LOCAL UNIONS 17 AND 235 ADVANCE HUGE NYC WATER PROJECT

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Keeping the Lights On

There has been a lot of talk recently about energy policies. Listening to all the opinions I’m reminded of Sen. Patrick Moynihan’s wise words “Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts.”

The reality is that natural gas is the most viable, abundant and economical solution to meet future electricity needs and New York’s clean energy goals. As New Yorkers consider their presidential options, let’s establish the facts around how we meet our clean energy goals, do some simple math, and consider the economics.

The Clean Power Plan, proposed by President Obama last year, challenges the United States to reduce our carbon emissions by nearly a third by 2030. Every state has a target under this plan, and New York must reduce its carbon pollution from the power sector by 10 percent. It’s a tougher goal than you’d think. In fact, New York faces a real challenge to meet it. How? Let’s look at the numbers. Over the next decade and a half, demand for power is projected to increase by 14 percent.

New York’s James A. FitzPatrick nuclear energy plant in Oswego will close in 2017, eliminating enough carbon-free power from the grid to serve 650,000 homes. And Gov. Andrew Cuomo wants to close New York’s three remaining coal plants by 2020, which is notable in terms of reducing carbon pollution but also removes the energy needed to power 416,000 homes every year.

Research conducted as part of a broader study underway by the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA) has found that New York will face a drastic energy shortfall of 29 million megawatt hours of electricity, or the equivalent of lights out for 2.4 million New York homes.

How will we make up this energy shortfall while also meeting clean energy goals? Renewables certainly must play a part, but by themselves they are not nearly enough. To fill the 21 percent deficit in the power sector alone, New York would need 100,000 acres of solar panels—or an area six times the size of Albany.

Bottlenecks in New York’s approval process held up and ultimately ended critical natural gas projects, such as the Constitution pipeline and Access Northeast—projects that would have helped New York meet their clean energy needs.

Fully two thirds of New York’s clean energy requirements could be met by using natural gas: without it, there is not a realistic scenario for meeting these goals. It’s time for New Yorkers to make plans for keeping the lights on and as Laborers we will be there every step of the way to make sure our voices are heard. Our union is committed to making sure that these energy infrastructure jobs employ our members and our contractors.

LIUNA recently launched a new campaign, across the country, called Clean Power Progress, to turn around the national energy debate and build support for tens of thousands of good jobs in the energy industry. To find out more and arm yourself with the facts that will put to rest the argument that creating good jobs by building out natural gas infrastructure hurts the environment you can check out CleanPowerProgress.org.

In Solidarity,

Terry O’Sullivan
General President
Laborers’ International Union of North America

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts.
A Message from the

LiUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Armand E. Sabitoni

Finally—More Infrastructure Investment

After years of inadequate investment in our national infrastructure, we are finally beginning to see a long overdue increase in support for rebuilding this vital aspect of our nation’s prosperity. This funding turnaround has taken place at both the national and state levels.

The needs for infrastructure investment are well documented. Our roads and bridges are deteriorating as is infrastructure for every other mode of transportation—airports, railroads, mass transit, etc. Our vital water infrastructure is also failing and badly needs replacement and repair. How can we justify continuing to use wooden water pipes installed over 100 years ago? Flint Michigan illustrates the public health disaster that can result from not replacing old lead water pipes. Our energy infrastructure is in a similar state—needing repair of old infrastructure as well as new pipelines and transmission lines, to meet increased demands and new sources of energy. Addressing these needs properly will cost many billions of dollars.

Our government leaders may finally be responding to these infrastructure needs. After years of debate and several short term extensions, Congress finally passed transportation infrastructure legislation late last year. Although this legislation did not provide a large funding increase, it did establish stable federal funding that will enable better support for larger projects that must be funded over several years. Congress is also currently working on legislation to provide more funding for our failing water infrastructure.

