

TEAMSTERS**1150 News**

www.teamsters1150.org

Official publication of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 1150

Employee Free Choice Act Tops IBT's Agenda

Labor Plays Role In 2006 Election; Demands Change

Organized Labor has always been good at mobilizing union members, getting the word out to the people and unifying individuals behind one activity or another. These efforts have traditionally been limited to organizing new unions, supporting our brothers and sisters in a struggle against an employer, or rallying publicly against a bad corporate citizen. It has not been until recently that the labor movement has taken its tremendous skills into the political arena and had an effect on an election at the grass-roots level.

The results of the 2006 elections prove that organized labor can have a direct impact politically, when we unite for a common purpose. Last year, organized labor mobilized its millions of members, imploring them to not only go to the polls and elect those who would be friends of working families, but to hit the streets and talk to their friends and neighbors about the same. As a result, we changed history and helped give control of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate back to the Democrats after 12 long years.

"Labor realizes that the majority of Americans, whether they are union members or not, consider themselves to



New Congress Gives Local 1150 Hope For Better Times Ahead



Teamsters will be working to make sure Congress upholds their promises of change.

be hard-working and deserving of fair treatment and dignity in the workplace," said Local 1150 Secretary-Treasurer Rocco Calo. "It is with this knowledge that union workers went out and spoke to people about the anti-worker, not just anti-union, onslaught emanating from Washington, D.C. We stated our case that unless changes, drastic changes, were made soon, the erosion of workers' rights would continue until the clock was turned back to the days of Haymarket. Obviously, the

majority of American working men and women listened and responded."

Calo said that while it would be presumptuous to assume that labor's political efforts are the sole reason for the changes that took place this past November, union leaders and workers alike realize that they did play a very big role in bringing about these changes.

"Politicians, both incumbents and challengers, ran campaigns that asked for workers' support and promised

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UNION PERSPECTIVES

— BY SECRETARY-TREASURER ROCCO CALO —

The Strike...One Year Later

February marked the anniversary of the Connecticut / Florida strike at Sikorsky Aircraft. One year afterwards, we still have much to discuss as the emotions that linger differ in intensity as well as origin. It is still difficult to find someone without an opinion about the strike and equally as difficult to find someone unwilling to share his or her opinion.

On February 20, 2006 we embarked on what would certainly be the most difficult six weeks of my leadership, and in some cases the most difficult six weeks of a lifetime. We chose to walk away from good-paying jobs and gather in the cold streets to take on a corporate giant who we believed was not treating us the way we deserved to be treated. When we made that difficult decision, very few of us thought it was a bad idea. A fight comes with the inherent risk of getting hurt, and whenever that happens it cannot change our opinion of whether or not the fight was for just cause.

Sikorsky Management Admits Strike Did Have An Impact

Our fight was just! We took on a rich and powerful corporation led by a greedy tyrant who was determined to take some serious blows for his cause. Throughout the fight, United Technologies proclaimed they would not waiver. They swore that they were continuing production operations by hiring temporary replacements, utilization of salaried workers and outsourcing of work. CEO George David declared from his office high atop the Gold Building that he would "stand firm" against the union, while company officials touted what they considered a foolproof plan.

"We are increasing production capacity every day," company spokesman Bud Grebey told the press during the strike. "Should this strike continue, our contingency plan will bring our operations back to full production. The

Navy has been fully briefed on our plan and is supportive of our efforts."

Time and again we have insisted that the effect of the strike was far more significant than the company was letting on, and that the benefits to us may take time to show. Recently, United Technologies revealed its financial statement for the 2006 operating year, and the truth of the six-week strike is undeniable. Sikorsky Aircraft saw operating profits drop 14% in the fourth quarter last year, and cited volume increases and the strike as the reasons for the decrease. The company added that it will take the better part of 2007 to correct the problem. This followed a report in the December *Connecticut Post* where George David himself said the strike contributed to production delays that will continue into the second half of 2007.

