

# Tri-Fund

FALL 2007

## FIELD OF DREAMS

**Laborers Replace 'The House that Ruth Built'  
with New Yankee Stadium**

Visit our Web site at [www.nysliuna.org](http://www.nysliuna.org)

# Tri-Fund

Fall 2007

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This is a quarterly publication of the New York State Laborers'-Employers' Cooperation & Education Trust, the New York State Laborers' Health & Safety Trust Fund and the New York State Laborers' Political Action Committee, 18 Corporate Woods Blvd., Albany, N.Y. 12211.

[www.nysliuna.org](http://www.nysliuna.org)



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# MESSAGE FROM

## THE LIUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT

### In Search of a “Build America” Candidate



**D**ear Brothers and Sisters:

At the most recent LIUNA Leadership Conference we heard from four leading Democratic presidential hopefuls: U.S. Sens. Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. In this unprecedented event for any union – the kick off event to engage LIUNA members in the political process this election cycle – they spoke both to LIUNA leaders and directly to Laborers from across the country via live webcast at [www.LiunaLive.org](http://www.LiunaLive.org).

I have always said that we need to make political action an everyday part of being a Laborer – not just on Election Day, but every day. Our new communications program utilizes technologies that allow members to be active participants in the political process through the Internet. I

encourage all members to visit [www.LiunaLive.org](http://www.LiunaLive.org), view the speeches and offer feedback on who they consider the best “Build America” candidate for LIUNA.

We need input from LIUNA members before we make any presidential endorsement, and we will only make an endorsement if there is a clear consensus on the best candidate.

I believe that our members’ participation will make the process stronger down the road, as we mobilize like never before.

Any candidate seeking our endorsement needs to understand that Laborers work hard every day to build America. We expect the same from them. We expect them to work for good, family-supporting jobs, safe workplaces, affordable health care, retirement security, infrastructure investment, fair trade and the freedom to join together in a union.

These issues aren’t just election time issues for LIUNA members; they are the issues that LIUNA families deal with on a daily basis. No elected official, from local officials to the President, can ignore these issues or the people who view them as our nation’s top priorities.

In New York, Laborers have consistently been politically active throughout our union’s history. That activism has helped elect labor-friendly politicians and has held them accountable to the promises they make to us.

I ask that you step up to the plate once again this election season and join in our political mobilization efforts. When we band together we accomplish great things. Half a million strong, we proud and united Laborers can help ensure our nation elects a “Build America” candidate who puts our priorities first.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Terence M. O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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

*Any candidate seeking our endorsement needs to understand that Laborers work hard every day to build America. We expect the same from them.*

# MESSAGE FROM

## THE IUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

### Investing Responsibly in Safe Infrastructure



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This summer's tragic bridge collapse in Minnesota reminds us of our reliance on a safe and efficient transportation system. We take the availability of such a system for granted in our everyday lives. These roads and bridges carry us to job sites and back home to our families. They carry our children to school and our families on shopping trips, vacations and visits. They bring us the goods and services we use every day. And they are a source of work for our members.

The Minnesota bridge collapse has made painfully clear the need for significant investment in building and maintaining that transportation system across the United States. Even a casual look at our present system of transportation infrastructure financing is enough to cause alarm concerning its short- and long-term adequacy.

Specifically, New York has always maintained this infrastructure with federal and state funds. We as Laborers have always supported lawmakers' efforts to provide these funds, supporting passage of the 2005 Transportation Bond Act, for example. These so-called transportation trust funds, primarily funded by gasoline taxes, were to provide "dedicated" support for transportation construction. In reality, these trust funds are dwindling toward bankruptcy. The rising costs of building materials and of debt (with resulting increases in interest payments) are outstripping the fuel tax receipts.

