Laborers Build Huge Chip-Fab Plant
MESSAGE FROM THE LIUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT
“Jobs” Bill is NOT Enough

MESSAGE FROM THE LIUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER
Strength, Flexibility – and Jobs

ACTION AROUND THE STATE
HAITI RECOVERY PROJECT
440 WEST 42\textsuperscript{nd} STREET
PROFILE OF A BUSINESS MANAGER:
ALEXANDER CASTALDI, CONCRETE WORKERS DISTRICT COUNCIL
LOCAL 633 ANNIVERSARY DINNER
GLOBALFOUNDRIES CHIP-FAB PLANT
HONORING 50-YEAR MEMBERS AND GRADUATING APPRENTICES
LABORERS BREAK THE STATEN ISLAND BUS BOTTLENECK

NEWS FROM NYS LABORERS’ PAC
NEW SYRACUSE MAYOR STEPHANIE MINER
MESSAGE FROM A LIUNA VICE PRESIDENT
Our Members Contribute to Our Communities in Many Ways
TIME CAPSULE
MESSAGE FROM
THE LIUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT

"Jobs" Bill is NOT Enough

President Obama and I agree or disagree on various issues, but we definitely agree on one thing: The jobs-creation bill that he signed into law is not enough. It’s not enough for our members — the Laborers for whom we strive to provide decent pay and benefits for their families.

The job statistics speak for themselves: One in four of the men and women who build America are without a regular paycheck. As Regional Manager and General Secretary-Treasurer Armand Sabitoni points out in this edition, that is higher than for nearly all other professions. We cannot tolerate this level of unemployment and we must continue to work hard to put these men and women back to work.

We’ve come up with a solution that will put our men and women to work immediately and benefit the entire nation: Rebuild our roads and bridges. Everyone knows our infrastructure across the country is in desperate need of repair. These transportation systems are essential to the efficient operation and growth of our economy and the safety of everyone. But fixing these systems now may be only a stop-gap measure. Like the jobs-creation bill, it’s not enough.

We, and the nation, need Congress to pass a comprehensive transportation bill that lays out a broad vision for upgrading or replacing our dilapidated highways and crumbling bridges.

We need to work closely with our elected officials and make sure our opinions and ideas are in the bills getting passed. We need to make it clear again and again that doing nothing is not an option. Deteriorating infrastructure threatens public safety, and our call for action is about more than jobs: It is about safety.

We can be proud of the progress and achievements reported in this edition, including a major building in Manhattan, a high-tech manufacturing plant near Albany, and an urban bus terminal on Staten Island. And I hope the next edition of TriFund reports on our members going to work on transportation improvements that are so necessary across New York State. It’s time for our hard work to power that hope by talking with elected officials and encouraging actions that will put our people to work, protect American lives and stimulate our economy.

In Solidarity,

Terence M. O’Sullivan
General President
Laborers’ International Union of North America
Unemployment in the construction industry is among the highest of all occupations. In many areas of the country, including parts of New York, the unemployment rate for construction workers is over 25%. However, the stories in this magazine illustrate how our union’s political efforts and practical approach to a difficult economic situation have continued to create work for many of our members.

The Staten Island Bus Garage is funded through the economic stimulus legislation that President Obama proposed and Congress passed last year. Our union worked hard to get that legislation passed and to ensure that the legislation would include as much construction funding as possible. We know that construction projects are the best and quickest economic stimulus for our economy. As just one of many projects funded through that effort, the Staten Island Bus garage not only improves transportation in New York City, it also provides jobs for our members and stimulus for the local economy.

The Global Foundries chip-fab plant north of Albany is the result of political efforts at the state level to develop the Albany area into a center for new high tech industry. Our political leaders recognized that the area provided the ideal environment for this type of high tech research and development, with many excellent research and educational institutions already in operation. Our union supported the efforts of these political leaders to pass legislation that would attract a large high tech corporation to build a major facility in the Albany area. The result is the building of this multibillion dollar computer chip manufacturing plant in Saratoga County near Albany. Members from the Albany and Schenectady local unions are now working under a project labor agreement to build this facility — a large plant that is expected to attract other high tech facilities to the Albany area, resulting in more construction jobs for our members.

