

GUEST EDITOR

Guest Commentary

By: John Caddick, Local 17 Business Agent

I would like to thank Brian Glynn for allowing me the time to go down memory lane in the eyes of a tired, old, asbestos worker. I was a mailman coaching a Pop Warner Football Team in Midlothian on an October night in 1967. One of the parents came up to me and asked if I would be interested in making a career change. I asked what I would be doing and how much is the pay? He told me you would be an Asbestos Worker, and the pay is \$3.85 an hour. I told him sure, I would be happy to try it. This is how I got started in this Great Union. I will be forever grateful to **Frank McGuire** and his family for getting me started in this industry.

I started my new career at Youngstown Steel in Indiana. **George Cadman** was the man who hired me for the Luse-Stevenson Co. I worked for Luse-Stevenson for five years in that period of time. During that time I worked for some great guys: **Frank McGuire, Don Murdock, Andy Kman, Jim McKanna, Phil Clemens, Mark Cunningham, Charlie Lynch, Bill Sheppard, Eric Brolin, Rocky Delesio, and Ray Sliwinski**. These men taught me about the trade and to always take pride in whatever you do, because you are not only working for yourself, you are also representing Local 17.

In December of 1970, I was lucky enough to be sworn into this Local as an Apprentice by **Hugh Mulligan, John Quinn and John McNichols**. We were fortunate enough to be taught by an instructor by the name of **Hank Tough**. Hank told our class something that I have never forgotten. He told us that there are about 40 contractors in our Union and that if you work only 1 year for each one you would have a very good career. I took that to mean you go to work everyday and you try to make the contractor a profit on the job. At the end of the day you owe your loyalty to Local 17. There is a lot of truth to what Hank said because I think I have worked for about half of those contractors, and I have been able to support my family very nicely.

After I left Luse-Stevenson, I went to work for Brand Insulation at Mobil Oil. It was there that I met a man by the name of **Dick Kolbus**. Dick was the Steward on the job and he treated me like I was his son. I will never forget Dick Kolbus. He taught me a saying that I have tried to live my life by, "treat all people the way that you want to be treated, and don't ever lie to them."

Around 1982, I went to work for M&O. These were some of the best years of my life. I got to work with some men who are still some of my best friends: **Mike Gabrione, Jim Vittorio, Jim and Jack Shorette, Tim McCormick, Jack McAndrews, Jim Quinn, Dave Bedalow, Joe Musselman and Rich Staack**. I also got to run work for the best Superintendent you would ever want to work for, **Bill O'Heir**. Bill told me three things when I ran work for him: 1. Keep the customer happy. 2. Have the job make a profit for the Company and 3. Keep my **Big Brother, Rich** off my back. I appreciated the fact that Bill allowed you to run the job as you saw fit.

In March of 1998, I decided to run for the office of your Business Agent. With the help of **Jerry Browne, Jim Quinn, Pat O'Brien, Tom Moran, Ray Martin, and the McManus Family** I was elected as your Business Agent. During the past nine years I have always tried to be honest with the members and do what is best for the majority of the members.

In closing, I would like to thank all of my partners for the past nine years: **Terry Lynch, Brian Glynn, John Crinion, Dominick Byrne, Jack Shine, Bill Mangin and Bob McGuckin**. I would also like to thank Donna and Sue along with all of the girls in the Health & Welfare Office. I would especially like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the members of Local 17 for the kindness and cooperation that you have extended to my Family and me. If I have forgotten anyone, I am extremely sorry I missed you. I did enjoy working with each and every one of you. Take care. Thank you for everything, John Caddick.

RETIREES

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

Howard "Buz" Morgan	R# 37247	01-01-07
Robert Ohner	R# 28887	02-01-07

We also want to remind our retirees of the upcoming Retiree Luncheon on Monday, April 9, 2007.

PARADES

It's hard to believe but another year of St. Patrick Day Parades have passed us by. We had great turnouts for both the Southside and Downtown Parades. We think the time has come to consider constructing another float for the St. Pat's Parades and the Labor Day Parades. This would be a great opportunity to promote our trade and take advantage of the "energy awareness" that is taking place. We could build a float that showcases our craftsmanship and has banners promoting energy conservation and protecting our environment by reducing greenhouse gas effects by insulating. We may be able to do this by building "modular" units to attach to the trailer. One mod could be built in Indiana, another in Peoria, and another at the Hall. Any one interested in participating on this committee, give us a call.

