

Tri-Fund

FALL/WINTER 2009

**Sandhogs Master New
Technology on
Subway Extension Project**



Fall/Winter 2009

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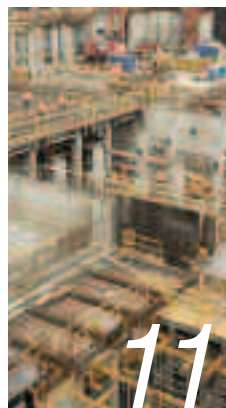
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MESSAGE FROM

THE LIUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT

Join the Frontlines in the Fight for Good Jobs



Through *I Build America*, LIUNA members have shown extraordinary power with their activism and willingness to fight for good jobs and their union.

I Build America activists have been standing up for themselves at an unprecedented level. *I Build America* activists — through thousands of personal calls and email letters — stopped an effort in Congress to tax workers' hard-earned health care benefits. *I Build America* activists were heard loud and clear in Congress with the message to defend family-supporting wages and the Davis-Bacon Act for thousands of water projects. By making more than 5,000 personal calls and sending more than 10,000 letters to Congress, *I Build America* activists fought for and won job-creating investments in our nation's economic recovery legislation. *I Build America* activists have also come to the aid of state and local organizing campaigns and legislative priorities.

In just over one year *I Build America* has doubled from 3,000 activists to more than 6,000. As *I Build America* continues to grow our union will become stronger and the voices of LIUNA members will be louder and more powerful.

I Build America victories and the continued growth of the program prove LIUNA's frontlines can accomplish even more — but to do that we need you to help by joining the fight for good jobs and signing up as an *I Build America* activist.

I Build America activists are the ground troops for taking care of America's basics — our transportation systems, energy systems and schoolhouses — and for creating good jobs doing it. As an *I Build America* activist, you will be part of an activist army, winning victories for working people in legislative and organizing battles. You will be called on once a month to write letters, make phone calls and use your energy and your voice in other ways.

In addition to fighting for yourself and your union, as an *I Build America* activist you will earn incentives ranging from hardhat stickers to LIUNA gear to invitations to participate in special events.

Building America is what we do — now's the chance to fight for it. To become an *I Build America* activist or to find out more about the program, contact your local union or go to www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org/IBuildAction.

In Solidarity,

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

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

As I Build America continues to grow our union will become stronger and the voices of LIUNA members will be louder and more powerful.

MESSAGE FROM

THE LIUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Great Examples of the Power of Our Union



In his column in this magazine, General President Terry O'Sullivan points out the power of our union in working to create more and better jobs for our members through the *I Build America* program. Here in New York state, we see some great examples of that effort.

In the 1950's, the Laborers' Union created a new local in the Watertown and Massena, New York area to serve our members and contractors building the St. Lawrence Seaway. Our union met the challenge of representing workers on that project – at that time, one of the largest public works projects in the United States and Canada. Today, that local union (322) continues to thrive and serve its members and contractors on other projects (see page 10).

Since the 1950's, we have learned that in addition to providing union members to large projects, we also need to work to make sure that the resources and political will are there to build those projects. The Croton filtration plant currently being built in the Bronx required the efforts of our local unions, NYS LECET, and our PAC fund, working with our contractor associations, to overcome opposition to this large project. We formed coalitions with environmental and community groups to help address their concerns, and today hundreds of LIUNA members are working on this project.

For the Seventh Avenue Subway extension, our local unions and state funds worked with state and city politicians and transportation advocates to help get this project funded and underway. Today, our Local 147 sandhogs are busy working on extending this subway line. Soon they will be joined by members from other Laborers' locals who will work on other phases of this project.

The many transportation and other infrastructure projects being funded through the current federal stimulus program (see page 5) also illustrate the power of our union advocacy to help enable our members and contractors to prosper. In these tough economic times, this advocacy is more important than ever. We face great uncertainty in continued support for infrastructure funding at both the state and federal levels.

I join General President Terry O'Sullivan in urging you to get involved and become an *I Build America* activist. We are all in this together, and we need to fight together to build our communities and build New York.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Armand E. Sabitoni". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

I join General President Terry O'Sullivan in urging you to get involved and become an *I Build America* activist. We are all in this together, and we need to fight together to build our communities and build New York.



