



Volume VIX, Issue IV  
Summer 2009

# Wisconsin Laborer

Inside:

Laborers focus on creating jobs

Budget strengthens prevailing wage law

Training Center summer and fall class schedule





When you come right down to it  
it's really quite simple ...

## We train.

Wisconsin Laborers provide the most diverse training and apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry.

- Commercial and Industrial Building
- Heavy and Highway
- Tunnel Work
- Utility Construction
- Trenchless Technology
- Demolition and Asbestos Removal
- Environmental Remediation
- Nuclear Decontamination and Demolition

## You gain.

Working with our employer partners we develop innovative courses that match training to industry, market and project needs.

- Marketable skills in all areas of construction
- Knowledgeable, safe and productive workers
- Trained, certified instructors
- State-of-the-art facility and equipment
- Classroom and hands-on training regardless of weather conditions
- Mobile training capacity



Wisconsin Laborers' District Council

608-846-8242

[www.WILaborers.org](http://www.WILaborers.org)

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*Laborers' Local #464 member, Joe Castle and his son Jayden joined area building trades workers in a day of action at the State Capitol in May to urge lawmakers to support provisions in the state budget aimed at strengthening state prevailing wage law. (photo by Mike Haggerty)*



*"We know that the better we are understood the greater will be the esteem in which we are held.*

*"We wish to impress upon the minds of those who are not familiar with the workings of labor organizations that ours is a business organization and that we are organized for the benefit of the toilers of our country.*

*"We wish everyone to know just what we are and for what we stand, and there is no better way to insure a thorough understanding than to publish an official journal, which would be read by our members, the unorganized workers, and the public at large."*

H. A. Stemburgh  
General-Secretary-Treasurer  
Trenton, N.J., Jan. 11, 1904

**Wisconsin LABORER** is a publication of the Wisconsin Laborers' District Council, in cooperation with Laborers' Local #113, Milwaukee; Local #140, La Crosse; Local #268, Eau Claire; Local #330 Menasha; and Local #464, Madison.

**Wisconsin LABORER** is intended to provide information on issues of concern to union members and friends of Wisconsin Laborers.

**Wisconsin LABORER** welcomes your comments and suggestions, and will consider submissions for future publications. Please send letters and articles to:

Wisconsin LABORER  
Joe Oswald, Editor  
4633 LIUNA Way, Suite 101  
DeForest, WI 53532

For more on the  
**Wisconsin Laborers' District Council**  
visit our web site at:  
**www.WILaborers.org**



## Business Manager's Report

by Tom Fisher, President and Business Manager

# Laborers focused on creating jobs

I've been in the construction industry long enough to remember the recession of the early 1980s. I know from personal experience that there's little to compare to the sense of helplessness and lack of control one feels waiting for that call back from a contractor or the hall, especially when you have a young family depending on you. With unemployment running at over 20 percent at some of our locals it isn't hard to imagine many members and their families experiencing that same sense of urgency today.

During bad economic times a labor union simply wouldn't be doing its job if it waited for things to improve. That's why this Union has been focused on strategies to create jobs and work opportunities in the union construction industry.

One of these strategies played out in the prevailing wage reforms that were included in the Governor's budget and recently passed by the state legislature.

The changes will result in more projects being bid on work that will be protected by state prevailing wage law. We believe that will ultimately make our employer partners more competitive on more public works projects and create more jobs for members.

The prevailing wage changes will also create greater transparency on these projects so the public will know that workers are receiving area standard wages, and that money is staying in local communities.

We all know how vulnerable construction workers are in a bad economy, especially those working for employers not bound to collective bargaining agreements.

Making prevailing wage law apply to private projects that receive significant public assistance will make it more difficult for unscrupulous contractors to make money off the backs of exploited, vulnerable workers, and put more of our members to work.

Another strategy also centered on the budget and the need to secure increased funding for transportation infrastructure projects. Wisconsin, like most states, faced a tremendous budget deficit that was not going to be solved by federal stimulus money.

Thankfully, unlike other states that allowed transportation infrastructure funding to collapse as the result of these deficits, Governor Doyle and Senate and Assembly leadership saw the value that these projects bring to growing the economy and creating immediate jobs.

The budget significantly increased project funding for both the Majors and Rehabilitation programs. That effort should result in more jobs in these sectors as early as August and September.

In addition to budget issues, other important work designed to create new jobs is currently underway. That includes participating in a broad coalition of labor, business and environmental organizations seeking to create uniform standards for siting windfarms in the state.

It also includes strategies to capture jobs and create construction career opportunities in the emerging weatherization industry, developing the capacity to compete for work upgrading an estimated 2 million homes in Wisconsin that are targeted for



*Thomas E. Fisher  
President and Business Manager*

*We all know how vulnerable construction workers are in a bad economy, especially those working for employers not bound to collective bargaining agreements.*

publicly assisted or privately financed energy efficiency improvements.

Finally, it includes participating in coalitions advocating private development projects that make sense to local communities, like the \$107 million redevelopment of the Edgewater Hotel in Madison that will put hundreds of area trades workers back to work.

Without question, these are hard times in the construction industry. But while it's true a union cannot hire construction crews, members need to know we are doing whatever it takes to help create the projects our contractors will eventually win with the goal of putting members back on the job as quickly as possible.

# Day of Action at the Capitol

## Members urge lawmakers to strengthen prevailing wage

About 50 Laborers from across the state joined with members of the Operating Engineers, Carpenters and other building trades for a day of action at the state Capitol to raise awareness and build support for provisions in the state budget to strengthen state prevailing wage law.



The action was planned to counter a lobby day sponsored by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities which had members speaking against the reform provisions during pre-arranged visits with legislators and legislative staff that day.

About 200 Building Trades members holding placards advocating the value of prevailing wage roamed the hallways of the Capitol, distributed prevailing wage fact sheets to legislative offices or staked out visible areas of the Capitol to remind legislators of the frontline workers who are directly impacted by the law.