The conditions of bridges in New York state rank among the worst in the country, with the number of bridges rated fair or poor increasing every day. New York state does deserve credit for some major new transportation projects (East Side Access, Second Avenue Subway, 7th Line Extension, I-86 completion), but many other high-priority projects continue to lack necessary funding (Tappan Zee Bridge replacement, a freight rail tunnel to New York City and others). We need these projects not only to ensure safe and efficient transportation but also to provide work for our men and women.

Eliot Spitzer promised a major infrastructure initiative when he ran for governor. Now, as public alarm about the safety of our transportation infrastructure is on the rise, it is time for that promise to become action, and for us as Laborers to hold him accountable. Businesses relocating into New York state and those committing to staying here need to be assured their investments in New York will be met with a transportation system that will support their needs. We as Laborers need to support our lawmakers as they work to meet this responsibility.

All New Yorkers need to know that there will be a safe efficient transportation system to depend on for a long time.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Armand E. Sabitoni  
General Secretary-Treasurer  
Laborers' International Union of North America

*We need these projects not only to ensure safe and efficient transportation but also to provide work for our men and women.*

## LABORERS MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD AT NYRIC LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION



In Solidarity – U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton greets Joseph D’Amato, business manager of Local 731, at the NYRIC Legislative Reception.

**K**ey leaders from the New York State Laborers recently added their voices to discussions at the New York Roadway Improvement Coalition (NYRIC) Legislative reception in Washington, DC. This annual event delivers to members of the state Congressional delegation important concerns regarding legislation with potential impact on the state’s highway infrastructure.

A statewide coalition of highway users; business, civic and environmental leaders; professional engineers, builders and labor organizations, NYRIC advocates for economic development through the responsible maintenance of safe, un-congested roadways.

This year, Dr. James Melius, President of NYRIC and administrator of the New York State Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund, and Frank Marchese Sr., director of NYS LECET,



represented the views of the NYS Laborers at the well-attended reception. They were joined by representatives of Laborers local unions 731 and 1298. Both U.S. Senators from New York state, Hillary Clinton and Charles Schumer, attended the reception, during which Rep. Joseph Crowley received an award for his efforts to support responsible transportation funding – a key NYRIC priority.

Highlighting Issues – Jim Melius, president of NYRIC and Tri-Fund Administrator, hosts the reception, flanked by U.S. Reps. Carolyn B. Maloney and Eliot Engel.

## LABOR LEADERS HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

### TERRY M. O'SULLIVAN HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENT BY THE PEGGY BROWNING FUND

General President Terence M. O'Sullivan was recently honored for his lifetime achievement on behalf of working men and women by the Peggy Browning Fund in a reception held at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers.

The Peggy Browning Fund is a not-for-profit corporation established in memory of Margaret A. Browning, prominent labor attorney and the first union lawyer appointed to the National Labor Relations Board. The Fund encourages law students to practice public interest labor law by developing an appreciation for workers rights through diverse and challenging work on behalf of workers.

Many distinguished LIUNA officers honored General President O'Sullivan at the reception, including General Secretary-Treasurer Armand Sabitoni, Vice President Vincent Masino and Vice President Raymond Pocino. 🏡



Sharing the Glory - LIUNA General President Terence M. O'Sullivan, second from right, receives congratulations from Armand E. Sabitoni, LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer right and New England Regional Manager, and other attendees of the dinner honoring Mr. O'Sullivan.

### ARMAND E. SABITONI RECOGNIZED BY THE CONSTRUCTION BUILDING INDUSTRY DIVISION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK



Appreciation for Achievement - Armand E. Sabitoni, LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer, left; and LIUNA General President Terence M. O'Sullivan, right; flank Edmund Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York, at the awards dinner honoring Mr. Sabitoni.

General Secretary-Treasurer Armand Sabitoni recently earned the gratitude of the Archdiocese of New York for the important contributions of the Laborers in fostering and supporting archdiocesan schools.

At an awards dinner, also held at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, speakers stressed the importance of education and the vital role of the Laborers in helping to provide healthy and safe school environments that encourage students to learn.