It is clear that, despite all the rhetoric the company engaged in during the strike, the damage they sustained was significant and continues to impact the company to this day. The injuries that our strike inflicted were not immediately seen, like a cut to the eye in a prize fight, but more like bruising that shows up days later and looks increasingly worse before it gets better.



Rocco Calo
Secretary-Treasurer

It is important to understand that the significant impact that our strike had on the company is not so much a source of pride as it is an important factor for employer to consider and remember in the future. We are not proud of causing harm to our employer, but want management to realize that we have the power do so and demand that they respect our abilities the next time we sit down to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with Sikorsky Aircraft.

Company Tries To "Get Even"

The pain we caused during the strike is evident in the way we were treated upon our return. Splintering our group, gathering us into a parking garage and "welcoming" us back by distributing company rules and a reminder of who is in charge, exemplifies the company's anger. For the past year, Sikorsky has engaged in the practice of striking back

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Teamsters Local 1150



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Teamsters Work To Bring About Positive Change In Congress

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change," Calo said. "Now that they are sworn in, armed with the power to make that change, we fully expect them to keep their promises. Am I saying Democrats are perfect. No. But, they are better than the alternative we faced for 12 years!"

IBT Legislative Agenda For 110th Congress

On January 8, 2007 the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Government Affairs Department outlined the IBT's legislative agenda for the 110th Congress. At the top of that agenda is passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, a bill introduced in both houses by a bipartisan coalition in April 2005. The act would strengthen protections for workers to choose to form a union and require employers to recognize the workers' union after a majority sign cards authorizing representation. It would also provide for stronger penalties when the law is violated. Other important items on this agenda include health care reform, retirement security and protecting American jobs.

"The midterm elections demonstrated that Americans demand change in this country," IBT General President Jim Hoffa said. "The Democratic majorities in the House and

Senate have an extraordinary opportunity to improve the lives of working families. The Teamsters will work tirelessly to ensure that workers are the focus of the new Congress."

Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act is vital to the recovery of the labor movement and its fight for working families and against corporate greed. Big business has embraced the use of illegal tactics in its effort to eliminate unions, an accusation long made by Labor and confirmed by a recent report published by the Center for Economic and Policy Research. The January, 2007 report entitled *Dropping the Ax: Illegal Firings During Union Election Campaigns* details the trend of illegal firings of union activists directly involved in union election campaigns since the late 1970's, a trend that peaked in the early 80's and has risen sharply since 2001. The report concludes that since 2005, a union organizer or activist involved in a union campaign has a 15% to 20% chance of being illegally fired, something designed to intimidate unions and, more importantly, put fear into workers seeking to exercise their rights to join a union.

The call for change has been made and the promises issued. As mothers, fathers, workers, union members and, most importantly, voters, we have an obligation to ourselves to ensure that the process is completed. We must hold elected officials to their word, making certain that the change we need comes about. We must let our elected officials know we are watching and taking note of their actions.

To contact your elected officials on the state and federal levels, go to our website at www.teamsters1150.org and click the "Contact Government Representatives" link on the left side of the home page. Your voice is your vote, so make your voice heard!



Secretary-Treasurer's Perspectives

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at us for the financial hurt we caused them.

Ultimately, the arrogance of a CEO and those who work for him caused the strike of 2006. That same arrogance allowed the strike to continue for six weeks, causing hardship for us and our families and financial losses for the company that George David runs. Arrogance is also the reason behind the retaliation we have endured since the strike ended.

There is still much work to be done to fully mend the relationship between the union and the company, but we believe this can be done. We must be secure in the action we took, and secure in the idea that the act was justified and true. The company must let go of the intense anger they feel toward us and understand that we are, without question, the finest helicopter manufacturers in the world.

This process is ongoing and will come to completion some day. However, brothers and sisters, be confident in the knowledge that the strike of 2006 has left a bitter taste in the mouths of company officials, and they will not be quick to travel that road again any time soon. I have never doubted that our decision to strike was the correct one, and I assure you that we will all see the fruits of our hard work when the time is right.