The large group then reassembled

# District Council

4633 LIUNA Way, Suite 101  
DeForest, WI 53532  
Phone: 608-846-8242  
Fax: 608-846-5460  
Website: [www.wilaborers.org](http://www.wilaborers.org)

- Tom Fisher, President and Business Manager
- Pat Ervin, Assistant Business Manager
- Joe Oswald, Government and Community Affairs
- Donna Neustadter, Office Manager; Rachel Larsen

outside the Capitol for a 2 block march to the Hilton Hotel where they formed a line on the sidewalk in front of the hotel to greet League members, guests and lawmakers as they came for the group's legislative luncheon.

# District Council hosts Joint Training Conference

As in previous years, the conference featured sessions and workshops designed to help Local leadership and staff deal with the issues, duties and responsibilities of Local Union administration while improving the effectiveness of local unions in servicing the membership.

Mike Pagano, LIUNA Auditor, started the day's session by walking delegates through the financial obligations of local unions, and proper reporting and compliance rules governing local union administration.

Katie Bailey, Computer Services Manager at the National Laborers Employers Cooperation and Education Trust provided an update on the programs and services offered by National LECET and how these programs and services might be of benefit to delegates.

One of the services Bailey previewed was CTTS, a custom, online program that allows access to and searches of Dodge Reports that contains over 6.7 million projects

in the United States and Canada, and holds information on over 3 million companies, from general contractors to company owners. Information from the data base is used to market services and line up work for Laborers on projects nationwide.

Kitty Conlan, Deputy Director of LIUNA Education Department, spoke to delegates about learning opportunities and resources provided to union leaders online through the LIUNA website. Once accessed, leaders can obtain information on a variety of topics from Jurisdictional Disputes to National Agreements.

LIUNA Vice-President and Regional Manager Terry Healy provided a wrap-up



*Presenters at the annual Minnesota-North Dakota - Wisconsin District Council Joint Training Conference included WI District Council Business Manager Tom Fisher, Katie Bailey, National LECET; Mike Pagano, LIUNA Auditor; Kitty Conlan, LIUNA Education Director; Jim Brady, MN District Council Business Manager; and LIUNA Vice-President and Regional Manager Terry Healy.*

of the day's session and urged delegates to incorporate the day's training into their representational activities to better serve the membership.

# LIUNA's Green Skills: *Building America so America Works*

**L**IUNA is uniquely positioned to help build the energy systems, transportation systems and green buildings of tomorrow. With its green skills training, LIUNA is helping to transform our country's energy systems and reduce negative environmental impacts.

A green economy is about both a healthier world and creating good family-supporting jobs to put people back to work. LIUNA is ready.

LIUNA provides the best adult continuing education system in the world with training in a variety of skills, including green construction – and it's free.

Many skills required for green construction are not new – for example, building concrete pads for wind farms or rail for mass transit.

Other skills – such as identifying reusable materials on construction sites or aspects of weatherizing homes – are part of new LIUNA training programs.

### Weatherization

Weatherizing homes, which account for 22 percent of America's energy consumption, can free us from millions of barrels of foreign oil and create tens of thousands of jobs.

LIUNA trains workers in weatherization that substantially reduces a building's energy use, putting people back to work in their communities and equipping them with skills for the future.

Every million homes weatherized supports 78,000 jobs and saves 3 million barrels of oil. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates a \$1.53 return for each \$1 invested in weatherization.

### Transportation

Due to neglect, transportation systems are in urgent need. Modernizing our transportation systems will save energy, reduce carbon emissions and put men and women back to work.

Americans waste nearly 4 billion hours and hundreds of millions of dollars in gas a year due to decaying and overcrowded roadways and transit systems.

Fixing our transportation systems would create more than a million jobs – for every \$1 billion invested in transportation, federal officials estimate 34,800 jobs are supported.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, existing highways are shortchanged by \$30 billion every year and existing transit systems by \$8 billion a year.

### Renewable energy

LIUNA members are already at work building renewable energy systems. Stepping up construction of wind and solar power, and modernizing our electrical grid, would dramatically reduce carbon emissions and put hundreds of thousands of Americans back to work.

Building wind power is not new to LIUNA. Since 2003, LIUNA has been working with contractors in 17 states to help build wind farms. In addition, LIUNA



*Stepping up construction of wind and solar power would dramatically reduce carbon emissions and put hundreds of thousands of Americans back to work.*

members are prepared to build solar farms and help modernize our inefficient and outdated electrical grid.

For every \$1 billion invested in these green projects, 20,000 jobs are created, according to the Center for American Progress.



## Featured Project

# UW Institutes for Discovery



Project: Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery

Location: Madison, WI

Contractor:  
Findorff-Mortenson

Size: 300,000 Sq. Ft.

Cost: \$150 million facility

Scheduled completion date:  
December 2010

The UW Institutes for Discovery is being built by Findorff-Mortenson, a joint venture of J.H. Findorff & Son Inc. of Madison, and M.A. Mortenson Company of Minneapolis.

Together, the two firms have more than 168 years of experience in the construction industry and have completed more than \$3 billion worth of building projects in the Madison area.

The Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery building is designed to create a vibrant, flexible and inviting environment that will foster impromptu meetings among scientists; form new research alliances; facilitate ideas and breakthrough discoveries that benefit

the world; and engage the public in the sciences and arts in new and unexpected ways.

The interior of the four-story Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery building has been designed with care and imagination to deliver on the promise of collaboration and research leading to a better world.

The ground floor will house a vibrant “Town Center” for use by scientists, the university community and the community at large. It will include a restaurant, a soda fountain and a bakery/coffee bar; “breakout” rooms for meetings and outreach events; and a round forum in the middle, designed for flexible use.

Floors two through four will house research laboratories. Each floor will include a research pod (workspace) dedicated to the private Morgridge Institute, a research pod for the public Wisconsin Institute for Discovery and an integrated pod for scientists from both institutes.