UPGRADE CLASSES

Local 17 will be hosting a "Journeyman Upgrade" on metal layouts. The date is Saturday, April 21, 2007. The class will start at 8:00 AM. and go until 4:00 PM. We will have as many as 4 instructors present to help anyone with any type of layout they desire. This will be a loosely structured class, meaning you can come at any time and leave at any time, and work on whatever you feel the need for. This gives our members a chance to brush up on work they haven't performed in a while. There is going to be a great deal of work in the future at all our oil refineries and possibly some overtime. This is a great opportunity for any of our members who have been working in the commercial sector the past few years and may contemplate a move to the industrial side to take advantage of overtime.

FIRESTOP TECHNICIAN TRAINING

The Firestop sector of our business is starting to take off. We have twice as many firestop technicians working now than at the same time last year. Local 17 has also increased the number of insulation contractors doing this work and also increased the number of "Specialty" contractors doing firestop work. It is slowly ramping up and we have to be prepared to stay on pace to meet any labor needs for this market.

We are scheduling a "Firestop Technician" class for Saturday, May 12, 2007 at 8:00 A.M. We will have guest instructors who are very knowledgeable in this type of work, teaching 3 different facets of the industry to the participants. At the end of the day each student will learn about commercial, institutional, and industrial firestopping. We also hope to spend some time showing the students how to go "on-line" to receive certifications. Anyone interested in this class please register by calling the Union Hall at (773) 247-8184. The size of the class will be limited.

HAZARDOUS WASTE HANDLER CLASSES

Local 17's Training Department will provide the Initial Asbestos Workers Class. This will be a 4 day class May 29, 30, 31 and June 1, 2007. After passing the test, you will be able to apply for an Illinois and Indiana Abatement license. We strongly suggest that when applying for the Illinois license, you also apply for the Indiana license. There are many times we have come up short for Indiana abatement workers. This is unfortunate because most of the time these types of jobs involve overtime since they are emergency situations. It is every Hazardous Waste Handlers responsibility to keep in their possession - their Asbestos Certificate, Abatement license, and physical. We would also encourage anyone thinking of taking the Firestop class to also consider taking the Hazardous Waste Handler Class. It gives the worker another chance for employment.

There will also be a Supervisor Refresher Class that is scheduled for May 31, 2007 in Peoria.

SURVEY SAYS

Local 17 tried something different last January. We sent “Work Surveys” to all of our contractors. We were trying to get a feel for how the workload will be for the months of February, March, and April. We asked our contractors to compare the workload of the previous 3 months to the future 3 months. Basically after compiling all the information, we could see that there was going to be very little change and maybe even a little dip.

We are fast approaching April, and so far the information was fairly accurate. Local 17 will send another survey out for the months of May, June, and July. We will keep everyone posted when we have those results.

LAYOFF PROCEDURES

Many opportunities are lost because the Union is unaware that some of our members are out of work. This can be for a variety of reasons such as members quitting or going on vacation only to find out when they come back that the job is finished. Please call the union hall to let someone know you are off and want to be placed on the “*Out Of Work*” list. Don’t depend solely on the contractor to inform us of your layoff. When out of work it is good practice to call the Union at least once every 2 weeks. When we don’t hear from someone for over 3 to 4 weeks we have to assume they went back to work or are choosing to be off for a reason. When you get employed, please call to take your name off the list.

DECEASED MEMBERS

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

Francis Labus

R# 23308

08-30-06

LOCAL 17 WEBSITE

It was a long time coming, and we took a little ribbing, but our Local 17 website is up and running. We think it has a very professional look to it. This project is in the very early stages with many more changes to come. Our website was advertised over the Internet at IndustrialInfo.com. They have a very large industrial based audience, and sent out over 60,000 emails announcing our website. The majority of the industrial plants in our area received an announcement. There was also a Press Release to many of the labor newspapers and Trade Journals.

Don’t forget to bookmark this site at Local17Insulators.com.

Editors,

B. Glynn, J. Crinion, **J. Caddick**, D. Byrne, Donna