General President Terence M. O'Sullivan and leaders and business managers from across New York state and the New England Region shared in General Secretary-Treasurer Armand Sabitoni's pride in the award. Mr. Sabitoni stressed that the award honors the Laborers' dedication to the cause of education as a vital component in preparing future generations to become productive members of society. Edmund Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York, was Honorary Chairman at the awards dinner. 🏡

## PROFILE OF A BUSINESS MANAGER: EDISON SEVERINO

### LOCAL UNION 78 BUSINESS MANAGER

Edison Severino, Business Manager of Local 78, began his organizing career in a co-worker's living room in Queens, NY. "At that very first organizing meeting, I was sold. Looking around the room packed with my co-workers, I knew this was our best opportunity to have a better life." Since these humble beginnings over ten years ago, Local 78 has grown to become the largest asbestos, lead and hazardous waste local in the country, with over 3,200 members and 90% market share in New York City and Long Island. Local 78 is the only union in the area with a base of members accredited to handle the removal of hazardous materials.

The New York City asbestos and hazardous waste industry was almost entirely non-union when the Laborers International targeted it for unionization in 1996. Many of the workers in the industry were undocumented, but almost all suffered immense mistreatment at the hands of their employers. They were overworked, underpaid and, perhaps most seriously, the health risks that asbestos posed were downplayed or even ignored by their supervisors.

Working under these conditions on a daily basis, Edison was eager to start organizing when the Laborers' representatives came knocking. He was quickly recognized as a leader who could mobilize his fellow workers through trust and an unbending commitment to the organizing effort.

After months of strikes and job actions, Local 78 was established and Edison aspired to become a shop steward, but was instead sent to Alabama and then North Carolina to organize poultry processing workers for the Laborers International. He returned to New York to work with Local 78 in their demolition campaign. In September 1996 he was hired as a Business Agent for the nascent Local 78 – the position he would hold until being elected Business Manager in January 2004.

He believes that the turning point in his career came with the realization that, as a non-union laborer, the employers would always take advantage of him and other workers as long as there was no union. "In Spanish we have a simple, but very accurate statement – In the Union there is strength." Taking on the boss and dedicating himself to the creation of a strong, vibrant union of workers who before had been a mass of unorganized, competing individuals changed his life.

Edison sees a bright future for Local 78. He is dedicated to increasing membership and organizing new workers. While there are many years of work ahead in asbestos abatement, he understands that the amount of asbestos out there is finite. Therefore, the Local is currently organizing the hazardous waste industry, a field that is largely non-union and reminds him of the asbestos industry back in 1996, but also provides a renewable source of work. He believes it is important for all locals to work together and avoid jurisdictional disputes through understanding and solidarity. 🍷



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#### "FILL IN FIVE"

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

1. People I've worked with all these years would be surprised to learn that:  
I was an undocumented immigrant when I first arrived in the U.S.
2. My first job was: Washing dishes in a hospital in Miami Beach.
3. The last movie I saw was:  
"The Last King of Scotland"
4. My favorite song on the radio is:  
"Beautiful Girl" by Sean Kingston
5. My favorite saying or quote is: "Keep on charging so long as there is life."

## LOCAL 7 CELEBRATES 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Laborers' Union Local 7 celebrated its 100th year anniversary recently at the Owego Treadway Inn.

"We are so proud to hit the 100-year mark," said Local 7 Business Manager John Schaffer. "Our members have made our proud history possible through their hard work and dedication, and we expect those same strengths to power our local for many years to come."

New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer also honored Local 7, contributing a letter to the dinner program. "Over the last century, Local 7 has proven to be an effective advocate for area laborers," Spitzer wrote. "There is no question that its determined leadership and tireless

efforts have created job opportunities, secured reasonable wages and benefits, and ensured construction safety."