The Related Building project at 440 W. 42nd St. in New York City demonstrates another effort by our union to maintain work in a difficult economy. Faced with the stopping and cancellation of many private building projects in New York City due to the recession, the New York City Building Trades worked with their contractor associations to develop a project labor agreement for these projects. This PLA saves an estimated 15% in labor costs on these projects. As a result, many cancelled projects were restarted, including the Related Building project, putting hundreds of Laborers back to work.

Economic downturns are difficult for our members and their families. However, our political efforts and our willingness to adjust with creative solutions in these tougher times enable us to weather the storm and keep many of our members working while we wait for the economy to recover.

Fraternally yours,

Armand E. Sabitoni
General Secretary-Treasurer
Laborers’ International Union of North America
Haiti Recovery Project

The catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti in January has inspired the hands-on generosity of the Laborers — skilled workers turning their human concern into helpful actions.

As was reported worldwide, this devastating earthquake measured 7.0 on the Richter scale and struck just 16 miles west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital city. It killed many thousands of people and destroyed the homes of millions. Essentially leveling the city, it drove survivors into badly equipped camps, destroyed already inadequate infrastructure and caused enormous suffering through the lack of shelter, food, water and medical care.

Members of Laborers Local Union 79 immediately became involved in providing relief and resources. Joining with volunteers and governments from around the world that are pledging funds and dispatching rescue and medical teams, engineers and support personnel, these generous Laborers have responded to Haiti’s appeals for humanitarian aid.

Charles Rynkiewicz and John Wund of Local 79 have been working with H.E.A.R.T. 9/11 in providing relief to Haitian citizens suffering the effects of this unprecedented natural and human catastrophe. H.E.A.R.T. 9/11 is a non-profit, non-sectarian volunteer organization comprising veteran police officers, firefighters, construction trade union workers, surviving families of those killed on September 11, 2001, and others who believe we can help ourselves by helping others. These courageous volunteers recognize the coordinated and sustained effort needed to respond to a crisis.

The Laborers came to know H.E.A.R.T. 9/11 by working together in dangerous and heartbreaking rescue, relief and cleanup efforts at Ground Zero, forming an alliance that is now reaching out with the same generosity and concern to the people of Haiti.

“The devastation we saw in Haiti was awful,” said Local 79 member Charles “Chaz” Rynkiewicz, recalling a complex, four-day scouting mission. “Assessing needs first, they then began to plan a response by identifying tasks and lining up resources needed to undertake them. The feeling of helping others with the skills that we have honed for many years just feels right,” Rynkiewicz added. “These people need to turn this devastation around, and we are here to help any way we can.”

During their first four-day scouting mission, the Local 79/H.E.A.R.T. 9/11 volunteers surveyed the damage and decided to join the effort to remove damaged homes and to rebuild homes, while also working to prepare the way for future volunteers. They divided their volunteer force in half and alternated in two-day shifts. Half worked on site in Haiti in hands-on relief work, as well as arranging such logistics as food, lodging, materials, tools and transportation for future volunteers. And half took support roles in the Dominican Republic, working with the U.S. Embassy, for example, to facilitate the evacuations of Haitians into the United States.

A total of 18 volunteers worked in this first mission, including Laborers, firefighters, police officers and EMTs. They responded quickly, but also took the long view, working to facilitate visits by future volunteers and organizing work schedules to ensure that the volunteers received respite from the physical and emotional distress of their grueling work.

The Laborers have a long and impressive track record of volunteer work in rebuilding devastated areas. For example, after hurricanes Katrina and Rita flooded New Orleans, volunteers from Local 79 immediately responded. Working efficiently in very challenging conditions, these generous and skilled volunteers hung sheetrock in numerous homes being rebuilt, and they also completely erected 10 homes themselves in just two weeks.

“We are proud that our leadership has supported us in our volunteer relief work,” said Rynkiewicz. “Local 79 is deeply committed to volunteering, just as every local union is. We are proud to donate our skills as Laborers whenever we are needed. For us, a call for help is a call to get in there, get to work and make a difference.”
A hundred million dollars here, another hundred million there — pretty soon you’re talking about real money.