Local 1150 members fought a just fight against Sikorsky that will pay dividends in the future

Legal Service Available For Workers' Comp Cases

Teamsters Local 1150 members who have legal issues concerning Workers' Compensation can get legal advice and representation at discounted rates. Attorney Richard S. Aries is an expert in the field and a talented lawyer who has offered his legal services to our members.



If you have any questions or require legal representation for a workers' compensation case you can contact attorney Aries at (860) 648-9067 or FAX his office at (860) 648-9056. He can also be reached by mail at P.O. Box 431, South Windsor, CT 06074.

Not Sam Walton's Wal-Mart

The words of Sam Walton reverberate in many places. Unfortunately, not in the hearts and minds of those who have taken the reigns of the company that Walton built. Those who knew Sam Walton recognized him as a driven, charismatic man who still ate all that he hunted for and drove a pickup truck everywhere he went. He spoke often of his business philosophies and took great pride in being true to his words. Today's Wal-Mart is **NOT** Sam Walton's Wal-Mart.

Mr. Walton once declared that buying American-made products was the cure to the country's trade deficit and was sure his influence in the business community could be used to help others achieve the same success that he enjoyed. By the time he died at age 74, he had built an empire that provided he and his family with wealth and power beyond anything he had imagined. His vision of using that power to effect positive change died with him.

Today's Wal-Mart is indeed powerful. In fact, it is the crushing force behind the destruction of small businesses across the country, and leads the charge in the outsourcing of American jobs. Wal-Mart's business practices include using its power to demand agreements from vendors on deeper than usual discounts to undeniable returns on what the company considers "slow-moving" merchandise. These policies help make Wal-Mart vastly more profitable, but put the vendor at a huge risk of devastating losses. This certainly does not follow Sam's idea of using his power as a force for change.

An Idealism Built During the Great Depression

Born in 1918 and a child of the depression, Walton knew what it was like to be poor, to work hard for very little, and to want that which he could not have. Once successful, he understood that he and his business needed to be a positive force in the communities that they occupied.

"For Wal-Mart to maintain its position in the hearts of our customers we have to study more ways we can give something back to our communities," Walton once said. He believed that each store he opened should "share the values of its customers." For this to be a reality, Wal-Mart would have to not just blend into a community, but improve it.

Today's Wal-Mart destroys communities — plain and simple. The closure of small "mom and pop" businesses in the wake of a Wal-Mart opening is astounding. Studies show that for every job that Wal-Mart creates, 1.5 jobs are lost as a direct result of area businesses closing. During the last 10 years, national dependence on food stamps has increased by 8%. In communities where a Wal-Mart has opened that number increases to 15.3%, nearly double the national figure. Sam Walton's dream of his company being a "good neighbor" is far from reality today.

Sam Walton had a vision of enthusiasm at the workplace. This would be driven by the true happiness of the employee and a feeling that they were a part of something positive. It would derive from a general contentment that they were a valued and fairly compensated part of the team.

"You can't create a team spirit when the situation is so one-

sided, when management gets so much and workers get so little of the pie," Walton said. "If you want people in the stores to take care of the customers, you have to make sure you are taking care of the people in the stores." This enthusiasm would be seen by the customer and transfer into a warm and welcoming consumer experience.

Walton's Message Lost On Today's Wal-Mart

Today's Wal-Mart is a collection of underpaid, under appreciated employees who are forced into tasks like "people greeting" that attempt to give the illusion of a happy and enthusiastic workforce. They are intimidated into keeping quiet about poor working conditions and are fired for even using the word "union." Wal-Mart employees are routinely forced to work through lunch breaks and after shifts for no pay, and are made to perform duties that violate labor laws. Clearly Sam Walton's Wal-Mart is a thing of the past.