The lower level also will house specialty laboratories which may require more complex utilities and high ceilings.

Construction began in May and is currently being built the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Certification standards.

Completion of the project is scheduled for December 2010.

## Laborers support uniform wind siting bill

As part of a broad coalition of environmental, labor and business groups, including the AGC of Wisconsin State Chapter, the Wisconsin Laborers’ District Council has been working in support of legislation designed to create an efficient and uniform process for developing wind generation facilities in Wisconsin.

Companion bills SB 185/AB 256, have been introduced in both houses of the legislature. Wisconsin Laborers back the proposal that aims to fix the current fragmented siting process that has repeatedly

disrupted serious attempts at diversifying our state’s energy portfolio and that prevented the creation of thousands of new jobs in the state.

In a memo to members of the Senate and Assembly Utilities Committees in April, District Council Business Manager Tom Fisher reminded the panel that the bill would create real opportunity for jobs and economic development in communities across the state.

“These are private sector development projects that if guaranteed a fair process

would infuse much needed money into local economies and support further economic growth across all sectors,” Fisher said in the memo. “It has become increasingly apparent that the single biggest constraint to increasing wind generation in Wisconsin is the permitting environment, which is far more problematic here than in neighboring states.”

Wisconsin Laborers believe SB 185 and AB 256 will provide a fairer and more responsive process for the permitting of wind generating facilities in Wisconsin.

# Local #113 Milwaukee

## Laborers' Local #113 Meeting - 4th Wed. 7pm

6310 W. Appleton Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53210  
Phone: 414-873-4520  
Fax: 414-873-5155

- John Schmitt, Business Manager
- Steve Bako, Secretary Treasurer
- Business Agents: Jim Annis; Steve Cagle; Mike Emordeno; Nacarci Feaster, Dave Harris; Tony Neira; Michael Wilburn
- Dispatcher: Luis Guevara

## Watch your mail for 401K information from New York Life

by John Schmitt, Business Manager

Members will soon be receiving information in the mail from New York Life, the firm that has been chosen as the investment group for the Local's newly created 401K Plan.



John Schmitt

Any Laborer who works for a Building or Sewer and Water contractor will have the option to be part of the 401K plan.

Laborers' Local #113 along with the Painters Union was allowed to merge with IBEW Local 494 to be part of the 401K.

New York Life has supported Taft Hartley members directed plans for over twelve years and has over \$4 billion in

member directed assets.

New York Life provides a large array of funds to choose from and the Trustees from IBEW Local #494 chose to use their consultant to pick the funds that would best suit our needs based on fees, management, returns and adherence to their investment objectives.

Please watch your mail for upcoming information from New York Life.

### Upcoming Event

**Laborfest '09**  
**Monday Sept. 7**  
**March to Summerfest**  
*Local #113 T-Shirts to all Marchers*  
*Call Local for details*

## Local Scholarships

It's that time of year again, and Local #113 will be offering ten scholarships to our members and their dependents. The scholarships will be for \$500 and used to defray costs of college or technical school tuition.

If you or your dependent plan on attending college or technical school this fall and would like to be considered for a scholarship, you must fill out this coupon in this issue of The Wisconsin Laborer.

Extra copies of the coupon are available at the office. One coupon must be completed per student. A simple lottery will be held at the September General Membership Union Meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2009.

Winners will be notified by mail, and the checks will be made out to the school the winner plans to attend.

### Please complete coupon and mail to:

Laborers' Local #113  
Attn: John Schmitt, Business Manager  
631 W. Appleton Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53210

### Scholarship coupon

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last 4 digits of SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last 4 digits of SS# \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

College or School: \_\_\_\_\_

*Coupon must be returned by 3:00 pm, October 28, 2009 to be eligible.*



# Make sure your benefit hours are reported correctly

by Kevin Lee, Business Manager

When work in the construction industry slows, contractors tend to become more aggressive about the work they pursue and begin chasing jobs outside their usual territory.



Kevin Lee

If you end up on a crew taking work outside the area, especially the state, it's important to make sure your benefit hours are being reported correctly to your home fund.

While contractors are responsible for remitting hours and payments to health and welfare funds, members are responsible for making sure those hours and payments make it back to the proper home fund.

When working outside the local's jurisdictional region members are reminded to contact the fund that has jurisdiction in the area where you worked to request the form necessary to transfer hours to the Wisconsin Laborers' Health and Pension Fund.

*These are tough times in our industry. It's important that when we work we get credit for the hours we put into our funds.*

Always check with your employer if you are not sure where your hours are being reported.

Also keep in mind that there may be times when your hours might be reported to two separate funds, so it's very important, again, that you check with your contractor to find out where both your health and pension hours are being reported.

These are tough times in our industry. It's important that when we work we get credit for the hours we put into our funds.

By paying attention to where health and pension hours are reported members best assure themselves that the benefits they earn will be there when they need them.

## Local #140 La Crosse

**Laborers' Local #140  
Meeting - 1st Tue. 7:30 pm**

1920 Ward Ave.

La Crosse, WI 54601

Phone: 608-788-1095

Fax: 608-788-6082

- Kevin Lee, Business Manager
- Business Agent: Clark Jensen

### Reminder

Laborers' Local #140 camo hats are available to members in good standing.

If you haven't received your hat this year be sure to stop in at the Local to pick one up.

### Ask Your Lawyer

## What you should know about auto insurance

by Thomas J. Flanagan

#### Why buy auto insurance?

You buy auto insurance to protect yourself, your family and your assets. Auto insurance policies include several types of protection. The liability portion of auto insurance pays for injuries or damages you cause, including to passengers in your car. Other coverages pay for damages to your car and to protect you in case you have an accident with someone who has no insurance or too little insurance. Nearly all policies also

require the insurance company to defend you if a claim is made against you.

