Tappan Zee Bridge: Governor Cuomo Rebuilds New York
MESSAGE FROM THE LIUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT
FIGHT FOR OUR MEMBERS, OUR JOBS AND OUR FUTURE
AS A UNION

MESSAGE FROM THE LIUNA GENERAL
SECRETARY-TREASURER
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I had the great honor of presiding over one of our union’s most important gatherings — its Convention, the 24th in LIUNA’s history. Held every five years, this event brings together delegates from across North America to map out where our Union is going and how we will get there.

When the Convention opened, we acknowledged the incredible challenges our members have faced in recent years: an ailing economy, crippling construction-sector unemployment and constant attacks by anti-labor groups in almost every state. Those challenges will only grow with the 2012 elections as corporate interests bankroll anti-worker candidates who oppose everything LIUNA values and defends.

This realization brought an unparalleled urgency and commitment among our 1,600 delegates; to fight for our members, our jobs and our future as a union.

Our strength transformed that sense of urgency into a sense of purpose. We affirmed that LIUNA was built upon a foundation of justice, honor and strength and we recognized that fighting today’s fights and the wider war for all working people requires resources as well as commitment.

We transformed urgency into action at the Convention, passing two historic resolutions that will grow our activist base and position our Union on the front lines, where we belong.

The first resolution strengthens our political program, calling upon every Local Union to contribute three cents per man-hour to LIUNA’s National Political program, plus two cents more per hour to fight back at the state and local levels. For a penny per year for five years, this resolution will help LIUNA support candidates that support us and oppose those who oppose us.

The second resolution taps the power of members, asking every Local Union to increase its activists ranks, empowering an army of LIUNA members to stand up for their jobs and for working families.

I realize these resolutions ask for members’ time and money, valuable assets, especially in these tough economic times. But as our opponents boast a bottomless war chest and relentless will power to destroy our way of life, these resolutions are vital, providing the resources we need to invest in the future of the men and women who build America.

We can’t wait to put these resolutions in action. This November, our union faces critical choices in federal, state, and local elections. On the Presidential level, the choice is clear. This fall’s election is about the differences between what President Obama has done and can still do for LIUNA members and what Mitt Romney will do to destroy the jobs and economic security of LIUNA members and their loved ones.

I urge you to get informed about upcoming elections and reach out to fellow members and family to encourage them to support candidates who support us. Volunteer to work with your local union on campaigns for these candidates.

Together we can make a difference. In fact, we must.

In Solidarity,

Terence M. O’Sullivan
General President
Laborers’ International Union of North America
The cover of this magazine shows the Tappan Zee Bridge, an old structure that is slowly deteriorating and requires millions of dollars of maintenance and repairs every year. Over the last two years, Governor Andrew Cuomo and his staff have worked tirelessly to replace that bridge with a new bridge estimated to cost up to $5 billion. Previous governors had also talked about a new bridge, but Governor Cuomo was the first to deliver on that promise. As I write this column, the State is reviewing bids for the new bridge, with work projected to start by the end of the year. LIUNA and the building trades have already agreed to terms for a Project Labor Agreement for construction of the bridge, ensuring jobs for hundreds of Hudson Valley LIUNA members.

The Tappan Zee is not the only infrastructure initiative Gov. Cuomo supports. His NY Works program provides an additional $1 billion in infrastructure funding this year, including highway, bridge, and subway construction projects throughout New York State employing many of our members. As the private sector economy is slowly recovering, these public works projects are keeping many of our members employed.

We supported Gov. Cuomo in the 2010 election because we believed he would support us. We understood that in these tough economic times, change would not come quickly; yet we trusted his commitment to revitalizing New York State’s infrastructure, recognizing that this infrastructure was vital to New York’s economic recovery.

In Washington, a national transportation bill finally passed, but only covers two years rather than the usual five or six. However, it does help to provide stable funding for roads, bridges, and mass transit. We need to thank Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and New York’s other Congressional representatives for their efforts toward passing this legislation.