Stimulus Package

On February 17, 2009 President Obama signed into law the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, better known as the federal stimulus bill. This bill was designed to help our battered economy by funding infrastructure projects, improving schools and assisting local and state governments and many businesses. The legislation included restrictions to ensure that the money was spent quickly, to get people back to work, but also with careful accountability. These restrictions are reasonable in their intent, but also unfortunate in delaying some projects.

New York state is expected to receive nearly \$27 billion through this legislation over two years. Most will be spent through the state government, but some will go to local governments, colleges and universities, schools, hospitals, and even some businesses. Nearly all of the funding is being spent through existing federal aid programs, providing them large increases. For example, energy weatherization funding jumped from less than \$25 million to more than \$400 million in our state alone.

We have a vital interest in infrastructure spending and are pleased that New York state is expected to receive more than \$1.1 billion in additional funding for highway and bridge work and about the same amount for mass transit improvements. Funding for clean water treatment and distribution system upgrades, as well as for sewage treatment systems, totals more than \$500 million; while funding for science facilities and environmental waste cleanup totals more than \$550 million.

"We applaud New York state for setting up a special office to administer and coordinate these programs," said Armand E. Sabitoni, LIUNA General Secretary-

Treasurer and New England Regional Manager. "We recognize that the state has awarded projects to our contractors quickly and efficiently under existing bidding and contract requirements."

"However," added Sabitoni, "we also recognize that there are a lack of projects with completed designs that could be awarded within the federal timelines." The design of larger projects often takes too long to meet federal requirements. As a result, certain areas of the state have not received an equitable share of projects. Much of the stimulus funding was spent on repaving and other maintenance-type projects, for example, which require a relatively short time to prepare for bid.

Nonetheless, our members and contractors have benefitted from this funding. Our tracking of these projects finds that, as of late September, nearly \$1.5 billion had been awarded for stimulus projects with more than 60% of these projects being awarded to union contractors, representing more than 85% of the awarded funding. This healthy market share has been good news in what could have been a very slow year for many of our contractors due to the slowdown in commercial projects.

"The stimulus will last for another year," Sabitoni pointed out. "But we must work now to ensure stable and responsible long-term funding is available for our transportation and other infrastructure."

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Local 147 Sandhogs Master New Technology on



The work of Local Union 147 sandhogs to extend the No. 7 Subway picked up speed when the 100-ton tunnel-boring machine (TBM) recently received an advanced new cutter head. The \$1.1 billion project will extend the line to 34th Street and 11th Avenue in Times Square by 2013.

Every day, 230 sandhogs descend to the work site below 25th street and 11th avenue by the "man cage," a steel mesh box that carries 12 sandhogs on each trip as a crane lowers it 120 feet into the earth. Safety systems and worker sign-ins help ensure their safe return to the surface. This spring, Timothy M. Dolan, the new Roman Catholic archbishop of New York went to visit the site and the men on the job to give a special blessing. Many of the workers were heard remarking that the blessing makes them feel better about going off and doing their work.



"This is one of the most important jobs that our sandhogs are working on in the city and surrounding areas," said Richard Fitzsimmons, business manager of Local Union 147.

"Our work is all underground, so it often goes unnoticed by those walking the streets of the city above. But this critical work will benefit everyone who lives, visits and commutes in the city by providing accessible mass transit on the west side of the city."

"Like all our projects, this teaches important lessons as we constantly strive to expand our members' skills and scope of work," said Fitzsimmons. "We work closely with contractors to make sure that all work that can be done by a sandhog is actually being done by a sandhog."

Some of the new work sandhogs are doing involves using new tunnel-boring machines. These machines, manufactured and tested in



The "man cage," in top photo, carries Sandhogs down to the worksite. The key in-and-out system, center photo, keeps track of whether Sandhogs are at the surface or below. The Sandhogs carve an underground railway, bottom photo, this page, and both photos, facing page.

No. 7 Subway Extension Project

Schwanau, Germany by Herrenknecht A.G., are shipped in three pieces, then lowered to underground worksites, reassembled and put to work.

The tunnel-boring machines cut into the solid rock at the tunnel face, carry the crushed-rock byproduct (called muck) from the cutting head by conveyor to the back of the machine where it is loaded into muck cars. The cars carry the muck to the launch shaft for extraction on a temporary rail system. The machines also place pre-cast concrete lining rings, 1,890 in total, along the tunnel walls even as it excavates. The lining rings make up the permanent liner of the finished tunnel.

