

Tri-Fund

SUMMER 2005



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BLOOMBERG

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Tri-Fund

Summer 2005

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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.

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MESSAGE FROM

THE LIUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT

Responding to the tragedy of Katrina



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The destruction of lives and property left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina is a catastrophe of epic proportions. Because many of the victims are also likely to be fellow Laborers, we have an obligation to help our brothers and sisters like never before.

Shortly after the severe consequences of the hurricane and flooding became apparent, LIUNA began assessing the damage and ways to help. As clean-up efforts move forward and we learn more details, it is expected that Laborers and their family members will be included in the numbers who have perished or lost their homes. We are preparing to help in any way we can to house, feed and otherwise assist the victims.

I am asking every Laborer to donate what they can through the Laborers' CARE (Crisis Assistance Response to Emergencies) Foundation, a charitable fund established to assist Laborers and their families in the Ohio Valley and Southern States region following disasters such as Katrina.

Donations can be made Online at: www.laborerscare.org, or by mail at LIUNA Headquarters, Attention: Bill Bergfeld, 905 16th St., Washington, D.C., 20006. Donations over the phone can be made at (615) 885-7828.

For the difficult road that lies ahead, our union is able to step up in ways that few can. Rebuilding the Gulf Coast region will be a monumental task, requiring unprecedented amounts of construction work. It is probable that some of our facilities may be severely damaged, but we will ensure that our Union is able to supply the needed manpower through both our Local Union halls in the stricken region and from around the country, if necessary.

Through this effort, we can help Laborers – and others who have been displaced from their jobs – find work and rebuild their lives. We can also take this opportunity to build stronger relationships with union contractors in the Gulf Coast states, while showing our country how Laborers' unique skills can be utilized anywhere and anytime to get the job done.

New York State Laborers are familiar with the ability of spirit to overcome tragedy. I know each of you will give all that you can in both the short and long term to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terence M. O'Sullivan".

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

'We have an obligation to help our brothers and sisters like never before.'

MESSAGE FROM

THE IUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Time to get behind the Transportation Bond Act



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This November is considered an off year in the election cycle, as there are no federal or statewide candidates to vote for. However, in New York state, there is a very important issue on the ballot that impacts every corner of the state – the Transportation Bond Act.

Simply put, the amount of transportation contracting work we do for the next five years will largely depend on the passage of this Bond Act. The money for transportation projects in New York comes from many sources, including fuel taxes, general state tax revenues, various fees and a large amount of help from the federal government.

Congress just passed a new transportation authorization providing an increase of nearly 20 percent for New York (up to \$16.5 billion over five years).

However, New York needs even more funding just to keep our bridges, highways and mass transit in satisfactory condition. We also have several major projects that need additional funding, including the completion of Interstate 86 in Western New York, a replacement for the Tappan Zee Bridge and expanded subway and train service for New York City.

While the supplemental funding from the Bond Act would obviously result in more jobs for our contractors and members, its passage is important beyond that – it is critical to the continued economic development of New York.

Statewide highway and bridge improvements would go far in the economic revitalization of Upstate New York and greatly ease traffic jams for people commuting in the New York City metropolitan area. Better mass transit, such as the Second Avenue Subway, would get people to their workplaces more quickly in New York City.

We need your help in spreading the word on the importance of passing the Transportation Bond Act. Help your local union get the word out in your area. Tell your friends and neighbors about it and urge them to vote yes. NYS LECET will be providing handouts on the Bond Act to each local union, but we need your help to get the word out and vote yes for the Transportation Bond Act on election day in November.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind you of one key race this fall. Mayor Michael Bloomberg is running for re-election in New York City, and the New York State Laborers' PAC recently endorsed him for re-election (see cover story on page 5). We chose to back the mayor because he has been a good friend to labor and has supported many construction projects that have provided jobs for our members in the New York City locals. His leadership has also been paramount during the economic revitalization of New York City since 9/11. So if you live and vote in New York City, please support Mayor Bloomberg and the Bond Act.

Fraternally yours,



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

'The work we do for the next five years will largely depend on the passage of this Bond Act.'



Endorsing Bloomberg for Construction Program and Prosperity

The New York State Laborers' PAC recently joined with the Mason Tenders' PAC and the Painters' and Carpenters' District Councils to endorse New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg for re-election this fall.

More than 600 enthusiastic union members from locals 78, 79, 147, 279, 731 and the Concrete Workers District Council were in attendance at the Hammerstein Ballroom in the Manhattan Center for the official endorsement rally July 14.

"This event is just one of the many ways we as an organization make our union voice heard in government – by standing firmly behind a candidate like Mayor Bloomberg who best represents our issues and concerns," said Robert Bonanza, Business Manager of the Mason Tenders District Council. "We believe our endorsement will help generate greater visibility for Mayor Bloomberg while the support of our members will go a long way toward helping him in his road to re-election."