However, we can’t rest on past accomplishments. This November, we need to elect representatives who will support infrastructure work, economic growth, and labor protections. One key statewide race is for the U.S. Senate. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has been a great supporter of our initiatives in transportation, and she played a key role in passing the World Trade Center legislation that helps many of our members whose health was impaired in responding to the terrorist attacks on September 11. Senator Gillibrand has earned our continued support.

We will also be voting for members of the U.S. House of Representatives and for State Senate and Assembly members. Since redistricting which has changed the borders for many districts, take time to learn about the candidates in your district. Ask your local union which candidates have supported and will support our issues. Also take the time to get involved. Volunteer for phone banks and other campaign activity for your local union.

Elections are important. Supporting the right candidate leads to more work for you and your fellow union members.

Fraternally yours,

General Secretary-Treasurer
Laborers’ International Union of North America
Bruce Springsteen, the New York Knicks, Madonna, the New York Rangers, the Rolling Stones, the New York Liberty, Eminem — the greatest entertainers and sports teams have made Madison Square Garden an iconic building. Located on 8th Avenue between 31st and 33rd streets, the 42-year-old venue is busy with 300 events a year, nearly one a day.

So, how to make desperately-needed renovations?

How to bring it up to date and make each event better for audiences?

Closing “the Garden” was not an option: It’s just not replaceable. And the complexity of interlocking sports seasons presented timing challenges.

So Turner Construction developed a three-phase, $775–$850 million dollar renovation project that will allow “the Garden” to continue welcoming events and audiences even as improvements proceed. To ensure speed, efficiency, safety and quality, Turner turned to the Laborers. Because of the scope of the work on this job multiple locals have been onsite including concrete locals 6A, 18A and 20 as well as local unions 78 and 79.

In October 2011, Turner Construction completed Phase 1: refurbishing and opening the lower bowl seats and 20 event level suites. Located near the ice, court or concert state level, these event level suites cost approximately $1 million each to lease. This phase also includes new locker rooms, dressing rooms and the sixth-floor concourse — all of which now stand ready.

In October 2012, they plan to complete Phase 2: renovations to the upper-level concourse, party deck and the super club — an area the size of 10 suites — and the Delta Club, which will serve patrons of the event-level suites. Phase 2 also includes a television studio with a glass wall offering a view into the tunnel where the players can be seen walking from the locker room to the court or ice.

In October 2013, Phase 3 will be completed: renovations of the 7th Avenue lobby with a large projection screen and a television studio. The renovated 9th floor will comprise 18 revamped suites, and a new scoreboard will be installed. As signature design elements of the new Madison Square Garden, two bridges will span the arena lengthwise over the court or ice. This will allow spectators to walk above and across from one end of the arena to the other and enjoy a spectacular overhead view of whatever event is in process.

To meet these deadlines, Turner Construction and the Laborers are working a demanding, round the clock schedule. Demolition Laborers and asbestos-removal Laborers are working two twelve hour shifts while general Laborers are working in fire proofing, mason tending and clean up on three eight-hour shifts and the concrete workers are also onsite pouring the concrete structures.

While Phase 1 construction peaked at more than 500 Laborers onsite, work on Madison Square Garden will generate approximately 1,300 full-time union jobs during construction each summer.

“This project is important not just because of the jobs generated,” said Robert Bonanza, business manager of the Mason Tender District Council. “I think any New Yorker will tell you this project is important because the building is so important. ‘The Garden’ is such an historical venue, an iconic building for the people of the city of New York and for millions of visitors who enjoy events of all kinds here. We’re proud to be the union workers making this happen.”

“As a concrete union, we’ve worked on some of the most recognizable buildings in the skyline, but this place is special because it isn’t an office building used by some,” said Alex Castaldi Business Manager Concrete District Council. “This is a building that is used by city residents, people traveling from all over the world to see something special in New York City — it is used by so many and our work is improving that experience.”

While Phase 1 construction peaked at more than 500 Laborers onsite, work on Madison Square Garden will generate approximately 1,300 full-time union jobs during construction each summer.
Before exploring the future of the Tappan Zee Bridge, let's review its past — a very New York story.