In addition to Gov. Spitzer, N.Y. Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo attended the dinner; and U.S. Sen. Hilary Clinton, U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey, N.Y. Sen. Thomas Libous and LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni sent letters of congratulation.

The visionary leaders of Local 7 have effectively emphasized activism and advocacy as the foundation for securing projects and benefits for members.

In their century of achievement, the

hardworking members of Local 7 have made crucial contributions to infrastructure and economic development in the Binghamton area. The local expanded in membership and capabilities while meeting the need for skilled labor on NYS Route 17 work from Orange County to Binghamton, I-81 from Binghamton to Syracuse and I-88 from Albany to Binghamton.

Local 7 members also built IBM's two-building upstate headquarters and the three-building IBM Endicott facility nearby. The success of these five-year projects earned Local 7 the opportunity to build yet another IBM facility in Owego, demonstrating that successful projects lead to more successful projects. 🏡

"Our members have made our proud history possible through their hard work and dedication, and we expect those same strengths to power our local for many years to come."

— Local 7 Business Manager  
John Schaffer



Honoring 100 Years of Achievement – William Shannon, Upstate New York District Council Business Manager, left; celebrates the longevity and accomplishments of Local 7 with John Schaffer, Business Manager of Local 7, center; and John Hutchings, LIUNA Construction Market Representative, right.

## TRI-FUND LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ENGAGES LEADERS LABORERS' ISSUES COME TO THE FORE



The Legislative Conference continues to build strong relationships between labor, state and legislative leaders, year after year. Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany, this year's conference brought broad participation by both Laborers' leaders and state legislators.

LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni discussed a range of issues facing LIUNA.

Other speakers included Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings (a former Local 190 member), Speaker of the New York State Assembly Sheldon Silver, State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, State Labor Commissioner Patricia Smith, Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee George D. Maziarz, Assembly Labor Committee Chair Susan John, Albany County District Attorney David Soares and others.

Speaker Silver stressed the strong need for increased state funding for maintaining and expanding city infrastructure, specifically mentioning the

Second Avenue Subway project.

Albany County DA David Soares announced plans to ensure that prevailing wage laws will be strictly enforced.

Commissioner Smith said the Labor Department has re-emphasized prevailing wage enforcement, referring more violators to local prosecutors. She also announced plans to reform the apprenticeship program.

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno was guest of honor at the evening legislative reception. Held at The State Room, the reception drew many state senators and assembly members, even though the assembly was still in session, highlighting the importance of the legislative conference.

"It is important that we keep the lines of communication open with our legislators," said Robert Bonanza, member of the New York State Laborers' PAC Board of Trustees. "Each year, we use this occasion to reach out to them and stress to them the issues that are our top priorities for the year ahead." 🍷

Joining Forces – Samuel Fresina, Eastern New York Laborers District Council Business Manager, left; and Armand E. Sabitoni, LIUNA General Secretary Treasurer/New England Regional Manager, right; flank NYS Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno. NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver addresses the Tri-Fund Legislative Conference.





# FIELD

The original Yankee Stadium was “The House that Ruth Built.” Baseball’s best have played here: the “Yankee Clipper” Joe DiMaggio, Lou Gehrig, Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Whitey Ford, Thurman Munson – and now Derek Jeter. It’s where Yankee pitcher Don Larsen hurled the only perfect game in World Series history, where 39 American League pennants and 26 World Series championship pennants hang.

The original Yankee Stadium has also had more than its share of wear and tear. When the Beatles scheduled a concert at the stadium, falling concrete forced the show to be moved to Shea Stadium.

Since August 2006, Laborers have been turning in a championship performance of their own, building the new Yankee Stadium just north of the original. The original Yankee Stadium is the third oldest major league ballpark. It opened in 1923 for a game against the Boston Red Sox, just a few years after Boston’s Fenway Park opened in 1912 and Chicago’s Wrigley Field in 1914.