The New York State Laborers chose to back Mayor Bloomberg because of his exemplary track record with the construction industry during his first term. Taking office during an extraordinarily difficult period in the city's history, Bloomberg overcame many roadblocks to begin the process of rebuilding lower Manhattan.

Using innovative approaches – such as project labor agreements, of which Bloomberg is an active proponent – Bloomberg's administration has generated 62,000 new jobs in the city just in the past two years. He has also guided several major large-scale projects, such as the Croton Filtration plant, the new Shea Stadium and the new Yankee Stadium, which also includes the revitalization of the surrounding South Bronx area and will generate more than 3,600 construction jobs.

Bloomberg also pushed hard to bring the 2012 Olympics to New York City, which would have spawned the West-Side Stadium construction project, had it received proper support and approval from the state legislature.

New York State Laborers' leaders and members will work hard in the coming months to ensure that Mayor Bloomberg remains in office for a second term, building a better life for all New Yorkers. 🌟

BLOOMBERG DELIVERS OTHER JOBS CONSIDER THE NUMBERS:

- Under the mayor's leadership, in January 2005, the School Construction Authority entered into a project labor agreement with the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York that covers approximately \$7 billion worth of rehabilitation and renovation in the city's schools over the next 3 to 5 years.
- In Brooklyn, a \$3.5 billion mixed commercial and residential development of Atlantic Yards will generate an estimated 12,000 construction jobs
- Construction of a new Yankee Stadium and area revitalization in the South Bronx will create 28 acres of new parks, 5,000 structured parking spaces and more than 3,600 construction jobs
- Citigroup, in Long Island City, is constructing another building – Court Square Two – that will create more than 600 jobs
- Along the Bronx waterfront, the Terminal Market is being converted into a retail center, open space and waterfront esplanade – a project that will require 2,400 construction jobs
- Staten Island Railroad will now include freight traffic that will reduce truck traffic on the island by 100,000 vehicles a year – and produce 780 construction jobs
- The East River Science Park, a state-of-the-art scientific research and development campus, will generate an estimated 6,000 construction jobs over the next 10 years



BLOOMBERG VISITS WATER TUNNEL PROJECT

On April 29, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg paid a visit to the Sandhogs of Local 147

to see firsthand the giant Water Tunnel No. 3 project they've long been building. The project was also recently highlighted on a *60 Minutes* segment. The news program described the 60-mile-long water tunnel project as one of the largest public works projects on earth. The program also pointed out that, when finished, it will have taken 50 years to build at a cost of \$6 billion.

TAKING TRAINING TO NEW LEVELS – RESPONDING TO INDUSTRY NEEDS

Training is a current and common buzzword in the construction industry. In light of the growing demand for it, two New York State Laborers entities, the Cement and Concrete Workers Training Fund (CCWTF) and Local 1358 in Elmira, have taken training to the next level with their own highly innovative programs.



CEMENT AND CONCRETE WORKERS TRAINING FUND OFFERS NEW SAFETY CLASSES

The CCWTF recently held a new 30-hour OSHA class for the employees of a Brooklyn-based contractor, Northside Structures, that builds for Trump, Bloomberg and other real estate icons.

In an effort to maintain the safety of their workers and meet the ever-more stringent safety demands imposed by developers, owners and general contractors, Northside Structures decided to up the ante. Owners Joseph and Anthony Martinelli contacted CCWTF Director Carmine Datello, who arranged the OSHA training with Apprenticeship Coordinator Dennis O’Gorman.

The class was filled with Northside Structures foremen, superintendents and other supervisory personnel – including the two owners themselves. To keep things fresh and interesting during the 30-hour course, Datello and O’Gorman created a schedule packed with variety, including PowerPoint tutorials, group activities and hands-on demonstrations.

There were also guest presentations and certifications from HILTI representatives, OSHA compliance officers and Laborers-AGC members to help make the program informative and entertaining while reinforcing worker safety.

“This is the direction the industry is going in,” said Barry Kaplan, president and business manager of the Concrete Workers District Council. “Offering training to all levels of the organizations we partner with not only strengthens our relationships, it enables us to become an integral part of the process. We have an arsenal of talented people with cutting-edge skills that we need to showcase within our industry.”

LOCAL 1358 DELIVERS WITH EXPERIENCE

Acting on Local 1358’s excellent reputation for training programs, LeChase Construction Inc. recently approached the Elmira local with a special request. The contractor, which already had a strong working relationship with the local, was in need of a three-day training class for its foremen this spring.

Local 1358, along with the Upstate New York District Council, delivered with a highly comprehensive agenda that addressed a range of construction management skills, including leadership, motivation, communication, interpersonal skills, construction math, trenching and excavation, sloping, hand and power tool safety and a 10-hour OSHA course.

