

**GUEST EDITOR**

*Guest Commentary*

***By: Robert McGuckin, Organizer  
Local 17***

**A CALL TO ACTION**

Our industry and all of construction is changing each and everyday. When our insulation materials change, we sometimes need new tools in our tool belt. So when our market changes; through the open shop (non-union) coming into our territory, we also need to change our tactics by putting new tools in our tool belt.

We have learned that in order to preserve our union's way of life and to fight for all workers' rights to organize; there is not one tool that will do it all. Just as no one individual, the organizer or small group, organizing committee can do it all. Any locals that have had great success with organizing, or at the very least keeping the market share they already have, use all the tools at its disposal; namely its membership.

No labor organization can thrive without its members' participation. That is what a union is, a group of individuals working together to better their own and other workers lives. Member participation has many different levels. Some members run for office, volunteer for committees or help with union functions, but most go to work everyday to show the world what organized labor is all about. It's about the hard working men and women doing a day's work for a day's pay and trying to make a better life for our families.

I feel no matter how hard an individual works she or he can only be successful when backed with a good team. I think we have a great team of players that are just waiting for the call to enter the game...our members. This, is that call. We don't need everyone to get so involved that it takes over your life. But by sharing your talents and gifts with us from time to time could help this union that we all love.

Our labor laws have all but lost any of the protection they once offered workers. Pickets are not always the answer and market recovery can only help on jobs our contractors bid. Sometimes, we can influence a non-union contractor to talk with the union, or get a facility to use a union contractor by knowing the right contacts. A great number of success stories have come from something that happened behind the scenes.

I would like to know if you have any skills that could help us someday. Are you good at finding data on the Internet? Are you members of any other organizations, clubs, etc.? Do you have any family or friends that work at any of the facilities (plants, hospitals, governmental agencies, etc.) in our territory? Any hobbies or special skills?? If you would take a moment to fill out the enclosed card someday we might need your help and this could give us a good place to start.

### **RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR**

You are invited to a Retirement Planning Seminar on **Saturday, October 27, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. until Noon** at Local 17's Union Hall. All our members but especially those looking to retire in the next 5 to 10 years and their Spouses should attend. We will have speakers discussing a variety of topics, which will be important as you plan to retire. These speakers include a representative from the Social Security Administration, Prudential Retirement, our Pension Plan Actuary, an attorney, and someone in the financial planning field. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and receive answers. If you are planning to attend, **PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO THE FUND OFFICE AT 773/254-1900** so we can get an accurate count and plan accordingly. The Fund Trustees spent a lot of time and effort to host such an event, and it would be great to have a large turnout.

### **RETIREE NEWS**

We are trying to set up a retirement page for THE PIPELINE and eventually on our Local's website. It will be interesting to know what the retirees are doing (hobbies, travel, etc.). It's a great way to keep in touch with union members after retirement, especially those living out of state. In order to accomplish this, two of our retirees have volunteered for this undertaking. They ask that anyone with news (interesting or otherwise) to put in THE PIPELINE, please contact:

**Jim Vittorio – (708) 371-0961 – EMAIL: [JimXprez@att.net](mailto:JimXprez@att.net)**

**Pat O'Brien - (847) 827-5666 - EMAIL: [POBrien17@aol.com](mailto:POBrien17@aol.com)**

Our downstate members remember the days of past when there used to be a downstate get-together for the retirees. Volunteers are going to try and resurrect this idea. They are planning a Euchre Tournament. This Tourney will be held at the East Peoria VFW on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2007. They plan to have a small entry fee with all proceeds going to **The Hubert Fund**. The winner will garner a trophy that will be held in his/her possession for one (1) year. The winner will bring it back the following year, to defend the title. There will be food and beverages. Any member may attend. Any questions may be directed to:

**Scott Reliford – (309) 208 – 3518 – EMAIL: [the4RLFRDS@MSN.COM](mailto:the4RLFRDS@MSN.COM)**

**REMEMBER THE RETIREE LUNCHEON MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2007.**

## RETIREES

Local 17 would like to honor these recent retirees. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

|                  |          |          |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Thomas Camiliere | R# 39818 | 07-01-07 |
| Randy Conrad     | R# 40710 | 07-01-07 |
| Robert Dietz     | R# 42054 | 07-01-07 |
| Santo LaMantia   | R# 42075 | 07-01-07 |
| Leo Maurice, Jr. | R# 43843 | 07-01-07 |
| Peter Sannasardo | R# 42099 | 08-01-07 |
| Robert Kraus     | R# 25875 | 09-01-07 |
| James LoBono     | R# 37218 | 10-01-07 |
| Raymond Gayton   | R# 40037 | 11-01-07 |