#### What's the "right" amount of insurance?

The minimum amount of coverage may not be sufficient to cover damages caused in an accident or to protect your assets. The "right" amount of insurance depends on the level of your personal assets that require protection. In most cases, you should buy the highest level of coverage you can comfortably afford. Compare premiums for different levels of coverage.

Rates for higher levels are not that much greater than lower levels of coverage.

Because serious injuries can result in high medical bills and other costs, you need adequate coverage. You can be responsible for expenses in excess of your liability insurance coverage. If you have substantial assets, you should consider purchasing an umbrella policy.

Thomas J. Flanagan is an attorney with the law firm of Previat, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman. If you have questions about worker's compensation, personal injury or social security disability, feel free to call the Previat, Goldberg law firm toll free at 1-800-841-5232.

# Local #268 Eau Claire

**Laborers' Local 268  
Meeting - 1st Fri. 7pm**

2233 Birch Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
Phone: 715-835-5001  
Fax: 715-835-4098

- Ron Holden, Business Manager
- Business Agents: Jeff Dehnhoff and Tom Hill

## First Apprentices graduate



*The Local recently graduated its first apprentices, Russ Balko and Dean Scanlon, pictured here with Local Business Agent Jeff Dehnhoff, Business Manager Ron Holden and Local President Dave Peterson. Balko was the first apprentice to graduate from the apprentice program but was unable to attend.*

**Due to Thanksgiving Holiday, the November monthly membership meeting will be Friday November 11.**

### Retirees Meetings

Retirees are encouraged to attend the Local's Retiree Meetings held every other month at the Eau Claire Labor Temple, 2233 Birch Street in Eau Claire, Laborers' Hall in Wisconsin Rapids and the Wausau Labor Temple.

September 16th

November 18

### Informational meetings

Informational meetings are held every other month at 6:30 pm at Laborers' Hall in Wisconsin Rapids (August 10, October 5, December 7) and at 6:00 pm at the Wausau Labor Temple (August 11, October 6, December 8).

## Work picking up but slow

by Ron Holden, Business Manager

The weak economy is still having an effect on work in the area. While work has been slowly picking up on highway projects, building construction is still down. Most of the calls into the Hall recently have been for short term work.

In an attempt to attract as much work as possible the Local has been using target money on a number of projects in the area, including 3 jobs for McGivern and one job for CR Meyer. We hope these efforts result in new jobs soon.

Some of the jobs that have been recently let include a \$1.2 million project at Cumberland High School being done by Vonasek & Schieffer, and a Fire Station in Marshfield that had been temporarily put on hold, but now plans are again moving forward.

Work is also proceeding at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire, where a meeting

was held in June to discuss August and September work assignments and schedules.

We are also working with the project manager to get the drywall contractor selected for the project to sign an area agreement with the Laborers in an effort to create more work opportunities for members.

### Alliance wins back-wages

The Local has also been working closely with the Wisconsin Alliance for Fair Contracting on a prevailing wage complaint filed against a few non-union contractors for work performed on public projects in Bloomer, Amery and Barstow.

In all, the Alliance claims for back wages on the projects total \$70,000 in compensation not paid to workers.

When contractors cheat workers out of wages on public projects they're also cheating fair contractors out of work – work that our contractors and members would gladly compete for.



Ron Holden

# Local #330 Menasha

## Laborers' Local 330 Meeting - 2nd Tue. 7pm

2828 N. Ballard Rd.  
(Appleton Labor Temple)  
Office Location:  
886 W. Airport Rd.  
Menasha, WI 54952  
Phone: 920 722-2104  
Fax: 920 722-2105

- Tony Marcelle, Business Manager
- Joe Heyrman, Sec. Treas.
- Business Agents: Mike Grater; Kelly Buss

# Schweda recognized 50 years to date of initiation



Local 330 Business Manager Tony Marcell presented James Schweda with 50 year pin, Laborers' Int'l gold watch, gold card, and Jacket in May. Schweda was honored at the Retiree's Outing on May 14th – the exact day he reached the 50 year milestone.

## Election Results

Elections for Local office were held (date). The following members were elected by the membership to fill three-year terms:

*President*  
Kelly Buss

*Vice President*  
Jim Lenz

*Recording Secretary*  
Mike Grater

*Sec.-Trs./D.C. Delegate*  
Joe Heyrman

*Business Manager/D.C. Delegate*  
Tony Marcelle

*Sergeant-At-Arms*  
Dave Butler

*Auditors*  
Brian Lee, Don Hoier, Tim Haefs

*Executive Board*  
Bill Buss & Ryan Young

*Delegates to D.C.*  
Kelly Buss & Mike Grater

Thank you to all who voted!

## Now accepting '09- '10 scholarship applications

Applications are available at our office or can be downloaded at [www.laborerslocal330.org](http://www.laborerslocal330.org) (click on scholarships).

Applications must be submitted to our office by Oct. 1, 2009.

Applicants must furnish a bio along with the application form.

More information is listed on the application form.

Scholarships are available to any member, spouse, and/or their dependents who are a full-time student carrying at least 12 credits and will be enrolled in the fall semester at an accredited college or technical school.

Winners will be selected by the Executive Board based on the applicant's bio.

The first semester must be completed and confirmed before scholarships are paid out in January 2010.

## 30-day call-in

Members of Local 330 must register their availability for referral every 30 days in accordance with Local 330's written policy.

Failure to call in will drop the member to a miscellaneous list until the member notifies our office of their availability.

There are several members on the current out-of-work list, so please keep us informed of your working/non-working status!