The “Economic Recovery Project Labor Agreement” along with other collaborative efforts are saving real money — $100 million, representing nearly 20% of construction costs — for the developers of a visionary project at 440 W. 42nd St. in Manhattan. Work on the 59-story glass tower will employ 700 construction workers, the members of 40 different locals including the Cement and Concrete Workers District Council, Local Union 731 and Local Union 79.

The Related Companies owns the 1.2 million square-foot mixed-use project, which comprises the entire city block of 42nd Street between 10th and Dyer Avenues in mid-town Manhattan’s Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood. Related is building it in collaboration with Tishman Construction Corporation, projecting completion of the concrete superstructure this summer. Occupancy of the residential complex — more than 800 units of luxury rental, affordable rental and for-sale residences, with amazing amenities and views of the Hudson River and Times Square — will follow in 2011.

The commercial components of the project, also slated for completion in 2011, will comprise street level retail, a Yotel hotel, underground parking and the Signature Center, an off-Broadway Theatre complex designed by Frank Gehry. Designed by Arquitectonica and Ismael Leyva Architects, the entire project is being built to LEED Silver standards for energy efficiency.

Greg Gushee, Senior Vice President of Related Companies and project manager of the 42nd Street development said, “Collaboration has been an ongoing theme in the evolution of this development. For several years we worked with the community to develop a program that would contain critical affordable housing as well as non-profit theatres and...
add even more vitality to this diverse neighborhood. We are very pleased that through creative thinking and a partnership with the building trades not only is the development moving forward, creating jobs, and ensuring that our city continues to grow, but the process which we went through has resulted in an even better building.”

Total development costs were originally estimated at $900,000,000, but the “Economic Recovery Project Labor Agreement” announced last May as well as a comprehensive review by contractors, trades, in-house architects, developers, consultants and engineers, costs were able to reduced to approximately $800,000,000.

While this Agreement and the efforts undertaken facilitated completion of the project, its location near the Lincoln Tunnel outlet and the No. 7 subway line extension posed unique logistical challenges in delivering materials to the site and to construction itself, challenges which the team embraced.

This enormous project has benefited from efficient cooperation from the start. In December 2009 the City of New York announced a partnership with the Signature Theatre Company to build Signature’s new home in the complex. The City is contributing $25 million toward construction of the $60 million facility comprised of three theaters, rehearsal studios, offices, a café and bookstore.

The trades have also cooperated successfully during construction. For example, construction of the 24th floor slab and the pads for mechanical equipment — including 12 large hot water heaters, seven plate-frame heat exchangers, three large preassembled pump units, and a large emergency generator — took only three days.

“We are very pleased that through creative thinking and a partnership with the building trades not only is the development moving forward, creating jobs, and ensuring that our city continues to grow, but the process which we went through has resulted in an even better building,” said Greg Gushee, Senior Vice President of Related Companies and project manager of the 42nd Street development.
Profile of a Business Manager:

Alexander Castaldi, Concrete Workers District Council

Since joining the Cement & Concrete Workers Local Union 20 in New York City in 1978, Alex Castaldi has risen to top leadership as President and Business Manager of the large, multi-local Cement & Concrete Workers District Council, while also pushing for the union to adapt to new concrete building technologies.

Alex was recognized early for his hard work on job sites and for his dedication to his brother and sister Laborers. In 1985, he was voted on the Local Union 20’s Executive Board. In 1986, he was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the local, and in August 2004 he became its Business Manager. Then, in 2007, he became President and Business Manager of the Cement & Concrete Workers District Council.

“The biggest changes I’ve seen during my time with Local 20 and the District Council are the technologies being employed in the industry. The chemical additives available today allow concrete to be pumped to almost unlimited heights, and the high strength of concrete available today allow for its use in designs not achievable 20 years ago. New forming systems greatly reduce manning requirements; however, they enhance production.”