Over the last few years, New York State under the leadership of Governor Cuomo has also made major commitments to fund its transportation infrastructure including replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge, a third rail for the LIRR, and other major rebuilding projects for LaGuardia Airport, Penn Station, and the Javits Convention Center. The legislature also provided higher funding levels for the State’s long-term commitment to fund highway and bridge infrastructure and for the MTA Capital Plan. This legislation will support construction projects and jobs for LIUNA members throughout New York State and significantly address our deteriorating transportation infrastructure.

The reality is that this increased funding will not make up for many years of underinvestment. We still need to increase our long-term national and state support, but this is a major step forward. We need to work at the state and local levels to generate more support for even more investment. We also need to support the building of these projects and not let the environmentalists and other groups stand in the way of these badly needed improvements. These projects will provide more work for our union members but also improve the economy of every region of the state.

Fraternally yours,

Armand E. Sabitoni
General Secretary-Treasurer
Laborers’ International Union of North America
Laborers Help Transform Rust Belt to Sun Belt

Laborers of Local Union 210 are helping replace a defunct rust belt Buffalo steel mill with a giant solar panel factory that promises to be the largest of its kind in North or South America.

"From my own perspective, this project has been a catalyst for changing our city from a rust belt relic to a new ‘Clean Energy’ hub," said Local Union 210 Business Manager Sam Capitano. The SolarCity factory is the latest and one of the most ambitious elements in Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s $1 billion plan to revitalize the Buffalo area and create 14,000 jobs. "The momentum we’ve experienced over the last five years has no end in sight," said Capitano. The SolarCity GigaFactory will have more than one gigawatt of annual solar panel manufacturing capacity when it reaches full production.

The new SolarCity project is part of the Buffalo High-Tech Manufacturing Innovation Hub at RiverBend, a new START-UP NY site owned by the State University of New York’s Polytechnic Institute. It occupies approximately 88 acres in South Buffalo, a site that was once home to a Republic Steel manufacturing facility.

Supported by $750 million in state investment, the 1.2 million square-foot SolarCity project is scheduled for completion late this year and will create an estimated 5,000 jobs, 3,000 in western New York.

Laborers of Local Union 210 have been busy in remediating hazardous waste; preparing the site; installing water lines, storm and sanitary sewers; black-topping; installing concrete; fire proofing, building scaffolds, mason tending, servicing carpenters, unloading and distributing construction materials and all general cleanup for the project. As many as 70 Local Union 210 members have worked on site at a time, under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) that requires project bidders to negotiate collective bargaining agreements with all trades and guarantees a 100 percent union project.

In addition, trades have set ambitious goals for MWBE participation: 15 percent minority work force and 15 percent minority contractors, five percent female work force participation and five percent Women Business Enterprise contractors. In addition there is a 10 percent apprenticeship hire for the entire project. These aggressive strategies maximize opportunity, fairness, safety and quality on this very large, forward-looking project.

The Construction Manager is Ciminelli Construction Corp., Local Union 210’s largest building employer in Erie County. Ciminelli is working under the direction of Fort Schuyler Management Corp. (FSMC) which represents SolarCity. FSMC is a State University of New York (SUNY Polytechnic Institute) affiliated, private, not-for-profit, 501c(3) corporation that develops, constructs and manages world-class research, development and commercialization facilities to enable public-private partnerships in conjunction with Gov. Cuomo’s START-UP NY initiative.

"We look forward to completing a timely, under-budget project with high quality,” said Local Union 210 Business Manager Sam Capitano. “We hope that accomplishing this will encourage SolarCity to look to us once again for any solar farms and other developments following completion of this project. Renewable energy may be relatively new in New York, but the quality on-time construction that will facilitate it has been our stock and trade for generations.”
LIUNA Members Convert St. Vincent’s Hospital in Greenwich Village Into Condos

Local Union 79 and other LIUNA locals have been working on the conversion of the more-than-century-old St. Vincent’s Hospital into 200 luxury condominiums. Founded as a Catholic charity hospital in 1849, St. Vincent’s served the sick and the poor in Greenwich Village until it closed in 2010.

Built on the site of the former St. Vincent’s Hospital campus and renamed Greenwich Lane, the new $1 billion complex will feature many units large enough to accommodate growing families. Units will be priced at an average of $3,500 a square foot, among the highest for new condos downtown and well above average for developments in the city.