# Local honors 50-year members



*The Local honored 50 Year members at its May meeting. Pictured is member Louie Schulenberg receiving his Gold Card from Sec. Treas. Pete Satern. Other 50 year members honored that night but unable to attend were Elwood Ward, Gifford Fazel, Edward Bass and Edward Agathen. Visits were made to those that could not attend the meeting to receive their cards.*

# Local hosts Spring Feed

*Local Secretary Treasurer Pete Satern (left) joins members David Dickson, Jason Hall, Hubert Heller and Gerald Burckhardt in the food line as the Local hosted its annual Spring Feed during the May monthly meeting.*



## Members -- Help get the \$107 million Edgewater project off the ground

Sign the on-line petition at [www.edgewater2012.com](http://www.edgewater2012.com)

Plans have been unveiled for a \$107 million redevelopment of the landmark Edgewater Hotel on the shore of Lake Mendota in downtown Madison.

The project promises to put hundreds of area construction workers back to work.

Before this work can get underway the Madison City Council and various committees need to sign off on the project.

We need members support for this project.

The Hammes Company who is proposing the project has created a web page and video that we encourage members to view at [www.edgewater2012.com](http://www.edgewater2012.com).

We then encourage members to use the site's E-Petition to register your support of the project.

It will only take a few seconds to submit but it may help create hundreds of local construction jobs.

## Local #464 Madison

### Laborers' Local 464 Meeting - 1st Wed. 7:00pm

2025 Atwood Ave.  
Madison, WI 53704  
Phone: 608-244-6400  
Fax: 608-244-6540  
Toll-Free: 1-800-362-4442

- Tom Roach, Business Manager
- Pete Satern, Secretary Treasurer
- Assistant Business Manager: Dan Burke
- Business Agents: Terry Nelson and Jim Meicher

## Upcoming Event

### Local Race Night Aug. 7

Laborers' Local 464 Night at the Races is on August 7. Gates at the Madison International Speedway in Oregon will open at 5:00 p.m. Racing begins at 7:30 p.m. Please call the office and request tickets.

## In Memoriam

The Local's thoughts and prayers are with the families of recently deceased long time members.

Milford Updike passed away on June 09, 2009 at the age of 87. Updike was initiated into the Laborers on June 23, 1977 and retired on July 1, 1994. He worked for The Bruce Company.

Joseph Schmitt passed away on May 16, 2009 at the age of 83. He was initiated into the Laborers on September 28, 1954 and retired in July of 1987. Schmitt received his Gold Card September 28, 2004.

Arnulfo Ortiz passed away on July 6, 2009 at the age of 69. He was initiated into the Laborers on September 15, 1971 and retired February 1, 2001. Ortiz worked for a number of union contractors over his career including Klug Smith, Tri-North and J.P. Cullen.

# Local #1091 Duluth

## Laborers' Local 1091 Meeting - 3rd Thur. 7:00pm

2002 London Road  
Duluth, MN 55812  
Phone: 218-728-5151  
Fax: 218-728-2431

- Dan Olson, Business Manager
- Business Agent: Bill Cox
- Market Representative: Larry Anderson

## Upcoming Event

### Membership Picnic

Sunday, August 23, 2009

Please call the Local for details.



## Joint Training Conference

Local Business Manager Dan Olson, Organizer Larry Anderson and Bill Cox were among over 70 delegates and staff attending the annual Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin District Council Joint Training Conference in July in Wisconsin Dells.

## Up North News

by Dan Olson, Business Manager

After a cold wet spring, things are starting to move a little up here in Northwest, Wisconsin.

There are a number of road projects getting started in Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas counties. Swenson Hall on the campus of UWS has finally come to fruition with the groundbreaking on the \$37 million project, scheduled to begin in the very near future.



Dan Olson

Howard Immel Construction from Green Bay was the apparent low bidder on this project and also continues to work on the Rothwell Student Center adjacent to the new academic building.

### Public projects

The Washington Building (elderly housing) and the Superior City Sidewalk projects are underway employing local Laborers.

In addition to, these city projects, there are 6 shovel ready stimulus package jobs in Douglas County getting started as well.

Ashland and Bayfield counties have some public projects going but not much private work has been bid this construction season.

I attended a couple of Environmental Impact Statements, showing support for both the continuance of the Enbridge pipeline projects

*There's probably not a worse time to negotiate a labor agreement than during an economic recession, so I especially want to thank members for their support and patience during these negotiations.*

and the Low Sulfur Diesel and Benzene Splitter job at Murphy Oil. Murphy is slated to start work in early July and the pipeline works in late August to early September.

### Building Agreement

We recently reached agreement on Building Contract in Northwest Wisconsin. After meeting with quite a bit of resistance from both the AGC and the Contractors, we worked with a mediator to finally get passed the contract dispute.

There's probably not a worse time to negotiate a labor agreement than during an economic recession, so I especially want to thank members for their support and patience during these negotiations.

### Upcoming events

There are a couple of noteworthy changes and events coming up that include the July regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> due to a scheduling conflict and our Membership Picnic which will be on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 from 11-5 p.m.

In the mean time, have a good and prosperous summer and be safe.

# Budget strengthens prevailing wage law

After weeks of intense negotiations, legislative leaders and the Governor's office reached a compromise on the prevailing wage provisions originally proposed by Governor Jim Doyle in the state budget.

The legislative compromise is consistent with the Governor's original principles and will significantly strengthen state prevailing wage.

Key reform provisions include:

- Lowering the threshold of qualifying public works projects from \$234,000 to \$25,000
- Extending the laws coverage to private projects that receive \$1 million in direct public assistance
- Requiring certain contractors and subcontractors on qualified projects to submit monthly certified payroll to verify compliance under the law
- Replacing the fee assessed for claims found to be non-violations to claims deemed frivolous.

Democratic lawmakers in both the Senate and Assembly were instrumental in securing the compromise and keeping these provisions in the Budget. Senate



Sen. Decker



Rep. Sheridan

Majority Leader Russ Decker and Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan and their staffs in particular were committed passing a budget that included significant

prevailing wage reforms.

In addition to Senator Decker and Representative Sheridan, a number of newer members of the Assembly were key to getting these reform measures passed. Members in the following Assembly Districts are encouraged to contact their Representatives and thank them for their support.