“We ensure that our sandhogs are trained and equipped well as our industry evolves, to stay current with new techniques and technologies — to work safely and efficiently on all our worksites,” said Fitzsimmons.

“Projects like this in the city are not only a result of the skilled labor and work that our members provide,” said James Melius, Tri-fund administrator. “They are also a result of the work being done behind the scenes through the various transportation funding coalitions we have become involved with to make sure these projects have the money in place.”



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Profile of a Business Manager, Local 60: Carlos Ascencao

Carlos Ascencao, long time labor leader and business manager of Local 60, has seen his membership double from 600 when he began to 1,200 members today.

Local 60 serves Westchester/Putnam County, New York and other down-state areas, repairing, maintaining and building some of the most heavily traveled highways in the state of New York.

This heavy and highway local has constantly adapted to new technology since it was chartered on October 17, 1928. The local's largest project was the Delaware Water Supply System, begun in 1937 and substantially completed in 1964 with the opening of the Cannonsville Reservoir. Some parts of that multi-faceted project continue to this day.

Carlos began his career as an underage water boy with Brogan Construction Company working on a Con Edison project in Yonkers, New York in 1962, long before today's strict health and safety guidelines were enacted. He became involved and learned the benefits of joining a labor union from his father. His father was a Laborer from the 1950's (in Rhode Island) until his retirement in 1979 (in Yonkers, NY). Carlos passed this wisdom onto his own son, Anthony, who joined the union in

1988 working as a Laborer while attending college at night. Anthony became recording secretary and field representative in 1999 and continues to hold that position today, working alongside his father.

Carlos looks back on 15 years of roadwork where he served as a foreman on the I-287 and I-684 corridor in Westchester as his favorite projects. He later became shop steward for Yonkers Contracting Company before being elected as auditor in July 1977. He was then elected as recording secretary/field rep. in July 1983; designated trustee to the Pension and Welfare Fund, also in July 1983; appointed secretary-treasurer/field rep. in October 1996; and then in January 1999, he became business manager. He presently serves as vice president of the Eastern New York Laborers District Council and co-chairman of the LECET Fund.

As business manager, Carlos is proud to see his brother and sister members eager to advance their careers through the apprenticeship programs, training programs and health and safety improvements which he has worked to put in place. "Our union has improved working conditions and quality of life for all our members," he said.

He has been a great believer in helping to improve health benefits, pension benefits, annuities, and other benefits, for his members, and is proud of consistently delivering excellent, well-trained Laborers to union contractors.

"I am very proud of what has been accomplished by forging strong partnerships with union contractors as well as political, environmental and other organizations, (CIC, Building Trades, District Council, to name a few). Local 60 has become stronger and gained market share by finding common ground. Even as a young man, ever since I became a Laborer, I remember being interested in bettering my fellow Laborers," Carlos said. "I have always had a strong passion for the labor movement and the union, but when I started, I could never have imagined that I would have become business manager."

"Today's union leaders are more and more involved in efforts to unite our locals and they have successfully created good jobs across the state and the country," Carlos added. "I am proud to serve with our LIUNA leaders today and continue to help our members – especially through the apprenticeship programs and cutting-edge training that build our skills and make our members valuable workers contractors are happy to employ."



5

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

"FILL IN FIVE"

1. People I've worked with all these years would be surprised to learn that:
I came from Portugal when I was 11 on a boat to start a new life.
2. My first job was:
Paper route after school.
3. The last movie I saw was:
Righteous Kill – with Robert De Niro
4. My favorite song on the radio is:
Don't have a current fave. Elvis Presley "Are you lonesome tonight" is my all time favorite.
5. My favorite saying or quote is:
"Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today."



Local 731 Takes A Turn on the Huge Water System

Project under The Bronx

Now that Local 29 has blasted nearly a million cubic yards of rock to clear the way, Local 731 gets its turn on building the city's new water filtration system, hidden deep under Van Cortland Park in the Bronx.

Removing the rock was a huge job, a challenging project requiring great precision as well as epic muscle. Beginning in 2004, approximately 70 Local 29 members skillfully and safely managed as many as four dynamite blasts every day, all without disturbing residents of surrounding neighborhoods. Now that they have successfully created a hole as long as two football fields and several hundred feet deep, approximately 150 Local 731 members are taking over, installing the many layers of concrete structures that will comprise the underground water filtration complex. This system, nearly the size of a mini-city, will be undetectable when completed in 2012.