Like many of the four-story row houses in the area, the Greenwich Lane will contain at least some red brick in all of its facades, using some preserved hospital walls as well as new construction that recalls the past.
The permitting process for the project required that it include a medical facility to serve the area. Therefore, right across the street, developers also built an emergency medical care facility. The $1.5 billion Lenox Hill HealthPlex is located at 30 Seventh Ave. between West 12th and 13th streets and is the first free-standing 24-hour emergency center in New York City. There is also ambulatory surgery, outpatient rehab, imaging, health clinics and wellness programs.

Working with Turner Construction, approximately 75 members of Local 79 were involved in all phases of the conversion project. Members completed the major demolition, including knocking down the former hospital building, and also worked on the fireproofing and masonry detail. There were other LIUNA locals involved in this job including Locals 78, 731, 1010 and Concrete Workers.

“We are happy to be part of yet another highly visible and useful project in the city,” said Local 79 Business Manager Mike Prohaska. “We continue to make our valuable mark on the city, and our work with such quality contractors as Turner Construction shows how our longstanding relationships and extensive specialized work experience continue to benefit the city with great end results.”
LOCAL UNIONS 17 AND 235 ADVANCE HUGE NYC WATER PROJECT

Laborers Team Up to Build Shafts and Tunnels Under the Hudson

The imposing name of the project matches its size and importance: The New York City Department of Environmental Protection Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Project. One of the largest projects in city history, it is crucial to repairing leaks that wasted 20 million gallons of water a day—enough to fill the Central Park Reservoir in about a month.

Laborers of Local Union 17 and Local Union 235 are now pressing ahead with a second phase of this $1 billion repair to the city’s water system, even before they complete the first.

“As this monumental project continues, it is important to point out that the work of our skilled, trained members is at the center of the action,” said Todd Diorio, business manager, Local Union 17. “We were there in Phase I and will continue this important work in Phase II.”

“Local 235 is happy to be joining forces with Local 17 to perform this important work,” said Dario Boccarossa business manager, Local Union 235. “This is another example of how our skilled workers are building a reputation for themselves by providing contractors with the edge they need to get the job done correctly.”

Schiavone Construction of New Jersey began construction in the spring of 2013, first with site work, then on a massive twin excavation of two shafts 30 feet in diameter. The shaft in Dutchess County is approximately 700 feet deep, and the Orange County shaft is 900 feet deep. Both are now complete. Schiavone employed two shifts of approximately 20 Laborers each in the shafts, and an additional dozen Laborers also did site work with Yonkers Contracting, a Schiavone subcontractor.

With the two deep shafts completed, Laborers of Local Unions 17 and 235 are launching the project’s second phase: connecting the two shafts with a 2.5-mile by-pass tunnel under the Hudson River. Kiewit-Shea Constructors estimates the project will require three shifts of 20 to 25 Laborers per shift, with completion in 2022. AJV is performing limited site work and mobilization during start-up. Estimated hours for Laborers on Phase II, the tunnel, are 650,000.

Approximately 70 percent of the project is in Orange County, so 70 percent of the manpower will be members of Local Union 17. The Laborers have prevailed in several jurisdictional disputes with other trades, and only Laborers and Operating Engineers will work in the tunnel project.

“The fact that only two trades are in the tunnel, and that we are one of them, speaks to the ability of our members,” said Todd Diorio, business manager of Local Union 17 and Dario Boccarossa, business manager of Local Union 235.
The fact that only two trades are in the tunnel, and that we are one of them, speaks to the ability of our members.

— TODD DIORIO, BUSINESS MANAGER OF LOCAL UNION 17 & DARIO BOCCAROSSA, BUSINESS MANAGER OF LOCAL UNION 235
Profile of a Business Manager:

Mike Prohaska – Local 79

Tri-Fund magazine asked Mike Prohaska to answer five questions about himself.