With Turner Construction handling the preconstruction and construction management services, the new Yankee Stadium is expected to be ready for the 2009 baseball season.

More than 150 New York State Laborers from locals 79, 731, 6A, 20 and 18A are currently working on the new Yankee Stadium. Most are from the Concrete Workers District Council since the new Yankee Stadium is nearly all concrete, with no steel bones supporting the building. The benefits of this construction method are rapid completion and superior strength. The work the Laborers are completing is literally the foundation of the entire stadium. As the project progresses, the exterior of the building will also be concrete.

The new stadium will occupy 1.5 million square feet, will seat 53,000 fans and offer 67 premium suites. An exterior wall



# OF DREAMS

will circle the perimeter of the Yankees' new property and it will resemble the original Yankee Stadium

"We are very excited to work on such a high-profile project," said Alex Castaldi, business manager for the Concrete Workers District Council. "This is literally history in the making. To be a part of it is huge." 🍷

"We are very excited to work on such a high-profile project.

This is literally history in the making. To be a part of it is huge."

– Business Manager for the Concrete Workers District Council, Alex Castaldi



Safe at Home - Laborers proudly stand where home plate will be situated in the new Yankee Stadium.



## LABORERS TESTIFY, DELIVER HEALTH CARE PLEA TO U.S. SENATE HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR HELP WITH POST-9/11 PROBLEMS

Two NYS Laborers vividly described the severe health issues they face as a result of working in the relief and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In addition to their personal testimony, Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund administrator Dr. James Melius added important scientific and medical data to the appeal for a comprehensive solution to the ongoing problems of these and many other workers.

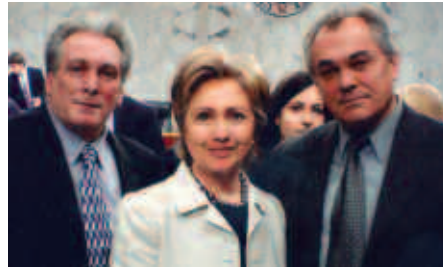
The Laborers went to Washington to increase understanding of the health issues faced by the heroic workers who worked at Ground Zero after the attacks, and to seek increased funding for health care services to aid those who are ill or may become ill due to exposure to airborne pollutants while working at Ground Zero.

The two Laborers experiencing health problems brought the issue home to the senators with personal stories that had emotional impact far beyond the alarming statistics. The first, Daniel Arrigo, is a 51-year-old, married father of three who has been a member of Laborers' Local 79 for nine years. His health problems began on his second day on the job at Ground Zero.

On September 15, 2001, Arrigo was trapped in an elevator and lost consciousness due to benzene poisoning. He continued to work nearly four months longer at Ground Zero until doctors told him he had to leave the site or he might die.

"Our guys need to get better health coverage," Arrigo said. "The system is broken for those who need it the most. We sacrificed so much because we love our country and we love New York. I'm glad there are people fighting for us in Congress."

The second Laborer to testify was Volodymyr Khomik. Khomik is a 55-year-old, married father of two who has been a member of Laborers' Local 78 for 11 years. He has been unable to work



Hearing the Message – U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton heard vivid testimony on the health effects of post-9/11 relief and recovery work and the need for enhanced healthcare support from Daniel Arrigo, left, and Volodymyr Khomik, right.

since July 2002. The Ukrainian immigrant began clean-up work at the World Trade Center on September 12, 2001. He is now forced to live with a debilitating heart disease, nodules on his lungs and throat, and other health issues.

"The conditions right after the terrorist attacks were very dangerous down there," Khomik said. "I worked in cold water up to my waist all day long, while breathing in dust filled with all kinds of toxins, including glass particles and burning asbestos."

Dr. Melius spoke of the challenges and complications facing those who seek medical attention for health problems related to 9/11. His overview, designed to put the Laborers' personal stories into context, highlighted the diversity of workers, the wide variety of conditions

under which they worked and the complex range of health plans that workers depended on for their care.