Another important change I’ve seen is the implementation of apprenticeship programs in our unions. These programs have resulted in a safe and highly productive work force that allows our signatory contractors to be more competitive in the market place.

The Cement & Concrete Workers District Council currently comprises 2,764 members, of Local Unions 6A, 18A and 20.

As always, the Laborers of the Cement & Concrete workers District Council are busy on many prominent projects across New York City. The largest, of course, is the World Trade Center Building. A structural steel building sheathed in concrete, this replacement for the Twin Towers destroyed in the 9/11 attack will tower 1,776 feet high, becoming the tallest in New York and one of the tallest in the world when completed in 2013.

Laborers of this busy district council are also at work on 115 West 57th Street, also slated for completion in 2013. This will be the tallest mixed-use tower in New York, as well as the city’s tallest concrete-structure building at 1,004 feet.

“Over time, eleven different buildings have held the title of tallest in the world,” said Alex proudly, “And I’m proud to say that we Concrete Laborers have helped build most of them.”
When 85 members and officers gathered at the Empire Room at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse for Local Union 633’s Anniversary Dinner, they celebrated the unique history of this busy local at the heart of the Empire State. As main speaker, General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni was among those recognizing that history and presenting the local union’s 50-year members with their pins.

Formed in 2004 by merging Local Union 214 (founded in Oswego in 1911) and Local Union 433 (formed in Syracuse in 1992 by merging Local Unions 333 and 40), Local Union 633 boasts a proud record of achievement and represents LIUNA’s unique, progressive vision.

“We are dedicated to meeting the skilled labor needs of the communities that we serve,” noted Local 633 Business Manager Gabriel M. Rosetti, Jr. “But, as an international union, we always look to achieve greater efficiency and more effective management, starting even long before the time when my father provided out leadership. As a union, we combine forces when this is practical, and the results stand tall, all over this part of the Empire State.”

Local 214 built nuclear power plants, hydroplants and SUNY Oswego College. Even before merging, the two Syracuse locals (333 and 40) cooperated smoothly on reconstructing I-81; then they combined forces to build the Route 481 Bypass and the I-90 to Route 281 connector as well as such prominent buildings on the Syracuse University campus as the Carrier Dome and the law library.

“Efficiency and vision are what Local 633 is all about,” said General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni. “It’s an honor to be here and to celebrate the achievements of this great local and its 50-year-members.”

Starting from left in the front row: David J. Henderson, Joseph Solazzo III, Gabriel M. Rosetti III, Thomas McHale, William J. Morgan, Walter Wisniewski, Jeffrey Chamberlain, Donald Stiles, Vito Campione


When GlobalFoundries broke ground on its vast semiconductor manufacturing facility in Malta last July, members of Laborers local unions 157 and 190 went to work at the forefront of this huge project.

Construction costs for the first phase of this $4.2 billion project are estimated at $500 million, with budgets for subsequent phases still under development as plans and contracts are finalized.

Current plans call for three 300,000 square-foot manufacturing modules, with 72 percent of the Luther Forest site remaining as forest land.

More than 60 members began work last year, with smaller numbers on site this spring and a substantial increase expected as soon as site work concludes and construction of the second of three buildings begins.

“During the current economic downturn, we feel fortunate to have a project of this magnitude in the region, and it looks to be a bright spot in our area for some time to come,” said Local 157 Business Manager Peter Stearns. “It is also a pleasure to work on a project with a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), with all trades working together to complete the project on time and budget.”

“Our laborers have been very busy onsite driving foundation piles, installing lagging walls, excavating, pouring concrete, stripping and cleaning forms, installing fencing and bollards and performing general clean up,” explained Anthony Fresina, Local Union 190 business manager.

The GlobalFoundries semiconductor manufacturing plant will employ 1,400 workers when it becomes operational in summer 2012, with an estimated payroll totaling $88 million annually. An additional 5,000 indirect jobs are projected to be created by construction of the plant and by the start up and expansion of additional related businesses serving the plant and its employees. The projected overall total for this project and the ancillary work expected to follow is $20 billion over 25 years.