The program was well attended by 17 participants, composed of representatives from not only LeChase Construction, but also from Tioga Construction, Wenzel Contractors, Streeter Associates and Elderlee. Laborers from Local 1358, Local 589 in Ithaca and Local 435 in Rochester also attended the classes, which were taught by instructors John Scamel, David Schmidt, Steve Payne and John Shannon, Upstate New York Laborers Education & Training Fund director.

“Watching these individuals take the initiative and rise to a higher level is most satisfying,” said Tom Norconk, Local 1358 business manager.

Due to the great success of this first program, a second installment already has been scheduled for December.

“It was a terrific idea that came together perfectly,” said Shannon. “We’re very proud to be able to create a pioneering program like this – the first of its kind in upstate New York.”

Photo top left – pictured in bottom row, from left, are: Richard Rizzo, Craig Scott and William Sanchez Jr. Top row, from left, are: Barry Kaplan, Joseph Martinelli, Dennis O’Gorman, Carmine Datello, Michael Valerio, Frank Rizzo, Anthony Santostefano, John Vecchione, Chris Scalisi, Stanley Cole, Anthony Martinelli, Larry Hughes and William LoGerfo. Photo top right - pictured in front row, from left, are: Tedd Cooper (Local 589), Todd Pangrazio (Local 435), Denny Beadnell (Local 435), Daniel Vasile (Local 435), Nancy Burris (Local 1358), and Charles Rice (Local 589). Middle row, from left, are: Grover White (Local 589), and Danny Austin (Local 589). Back row, from left, are: Stacy Murphy (Local 1358), William “Bill” Kane (Local 1358), Paul Russo (Local 1358), Mark Rice (Local 1358), Martin O’Hara (Local 589), Ty Hurlbut (Local 1358), John “Jack” Schamel (Instructor), Brian Knapp (Local 1358), Irv Mower (Local 1358), and Donald Cook (Local 589).

GRANT OFFERS EXPANSION OPTIONS ACROSS THE STATE



High-school students line up at Ithaca's first construction career day.

The U.S. construction industry is facing its most profound workforce shortage in decades. More than 250,000 construction and transportation jobs are currently unfilled. Despite this fact, the NYS Laborers continue to draw larger and larger crowds of high school students to its annual Construction Career Days programs.

Now, with the help of a recent grant from the Department of Transportation, this effective recruitment program will be expanded further throughout the state, beginning with Ithaca and Westchester.

The success of each new Construction Career Days program depends upon fundraising efforts with donor companies and collaborative partnerships between industry, government and education at the national, state and local levels. New York State LECET Field Representative Frank Marchese Jr. and Fred Stuzman of Hudson River Construction will guide these efforts as co-chairs of the effort's steering committee.

"As our union places an ever-increasing emphasis on apprenticeship and recruitment efforts, this has become an effective avenue to reach young people and get them excited about our line of work," said Marchese.

Ithaca's first Construction Career Day held recently attracted more than 400 students from 13 school districts into the local ice skating rink in Lansing. The day featured indoor and outdoor activities, including laying block and brick.

"The Ithaca event this year was a tremendous success," said David Marsh, Business Manager Local 589. "With the hard work of the committee, we were able to present the students with a full picture of the construction industry to help stimulate their interest."

The goal of the Construction Career Days expansion project is to illustrate a positive image of the construction industry to help entice high school students to seriously consider its many professional career options. 🌄

Transportation Bond Act: Constructing a Brighter Future for all New Yorkers

A critical transportation initiative that will have a major impact on Laborers will go before New York state voters this November.

If passed, the \$2.9 billion Transportation Bond Act would be used to upgrade transportation systems across the state, generating a surplus of construction jobs for union members along the way.

Most parties within the construction industry recognize that educating the general public about the benefits of this proposed bond act is paramount during the next few months to avoid repeating the failure of a similar transportation bond act that voters turned down in 2000.

To this end, the New York State Laborers are joining with other interested groups to set up an organization called "Vote Yes for Transportation," which is developing a statewide campaign to not only raise general awareness for the bond act, but also to explain to voters how it will benefit them in their respective corner of the state.

Part of the reason the 2000 bond act failed was due simply to poor advance communication – most voters weren't even aware the bond act was on the ballot, let alone how its passage would improve highways, bridges or mass transit projects in their region.



In August, representatives from various transportation interest groups, including contractor associations, unions and advocacy groups, met with Assemblyman Richard Brodsky and Senator Tom Libous to plan a publicity campaign for the bond act. An organizing committee is now being formed to raise funding and manage the campaign.

continued on page 8

TRANSPORTATION BOND ACT, CONTINUED

The 2005 bond act was a regular topic of public discussion this summer when Governor George Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver announced a mutual agreement for a five-year, \$35.8 billion State transportation plan. This plan would evenly distribute \$2.9 billion between DOT and MTA projects.