## HEALTH ADVISORY

Speaking from personal experience, I would like to recommend all members that have reached the age of 50 - have a physical that *includes* a colonoscopy. This test may prevent future surgery and saves lives. Early detection of colon cancer is treatable with great success. Please call the fund office for benefit coverages and any other questions regarding this matter. I appreciate the cards & calls and am glad to be back in action!

*John Crinion*

## CONVENTION REPORT

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all the International Officers on their well-deserved re-elections. Special congratulations to our very own International Vice-President, **Terry Lynch on his re-election** to this position. **Jason Lynch** did a great job in the nominating process for his father.

Local 17 played a hefty role at this International Convention. Local 17 by far had the **most** resolutions presented and passed. **Father Gavin** opened every session with Mass and a story or two about his father, **John Quinn**. Our delegates were placed on many of the prestigious committees. **John Caddick** was a Sergeant of Arms for this convention. One of the featured speakers was William Hite, General President of the United Association. His roots are here in Chicago. He made mention to all the delegates of his connection to Local 17 with his Uncle **Bill Meyers** - who was a member of ours. Many of us remember Bill Meyers.

We were able to obtain a video clip of the Presidential Debates held at Soldier Field. This clip was played at the convention and showed Local 17 member, **Bob Flynn** asking the candidates a question about energy. He received a round of applause when Hillary Clinton told him she would "Make a lot of work for the insulators" with her energy plan.

Sharing a Hospitality room with the St Louis Local proved to be a great idea and helped us to come in way under budget for this convention. Our local was well represented at this convention by all of our elected and alternate delegates.

## WORKING OUTSIDE OUR TERRITORY

This is a reminder to our members: Resolution No. 5 that was passed says that anyone working outside their territory must notify the Business Manager in whose territory the work is being performed **before work has been started, interrupted, resumed and when completed.**

## MARKET RECOVERY

Local 17 along with **Organizer Bob McGuckin and both Organizing Committees** are pursuing the marketing of our industry. The first thing our members should notice is the new “Billboard” advertising. By the time of this printing there will be 3 locations. One is on I-74, just west of Morton, in the westbound lane. The second is in the eastbound lane on I-80 just east of Larkin Ave. The third is by the O’Hare Oasis. They will be up for a couple of months and then we will change the billboard and message.

We are in the design phase of our new pamphlets. We hope to have them ready for the contractors to hand out to customers, but mainly to get into our members’ hands to pass out on the different jobsites. It will be something to leave on the General Contractor’s desk or Mechanical Contractor’s desk. You will be hearing more about this and other ideas later as they develop.

## DECEASED MEMBERS

These members have served Local 17 well. Our Local will remember them for eternity.

|                    |          |          |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Al Ursich          | R# 42110 | 05-29-07 |
| Lennard Lagerstrom | R# 18465 | 07-11-07 |
| Carl Hudson        | R# 39837 | 07-20-07 |
| Wilbur Haynie      | R# 23178 | 07-22-07 |
| Samuel Gentile     | R# 23162 | 08-01-07 |

## BITS AND PIECES

The officers and members would like to Thank **Bob Flynn, Frank Steward, Jim Bollin, Mike Autenrieth, Brendan Hogan, Jim Vittorio, Bob Fogarty, Donna, Sue, the apprentices, members and Bus Captains**, for making the role local 17 played at the Presidential Debates possible. Members wishing to appear before the Benefits Committee should notify Tom McGrath, ([mcgruff070@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcgruff070@sbcglobal.net)) one week in advance of the union meeting.

**This is a REMINDER to those new journeymen, retirees and pin recipients to please call Donna at the union office to confirm your attendance at the Annual Dinner Dance. If you have not done so, it would be appreciated!**

Editors,

B. Glynn, J. Crinion, D. Byrne, M. Foster, Donna