The Tappan Zee Bridge — full name: the Governor Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge — echoes two key traditions of New York State and the Hudson Valley. “Tappan” is the name of a long-vanished Native American tribe, and “Zee” is the Dutch word for “sea,” recalling the Dutch heritage of the land where the fictional Rip Van Winkle napped and awoke to a new world.

Why was the Tappan Zee Bridge built across a part of the Hudson River wide enough for the word “Zee,” or “sea” to fit? Why not bridge the river at Dobbs Ferry, where its much narrower?

New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey wanted the bridge to connect the New York State Thruway across Westchester to the New England Thruway; placing it outside the jurisdiction of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey so its tolls would fund the Thruway Authority, not the Port Authority.

Three miles long, the Tappan Zee Bridge links South Nyack in Rockland County with Tarrytown. It carries seven lanes of motor traffic, but it exceeded its designed capacity long ago and has deteriorated badly.

Tunnels, bridges and alternate locations have been considered by state and federal planners. Current plans call for a parallel Tappan Zee replacement bridge to be completed in 2017.

The Cuomo and Obama administrations selected the Tappan Zee replacement bridge project for fast-tracking to approval, allocating an estimated $5.2 billion for construction. The state budget also allocates funding for the Tappan Zee project, in addition to many other infrastructure-improvement and replacement projects that will employ thousands in rehabilitating deteriorated or obsolete infrastructure across the state.

Numerous replacement plans have been discussed, with the New York State Laborers involved in these deliberations as a key player in “Build the Bridge Now” along with the Construction Industry Council. This construction industry coalition promotes responsible infrastructure funding for safety, convenience and economic development and represents more than 300,000 employees of more than 15,000 organizations. The group raises a powerful voice to advocate
much-needed improvements through press events and other strategies.

Building the new bridge will create more than 45,000 jobs and it will include a pedestrian plaza with a walkway and bike path. Built to last 100 years, it will provide a foundation for future mass transit, including Bus Rapid Transit and commuter rail.

The Tappan Zee Bridge replacement project is part of efforts by Gov. Cuomo’s New York Works Task Force to create tens of thousands of jobs by coordinating comprehensive capital plans, overseeing all investment in infrastructure projects, and accelerating hundreds of critical projects across the state. The budget adds $1.2 billion in new spending for roads and bridges, over and above the $1.6 billion already allocated this year to the core transportation capital program.

“We’ve said all along that this project must move forward without delay,” Ross Pepe president of the Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc. “We will work to make sure this project has the proper funding and moves along quickly, we can’t wait on politics and red tape this time — we must move ahead.”

“This project is a great example of how we help provide work for our members,” said Sam Fresina, Eastern New York District Council Business Manager. “We are involved in a powerful coalition to push this project forward and make sure funding is secured for this project.” Fresina added, “Our members will be involved in the important work on this crucial project — a new bridge and multi-modal transportation facility that New Yorkers and visitors will use for many years to come. We applaud state and federal authorities for moving this vital project forward.”

Beyond Repair
Lake Champlain Bridge Replacement

The members of Local Union 186 have successfully demonstrated how efficiently the NYS Laborers can replace and rehabilitate deteriorated infrastructure.

They stepped in when the Lake Champlain Bridge linking Crown Point, New York with Chimney Point, Vermont had actually been declared beyond repair.

Inspectors discovered it to be beyond repair in October 2009, leaving no choice but to close the bridge and replace it — leaving motorists to drive around the lake or use a small ferry that could only carry a few vehicles across at a time. In six months, a design was chosen, replacement work was contracted to FLATIRON and members of Local Union 186 began work: very rapid and efficient work. The contractor negotiated a PLA with the Plattsburgh Saranac Lake Building Trades to complete the work on time and under budget. Despite significant challenges, they completed a project that would normally have taken several years within a year and a half. The $70 million project opened to the public in November 2011, despite delays caused by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene and other weather-related problems. In addition they encountered debris from the demolition that was inadvertently left on the lake bottom.

The members of Local Union 186 excelled in this monumental and very necessary task. They excavated, assisted in placing tremie pipes (footers) and underwater forms, erecting bridge pier forms, placing concrete in pier forms, grouting the bridge deck and — perhaps most dramatic of all — assisting on the barge as the final bridge span was floated and put into place.