The new \$3 billion water filtration system will allow New York City to meet federal drinking-water quality standards while delivering water from the Croton watershed upstate in the Catskill Mountains. The Croton system currently provides 10 percent of the

city's water supply, but the new filtration facility will increase that total to 30 percent.

"We are so proud to be part of a project that will ultimately be invisible, but critical," said Joe D'Amato, business manager of Local Union 731. "In terms of its everyday contribution to the people who live and work in the city, it is going to make a major difference. This system will bring an immediate improvement in the quality and quantity of water available, and its positive impact will last for generations. This is the type of project that we as Laborers love to have on our resume of work because it's also part of our city's history." Meanwhile, the "sandhogs" of Local 147 are also at work on improving the city's water supply, carving Water Tunnel #3 under Manhattan in an grand project employing generations of our members.

Overseen by the city's Department of Environment Protection (DEP), the new water treatment plant under Van Cortland Park will be the first filtration plant in the city and one of the largest in the nation. It will supply 290 million gallons of water per day to city residents, and most won't even know it's there, literally under their feet.



Joseph D'Amato, Business Manager of Local 731 talks to Joe Todaro, Shop Steward for Local 731 and Fred Walthour, Jr., Field Representative of Local 731 about the progress of the job.



Local 322 Unlocks the Calendar

Two recent projects: Seaway Lock Repair and Fort Drum Barracks Construction

Local 322 can only work on repairing the St. Lawrence Seaway in the winter because the canal system is so vital to shipping that it closes only when forced to do so by the weather. (The Seaway is open from ice-melt in March until freeze-up in mid-December.) However, this north country local has mastered working on the locks over many years of repairs. Local 322 Business Manager Rich Daddario said this requires members to “work in an environment most people wouldn’t consider working in.”

Despite working in that tough environment, the members of Local 322 persevered and completed work on the crucially important Eisenhower Lock before the shipping season reopened as ice in the Seaway melted. The recently completed project cost \$4 million, and it presented formidable challenges.

How tough was the work?

The Seaway locks remain cold enough that residual water freezes in the bottom, even though the locks are capped to keep out the weather during repairs. To take maximum advantage of their short window of time for work, Local 322 members worked three eight-hour shifts daily under very difficult conditions: jack hammering and chipping away decayed concrete, then building forms for concrete pours. The locks are approximately 120 feet deep, so members do most of this work on scaffolding, adding to the hazards of this tight-deadline work.

The Seaway’s complex lock system dates from the 1960s and constantly needs refurbishing and repair because vessels often collide with and scrape along lock walls. In the recent repair project on the Eisenhower Lock, approximately 50 members of Local 322 repaired chips and scrapes, sometimes replacing rebar but more often simply pouring concrete. However, pouring concrete under the tough conditions that members faced could hardly be called “simple.”

“Winter work is scarce in our part of the world due to harsh weather,” said Daddario. “Repairs on the Seaway keep many of our members working, and we are all proud of the high quality work they produce under such challenging working conditions.”

Fort Drum Barracks Construction: Rescuing a Vital Project

Members of Local 322 recently completed four years of vitally important work at the U.S. Army’s Fort Drum, expanding the base’s housing capacity. Members were proud to step in when the general contractor was unable to complete the necessary masonry work due to a lack of skilled workers.

“We were glad to have the opportunity to move this important project forward,” said Local 322 Business Manager Daddario. “Any business manager would be happy to hear a general contractor say, ‘You guys have the best skilled workers for the job: send us some workers,’” said Daddario proudly. “We supplied the skilled people this project needed, and the contractor couldn’t be happier with the results.”

Approximately 30 members of Local 322 were busy on the Fort Drum barracks project at all times, performing foundation preparation, pipe work and other preliminary tasks, then masonry work. Over four years, they built nine barracks for soldiers, two for officers and a medical building. Each three-story, 25,000-square-foot barracks accommodates 200 soldiers in individual 150-square-foot rooms.

Fort Drum consists of 107,265 acres. It is home to the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and a training center that provides support to active and reserve units from all

services. Units of the 10th Mountain Division have been actively engaged in fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the members of Local 322 are especially proud of the opportunity to provide new housing for these warriors.

“We are very happy with the quality of the trained labor force that Local 322 provided for the duration of this project,” said Gary Sheffield, superintendent of Casler Masonry. “We were especially impressed with the on-site training provided for all trades.”



Local 322 members fight the cold to repair St. Lawrence Seaway locks.