1. What was your first job?
   Delivering newspapers with my older brother when I was about ten years old.

2. What would your union brothers and sisters be surprised to learn about you?
   I have traveled a lot and have been through forty-seven of the fifty states. Washington, Oregon and Idaho are the remaining three.

3. The last movie I saw was:
   “War of the Roses”

4. My favorite song on the radio is:
   Can’t answer that: Too many variables. Depends on my mood, my surroundings, etc.

5. My favorite saying or quote is:
   It’s a sick world, and I’m a happy guy.

In his 37 years as a member of the Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA), Business Manager of Construction and General Building Laborers’ Local 79, Mike Prohaska has risen through the ranks to leadership post after leadership post through organizational skill, continuous education and training, and dedication to equality and fairness on the job. Local 79, which serves the five boroughs of New York City, was created in 1996 through the consolidation of ten smaller Laborers’ Locals. Local 79 currently has over 9,000 active and retired members and is one of the largest Laborers’ Locals in North America. Local 79’s scope of work includes: mason tending, interior & total demolition, general conditions, plaster tending, restoration work and flagging.

Beginning his career as a rank-and-file laborer, Mike began demonstrating judgment and influence early. During 1995’s successful and historic consolidation and re-structuring of the Mason Tenders District Council and its affiliated unions, the International Union tapped Mike as part of the next generation of leaders. Mike became Director of Organizing for the newly chartered Construction & General Laborers’ Local 79 following his success with the 1995 asbestos and hazardous waste organizing campaign and the equally successful 1996 demolition workers’ campaign. Mike has also worked on community service projects, highlighted by Local 79’s dedication to St. Mary’s Hospital in New York City.

An elected officer of the Local Union since 1996, Mike has served in a number of capacities: sergeant-at-arms; vice president; recording secretary; and, most recently, business manager, the position he currently holds. In July 2000, Mike was elected auditor of the Mason Tenders District Council, and he now serves as its secretary-treasurer. Mike has also served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Mason Tenders District Council PAC from 2003 to 2010 and again from 2012 to the present. In 2014, Mike was voted onto the Board of Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW), whose mission is to prepare women for skilled, unionized jobs in the trades in New York City.

A firm believer that it is only through education and training that workers can advance in their careers, Mike has attended the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, the New York State AFL-CIO/Cornell Union Leadership Institute, and the National Labor College, formerly the George Meany Center for Labor Studies.

Mike is a life-long resident of the Bronx, where he still lives today with his wife Brenda and their three children, Dusty Rose, Travis and Russell. For his long active service in the civic and sports life of his community, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion appointed Mike to serve as a member of Community Board 10 in 2007, and he still holds that vital community leadership position to this day.
LOBBY DAY

New York State Laborers Organizing Fund and PAC Bring Strong Messages to Albany in Annual Two-Day Event

Unity and advocacy powered the New York State Laborers Organizing Fund and Laborers PAC in hosting our powerful two-day “Lobby Day” legislative effort in Albany. Speakers included General Secretary Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni, LiUNA National Field and Mobile Coordinator Dave Hickey and New York State Acting Commissioner of Labor Mario Musolino.

On the first evening, the NYS laborers PAC hosted a legislative reception where legislators from around the state met with labor representatives to discuss issues of common concern and legislation potentially impacting organized labor. Speakers at the event included Speaker of the Assembly Carl E. Heastie, Senator John Bonacic and New York State Laborers PAC Executive Director John Hutchings. On the second day, members from the various locals organized and met with their legislative representatives to advocate for the Laborers’ political agenda in general and specific initiatives crucial to our members, including the Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel initiative and the housing tax abatement program known as 421-A.

“This year marks another successful Lobby Day, a critical expression of our concerns and objectives,” said Sam Fresina, New York State Laborers Organizing Fund Chairman. “Our legislative representatives need to know what is important to us and that we will continue to be heard as a unified voice, fighting for our agenda.”