According to a press release from the governor's office, the \$2.9 billion in the bond act will be divided as follows:

- \$1.39 billion for NYS DOT projects
- \$50 million for non-MTA transit needs
- \$135 million for rail freight and port projects
- \$76 million for general aviation

- \$50 million for Erie Canal projects
- \$1.49 billion for MTA projects, divided like this:
 - \$450 million for LIRR East Side Access
 - \$450 million for Second Avenue Subway
 - \$450 million for general transit infrastructure
 - \$100 million for LIRR-Lower Manhattan Project

"If we don't provide the state with sufficient and safe roads, bridges and public transportation, New York will continue to suffer economically and fall further behind other states," said Dr. Jim Melius, president of the "Vote Yes for Transportation" campaign. "We'll do our part to raise awareness for the bond act and help overhaul our state's transportation system." 📌

Profile of a Business Manager: Charles "Skip" Coleman

Charles "Skip" Coleman has been a member of Local 754 in Rockland County since 1978. In his own words, "The job has always offered me an opportunity to work at something that continues to change and is never dull. My work is rarely repetitious and offers a new experience and challenge every day."

It wasn't until 2000 that he finally relocated to the Rockland area permanently. In the interim, he commuted back and forth from his home in Cooperstown – a three-hour drive. The way he figures, the heavy mileage was worth it.

Before becoming business manager of Local 754 in 1985, Coleman gained a wealth of experience by serving in a variety of roles, such as local shop steward and recording secretary. He enjoyed all of these experiences, but took a particular interest in the machinations of politics, which has led him to another role – treasurer of the New York State Laborers' PAC.

While participating in the negotiations of new agreements, Coleman also began to observe how the constantly

changing political climate could impact the enforcement of prevailing wage laws, which has become a pet project for him over the years (see story on page 9).

"Prevailing wage laws are a key element to the future of the union movement," Coleman said. "If the laws aren't enforced, unions will be bypassed for cheaper labor that often is neither safe, timely, or done properly the first time."

Prior to joining Local 754, Coleman attended Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. He also served in the Air Force in Vietnam for 13 months, where he specialized in communications, calling air strikes and cryptographics. After his tour concluded and he left the military in 1973, it was his uncle – who was a steward with the Laborers at the time – who encouraged him to pursue a career in construction. He's been a Laborer ever since.

The future of Local 754 remains bright. Projects on the table include the repair and replacement of the Tappan Zee bridge, as well as work on the Palisades Interstate Parkway and New York State Thruway. 📌



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"FILL IN FIVE"

Tri-Fund magazine asked Skip Coleman 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 am a Sci-fi fan.***
2. My first job was: ***Working on a farm in Cooperstown, making \$15 a week.***
3. The last movie I saw was: ***STAR WARS: EPISODE III - REVENGE OF THE SITH.***
4. My favorite song on the radio is: ***"Don't Cha" by the Pussy Cat Dolls.***
5. My favorite saying or quote is: ***\$%@^%^^@.***



LOCAL 754 TAKES ON PREVAILING WAGE LAWS – STEPS TO SUCCESS

Prevailing wage rates have long been a critical regulation in the construction labor industry. Simply put, prevailing wages are the required wage rates workers must be paid for public works projects. The rates are set by the New York State Department of Labor and vary by county, typically applying to most state and local works projects.

Contractors bidding on public works projects must use these wage rates in their bids. The rates were established specifically to offer a level playing field for all contractors bidding on a public works project. The laws were also designed to encourage the use of local workers, rather than import cheap labor from outside a project area.

Charles “Skip” Coleman, business manager of Local 754, has made prevailing wages one of his personal projects. He began addressing the prevailing wage issue in the Rockland area in the late 1980s by meeting face-to-face with local politicians, hoping simply to educate them about their economic impact if properly enforced.

“A cheap and poorly trained workforce usually results in poor construction quality and cost overruns for the locality,” said Coleman. “When the prevailing wage rates are effective, union and non-union contractors win construction jobs based on having the most productive, best-equipped and best-managed workforce.”

While attending various political functions recently, Coleman found that there is still a lack of general understanding of prevail-

ing wage laws among some elected officials. To help remedy this problem, he initiated a letter-writing campaign to government

leaders in his area. The letters supplied facts about prevailing wage laws and their economic impact, ending with an invitation for further discussion.

A total of 212 letters were mailed to Rockland County legislators, town board representatives and other officials. Since then, the union has received numerous calls from government officials, requesting sit down meetings to discuss the issue.


“This is the best result we could hope for,” Coleman said. “Not only were the letters read but the officials took the next step by contacting us. This will help keep the law enforced as new projects emerge, putting us in a position to compete fairly.”

Because of the success of Local 754’s effort, locals across the state have been encouraged to launch their own letter-writing campaigns.