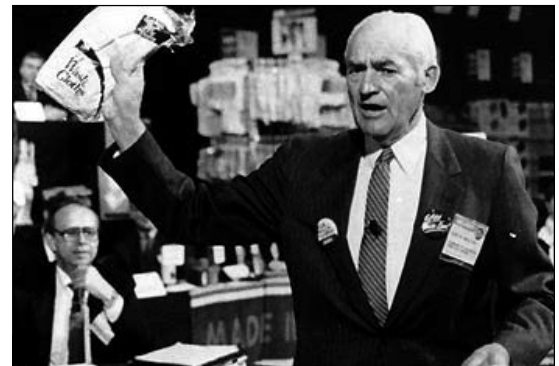
Walton understood business. He had a keen sense of how to be successful at nearly everything he did, according to those who knew him. His knowledge was not so sophisticated that he missed the basics either. When he died in 1992, Sam Walton

was the richest man in America, due in great part to his ability to motivate those who worked for him. He understood that a happy worker is a productive worker. Taking care of his employees meant that they would come to work every day with a desire to give an honest days work.

Today's Wal-Mart treats its employees as a perishable resource. They are underpaid and under appreciated and afraid to speak out. According to research, the average full-time Wal-Mart worker earned \$17,114 in 2005. That same research indicates that the average two-person family (*one adult and one child*) required \$27,948 to meet basic needs.

In January 2006, Wal-Mart reported that the company health care plan covered 43% of its employees. Wal-Mart employed 1.39 million people at the time. This leaves more than 785,000 people without insurance, or having to rely on state and federal programs. The Wal-Mart health care plan is far too costly for the average worker to buy into on the meager wages they are paid. The plan is almost exclusively used by management and executive employees.

Sam Walton's idea that his company should take care of its employees has been extinguished by the greed of his family. Sadly in their quest for profits, they have forgotten everything this man of vision taught them.



"The most important way in which we at Wal-Mart believe in giving something back is through our commitment to using the power of this enormous enterprise as a force for change."

– Sam Walton

Skyrocketing Health Care Costs Still Loom Large For Working Families

Health care insurance remains the big issue for working families across the country. If you thought that United Technologies was the only company demanding concessions from workers on health care while raking in historic profits, think again. If you think Teamsters Local 1150 is the only union gutsy enough to take on a huge company over the issue, open your eyes. It's happening all over, on scales large and small, and you can't help but notice.

United Technologies has seen its stock price rise nearly 17% over the last year, enjoyed a quarterly revenue growth of almost 14% in 2006 and is in the top 50 on the Fortune 500 list, yet they forced us out on strike over 31¢ worth of health care coverage.

At the time this article went to press, Harley Davidson workers, members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, were two weeks into a strike over company demands for pension concessions, retiree benefit cuts and, yes, health care. Harley stock prices have soared over the past year, rising more than 32%, all while the company enjoys an operating margin of 26% and a return on equity of 36%! Clearly, not numbers that you would expect to see from a company demanding givebacks. Not only did the company stand firm on its demands after two weeks of work stoppage, but they laid off 440 employees, citing the strike as the reason.

Stop & Shop Battle Focuses On Health Care

The latest battle to ensue over the health care debacle is between Stop & Shop Supermarkets, and nearly 45,000 United Food and Commercial Workers union members in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Members in all three states voted over a two-week period prior to the expiration of their contract to authorize a strike against the supermarket chain if an agreement could not be reached. The company passed a proposal that would call for employees to pay into their health insurance premiums for the first time. Employees already have high deductibles and out of pocket costs associated with usage of their plan.

What outrages most working men and women about the current trend is that profitable companies are passing off the rising cost of health care to the workers, while increasing the



Health care remains an issue challenging all working Americans.



return to shareholders and the compensation to executives. Most would agree that sharing the burden of such a national problem would not be opposed if it were truly shared. But that is clearly not what has been happening.

Unions are taking on the fight more and more. Sick of big business pushing us further under their thumb, we are willing to make a sacrifice to stop what is fast becoming a landslide public policy that will eventually bury working families and the middle class under a mountain of co-pays, premiums and uncovered expenses.

It is becoming pretty clear that it will take more than a series of high profile strikes to stop the bleeding. Increasingly these days you hear talk about the need for universal health care. This, too, is a controversial subject. Even politicians who propose that it be investigated as an option are not necessarily convinced it is the answer. The issue is big enough to be pointed to by most analysts as the #2 issue for the 2008 Presidential Election (Iraq will still be the top issue). The need for action on health care is so urgent that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA) has proposed universal health care legislation for his state, and Democratic presidential candidates John Edwards, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have all indicated that some such health care reform plan will be part of their campaign platform.