“Seeing the new bridge span the lake gives our members a huge sense of pride and accomplishment,” said Local Union 186 Business Manager John R. Donoghue, Jr.

Local Union 186 Laborers completed the new span from New York to Vermont ahead of schedule and under budget.
New York Works Program Puts Our Industry to Work

Gov. Cuomo’s New York Works program encourages construction industry leaders, including the NYS Laborers and other unions, with the promise of increased investment in infrastructure projects across the state.

NY Works was the centerpiece of Governor Cuomo’s jobs program, reinventing state economic development with an innovative new strategy to put New Yorkers back to work rebuilding the state’s infrastructure. The program is designed to create tens of thousands of jobs by coordinating comprehensive capital plans, overseeing all investment in infrastructure projects, and accelerating hundreds of critical projects across the state. NY Works leverages four federal dollars for every dollar of state spending. The program was able to introduce projects for bids less than a month after the Governor signed the 2012–2013 budget.

New York Works allocates $1.2 billion in existing state funds ($247 million) with new federal funding ($917 million) to repair 2,000 miles of roads and 110 bridges. It will create jobs and boost local commerce and tourism by improving the state’s aging infrastructure, a long-overdue initiative that NYS LECET has advocated for many years. This new funding is in addition to the $1.6 billion previously allocated for “core transportation” bridge and road projects.

Projects were chosen for New York Works support funding based on need, including bridges on the state’s list of deficient and highways rated fair or poor.

To expedite the work, the state will utilize efficient “design-and-build” contracts under single prime contractors. Work that qualifies for federal funding will receive expedited state review and approval.

Some of the larger New York Works projects include:
- $85 million for the Peace Bridge toll plaza in Buffalo,
- $12 million for the Route 17/Interstate 86 conversion in Tioga County,
- $8 million for work on the road between Interstate 81 and County Route 41 in Cortland County,
- $81 million for the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge southern span deck replacement in Orange and Dutchess counties; plus $25 million for lead abatement and painting on the northern span, and
- $15.7 million for stretches of Prospect Expressway to the Staten Island Expressway between Brooklyn and Staten Island.

In May, the Governor named the NY Works Task Force. The group consisted of 15 members who are leaders in finance, labor, government, planning and transportation. Nine of those members were appointed by the Governor, and six by the Legislature. Members representing labor include Denis Hughes, Former President, NYS AFL-CIO — co-chair, and Gary LaBarbera, President, NYC Building & Construction Trades Council.

“We could not be more pleased with this allocation of funding for infrastructure improvements in our state,” said Armand E. Sabitoni, General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager. “We applaud this responsible initiative and look forward to the benefits it will bring to families, businesses and visitors here. Our members can’t wait to begin work on these important improvements.”