“There is a general ignorance on the subject throughout the state, but if we all pitch in and do our part in

educating our government representatives individually, I think we’ll see more projects become union work,” said Coleman.

For more information about the template letter – which can easily be customized to any area – please contact Kim Devine at 518-449-1715. For additional information regarding prevailing wage and the Center for Fair Contracting, please visit www.getbackpay.com.



LABOR IS HONORABLE

April 28, 2005

Dear Dr. Zambito:

Since becoming business manager of Local 754 of the NYS Laborers, I have made it my goal to communicate to you the many values of union labor. As part of this effort, I would like bring to your attention some of the prevailing wage law issues that are affecting New York state and, more specifically, Rockland County.

Prevailing wage rates are the required rates to be paid to workers on public works projects in a locality. They are set by the New York State Department of Labor (DOL), and all contractors bidding on public works projects must include these wage rates in their respective bids.

The wage rates are intended to prevent under-cutting local wage rates and labor standards. They are also designed to make use of the local labor force, rather than importing cheaper labor from outside the community. Using a cheaper, poorly trained workforce puts quality construction at risk. In the long run, it may also lead to cost overruns, which may ultimately be paid out of the pockets of your constituents.

In New York, the DOL covers these provisions under Article 8 of the New York State Labor Law. While the department does its best to scrutinize payroll records and other documents to ensure compliance, the number of issues currently under investigation has, unfortunately, strained the resources of the organization.


UNDER PREVAILING WAGE LAW:

- Contractors must submit monthly payroll records for each public works job.
- Premium pay is required for overtime work.
- DOL wage determination must be posted on the job site.
- Only NYS DOL Certified Apprentice programs may be used on prevailing wage projects.
- Independent contracting is strictly regulated under the Internal Revenue Code.
- Falsified information on payroll records is deemed a willful violation.

Many believe that building Union is more expensive. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Union Labor is cheaper per hour than our non-union counterparts as our benefit packages are tax-exempt. For instance, the Union Laborer is \$3.52 per hour cheaper to the contractor than the non-union laborer being paid at the prevailing wage rate.

I would be happy to discuss our union members’ capabilities, our health and safety standards and compliance with the county’s prevailing wage laws at your convenience. Please feel free to call me at 845-425-5073, or, if you prefer, I can also meet with you at your office.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together toward labor solutions that will improve the quality of life for those who live and work in Rockland County.

Sincerely,

 Charles “Skip” Coleman
 Business Manager, Local 754
 NYS Laborers



ANNUAL NEW YORK STATE LABORERS TRI-FUNDS



From left are Eastern New York Laborers' District Council Business Manager Sam Fresina, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno (R-Brunswick), Upstate New York Laborer's District Council Business Manager Bill Shannon, LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni, and Senator Martin Golden (R-C-I, Brooklyn).

Initiating new components with an established and highly productive format, the 2005 annual New York State Laborers Tri-Funds legislative conference once again succeeded in introducing new faces and renewing long-standing relationships between labor, state and legislative leaders this spring.

The two-day retreat kicked off with opening remarks by Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings at The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany. Conference participants were then given an update on the progress of relevant construction legislation from speakers such as Senator George D. Maziarz (R-C Newfane), Senate Transportation Committee Chair Thomas Libous (R-C-Binghamton), Assembly Transportation Committee Chair David Gantt (D-Rochester) and Assembly Labor Committee Chair Susan John (D-Rochester).

For the afternoon segment, the conference shifted to an

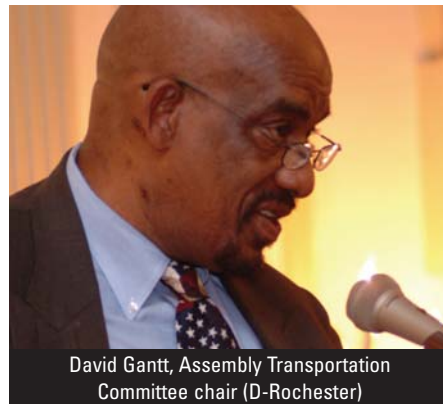
amphitheater setting for a "town hall" program on statewide transportation development, featuring Thomas J. Madison Jr., the recently nominated Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation. Madison provided an overview on the status of select local road projects throughout the state and addressed the concerns of Local business managers and representatives.

Other speakers included Jim Conlon, from Milliman & Robertson, who provided an update on health care, and New York State Laborers' PAC Lobbyists Thomas Hartnett and Heather Briccetti, who gave a legislative overview.

LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni closed the town hall session with a "state of the union" on a range of issues facing LIUNA at the state and national levels.