"Unfortunately, if you were exposed to the toxic air around Ground Zero, the danger of respiratory illness down the road is significant," Dr. Melius reported. "Workers do not have to have current symptoms of exposure or be ill already to file claims at this time. However, those who do not register now, but who become sick later, may not be able to file claims."

Nearly 70 percent of Ground Zero workers initially developed respiratory problems, according to data from the Mount Sinai Medical Center, which provides free, confidential medical examinations to those who worked at Ground Zero.

In a September 2006 report, the center noted that nearly 60 percent of Ground Zero workers were still suffering five years after their initial exposure. At that same time, the first deaths due to toxic exposure were reported. Additionally, mental health problems are a significant concern. From September 2005 to September 2006, 39 percent of the Ground Zero Mount Sinai patients were diagnosed with chronic depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Clearly, these heroes need and deserve enhanced health care to deal with the terrible toll that their work has taken on mind, body and spirit. 🌄

### ARE YOU AFFECTED? REGISTRATION FOR EXPOSURE TO TOXIC AIR DEADLINE EXTENDED

All recovery and clean-up workers are covered for health effects incurred as a result of work at Ground Zero between September 11, 2001 and September 12, 2002, whether this work was paid or voluntary. It is important that you register now with the Workers Compensation Board (WTC-12) to protect your right to file a workers' compensation claim if you become sick at any time in the future. If you do not register and are sick or become sick later, you will not be able to file or re-file a claim.

Registration requires dates and locations of work performed and the name of the employer or the volunteer organization and you do not need to be residents of New York state. The New York State Laborers' Health & Safety Trust Fund is offering assistance with placing names on the registry to meet the August 14, 2008 deadline. Please call 800-797-5931 for additional information.



## TUNE IN, SLOW DOWN, BE SAFE WORK ZONE SAFETY RADIO CAMPAIGN EXPANDS, SAVES LIVES

**E**ncouraged by the success of past campaigns, the Laborers' Health & Safety Trust Fund expanded its annual radio ad campaign to save lives by increasing awareness of work zone safety concerns at the beginning and end of summer travel season.

The expanded campaign targeted more radio markets across the state than ever before, including the metro New York City area. Most radio ads were broadcast during peak drive times and during traffic reports. The campaign delivered a strong and persuasive warning to millions of motorists: Don't risk your license, your life or the life of the men and women working on the road. Slow down in road construction zones.

The brief but powerful radio ad chillingly reported that last year alone, motorists caused seven fatalities and 139 accidents

with injuries in construction and maintenance work zones across the state. Each caused untold pain and suffering and increased roadwork costs enormously.

The radio spots ran during and after Memorial Day weekend, reaching stations in New York City, Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Utica. The second phase of the program ran during and after Labor Day weekend.

The Health & Safety Trust Fund also partnered with the Construction Industry Council to broadcast another radio ad in the Lower Hudson Valley region. Featuring the voices of Health & Safety Trustee Ross Pepe and Local Union 17 Business Manager Todd Diorio, this two-week campaign also urged drivers to slow down in work zones. 📌



On the Air – Local 17 Business Manager Todd Diorio, left, and Health & Safety Trustee Ross Pepe, right; taped an urgent “slow down in work zones” message for WHUD 100.7. In addition to its own statewide radio campaign urging safe driving in work zones, the Health & Safety Fund also partnered with the Construction Industry Council on a special radio campaign in the Hudson Valley.

# SANDHOGS DEDICATE MEMORIAL

## BEAUTIFUL MONUMENT HONORS THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES

A bell solemnly tolled 24 times, and the mood was somber yet proud as Local 147 Business Manager Rich Fitzsimmons read the names of the 24 Sandhogs who lost their lives working in the massive Water Tunnel No. 3 project in New York City. As the new Sandhog memorial was dedicated, each of the lost Sandhogs was honored by the tolling of the bell and in the memories of those present.