The first wave of New York Works projects that were open for bid include:
- An estimated $3.3 million contract to resurface pavement on:
  - Major Deegan Expressway (Interstate 278) from the Bruckner Expressway to Fordham Road and from the Mosholu Parkway to the Bronx county line in the Bronx
  - An estimated $17.9 million contract to resurface pavement on:
    - Route 27 from the Gouverneur Expressway to Church Avenue and the West Shore Expressway (Route 440) from Rossville Avenue to the Staten Island Expressway in Richmond and Kings counties.
- An estimated $10.8 million bridge contract to replace decks on the bridges carrying:
  - Latta Brook Road over Interstate 86 in the town of Horseheads, Chemung County;
  - Route 417 over Bennetts Creek in the town of Greenwood, Steuben County;
  - Michigan Hollow Road over the Genesee Expressway in the town of Avoca, Steuben County;
  - Interstate 86 eastbound and westbound over B&B Railroad in the town of Bath, Steuben County;
  - Route 36 over Loder Street in the town of Homerville, Steuben County; and
  - Route 417 over Tuscarora Creek in the town of Tuscarora, Steuben County.
- An estimated $13.1 million contract to resurface pavement on:
  - Route 4 between routes 9 and 151 (Red Mill Road/Luther Road) in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 9W between Route 396 (Bridge Street) and the Coeymans/Beekilham town line in Albany County;
  - Route 7 between routes 278/279, 132 and 131 (Ford Avenue) in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 2 between Peckham Pond/Terton Road and routes 4 and 151 (Red Mill/Luther roads) in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 22 between Route 7 and River Road in the village of Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer County;
  - Route 22 between routes 2 and 346 (Rabbit College Road) in the town of Petersburgh, Rensselaer County;
  - Route 355 between routes 154 and 351 in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 40 between Church Street and Hansen Road in the town of Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County;
  - Route 40 between Route 125/67 and the Washington county line in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 43 from Route 23 to Old Mill Road in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 67 from the Champlain Canal/Hemstreet Park to Route 40 in the town of Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County;
  - Route 67 between Route 22 and the New York/Vermont state line in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 151 from Brookhaven Lane to Hilltop Road in the village of Luther, Rensselaer County;
  - Route 351 between Routes 154/355 and Dater Hill Road in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 4 between Ryder Road and 7th Avenue in the village of Whitehall, Washington County;
  - Route 22 from Spring Street to McMillan Road in the town of Hebron, Washington County;
  - Route 22 from Mataly Road to Chamberlain Mills/Sheldon roads in the village of Hebron, Washington County;
  - Route 40 between Ferry Road and Route 29 in Washington County;
  - Route 20 from the Rensselaer county line to Route 22 in Columbia County;
  - Route 66 from dressed Creek to Route 203 in Columbia County; and
  - Route 9H between Routes 9/32 and Route 66 in Columbia County.
- An estimated $12.7 million contract to apply pavement sealant to prevent water infiltration on:
  - Route 20 from the Schoharie county line to Route 20 (Easton Road) in Schenectady County;
  - Route 29 from the village of Greenwich to Route 22 in Washington County;
  - Route 86 from Lake Placid to Wilmington in Essex County;
  - Route 20 from Routes 8/20 to Columbia county line in Rensselaer County;
  - Route 49 from Route 291 to the Rome city line in Oneida County;
  - Route 173 from West Genesee Street to Route 175 in Onondaga County;
  - Route 38 from Route 366 in Freeville to the Groton village line in Tompkins County;
  - Route 173 from the village of Manlius to the Madison county line in Onondaga County;
  - Route 377 from French Road to Compo Park in Erie County;
  - Route 219 between Route 98 and Ellicottville south village line in Cattaraugus County;
  - Route 425 from Route 62 to Lockport Road in Niagara County;
  - Main Street from Interstate 90 Exit 16 to Route 20 in Cattaraugus County;
  - Route 377 from Route 291 to the Chestnut Park entrance in Erie County;
  - Route 62 from Frewsburg to Hartson Road in Chautauqua County;
  - Route 75 from New Oregon to the junction of Route 62 in Erie County;
  - Route 92 from Hartson Road to the Interstate 96 ramps in Chautauqua County;
  - Route 395 from Cuba to Belfast in Allegany County;
  - Route 14A from Dundee to the Milo town line in Yates County;
  - Route 225 from South Corning to Golden Glow in Chemung, Steuben County;
  - Route 26 from Potters Corners to the Turin village line in Lewis County;
  - Route 970 from Route 30 to the Canadian border in Franklin County; and
  - Route 7 from Sidney to Unadilla in Otsego County.
Profile of a Business Manager:

Maurice Foley – Local Union 18A

While construction workers of Irish descent have led in building American infrastructure for centuries, Maurice Foley may be among the most Irish of all Laborers.

Now business manager of Local Union 18A, Foley is one of five children born to John and Mary (O’Sullivan) Foley in the village of Ballylanders in County Limerick. He emigrated to London in 1959, then to the United States in 1963. In 1971, Maurice joined the Cement and Concrete Workers Union Local 18A, rising through the ranks to business manager. A field representative from 1985, he became business manager in 1993. He is also vice president of the Concrete Workers District Council, trustee of the Funds of the District Council #16, and a member of the New York State Laborers’ Political Action Committee (PAC).