Thomas Libous, Senate Transportation Committee chair (R-C-Binghamton)



David Gantt, Assembly Transportation Committee chair (D-Rochester)



Susan John, Assembly Labor Committee chair (D-Rochester)

CONFERENCE HELD IN ALBANY



THOMAS J. MADISON

Governor Pataki recently nominated Thomas J. Madison Jr. Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation. Mr. Madison replaces Joseph H. Boardman, who left the agency to become administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

Madison, who had previously served as the Governor's Deputy Secretary for Transportation, is now responsible for the New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Thruway and Bridge Authorities and all Upstate regional transit, port and bridge authorities.

In the past, Madison has worked closely with the New York State Laborers to increase state transportation funding and will continue to be involved with the Transportation Bond Act.



Top photos – from left are Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings and Senator George D. Maziarz (R-C, Newfane). Above photo – from left are NYS Laborers' Tri-Funds Administrator Dr. Jim Melius, Eastern New York Laborers' District Council Business Manger Sam Fresina, LIUNA General Secretary Treasure and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni and Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings.

Day-one activities concluded with an evening legislative reception held at the Sign of the Tree restaurant, located in downtown Albany's Empire State Plaza, where attendees mingled with their local assemblymen and senators.

"This conference offers a unique opportunity for us as an organization to meet with state and legislative representatives in a relaxed environment," said General Secretary-Treasurer Sabitoni. "As a result, we are better able to relay our needs and concerns, making sure our voices are heard during the governing process."

New this year was a day-two program focusing on apprenticeship efforts across the state. Led by LIUNA Apprenticeship Director Bill Duke, this session highlighted the progress and importance of the New York State Laborers' apprenticeship programs, future expansion plans and how successful programs can be used to level the playing field in the construction industry. 📌

SCHOOL'S IN! – LOCAL 79 AT PROSPECT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

Outside, all was quiet. It was summer, so naturally Prospect Heights High School in Brooklyn was closed.

Inside was a different and much louder story – one told with tools and toil, with skill and speed, as Laborers from Local 79 rebuilt the school to benefit students and the community. The beginning of this project was anything but quiet.

In fact, the transformation of the rehabilitation of Prospect Heights High School from a typically non-union job through the New York City Housing Authority into a NYS Laborers project began in noisy and effective protests at the Authority's headquarters. Protesters emphatically insisted that the federal law mandating the employment of public housing residents in such projects, including union members, should not be ignored.



As many as 100 protesters at a time demanded that the opportunities that the law required must actually be produced through this project, a facility improvement crucial to educational quality and the integrity of the neighborhood.

Leading the protests were members of Trade Unions & Residents for Apprenticeship Development & Economic Success (T.R.A.D.E.S.). This new grassroots organization of unions, public housing residents and community activists united to support strict enforcement of this mandated federal employment and apprenticeship requirement.

Local 79, Greater New York LECET and the Mason Tenders District Council all joined the T.R.A.D.E.S. tidal wave, bringing their organizing and apprenticeship experience and their dedication to cost-effective quality in construction into the fray. The demonstrations were only the most visible component of an aggressive public education campaign that T.R.A.D.E.S. implemented, community wide. They also held meetings in local schools, churches and with other organizations.



From left are Local 79 Business Manager John Delgado, Greater New York LECET Community Affairs Representative LaVon Chambers and Local 79 Business Agent George Zecca.

As a result, in June 2003, the New York City Housing Authority promised \$450 million from its construction and maintenance budget and 225 new jobs for first-year apprenticeships, over a three-year period. Dubbed the CM/Build program, this new initiative required builders to offer state-approved apprentice programs with both training and adherence to prevailing wage laws.

Appropriately, working on the school would actually constitute school for the Laborers working there and learning through the apprentice program.

"We have demonstrated, time and again, that we can make amazing progress when an entire community comes together behind the same goal," said Local 79 Business Manager John Delgado. "Throughout the history of this union, we've successfully organized grassroots efforts that win victories for working families," he recalled. "When we carefully educate the people that our projects will benefit, they join us and things get done."

Delgado cautioned that, "The job is not over, and there is policing to be done." But he also proudly added, "We are making strides in the right direction." 📌



ANTHONY WALKER

Anthony Walker works on the renovation of Prospect Heights High School under the project labor agreement T.R.A.D.E.S. successfully negotiated with the New York City Housing Authority for the project. Walker is the first of many Local 79 apprentices to be employed through this agreement.



HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY RESPONDING TO HIGHWAY TRAGEDY IN BINGHAMTON

On the morning of May 20, three New York State Laborers lost their lives while working on an Interstate 81 bridge construction project in the town of Chenango, near Binghamton. Jason Pessoni, 30 (Local 589), Jonathan Randall, 32 (Local 7), and Wayne Bonsell, 39 (Local 7), were all killed when a tour bus sped through their 55-mph-posted work zone and created a domino effect of destruction. The accident started with the bus hitting a motorcycle traveling in front of it, then hitting the cement curb and striking the rear of a tractor-trailer. The bus then continued to drive into the closed right-hand lane where it hit a cement mixer; the vehicles together traveled about 75 feet across a bridge where the cement mixer struck another parked construction vehicle all in the confines of the construction zone. The accident is currently under investigation.

