.

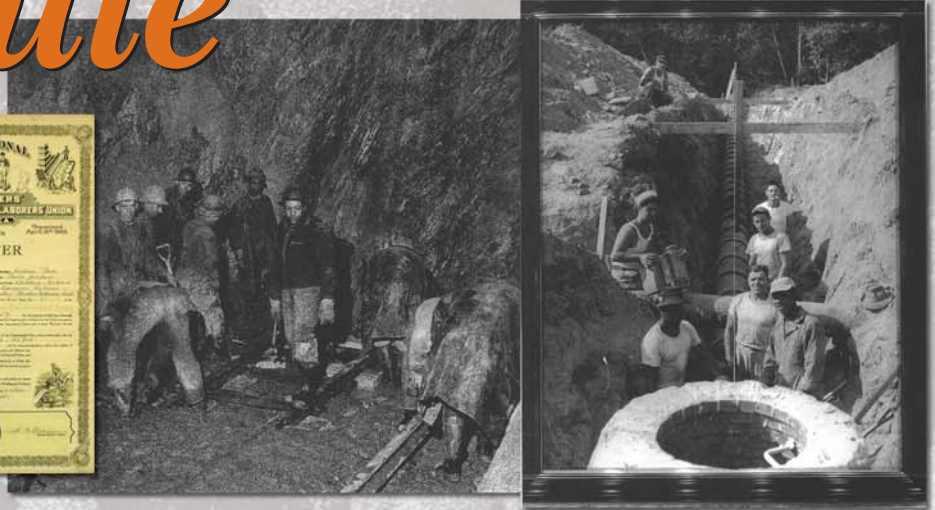
Sincerely and Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond M. Pocino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ray Pocino  
Laborers' International Union of North America

# Time Capsule

Local 60 has been serving Westchester County and lower New York state for more than 75 years. The local was chartered in 1928 as drillers, blasters, rockman, streets, road constructors, excavators and common Laborers. 



Left to right: Local's original charter. Local 60 members work on an aqueduct; a water line is laid.



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