**Penny Bernard Schaber**, 57<sup>th</sup> AD, Appleton

**Fred Clark**, 42<sup>nd</sup> AD, Baraboo

**Chris Danou**, 91<sup>st</sup> AD, Trempealeau

**Kristen Dexter**, 68<sup>th</sup> AD, Eau Claire

**Phil Garthwaite**, 49<sup>th</sup> AD, Dickeyville

**Steve Hilgenberg**, 51<sup>st</sup> AD, Dodgeville

**Gordon Hintz**, 54<sup>th</sup> AD, Oshkosh

**Kim Hixson**, 43<sup>rd</sup> AD, Whitewater

**Ann Hraychuck**, 28<sup>th</sup> AD, Balsam Lake

**Andy Jorgensen**, 37<sup>th</sup> AD, Fort Atkinson

**Cory Mason**, 62<sup>nd</sup> AD, Racine

**Nick Milroy**, 73<sup>rd</sup> AD, Superior

**Sandy Pasch**, 22<sup>nd</sup> AD, Whitefish Bay

**Mark Radcliffe**, 92<sup>nd</sup> AD, Black River Falls

**Kelda Roys**, 81<sup>st</sup> AD, Madison

**Jeff Smith**, 93<sup>rd</sup> AD, Eau Claire

**Jim Soletski**, 88<sup>th</sup> AD, Green Bay

Each was heavily lobbied by

## Transportation Budget

The recently passed state budget provides significant increases to transportation infrastructure that will impact work opportunities for members across the state.

- Rehabilitation: Funding is \$769.2 million in FY 2010 (this is the state fiscal year that began yesterday) and \$738.7 million in FY 2011. (Base funding was \$690.5 million). Included in this funding is \$32.5 million annually in general obligation bonding, with debt service paid from the General Fund.
- Major Projects: Funding is \$352.5 million in FY 2010 and \$367.6 million in FY 2011. (Base funding was \$322.8 million).
- SE Freeways: Funding is \$183.5 million in FY 2010 and \$428.3 million in FY 2011. This includes funding for the I-94 North South reconstruction, routine freeway rehabilitation projects elsewhere in the region and \$3 million annually for the Zoo Interchange.

organizations seeking to remove these provisions from the budget.

To each of their credit they did not buckle under intense pressure from local elected officials and other business interests.

Instead, they worked with the Laborers and other building trades to develop a compromise that effectively mitigated the cost, development and planning concerns raised by various groups during the budget process, crafting a reform measure that remained true to the overall goal of creating greater accountability and transparency on all construction projects that either service the public or received public financing.



# Employee Free Choice will ensure workers get a fair first contract

by Seth Michaels, National AFL-CIO

The freedom to form unions and bargain is critical to workers and to a stronger, fairer economy—but weak law that allows delay and stalling blocks workers from gaining the first contracts that can bring them a better life.

Studies show that when workers vote for unions, fewer than half of them have a contract a full year later—and in more than a third of cases, workers still don't have a contract two years later.

Despite exercising their freedom to form unions against great obstacles, workers aren't able to bargain for health coverage, retirement security, fair wages and safe workplace conditions.

The Employee Free Choice Act would end this injustice by providing a process to help bargainers reach an agreement through mediation and, for issues the parties are unable to resolve on their own, arbitration.

Arbitration would occur only under

the Employee Free Choice Act if either side requests it, after months of negotiations.

In a new ad, American Rights at Work draws attention to the 52 percent of workers who form a union but have to wait a year or more for a fair first contract.

Big corporations are fighting the arbitration provision of the Employee Free Choice Act with millions of dollars and shameless misinformation—

even though businesses use mediation and arbitration in a wide variety of negotiations and disputes.

Congress needs to stand up for the workers who deserve the chance to gain fair first contracts.

Giving workers a chance at this fundamental freedom is the only way to rebuild the middle class and an economy that works for everyone.

It's time to pass the Employee Free Choice Act.



## Legislative and Political Action

*Giving workers a chance at this fundamental freedom is the only way to rebuild the middle class and an economy that works for everyone.*

# Laborers' join coalition to support Capital Budget

The Wisconsin Laborers' District Council was again part of a broad industry stakeholders group, that included the AGC of Wisconsin State Chapter and the AGC of Greater Milwaukee, urging lawmakers to support an aggressive Capital Budget to construct necessary projects and put people back to work on projects across the state.

The coalition worked closely with legislative leaders, Joint Committee on Finance members, the Governors staff and the Building Commission in support of the proposed \$1.4 billion Building Program for state construction.

In letters to the Finance Committee, the coalition reminded legislators that the construction sector is a key component of the Wisconsin economy, generating a significant amount of the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing a large number of workers in relatively high-paying jobs.

The coalition also pointed out that the industry also affected the economy in more indirect, yet far-reaching ways through ripple effects that occur as the economic benefits of construction activity work their way through the broader economy.

*The coalition worked closely with legislative leaders in support of the proposed \$1.4 billion building program for state construction.*

# Apprenticeship and Training



## Laborers' Apprenticeship and Training Center

4633 LIUNA Way, Suite 100  
DeForest, WI 53532

Phone: (608) 846-5764

Toll free: (800) 275-6939

- Al Friedl, Director
- Cindy Anderson, Apprentice Coordinator

## Summer and Fall Class Schedule

### August

- Basic Transit & Level, August 10 – 21
- Scaffold Builder, August 10 – 14
- Forklift Operator, August 17 – 18
- Forklift Operation, August 19 – 20
- Flagging, August 24
- OSHA 10+, August 25 – 26
- First Aid/CPR, August 27
- Scaffold User, August 27
- Forklift Safety, August 28