In the wake of this terrible accident, several important steps were taken by construction industry leaders to curb the likelihood of similar accidents taking place. Almost immediately afterward, Joseph Compagni, president of Economy Paving Company of Cortland (the company that employed the three workers), spearheaded a letter writing campaign to more than 40 state legislators, calling for immediate action to make highway work zones safer.

In addition, the New York State Laborers' Health and Safety Trust Fund teamed up with the Associated General Contractors of America New York State Chapter (AGC) to dedicate a work-zone safety radio ad campaign – that had already been planned as part of the annual work zone safety awareness campaign – to the Laborers killed in Chenango.

The ad tells the story of Charles Ballard, from Binghamton, who was killed while working on Interstate 90 in Albany last summer just before completing his shift. The story is told by Ballard's brother, Kris Ballard, who also works in highway construction.

The Laborers also collaborated with the AGC to help advocate for passage of the Work Zone Safety Act, a proposal before the New York State Legislature imposing stricter penalties for drivers speeding through highway work zones. The collective efforts paid off – the bill was passed at the 11th hour on the last day of the 2005 legislative session and signed by Governor Pataki.

"We consistently drive home the 'safety on the job' message and it is just sad that our skilled workers were killed while simply doing their work," said John Schaffer, Business Manager, Laborers Local 7. "We should expect the driving public to operate under those same safety guidelines held to the same standards. I'd like to see our government officials stay on top of this with legislation. Dealing with the families



WORK ZONE SAFETY ACT

This recently passed law is an important step in helping to make New York state highway work zones safer for Laborers. The law:

- Imposes a 60-day license suspension upon drivers convicted of two or more speeding violations in construction work zones.
- Imposes a mandatory \$50 surcharge for violations occurring within an active work zone. New York state law already doubles the minimum fine for speeding in work zones.
- Establishes a highway construction and maintenance safety education fund — fueled by the mandatory surcharge — to provide education, advocacy and increased awareness of the laws relating to safety in active work zones.

was the hardest thing I've ever had to do and it is not something I will ever forget. This affects everyone – the Laborers on the job and the driving public – and it should stay on top of everyone's mind."

"I was impressed, but not surprised, with the size of the outpouring of support and contributions from people in the community as well as other unions and the international," said Dave Marsh, Business Manager, Local 589. "I know that money doesn't replace the loss but does help the families in the short term. This accident was a critical part of getting this state legislation passed – it got the attention of those in Albany. The fact is, we had a major loss but some positive did come out of it. The legislation that was passed is a step in the right direction and meant a lot to the families and the Laborers who have to go back out on the job."

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HIGHWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY, CONTINUED

Wayne Bonsell

Age: 39

Home: Binghamton

Wayne worked for Laborers Local 7 for 20 years. Though he was an avid big buck hunter, a Kansas City Chiefs fan, and gained local notoriety for his outstanding talents at bowling, his greatest joy was being able to teach his sons about life, baseball and sportsmanship.

Jonathon "J" Randall

Age: 32

Home: Binghamton

A member of Laborers Local 7, Jonathon was an employee of Economy Paving. "J" was an avid snowmobiler and "an amazing husband, father, son and brother."

Jason Pessoni

Age: 30

Home: Cincinnatus

A member of local 589 since 2000, Jason worked exclusively with Economy Paving. Jason graduated from Cincinnatus High School in 1993 and joined the U.S. Marines. An avid hunter and golfer, he was also a fan of the Chicago Bears, the New York Mets and NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace.

Cincinnatus High School is now offering the Jason Pessoni Memorial Scholarship to a graduating senior entering the Marines (or other branch of the service). 📌

Audubon New York, Construction Management and Labor honor Senator Clinton and the late Ben Ciccone Sr.

In recognition of her past support for the Long Island Sound, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton was awarded the 2005 Sound Guardian Award by Audubon New York and the Construction Industry Council (CIC) at a reception held earlier this year at the American Yacht Club in Rye. The late Ben Ciccone Sr., the CIC's Chairman In Perpetuity, was also honored as a founding member of the Clean Water/Jobs Coalition.

The New York State Laborers'-Employers' Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) co-sponsored the award in conjunction with the Building & Realty Institute of Westchester/Mid-Hudson Region Inc., the General Contractors Association of N.Y. Inc. and the KeySpan Corporation.

Earlier this year, Sen. Clinton was a key force in introducing the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, a bill she co-sponsored with fellow New York Senator Charles Schumer and Connecticut Senators Joseph Lieberman and Christopher Dodd.