Remembering Our Brother Billy Goodrich

Our union lost a great friend and brother when William “Billy” Goodrich died suddenly while visiting New Orleans.

Originally a proud member of Local Union 777 of the Laborers’ International Union of North America in Los Angeles, Calif., Billy attained national prominence as a well-respected labor organizer and advocate for workers and workers rights. Recognized for his achievements in organizing thousands of workers throughout the nation, Billy was appointed to serve as the first director of the Laborers’ New England Region Organizing Fund in Providence, RI. He later served as a lead organizer to the Laborers’ National Organizing Fund in Washington, DC, and was most recently first director of the New York State Laborers’ Organizing Fund in New York City.

“Billy was a son, a brother, an uncle, a cousin, a colleague, a friend and the epitome of a laborer,” said Armand E. Sabitoni, General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager. “He had a unique way of always saying the right thing, helping you in your time of need or just being a friend. Working for the Laborers is like being part of a family and Billy treated every laborer and person he worked with as part of his extended family.”

“The loss of Billy is not something that can easily be described in words,” said Sam Fresina, chairman of the New York State Laborers Organizing Fund.

“He took his work very seriously, but at the same time, he always had a sense of humor that made working with him enjoyable. We will miss him tremendously.”

Billy’s family, friends and fellow Laborers will miss Billy’s kindness, generosity and loyalty, and he will remain an inspiration to all who knew him. His tireless work to improve the lives of workers and their families throughout the country leaves behind a legacy that will last for many years.

This year the New York State Laborers Make-A-Wish golf tournament, held at Saratoga National Golf Course in Saratoga Springs, was in honor of Billy, who always took pleasure in this enjoyable benefit event. This year’s proceeds will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Billy’s name.



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Tri-Funds Legislative Conference

Our annual Legislative Conference aims to focus the attention of top state leaders on the concerns of working men and women. Held this year at Jack's Oyster House in Albany, the conference provided our business managers opportunities to interact and build relationships with key state officials and legislative leaders. It was an oasis of productive professional contact amid Albany's chaos.

"No one can dispute that the 2009 session has been more drama-filled than other legislative sessions," said George Truicko, member of the New York State Laborers PAC Board of Trustees. "This volatile situation highlights once again how important it is for those of us who represent our union to have face time with our representatives in state government. We must affirm our commitment to our issues, assess how our legislative representatives are voting on those

issues and proclaim our support for those who understand, respect and support the concerns of our members."

Gov. David Paterson spoke at the conference, discussing the federal stimulus money beginning to flow into projects across the state, and other issues. He stressed his commitment to ensuring that stimulus money goes to projects that will help put people to work. Assemblywoman Susan John, chair of the Assembly Labor Committee, also spoke, discussing her work to expand the prevailing wage, highlighting important bills and sharing talking points with our business managers. Senator George Onorato, the chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Labor, reported on the items he hoped to advance before the end of session. LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional

Manager Armand E. Sabitoni discussed the state of the union, stimulus money and important legislation for further discussion at the evening reception after the conference.

Speakers at the well attended evening cocktail reception, held at the State Room in downtown Albany, included Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings and New York State Senate Temporary President Malcolm Smith.

"This event in New York is one of the best," said General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Sabitoni. "It has a long history and the New York locals have built on that tradition and used this day and night to really develop working relationships with the men and women who represent us in government and help to create progress for our union."



In this photo LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni and New York State Senate Temporary President Malcolm Smith talk to Carmine D'Amato from Local Union 731.



Armand E. Sabitoni and Eastern New York Laborers District Council Business Manager Samuel Fresina discuss stimulus projects with Governor David Paterson.



Pictured from left to right - Kenneth Brancaccio, President Local 79; Joe Montalbano, Greater New York LECET Field Representative; Assemblyman Joseph S. Saladino; Pete Zarcone, MTDCPAC; Victor Rizzo, Secretary Treasurer, Laborers Local 79



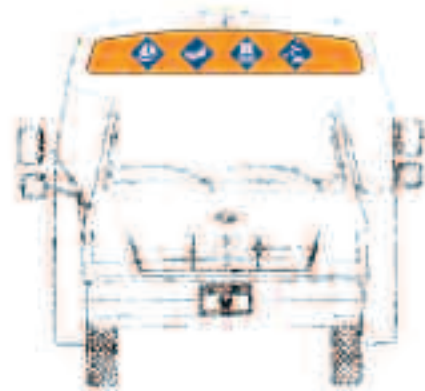
Health and Safety Bus Gets New “Skin”

Health issues change over time; and so has the message on the Laborers' Health and Safety Bus — a mobile classroom and billboard. Since 2004, the bus (a Ford Champion Challenger 190-E450 shuttle bus with comfortable open seating, two 13" flat screen monitors, DVD player and four-speaker sound) has delivered health and safety messages at job sites and health fairs across the state to audiences inside while the outside proclaims those messages.