Held at St. Barnabas Church in the Bronx near Local 147 headquarters, the memorial observance united generations of Sandhogs and their families. Often families had produced several generations of Sandhogs. Together, those in observance joined in mourning and in appreciation of the importance of the project.

“Work on the tunnel started in 1970 and is expected to continue through 2012,” said Fitzsimmons. “This memorial honors our tremendous history with this project.” He added, “This will help us remember those who lost their lives, even as we press on with a project that our city needs us to complete.”

After the ceremony, two bagpipers and a drummer directed the throng from the church to the nearby memorial. The beautiful memorial includes 24 manhole covers, each inscribed with the name of a Laborer who lost his life on the project. Appropriately, the brick pavers laid at the memorial were made of stone pulled from the vast water tunnel excavation.



Remembering the Fallen – Local 147 Business Manager Rich Fitzsimmons speaks at the dedication of the Sandhogs’ Memorial in the Bronx.



# MESSAGE FROM

## A IUNA VICE-PRESIDENT

### Protecting Members On and Off the Job



**D**ear Brothers and Sisters:

As the Presidential election approaches, critical issues are emerging. Health care is certainly one, as reflected in television news and in this edition of Tri-Fund, which reminds us that the health and welfare of our members is a huge concern among our leaders. We support health care coverage for working Americans and on-the-job safety for every member every day.

OSHA recently reported that 40 of the 44 construction deaths in New York City in the last 18 months occurred on non-union sites and nearly all were on buildings of less than 14 stories. This reminds us that – as we work to expand our unions, increase market share and

bring non-union workers on board – we also need to continue to focus on safety.

Our Health & Safety Funds have worked to meet this tremendous challenge by efforts to improve jobsite safety and productivity through labor and management cooperation. Our own work zone safety programs (see pg. 13) are also crucial, delivering the message to drivers across the state and making our roads as safe as possible for members and the driving public.

Additionally, as we read the story about the Sandhogs memorial for those who lost their lives as part of the work on Water Tunnel No. 3 (see pg. 14) we are again reminded of the dangerous nature of the work we do. We will continue to monitor our high risk projects and provide the safety equipment necessary to complete the job.

And lastly, strong leadership has brought the health care concerns of our members who helped after 9/11 (see pg. 12) to the top levels of government ensuring coverage for members who experience problems now and in the future. We will continue to help promote free health monitoring for our members who worked at the WTC as well as free medical treatment and appropriate compensation for those who have become ill as a result of the WTC exposure.

Our commitment will not change. The health, safety and welfare of our members will remain a top priority.

We are accomplishing great things with our Health & Safety Funds, and we will continue to look for the best health care coverage, the best safety techniques, the best personal protective equipment – whatever it takes to ensure members return safely from the job to their families. Our jobs as laborers are not easy, but we will work to make them safe.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent R. Masino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "V".

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

*Our commitment  
will not change.  
The health, safety  
and welfare of  
our members will  
remain a top  
priority.*

# Time Capsule

**Local 589 in Ithaca** may be best known for “the Octopus project” that ended the longtime frustration local commuters faced every day. In two years of work, members fixed the frantic bottleneck convergence where four major state highways fed into one four-lane bridge. Members built two new bridges over the Cayuga Lake inlet, replaced three existing bridges and rehabilitated the original four-lane highway.

In another project, the Local faced the challenge of a nearly impossible deadline set by Cornell University for constructing five buildings for the North Campus Housing Initiative in just 16 months. Member Laborers logged many hours of overtime, but the completed project was ready for the class arriving in 2001.

More than 100 members of Local 589 completed the massive \$130 million Milliken Generating Station in 1955.



**Milliken Station**



**Octopus Project – Laborers in front of \$30 million dollar project.**



**Cornell University – New dorms go up at Cornell University**



New York State Laborers’-Employers’  
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