All this activity is focused through a tight deadline that challenges the Laborers and other trades every day. From the initial concrete pour in September of 2009, the contractor has 24 months to turn the facility over to the owner. To meet this deadline, thousands of yards of concrete needed to be poured daily; and this required that a concrete batch plant be constructed on site.

To help meet this formidable challenge, the obtaining of a Project Labor Agreement — a challenge in itself, on a privately funded project of this magnitude — provides an important framework. The local building trades councils, the local trade unions, and the owner reached an agreement through five months of constant negotiations. State government was also a key player, recognizing the benefits of a PLA on the project and granting significant tax benefits and training grants.

“It’s difficult to imagine a more substantial win-win situation for all involved than this ambitious and very large project,” said Sam Fresina, Business Manager of the Laborers Eastern District Council. “It’s a substantial challenge to our members and contractors; but the benefits are also substantial. We are proud to be involved and confident that we can meet this challenge. We always do.”

GlobalFoundries Chip-Fab Plant
“During the current economic downturn, we feel fortunate to have a project of this magnitude in the region, and it looks to be a bright spot in our area for some time to come.”

— Local 157 Business Manager Peter Stearns
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 & Graduating Apprentices

50-Year Gold Card Members

Local Union 621

Left to right — 50-year gold card recipient Robert Geffers and Local 621 Business Manager Don Giardini

Left to right — Joseph Veno and Local 621 Business Agent Ed Giardini

Graduating Apprentices

Local Union 621

Left to right — Michael Kameck and Donald Giardini, Local 621 Business Manager

Left to right — Donald Giardini, Local 621 Business Manager and Jeffery L. Maybee, II

Local Union 754 ➔

Membership Pin Awards

Left to right — Howard Reich (President), David Spytko 25 Years, Gary Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer) 25 Years, Brian Barbera 40 Years, Esler VanHouten (Auditor) 25 Years, and Stephen Reich (Business Manager).

Absent from the picture are:

50-Year members: Edward Brooks, Edward Finn, Jeff Lynch
25-Year members: Leonard Lacey, Patrick Houlihan, Stephen Hruscik, Scott Moreau, Anthony Nigro and Brian Stankey
The Laborers of Local Unions 731 and 79 were instrumental in easing Staten Island’s bus bottleneck, building the Charleston Bus Annex project with typical efficiency.

“We are happy to work with Tully Construction again on another successful project,” said Joseph D’Amato, business manager of Local Union 731. “They provided our workers with a safe job site and we provided skilled, efficient workers, to finish on time and correctly the first time.”

Since early 2008, approximately 25 Local Union 731 and approximately 30 Local Union 79 members have worked on this complex project, on average. Located on an 11-acre site on Arthur Kill Road, the new Charleston Bus Annex expands facilities for maintaining and parking buses, easing congestion at the borough’s existing depots in New Springville and West Brighton.

The new depot combines parking for 188 city buses with a two-story building, and the project involved extensive site work and excavating.

Laborers were directly involved in installing sanitary and storm drainage systems; underground electric, communication and lighting systems; water and fire lines; underground tanks for fuel, antifreeze, automatic transmission fluid, window washer fluids and storm water reclamation; as well as oil/water separators.

The two-story building houses offices, lockers, lunch rooms and conference rooms on the second floor and extensive maintenance facilities on the first, including 16 bus-maintenance bays — 13 with lifts — and a two-lane bus wash system which utilizes storm water run-off or well water.

“We are happy to display our local’s skills with a building that is constructed of metal-panel siding with a masonry bottom and a flat roof, delivering a high R-value for energy conservation,” said John Delgado, Business Manager Local 79. “Each project we work on is unique and has a special component that adds another skill for our members.” This building also has translucent panels across the east elevation that add daylighting to the second floor’s open air work environment.

Funding for the project includes a $7.7 million U.S. Dept. of Transportation grant that U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and U.S. Rep. Michael E. McMahon were instrumental in securing.

Photos from left to right: Laborer brings concrete to put into the form; Mickey Kelly, Executive Director of Laborers Health and Safety Trust fund speaks to members during tool box talk; Bus Depot Building nears completion; Work in progress on the Bus Depot site
New Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner

It came as no surprise to her brothers and sisters in Laborers Local Unions 633 and 210 — or to her high school classmates or professors — when Stephanie Miner was elected Mayor of Syracuse last November.