He married Teresa Prior, an Irish lass from Ballinamore in County Leitrim, in 1970 and began a family. They have raised daughters Tara Jean, Deirdre, Dianna and Sandra with a strong sense of their Irish roots, and they continue teaching the traditions to their grandchildren. The family moved from the Bronx to Mahopac in 1981.


The Foleys support Project Children and have generously shared their home with children from Northern Ireland during several summers.

Maurice Foley has received many awards from the American Irish community for his dedication and commitment to the community. He was the grand marshal of the Queens County St. Patrick’s Day Parade and was guest of honor at the Gaelic Association of New York’s Annual Banquet in 2003. This dedicated son of “the Auld Sod” has long represented generations of Irish Laborers who have built so much, done so much and given so much to their adopted country. Maurice was also the Grand Marshall at the 2011 Putnam County Saint Patrick’s Day parade.

“Maurice is a business manager we can be proud of, for his work on the local union level, but also for his community involvement and his local leadership,” said Armand E. Sabitoni, General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager. “Maurice came to this country, made a name for himself, made an impact on our union family and made a better life for his own family. This is truly the American Dream.”

W

1. People I’ve worked with all these years would be surprised to learn that: I’m still around after all these years.

2. My first job was:
in the United State was as a commercial painter (21 years old) and my very first job was while I lived in London was at an ice cream factory in the deep freeze area

3. The last movie I saw was:
Viva Las Vegas – Elvis Presley

4. My favorite song on the radio is:
Blue suede shoes

5. My favorite saying or quote is:
Never a dull moment

“FILL IN FIVE”
Tri-Fund magazine asked Maurice Foley to fill in answers to five questions about himself.
The success of the New York State Laborers Health and Safety Fund’s first round of health and safety videos has inspired the launch of a second series. The fund is currently developing the new video series, planned for filming at worksites across the state through 2012. As with the Fund’s first group of videos, these will be shown at Health and Safety bus visits and will also be made available to our contractors and others concerned with workplace safety.

“The first group of videos was so successful in getting out our safety message that we are happy to launch the next round of videos,” said Mickey Kelly, executive director of the Health and Safety Trust Fund. “We are reaching out to our members and hammering home the everyday issues important to help them create a safe working environment by using a creative and entertaining medium. We are proud of our leadership position in promoting worksite safety and the health of our members and their families.”

The five new short videos (three- to five-minutes long) are being developed for tool box talks. This second series of educational videos is aimed to improve health and safety awareness by discussing issues related to: Trench/Excavation, Confined Spaces, Suspended Scaffolding, Cold, and Preventative Diabetes. The overall goal of these videos is to help Laborers by refreshing the safety knowledge of those already trained in safety and to help Laborers Union apprentices by introducing safety concepts and consciousness.
The New York State Laborers Union is using social media to fight widespread abuses in an affordable housing program.

The New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) recently allocated billions in public dollars to create and preserve more than 165,000 affordable homes and apartments.

However, shoddy work, illegal business practices and a total absence of accountability have victimized both tradespeople doing the work and owners living in the homes. Fighting back, Greater New York LECET, the Laborers Eastern Region Organizing Fund, the Mason Tenders District Council Political Action Committee, Local Union 79, and the New York State LECET, are partnering to use YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to draw public attention to the many problems with the program.

Even workers on prevailing-wage jobs have problems: Many must cash their checks at contractor-assigned check-cashing operations, return the full amount to contractors and receive in cash only $12 an hour, with the contractors low-balling the hours. Some workers are simply never paid, and others receive $100 a day, cash, without benefits, overtime or taxes withheld.

Homeowners face serious problems with the quality of work.

Many homeowners have sunk their entire life savings into their homes, only to find them uninhabitable. Raw sewerage backs up into their living spaces, windows fall out, roofs leak or there’s no insulation. With no one accountable, they are left to fend for themselves.