“The men and women that we represent put their faith in the fact that we will bring our agenda to the legislators who make decisions that will have an impact on their work and daily lives,” said George Truicko chairman of the New York State Laborers PAC. “We speak about the issues that matter to us, we put a face on those issues, we hear the positions of our legislators and we relay that information to our members, whose votes determine our representation in office.”
Governor Cuomo Speaks at Annual Laborers Conference

Gov. Andrew Cuomo expressed strong support for labor-friendly policies and initiatives when he joined the Laborers NYS LECET, Health and Safety, PAC and Organizing Funds at their annual trustee meetings in Lake George.

Dr. Jim Melius, Administrator, NYS Laborers Health and Safety Trust Fund, introduced Gov. Cuomo saying, “Governor Cuomo has proven himself as a true champion for working-class people and organized labor, and he’s been that way since day one of taking office. You’re seeing the proof of it all across the state. From the resurgence of building projects in Buffalo to the new Tappan Zee Bridge that is rising over the Hudson and yesterday’s announcement of a new LaGuardia, our union and our state are better off because of Andrew Cuomo. That is why today we are pleased to honor Governor Cuomo, a true champion and advocate for organized labor, across the board, with the ‘Champion of Organized Labor’ award.”

The Laborers honored Gov. Cuomo with this award for all his recent work advocating for labor. General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni and Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager Raymond Pocino joined in making the presentation. “We have always worked well with our government officials and Governor Cuomo is no exception,” said Raymond Pocino Eastern Regional Manager. “He understands our values and goals and knows firsthand how our skills can help the people of New York state.”

During his remarks to the Laborers, Gov. Cuomo discussed major infrastructure projects of his administration: a new Tappan Zee Bridge, an acceleration of road and bridge spending and also recent announcements regarding LaGuardia airport construction. During the event, Gov. Cuomo also signed the recently passed Mold Licensing & Minimum Standards Law regulating mold abatement, as union apprentices stood behind him. The new law reduces health hazards for those involved in the cleanup of mold. It modifies and improves upon a new licensing requirement for contractors and workers engaged in assessing, remediating and abating mold and expands protections for workers and homeowners involved in mold remediation efforts.

General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni said, “We are constantly striving to protect our workers. This signed mold bill is one that we as a union fought for, and it completes a long-term process to have protections modified so that workers receive the latest safeguards possible. We are also always looking to promote our skilled workers and this Governor understands what we as a union offer. He has put us to work on important projects, projects that will have a monumental impact on New York.”

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs the Mold Licensing & Minimum Standards Law as Laborers—including Armand E. Sabitoni, LiUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager, behind his right shoulder—look on.
Make-A-Wish Golf Tournament Benefits

Make-A-Wish Foundation

We held our 14th annual Make-A-Wish Golf tournament this year at the Saratoga National Golf Course, raising funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast New York. Each year, we bring together local unions, contractors, vendors and others to support this worthy cause.

Throughout the day, we were reminded of this mission by the quote “Because of you, a wish came true,” as these words appeared on our pin flags and other signage throughout the course. These words emphasized the importance of this day and also the immediate and significant impact our contributions make.

General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni and Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager Raymond Pocino participated, helping to underline our commitment to the cause and to help us celebrate the day.

At our evening program after the tournament, we heard a powerful testimonial from Gabe Donovan, a young man who recently had his very special wish granted through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Gabe’s story brought home for us the important contribution that we help the Foundation make in the lives of the amazing young men and women who continue to provide so many valuable life lessons and truly highlight the “Power of a Wish.”

11-year-old Gabe Donovan Uses His Wish to Memorialize his friend at the Double H Ranch

Having a wish granted is a dream come true for anyone; but only a special few show the generosity of spirit that moved Gabe Donovan.

When the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast New York offered to grant 11-year-old Gabe Donovan’s wish, he didn’t hesitate with his request to memorialize Michael Gulli, his friend and fellow camper, by improving the barn area at Double H Ranch in Lake Luzerne where they’d met.

Gabe noted the barn isn’t his “most favorite” place on the ranch, but he decided to use his wish to make Michael’s dream come true. Gabe met Michael at the Ranch in 2010 when their moms parked next to each other on Gabe’s very first day there and they started talking.