Most of these plans call for a requirement on businesses to either buy health insurance for their employees, or pay a fee to the government to be pooled and used to purchase coverage for all uninsured. They also include the creation of regional insurance pools that will be designed to lower costs.

What is certain and agreed upon by both sides of the political aisle is that America's health care crisis is at a boiling point. Workers are tired of taking the brunt of the increases, and politicians are obviously aware of the outcry. In a perfect world business, labor and government would come together to find a solution that works for everyone. While we don't live in a perfect world — we can still strive for perfection.

Get "Online" With Us Today

Local 1150's Website Offers New Look and Improved Rank-and-File Services

Few households these days are without at least one computer, and research suggests that most of those computers are connected to the Internet. According to the most recent US census, 62 million households (or 55%) are connected to the Internet, and that percentage goes up as income levels increase. This suggests that a large majority of our members have Internet-connected computers, and for this reason Teamsters Local 1150 offers information and services to members via the world wide web.

Local 1150 has maintained a website for many years, offering information on upcoming events, news, meeting schedules and more to its membership. Although this has not changed, there is a recent and ongoing effort to enhance our website to include other information and services.

Environmental Health & Safety: The addition of an EH&S page in December gives members a "one-stop" way to obtain a host of information on safety in the workplace. On this page you will find all the information you should need on the Safety Eyewear policy and reimbursement program, as well as information and resources on the Safety Footwear program. Members can access postings and articles on specific seasonal and holiday safety issues, and can also access information through links to all kinds of environmental health and safety organizations like OSHA, CDC and the National Safety Council. If you need to know how to file a safety complaint or find out who your EH&S steward is, just logon, it's all there.

School-To-Career: This past December we added a series of pages providing information and highlights of Local 1150's **School-to-Career Union Mentoring Project**. This program, now entering its sixth year, takes students from area technical high schools and offers them summer employment and an opportunity to work in a union environment. The web page offers links to the program synopsis and overview, partnership organizations, and individual pages that highlight each year of the program. We hope that this portion of the Local 1150 website will be enjoyable and informative for members, and will provide opportunities for outside organizations to learn about this program, which is now notionally recognized as one of the best of its kind.

Political Action: Perhaps most important is the addition of the Political Action page. Local 1150's leadership has made it clear that they believe a politically active membership serves to help the union's cause more than almost anything else. Politicians are responsible for enacting and amending the laws that govern us. They influence the way we interact with our employer and ultimately determine how valuable our wages are in the marketplace and how easily business can move jobs across borders. It is vital that our members, as workers in an ever-increasing competitive business climate, be aware of what is happening in the political arena, both locally and on the federal level. The Political Action page offers members the opportunity to preview and sign up for the newest service

of Local 1150: **The Political Action e-Newsletter**. This monthly newsletter, sent via e-mail, is free and will provide subscribers with updated information on legislation for and against working families, candidates for political office, decisions by local and federal labor boards that impact the status of workers, and general information on political activities of interest to our members.

If you previously signed up for a political action newsletter, please do so again. If you have not, we urge you to sign up today. Just go to our website at www.teamsters1150.org, click on the "Political Action" link on the left side of the home page and fill out the electronic form.

Contact Government Representatives: This staple of our website has been in existence for years, offering members a central location, whether they work in Connecticut, Alabama or Florida, to find and contact their representatives in Washington, D.C. The Contact Government Representatives page was revamped in January, and now includes links to local government sites like the governor's offices of all three states. Here you will also be able to search and contact your elected officials in the State House and State Senate. We must remain politically active on the federal and state levels, in order to effectively represent the membership. Thanks to our website, teamsters1150.org, this is easier than ever.

Local 1150's website may not be the fanciest website with all the "bells and whistles" of some internet locations, but we believe this site provides members with information and services they need to improve their lives and increase their understanding of issues and events effecting them as workers. Please visit our newly-revised website today, and when you do don't forget to click the "comments" button at the bottom of the home page and let us know what you like, what you think we should change.