### September

- Forklift Operation, Sept. 8 – 9
- Forklift Operation, Sept. 10 – 11
- Concrete Construction, Sept. 14 – 18
- Flagging, Sept. 14
- OSHA 10+, Sept. 15 – 16
- First Aid/CPR, Sept. 17
- Scaffold User, Sept. 17
- Forklift Safety, Sept. 18
- Basic Transit & Level, Sept. 21 – Oct. 2
- Decorative Concrete, Sept. 21 – 25
- Scaffold Builderr, Sept. 28 – Oct. 2

### October

- Mason Tending, Oct. 5 – 9
- Weatherization, Oct. 5 – 9
- General Construction, Oct. 12 – 16
- Weatherization, Oct. 12 – 16
- Blueprint Reading, Oct. 19 – 30
- Concrete Construction, Oct. 19 – 23
- Decorative Concrete, Oct. 26 – 30

### November

- Basic Transit & Level, Nov. 2 – 13
- Scaffold Builder, Nov. 2 – 6
- General Construction, Nov. 9 – 13
- Mason Tending, Nov. 16 – 20
- Flagging, Nov. 16
- OSHA 10+, Nov. 17 – 18
- First Aid/CPR, Nov. 19
- Scaffold User, Nov. 19
- Forklift Safety, Nov. 20
- Forklift Operation, Nov. 23 – 24
- Blueprint Reading, Nov. 30 – Dec. 11
- Scaffold Builder, Nov. 30 – Dec. 4

### December

- Welding & Cutting, Dec. 7 – 18
- Forklift Operation, Dec. 7 – 8
- Forklift Operation, Dec. 9 – 10
- Mason Tending, Dec. 14 – 18
- Flagging, Dec. 14
- OSHA 10+, Dec. 15 – 16
- First Aid/CPR, Dec. 17
- Scaffold User, Dec. 17
- Forklift Safety, Dec. 18

For more information on the  
Laborers' Apprenticeship and  
Training please call the Center at  
1-800-275-6939

### Eligibility

Classes are open to construction laborers who are employed by contractors contributing to the Training Fund and are in good standing.

### Applications

Application forms are available at your local union office or from the Training Center. Complete the application form and return it by mail or fax it to the training center.

### Lodging

Laborers are housed at a hotel and commute daily to the Training Center. There are two people to each room. Rooms are paid for by the Training Center. No pets are allowed at the hotel or the Training Center.

### Transportation

Laborers who are staying at the hotel will be reimbursed mileage to the Training Center and back home. Commuters are paid \$20.00 per day.

### Meals

The Center will not provide meals at the Training Center. Laborers who are housed at the hotel will receive a daily meal allowance. Students should plan on bringing lunch for the noon meal. A large cooler to store food, microwaves to heat food, and snack and soda machines are available.



# Course Descriptions

## Advanced Pipelaying – 1 Week

*\*\*Basic Transit/Level and Basic Pipelaying required, unless 1 year experience in the pipe field*

Construction Math, Air testing, Hydrostatic testing, Soil classification and testing, and problem solving.

## Pipeline Safety – 1 Week

Presents training information and other important aspects of what you as a Laborer must know to work on a pipeline project.



## Basic Pipelaying – 3 Weeks

*\*\*Basic Transit/Level required prior to enrollment*

OSHA job safety, protective equipment, crane signals, compaction, soils, air tools, pipelaying, concrete, ductile iron, shoring, tight sheeting, sewer blueprints, pipe patching and repairing, trench shields, gravity flow pipe, tapping forced main, copper flaring/lead joints, and field problems.

## Blueprint Reading – 2 Weeks

*\*\*Basic Transit/Level required prior to enrollment.*

A two week course on skills needed to read blueprints in the areas of pipe, building site, and road work. The students will also learn to figure quantities.

## Basic Concrete – 1 Week

Basic construction mathematics, measuring, leveling, squaring methods, form systems, placement, vibration, stripping, cleaning, site safety, hand/power tools, field project to include; placing concrete, tool and equipment maintenance.

## Decorative Concrete Finishing

*\*\*Basic Concrete class is required prior to taking this class.*

Decorating concrete with stamps, stencils, and acid staining.

## Mason Tending and Rough Terrain Forklift Operation

*\*\*Must have a Forklift Safety & Scaffold User to attend this class*

Forklift safety, operation and maintenance. Skid Steer Loader, Safety Operations & Maintenance, material handling. Job setup, tools, equipment, materials, estimating, hand stocking, scaffold building, mortar mixes.

## Rough Terrain Forklift Safety and Operation – 2 Days

Forklift safety, operation and maintenance. Skid steer loader, safety operation & maintenance, material handling.

## General Construction – 1 Week

Introduction to the construction industry with regards to safety and proper techniques. Tool recognition and usage.

## OSHA 10 + – 2 Days

16 hour OSHA class. Intro to construction safety. This card is required to work in the paper mills.

## Small Gas Engine – 3 Days

*(Wed's class ends at noon and the new class begins at 12:30)* Hands on training, demonstrations, gas/oil ratios, engine maintenance and repair.

## Welding/Cutting – 2 Weeks

Personal safety, protective equipment, grinding, AC-DC welding, cutting torches, oxygen/acetylene, flamex fuel, brazing, arc weld-horizontal/vertical, flat, pipe.



## Scaffold Builder

Course complies with OSHA regulations 1926.450-454. Curriculum includes the OSHA standards, fall protection, stairways and ladders, electrical hazards and loading of scaffold. Hands-on training on the scaffold systems include frame & brace, tube & clamp; tower scaffolds and rolling tower.

## Foreman Preparedness – 1 Week

Health and safety recognition, communications, construction mathematics, general project skills, job instruction, dealing with people, problem solving, emergency response, hazard communication, substance abuse.

## Basic Transit/Level – 2 Weeks

Transit, Builders level, grade rod, range poles, set up and operation, applications field exercise, elevations and stakes, construction mathematics.

## Grade Checking – Highway

*\*\*Basic Transit required prior to enrollment*

Measurement systems, construction line, measurements, section, plan views, profiles, stationing systems, slope expressions, reference systems, roadway slopes, slop stakes, roadway prism, curb and gutter, calculation.