When they met, Gabe had asked Michael what his disease was. Michael said he had neurofibromatosis, thinking that Gabe had probably never heard of it. However, Gabe was excited because he has the same disease and had never before met another person who was fighting it, too. Gabe was diagnosed at six months old with a malfunctioning NF gene, causing his body to produce tumors in his central nervous system. Five years later came his first brain tumor diagnosis. He’s been a patient at the Melodies Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders at Albany Medical Center ever since, his treatment including lengthy chemo rotations.

Michael’s dad Mike Gulli perhaps said it best. “Even when he outgrew being able to attend camp, our son Michael still wanted to give back and be connected, and that’s how we feel: It’s a lifelong partnership for us. This is a pretty incredible gift from an 11-year-old, who could have done anything in the world, but he chose to give back.”
Local 79 Again Leads in St. Mary’s Walk for Kids Fundraiser

Just as local unions across the state have led in community charity fundraisers and programs everywhere for generations, Local 79 once again stepped up to raise funds to support St. Mary’s Hospital for Children.

In September of 2015, Local 79 members went to Coney Island to participate in the annual Walk for St. Mary’s Kids, helping to raise more than $10,000 for the hospital. After gathering near the Parachute Jump, the Laborers marched down the boardwalk to Asser Levy Park. At Asser Levy, members were greeted by both the NY State Laborers’ Health and Safety Bus and by a mobile Nathan’s Hot Dog truck. Activities at the event included food, health screenings, soccer and Frisbee.

Local 79 has supported St. Mary’s Hospital for many years, recognizing the indispensable service the hospital provides to children and families. In 2012, Local 79 committed itself to raise $500,000 for the children of St. Mary’s Hospital, the largest donation in its history.

Local 79 Business Manager Mike Prohaska said, “We are proud as a local union and as members of our community to step up once again on behalf of St. Mary’s Hospital. This great institution supports so many, and we are very pleased to help support them.”

In 2014, the hospital dedicated the Laborers Care Great Room, a room that features a kitchen, books, video games, a television, and more to make children feel more comfortable while receiving treatment and care.

Family Power: Just as St. Mary’s Hospital serves families, the families of Local 79 support this valuable health care resource.
Embracing Change

Our work as union laborers is constantly changing. Members in the same city can be working on a new office building designed with the latest technology and green certification while a few blocks away, other union laborers can be working to repair old infrastructure built early in the last century. Our success is built on adapting to change without losing sight of our key values of hard work and skills that are critical to maintaining old infrastructure and building the new. We also make sure that we are giving back to the communities where we live and work.

This edition of the *Tri Fund* magazine illustrates our ability to adapt and grow stronger. At one end of the state, we see a new factory producing solar panels being built on the site of an old steel mill. Part of Governor Cuomo’s Buffalo Billions, this project is a key part of an effort to revitalize Buffalo and the upstate economy (page 5). The project is being built with union labor from the Buffalo area and when completed will provide hundreds of jobs for people living in that area.

Our union is also involved in major changes in health care in New York. An old hospital in lower Manhattan—St. Vincent’s—has been closed, and our members are among the many construction union members working on the new condominiums that will replace that health care institution (page 6). But we do not only tear down old hospitals, we also support hospitals and other health care organizations in our communities. Local 79 for years has supported St. Mary’s Hospital for Children in Queens and has pledged to raise half a million dollars for this important community health care resource. One of their fund raising efforts is shown in this magazine (page 14). And laborers in New York State continue to raise money every year for the Make-A-Wish Northeast New York Foundation to help children with cancer and other life threatening illnesses (page 13). Meanwhile, we also continue to make sure that people living, working, or going to school in buildings contaminated with asbestos, lead, mold, or other health hazards are protected. Last year, we worked to pass legislation requiring training for everyone evaluating or abating mold in buildings (page 12). Mold can be a serious health hazard as many people found after the flooding from Superstorm Sandy.

We should be proud of the work that we do as union construction laborers and proud of our ability to adapt to the many changes taking place in construction and in our lives. These commitments to both new and old work and to supporting communities are the foundation our union stands on.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Raymond M. Pocino

*Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager*

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