If passed, the act would allocate \$25 million each year for the acquisition or protection of critical open space, recreational areas and ecological sites along the New York and Connecticut shores of the Sound. It would also reauthorize the Long Island Sound Restoration Act, another key legislative initiative that has set aside as much as \$40 million annually for water-quality issues.

"Participating in activities like the Sound Guardian Award is an important way for us to demonstrate our commitment to both the building and preservation efforts underway in the communities we serve," said NYS Laborers' Tri-Funds Administrator Dr. Jim Melius. "The New York State Laborers are proud to play an active role in supporting like-minded individuals such as Senator Clinton who are willing to go the extra mile." 📌



From left, Westchester County Executive Andrew J. Spano, Rosetta Ciccone, CIC Chairman Emeritus Lou Nappi, Ben "JR" Ciccone and his daughter Natalie, Angie Nappi, CIC President Ross Pepe, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, NYS Laborers' Tri-Funds Administrator Dr. Jim Melius, Debbie (Ciccone) King and Paula Ciccone.

Audubon Centers across the state seek to connect people with nature and further their mission to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitats. Current and developing Audubon Centers include:

- Audubon Center at Knox Farm State Park, East Aurora, N.Y.
- Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, North Java, N.Y.
- Buttercup Farm Audubon Center, Stanford, N.Y.
- Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, Garrison, N.Y.
- Jamestown Audubon Nature Center, Jamestown, N.Y.
- Kaler's Pond Nature Center, Center Moriches, N.Y.
- Prospect Park Audubon Center at the Boathouse, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Ramshorn/Livingston Sanctuary, Catskill, N.Y.
- Rheinstrom Hill Audubon Center, Hillsdale, N.Y.
- Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Center and Sanctuary, Oyster Bay, N.Y.

For further information on the centers and activities in your area please call 518-869-9731.

MESSAGE FROM

A IUNA VICE-PRESIDENT

Reminder – The Importance of Safety



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Laborers don't need the terrible events in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast to remind us of the suddenness of unanticipated disasters and the fragility of life.

Unfortunately, we are also mourning the recent deaths of three of our union brothers on a highway construction project near Binghamton this summer.

While there may be no effective, practical way to prevent a speeding bus from crashing through the barriers at a construction site, most work zone accidents are preventable, and we

need to be vigilant about potential hazards on all job sites.

The NYS Laborers' Health and Safety Fund and PAC have already taken important steps after the three tragic deaths near Binghamton. Working with the New York State Associated General Contractors (AGC) and other associations, we advocated successfully for the passage of legislation that improves work zone safety in New York.

This new state law raises the penalties for speeding through a work zone and establishes a safety education program warning the public to slow down in work zones. The federal transportation bill passed this summer also improves work zone safety education through training programs and better provisions for reimbursing our contractors for safety-related expenses. Our union and signatory contractors were also instrumental in lobbying for the passage of these federal safety provisions.

Even before this tragedy, we had training programs available to address highway work zone hazards. The Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America has put together an excellent toolbox presentation on work zone safety through a federal grant. This is also available in Spanish and Portuguese through the NYS Laborers' Health and Safety Fund, which also has a grant from the NYS Department of Labor that supports safety training at our training funds throughout the state.

While these programs are all helpful, the most important factor in improving highway work zone safety is your attention to safety on the job site. Be alert for job site hazards. Report safety problems to your supervisors. Let your union steward know if these safety hazards are not being addressed. Sadly, this can be a matter of life or death.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



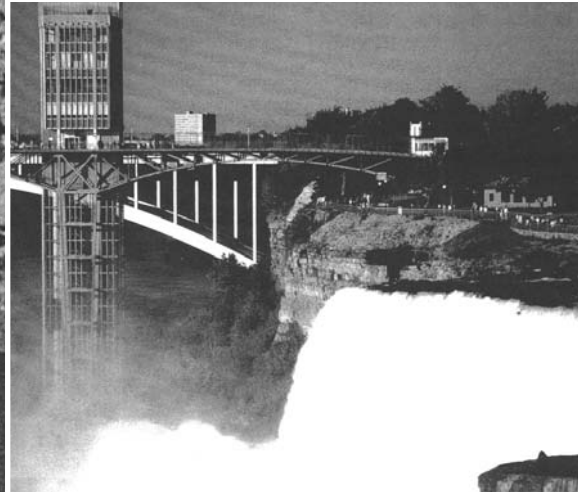
Vincent R. Masino
Vice President
Laborers' International Union of North America

'Most work zone accidents are preventable, and we need to be vigilant about potential hazards on all job sites.'

Time Capsule



In 1969, Local 91 of Niagara Falls played a large role in one of the region's best-known construction projects. The Laborers were the first workers to temporarily shut off Niagara Falls on the American side. They performed essential repair work, including the stabilization of rocks in the falls to protect its overall structure. ▲



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