Anita Clark, a single-mom and caretaker to her daughter and mother, won an affordable housing lottery that set her and her family up in Brooklyn, but the “win” brought such problems as improper plumbing below the sidewalk and streets that led to backups. Laborers from Local 731 and Local 79 helped, as shown in a segment of the George to the Rescue half-hour television show, shown by NBC on Saturday mornings. The show’s producers assembled a team with a contractor, members of the New York City Building & Construction Trades Council, the NYPD and the community to repair the multiple problems in Anita’s house, while the show drew attention to the problems homeowner program participants face.

To leverage this attention, the New York State Laborers and partners are posting rapid-response videos posted to YouTube and shared on Facebook and Twitter, sponsoring the Facebook group Justice 4 Homeowners and placing FaceBook advertising with a link for more information and the video www.justice4homeowners.org.

The Justice 4 Homeowners social media campaign is designed to obtain fairness for wronged workers and homeowners. But it also demonstrates how social media can be a social justice tool in both the consumer and labor marketplaces; and it marks another step in the New York State Laborers’ dynamic use of these highly efficient communications channels.

Perhaps in response to our campaign and other outreach, NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg has opened negotiations with the Laborers on possibly using the Information Technology Vendor Transparency and Taxpayer Protection Act to correct abuses in the HPD program, marking a promising development in this unfortunate situation and demonstrating the power of social media.
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.

Honoring 50-Year Members

Local Union 1000  Front row, l-r: Walter Reuben, Retired Business Manager Richard Merritt, President Retiree Council Anthony Damico
Back row, l-r: President Steve Colacicco, Business Manager R.J. Merritt, Secretary-Treasurer Sal Fusaro

Local Union 754  Front row, l-r: Clarence Beach, Anthony Corsi, Donald Soule, Walter P. Ferris, Peter Churey, Julius Sobol, Harry Silcox, and Edwin Lockwood
Back row, l-r: Delbert Sipes, Robert Davis, William Weyrauch, Albert Daghita, Jr., Robert Franklin, Wesley Utios, Walter Zebrowski, Roger Proulx, Jr. and Business Manager David Marsh

Local Union 621  l-r: 50-year Gold Card member Richard Layton with Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer Donald Giardini

Local Union 621  Left photo: 50-year Gold Card member Walter Brinkwart
Right photo: 50-year Gold Card member Angelo Soldano with Business Manager & Secretary-Treasurer Donald Giardini

Local Union 621  l-r 50-year Gold Card member Ralph Bowen with Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer Donald Giardini

Local Union 186  l-r: Recording Secretary William Coates, 50-year Gold Card member William Leclair and Business Manager John Donoghue, Jr.

Local Union 186  l-r: Recording Secretary William Coates, Vice President Vitchel Hemingway, Secretary-Treasurer Donald Anslow, 50-year Gold Card member Donald Pelkey, Business Manager John R. Donoghue Jr.

Local Union 186  l-r: Michael Pratt and 50-year member Joseph Pratt, Jr.
Local Union 621
l-r: 50-year Gold Card member Ralph Bowen with Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer Donald Giardini

Local Union 35 Business Manager-Secretary/Treasurer Carmen Nicotera recently received the Youth Construction Initiative Corazon Award from Centro Civico. He received this prestigious award in honor of his dedication to the youth in his community. For the past several years, Mr. Nicotera has mentored numerous high school graduates, offering education and training in construction skills and placing them with local companies to enable them to earn a paycheck while learning their trade. Mr. Nicotera and Laborers Local Union 35 and all other Laborers Local Unions are dedicated to providing the workforce that will rebuild our communities, one skilled Laborer at a time.

Local Union 633
l-r: 50-year Gold Card recipient Anthony Eallopnardo and Business Manager Gabe Rosetti III

Local Union 633
l-r: 50-year Gold Card recipient Gordon Carlson and Business Manager Gabe Rosetti III

Local Union 633
l-r: 50-year Gold Card recipient Taylor Stackhouse and Business Manager Gabe Rosetti III

Local Union 633
l-r: 50-year Gold Card recipient Lawrence “Bill” Carr and Business Manager Gabe Rosetti III

Local Union 186
50-year Gold Card member Andre Ethier

Local Union 621
Newest retiree Kevin John has been a member since September 6, 1977; he retired on April 1, 2012

Local 731 hard hat from the WTC on display at the New York Historical Society
Memorial:

Thomas F. Hartnett – Longtime Lobbyist

The New York State Laborers, lost a close friend this year, Thomas F. Hartnett. Tom was our longtime lobbyist and consultant for over twenty years. He died peacefully on August 28, 2012 in Boston following complications during treatment for cancer.