Stay Updated About Activities Within Your Union At Our Newly-Redesigned Website...

www.teamsters1150.org



Log-on today and see what's new for you.

DRIVE Dollars Give Us Strength To Support and Advance Our Agenda

Big Business spends big money in our nation's capital and in state capitals across the country to push an agenda of increasing corporate profits through anti-worker legislation. Corporate America outspends organized labor by more than 15-to-1 on politics. Even with our significant efforts, business continues to gain ground with a more aggressive approach every day.

D.R.I.V.E. (Democratic Republican Independent Voter Education), the political arm of the IBT's Government Affairs Department, is an initiative backed by one of the nation's largest political action committees and funded fully by voluntary member donations to its PAC fund. Members, like you, voluntarily donate as little as \$1.00 or \$2.00 per week to support DRIVE and contribute to supporting working people and the issues that are important to us.

D.R.I.V.E. is not affiliated with any political party. As evident by its name, it is an effort to educate Teamsters about issues important to our cause, as well as candidates for political office who support our causes, regardless of party affiliation.

Contributions to DRIVE are used for:

- Voter registration programs.
- Financial support of political candidates who have a proven record of working with us, not against us.
- Keeping members and their families informed on key issues.
- Providing voter guides showing the voting records of your representatives in congress.
- Rallies, news conferences, advertisements, and phone banks to build support on issues of concern to working people.

If you are interested in contributing to DRIVE, either through payroll deduction or a one time contribution, please contact union hall. For more information on DRIVE, visit www.teamster.org/action/political/drive.htm



Teamsters Local 1150's Labor Assistance Program

Deb Johnson 386-3516 or 381-9240

Jim Coverson 386-5568



**Help Is Just A
Phone Call Away!**

Local 1150 Spotlight



Outstanding Member **KEN MOFFAT**

Teamsters Local 1150 and *1150 News* proudly salute Ken Moffat as this issue's Outstanding Member.

Rarely will you attend a Local 1150 Union function and not see Ken Moffat either in attendance or, more likely, actively involved in some way. Ken has been with the company for just over five years, but in that short period of time has established himself as a loyal and dedicated union member and representative, serving as Steward in the Stratford plant's machine shop for more than three years.

Ken's Union involvement goes far beyond his duties as a Steward. Taking experiences gained as an involved union member at AVCO, Moffat took on the mammoth task of organizing picketing activities during our 2006 strike. As Picket Coordinator, Ken was in charge of creating the picket roster, choosing picket captains and assuring that the picket lines were supplied with essentials, including wood, burn barrels, and picket signs. This commitment required a seven-day a week effort on his part and constant communications between the lines, the captains and union hall. For the same \$232/week that strikers received, Ken put in more than four times the hours out there, used his own vehicle and burned his own gas, all while leaving a nervous family at home.

A Commitment To A Stronger Union

Ken's desire to learn everything he can is evident in his commitment to labor education. He has taken all of the UCONN labor courses offered at the Union hall since they began, and is always in attendance for Local 1150 Steward training seminars.

"The Teamsters Union has done many great things for me and my family, and I want to return the favor and do what I can to keep this Union moving forward," Moffat said. "Being a Union member is more than just paying dues. We all have a duty to do what we can to make our Union stronger."

Ken Moffat is a proud Teamster dedicated to the people of his Union. He has consistently volunteered his time and fundraising efforts to the Scholarship Fund Golf Tournaments and Pool Tournaments, as well as the Sikorsky Walk Against Women's Cancer. He has co-coordinated fundraising events for members in need and organized an appreciation event for the police officers who worked during our strike.

Ken's total commitment to Local 1150, its efforts and its members are some of the many reasons we are so proud to call him our Outstanding Member.