## Employer partner sees benefit of working with WI Laborers

Tetra Tech EC is a world leader in environmental services and has performed work in every state within the United States and many countries abroad.

As an industry leader, they take pride in their work and insist on using qualified personnel to ensure the work is performed correctly the first time around.

So the Wisconsin Laborers' District Council was happy to receive a copy letter sent by Tetra Tech's Vice President of Remediation, Ray Mangrum, to the Economic Director for the City of Green Bay, expressing the company's pleasure over work conducted at the Lower Fox River Project.

The project which was less than 30 percent complete when TTECI took over in the spring of '08, had to undergo significant redesign, but was still completed within 10 months and by the spring '09 deadline; due in large

*"Wisconsin has a winning team of highly trained workers ready to meet the challenges put before them."*

part, according to Mangrum, by the company's decision to use highly skilled and productive local union labor and sub-contractors.

The letter emphasized the strategic advantage of labor and management working together as a team.

"The State of Wisconsin should be very proud of the work force and advertize this to businesses looking to relocate," wrote Mangrum. "Wisconsin has a winning team of highly trained workers ready to meet the challenges put before them."

Wisconsin Laborers understand teamwork can have huge benefits for

**Wisconsin  
LECET**



4633 LIUNA Way, Suite 101  
DeForest, WI 53532  
Mike Haggerty, Director  
phone (608) 846-8242  
fax (608) 846-5460

both our members and our employer partners in the industry. Having a safe, skilled and productive workforce ready to go on projects like the Lower Fox River is a bar we have to meet for our contractors to compete in the industry.

## Wisconsin Laborers ready for weatherization work

by Jerry Knapp, LECET Marketing Representative

With the impending arrival of ARRA stimulus dollars from the Federal government in Wisconsin, LECET has been working with the our organizing department, state officials from the Department of Administration and our training facility in De Forest on a comprehensive weatherization program.

LECET efforts to build a relationship with the CAP agencies that contract out the majority of the weatherization work throughout the state have been successful so far, as have our efforts to identify potential and existing LIUNA signatory contractors who are interested in bidding on this work as it becomes available.

The first wave of funding for weatherization – 40% of the total \$141.5 million – will become available

in the early part of July.

Prior to then, Laborers' International will be in direct contact with Governor Doyle's office and the Department of Administration to stress LIUNA's commitment to providing training opportunities for members and project opportunities for our contractors.

LECET is also continuing its work with area developers and is currently in talks with a national company who has anticipated projects in Madison, Green Bay and Milwaukee.

Our ability to connect developers with contractors capable of handling substantial projects, a trained workforce and, in some cases, project financing options has proven to be an important piece of the effort to increase our market density throughout Wisconsin.

*The first wave of funding for weatherization – 40% of the total \$141.5 million – will become available in the early part of July.*

# Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America

## The Stigma of Mental Illness

by Jamie Becker



As a society, we often view mental illness with disdain, discomfort or fear. We often ridicule those who suffer from various mental health disorders. That is the stigma of mental illness – the negative attitude that many people share.

Our culture perpetuates negative views of mental illness. We use terms like “crazy,” “insane” and “psycho” as put-downs. Children learn these terms and start using them at an early age. The media do not help.

Television and movies often depict people with mental health disorders as unattractive, undesirable, unproductive and sometimes scary or evil.

### Stigma

- Labeling someone with a condition
- Stereotyping people who have that condition
- Creating a division – a superior “us” group and a devalued “them” group
- Discriminating against someone on the basis of their label

While most people would never make fun of someone with cancer or heart disease, many think mental health is fair game for ridicule.

To some people, *mental* illness is not the same as physical illness. It is not a legitimate medical condition but rather, a problem caused by one’s own choices and actions.

People may believe the condition is all in their head and not real. They may

think that a mental health disorder means someone is weak or lazy and that they should just “get over it.”

In reality, mental health conditions have very complex causes, often a mix of genetics, biology and life experiences – most of which are beyond one’s control.

And while people may have, or seem to have, some control over how they respond in particular situations, they cannot always control how their bodies respond and what symptoms they display as a result of certain situations.

For example, someone who experiences depression after the death of a close family member or friend is unlikely to be able to control this response to their loss and grief.

The negative image of mental illness needs to change. Emphasis must be on supporting and treating people, not denying their problems and limiting their access to help.

Perhaps someday, we will be as accepting of those with mental health disorders as we are today of people with cancer or heart disease.

Mental health parity is one way to help eliminate the stigma of mental illness.

In embracing this new framework and providing coverage, LIUNA health

*In reality, mental health conditions have very complex causes, often a mix of genetics, biology and life experiences – most of which are beyond one’s control.*

and welfare funds demonstrate an acceptance that mental health conditions are real and treatable.

*Jamie Becker is the LHSFNA’s Associate Director, Health Promotion.*





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# WE WON NOW WHAT?



Union members worked hard and took Step 1 to turn around America by electing Barack Obama and expanding our worker-friendly majority in Congress.

## NOW COMES STEP 2

We need bold efforts to create good jobs, protect vital public services and strengthen our failing economy. But they won't produce shared prosperity or rebuild the middle class unless we pass the Employee Free Choice Act to restore workers' freedom to bargain for a better life.

The Employee Free Choice Act will:

- Allow workers to form a union if a majority wants one.
- Protect the benefits and wages that union building trades workers have fought to gain.
- Increase penalties against companies that abuse workers and put real teeth into laws meant to protect workers.
- Guarantee that workers who form a union can get a contract.

Big Business front groups are gearing up to spend \$200 million to defeat the Employee Free Choice Act so they can hold onto all the power in the workplace.

Join the  
campaign

**Employee  
FREE  
CHOICE  
ACT**

Sign up at [www.  
EmployeeFreeChoiceAct.org](http://www.EmployeeFreeChoiceAct.org)