When she graduated from high school in Homer, she was voted senior class president and most likely to succeed. She graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University with her degree in journalism and political science in 1992. And when Gabe Rosetti Jr., then the business manager of Local 633, took Miner on job site visits, his foresight was 20/20: he presciently introduced her as “the next Mayor of Syracuse.”

Rosetti’s prediction played out perfectly: At 39, she became the first woman mayor of her hometown. “She just had a certain drive, intelligence and an instinct with people that made her a perfect fit for the job. We are lucky to have her in office because she has such a great understanding of our union work and issues,” said Rosetti Jr.

Rosetti Jr. befriended Miner while she worked as a regional representative of then-Gov. Mario Cuomo. Always ambitious, she found arriving to work at 5:30 a.m. — before anyone else in the office — that the nearby Local 633 union hall was the only place that was open. This discovery launched a series of early morning meetings over coffee where the two discussed public works projects to improve their city as well as local politics and labor issues.

When Rosetti Jr. was sent to Buffalo in 1996 to assume the trusteeship of Local Union 210, Miner became office manager of the Buffalo local. She worked closely with leadership and members in what amounted to an intensive on-the-job continuing education in Laborers’ concerns, and she gained a deep respect for the quality of their work and professionalism.

She soon enrolled in the University at Buffalo Law School, graduating with her J.D. in 1999 and joining the labor law firm of Blitman and King, LLP. Returning to Syracuse, she was elected to the Syracuse Common Council in 2001 and was re-elected in 2005 while also serving on such important community boards as the Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society, the Contemporary Theater and the Child Care Council of Onondaga County. She was also United Way Campaign Chairperson.

On November 3, 2009, Miner defeated Republican Steve Mimatian 50 percent to 39 percent in the general election, becoming the first woman mayor in Syracuse history and of a New York State city. Among her key positions is favoring an economic development plan that holds businesses accountable for job growth and focuses on green technology and infrastructure. Miner also favors early childhood education and daycare initiatives and a planning office with programs to beautify and develop areas of the city.

These progressive and visionary ideas naturally earned Miner the support of unions during her victorious election campaign. However, she is also much admired for her independence and willingness to support the needs of the city and its people over partisan concerns.

“We are lucky to have her in office because she has such a great understanding of our union work and issues” said Rosetti Jr.
Our members contribute more to their communities than just the buildings, roads, and bridges that they construct. They contribute to those communities in many other ways.

They demonstrated this commitment beautifully by their actions during and after the tragedy of September 11 when hundreds of our members stopped their work at construction sites throughout New York City and rushed to the World Trade Center to help in the rescue efforts. Many of these members worked for days with little rest until there was no hope left of finding any more survivors. Many then stayed at the World Trade Center Site for months during the recovery and clean-up efforts. Unfortunately, many of these same members have become ill from respiratory and other diseases as a result of their heroic rescue and recovery efforts.

Another example of this commitment to community is described in this magazine in the efforts of Local 79 Laborers who traveled to Haiti after the tragic earthquake there to offer their skills to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts. Their efforts built on their experiences at the World Trade Center, working with police officers, firefighters, and other construction workers. This teamwork continues in their efforts in Haiti and elsewhere.

Not all of our contributions to our communities are quite so dramatic as the World Trade Center or the Haiti earthquake. Our members volunteer their time to help build local parks and playgrounds or with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. We support many charities, such as Make a Wish, that help the less fortunate.

Just as we are proud of our contributions to the New York City skyline and roads and bridges throughout the state, we should also be proud of our community contributions and participation. Our union is stronger because of this commitment, and we should all support these efforts.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

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

The Concrete Workers District Council comprises Local Unions 18A, 20 and 6A: skilled Laborers who have helped transform New York City’s skyline by working on many great buildings. Before cranes were introduced for constructing high-rise buildings, Laborers transported concrete in derricks, even to the tops of buildings more than 50 stories high.