Mr. Hartnett was born in the Bronx, New York and graduated from Farleigh Dickinson University with a B.S. in 1972. He later received his law degree from Seton Hall University Law School in 1976.

Tom began his career with the New York Telephone Company serving as a union representative for the Communications Workers of America and in management positions in personnel and labor relations.

From 1983 to 1987, Tom moved to New York State government and later served as the state’s chief labor negotiator as director of the Governor’s Office of Employee Relations.

In 1987, Governor Mario M. Cuomo named Tom New York State’s Commissioner of Labor, a position he held until 1991. As Commissioner, Tom reformed New York State’s child labor laws, implemented Community Service Centers throughout New York State and increased New York’s Minimum Wage and Unemployment Insurance benefits. He also expanded the state’s efforts to enforce prevailing wage and other labor laws, and helped to mediate settlements of major labor disputes including the lengthy Long Island Railroad strike.

In 1991, he left NYS government and joined Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. as Co-Chair of the firm’s Government Relations practice. The New York State Laborers’ PAC was one of his first clients, a relationship that continued up until the time of his death in August. He lobbied for the passage of legislation to assist our union including several bills expanding prevailing wage protections and advised the union on other political matters. Tom continued his public service including serving for many years as Chair of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship. He held the position during both the Clinton and Bush Presidencies.

Tom is survived by his wife, Nancy Hodes and was the loving father of four children and two step-children.

“Tom Hartnett was not only our major political advisor for twenty years but a true and trusted friend. He understood the many difficulties faced by our members and was proud to represent our working families on political and legislative matters,” said Armand E. Sabitoni, New England Regional Manager and LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer. “We will greatly miss Tom and his wise advice.”
Change is inevitable. We all see it in our daily lives all the time. Reading this edition of Tri-Fund, I was struck by how much change is impacting our work and our union. The many 50-year members we honor along with their local unions have witnessed many changes over their long careers. The techniques and equipment used in building the new Tappan Zee (page 6) or Lake Champlain (page 7) bridges are very different from what our Local Union 1000 members used to build the Hudson River Bridge in the 1960’s.

Ongoing change requires that our members receive better training before going to the job site and throughout their careers. Apprenticeship (or equivalent experience) is becoming mandatory. State and local governments now require safety training for many workers. Most New York City construction workers now must have completed a ten hour OSHA construction safety course, in addition to special training for abatement work, scaffolding or other specialties. Our union has prospered by leading in new and better safety training for our members.

Change is also coming to our union in other ways. The Health and Safety Fund is producing another set of health and safety videos for toolbox talks (page 10). Replacing short and often dull monologues by safety supervisors, these videos hold members’ attention and demonstrate key points or techniques.

LIUNA is even expanding into Social Media. For many of us, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter are just funny names we overhear our children or grandchildren say. But to our younger members, these are important communications tools. LIUNA is now introducing a LIUNA “app”. NYS LECET is working with the Mason Tenders District Council using social media to advocate for more union work at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD), for example. This program posts rapid-response videos on You Tube showing examples of the shoddy work of current HPD contractors and the resulting terrible living conditions for occupants of this housing. Video shot in the morning can be shared by afternoon. This program has succeeded in alerting television and other news media to report on this issue, supporting our position (page 11).

Maybe we are not all ready for Facebook and Twitter, but we can all appreciate how adapting to change can help our members develop new skills, work safer and communicate clearly.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Vincent R. Masino
Vice President and New England Assistant Regional Manager
Laborers’ International Union of North America

Ongoing change requires that our members receive better training before going to the job site and throughout their careers.
The Newburgh Beacon Bridge crosses over the Hudson River.

Local 1000 has three times bridged the Hudson River, building the Mid-Hudson Bridge in the 1930s, the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge in 1957 and the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge in 1963 and a second span in 1980.