To keep the bus current and eye-catching, it now wears a new “skin” that incorporates LIUNA design, such as the familiar orange used across the country and the “Feel the Power” tagline. The bus advertises the New York State Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund and displays four key safety symbols common to all our job sites.

“We wanted to make sure that this bus is a current and effective representation of the work the New York State Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund is doing to get the message out,” said Mickey Kelly, executive director of the fund. “Our locals have used the bus in very creative ways over the years to deliver our safety message directly to job sites. We encourage them to continue to use the bus and keep it moving across the state. The more time on the road, the more people will see our message.”

Look for the bus coming to a local union or job site down the road. You can't miss it.



Honoring 50-Year Members

Our members are the keepers of tradition in the Laborers Union. The fact that many members have maintained loyal affiliation in this organization for more than 50 years attests to the satisfaction of the life and work we share. The LIUNA constitution offers a two-fold award to honor these members: a gold membership card and exemption from further payment of dues.

Local Union 186

Standing left to right — William Coates, recording secretary; James Alger, president; John R. Donoghue, Jr., business manager; Albert J. Laduke, 50-year member; Stacy Spooner, executive board member; Donald Anslow, secretary-treasurer



Local Union 621

Standing left to right — Business Manager Donald Giardini, presenting retired member Bruce Elliot with his 50-year gold card



Local Union 186

Standing left to right — 50-year member Howard Senecal and Business Agent/Secretary-Treasurer Donald Anslow



Local Union 186

Standing left to right — Business Manager John R. Donoghue and Herb Newlin, 50-year member



MESSAGE FROM

THE UNION VICE PRESIDENT

Political Involvement – A Full-time Job



Our union's engagement with political activity used to be part time. We used to get involved for a short legislative session and then again at election time every year or two. The campaigns were short – Labor Day to early November.

Those days are long gone. Our involvement in politics is now a full-time effort. An annual legislative reception (see page 12) is just one small part of that effort. Campaigns now stretch out for months, and prospective candidates are often seeking our support a year or two before the election. We've learned that local elections can be just as important as national and state elections in helping to support infrastructure work for our members and contractors. Legislative sessions are much longer, and important bills often are only acted on in special sessions.

We've also learned that we must be constantly vigilant for bills designed to undermine our labor protections and union rights.

This year is an excellent example of our new political reality. We have had two special elections for Congressional seats in upstate New York (one following the appointment of Senator Gillibrand). We have elected mayors in New York City, Albany, Syracuse, and many other cities. We have also had elections for city councils, county legislatures, town supervisors, and many other local offices. Many of these elections bring in new office-holders responsible for infrastructure projects, opportunities for our members.

Confusion over leadership changes and other disruptions in the New York State Legislature this year have delayed consideration of our statewide legislative agenda. We even saw a constitutional crisis over the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor!

All this can be either dismaying or the butt of jokes, but we should never lose sight of how important political decisions are in protecting our union rights and supporting the funding needed for much of our work. This is why I urge you to get involved in your union's political activities — not just at election time, but throughout the year. Write letters or make phone calls to your local politicians about key issues, especially workers' rights and funding for infrastructure projects. Attend city council hearings or planning or zoning board meetings to advocate for construction projects. If your elected official hears from you year round, they know that you will also be active on Election Day. Your involvement is key to making our union stronger, protecting our rights and providing more work for our members.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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

Raymond M. Pocino

*Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager
Laborers' International Union of North America*

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Tri-Fund

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Time Capsule

Formed by consolidating Locals 643, 27, 697 and 698, Laborers Local 17 has built major highways and important military facilities throughout the Newburgh region. The local began building at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in the early 1940s, constructing a state-of-the-art science center, two large-scale function halls and the massive Michie Stadium and Arvin Gymnasium sports complexes.



Laborers at IBM, Kingston



Kingston Rhinecliff Bridge



Local 17 laborers
work on an asbestos
remediation project