Ken Moffat

Veterans' Corner

Women Have A Long History of Important U.S. Military Roles

Women are sometime thought to have always held a secondary role in military service in the United States, especially when it comes to their contributions during war time. This assumption is not only untrue, but can be refuted as far back as WWII, when women didn't just hold down the home front or enlist as nurses to help the wounded combat soldiers. Although these strongholds of women in service, along with the advent of the USO, are vital to the historical success of the US military, they have become the stereotypical image of women in service, overshadowing frontline roles usually thought of as exclusively male territory.

In 1942 more than 1,070 women enlisted in a program then known as the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), a group of experienced female pilots determined to use their skills in service of their country. Although they were technically volunteers in civilian service, the program, under the direction of General "Hap" Arnold, was intended to train women for full military service and eventually combat.



In August of 1943 the WAFS merged with another training program to form WASP (Women Air Force Service Pilots), making the enrolled women the first ever to fly military, combat-style aircraft. Not only did they continue their service as ferrying pilots, taking fighting men to and from the front lines, but they also began flying B-17 bombers and Hellcat fighters to train anti-aircraft gunners and test fly new airplanes. Some of these women became so

proficient that they were asked to serve as training instructors for male pilots going into combat. The women of WASP eventually flew every aircraft in the Army's arsenal and, in December of 1944, a bill went before Congress to fully militarize the Women's Air Force Service Pilots. After a brief congressional investigation it was determined that the need for pilots in military service had diminished and not only did the bill not pass, but the squadron was disbanded.

For the next 33 years, women were banned from flying military aircraft in the U.S. In the mid-1970's, the U.S. Navy announced that, for the first time, women service members would be allowed to fly government airplanes. The announcement motivated several former WASPs to seek the recognition that they never received and, in 1977 with the help of Senator Barry Goldwater and the son of General Arnold, Congress issued a belated militarization to WASP.

Since the 1970's, women's roles flying military aircraft have steadily increased and progressed and, since the onset of the

Gulf War, women are now flying full-combat missions in fighter, bomber and transport jet aircraft.

Women continue playing crucial roles in the U.S. military. In fact, Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester, daughter of Kentucky Teamsters Local 89 member Jerry Hester, fought her way through an enemy ambush south of Baghdad on March 20, 2006, killing three insurgents to save fellow soldiers' lives. For her heroism, Hester became the first woman since World War II to win the Silver Star medal for valor in combat.

The contributions of women to the fighting forces of our nation should never be forgotten, and most importantly, should never be misunderstood. Military women are a valuable member of the battle to protect our freedoms.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY



Service • Honor • Commitment


Women's Committee
FAT Family Affair
 for our Troops
 a social event

Saturday, April 14, 2007

5:00pm to 9:00pm

Local 1150 Union Hall

\$5.00 Donation per person

Women's Committee will supply finger food, set ups, soda, music and a raffle - All proceeds will be used to send phone cards and care packages to Local 1150 members who are deployed in Iraq

FOR INFORMATION & TICKETS CONTACT

Shirleen Waller @ 6-7168
 Donna Cairns @ 6-5867
 Deb Johnson @ 6-3516

Katie Wilson @ 6-3604
 Bessie Fisher @ 6-4451
 Helen Pipa @ 6-4288

Raising A Child With Disabilities

By Deb Johnson – LAP

Raising a child with a disability is a special challenge. It can be very hard and you may feel angry or depressed that your child cannot do some of the things other children can. You may have a myriad of internal struggles and emotions: blaming yourself or others for “causing” the disability, anger at fate, feeling alone in this struggle, fearing for the future of your child. You may even feel you wish you never had your child. Every parent reacts differently and all of these emotions are normal.

It is no crime to feel bad or to be angry. But if you are stuck working through them, then it is time to get some help. You don't need to put up a brave front. Talk to your friends and family about what you are feeling. You can join a parents' group with similar concerns, find comfort in religion or spirituality and find a good counselor that can help you handle stress in healthy ways.

Knowledge is power so gather as much information (at a realistic pace) as you can to learn about your child's disability. (It may take time learning about the disability. Don't rush things and don't let others rush you.) Contact the National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities, 1-800-695-0285 or <http://www.nichcy.org>), your health care provider, social service agencies, disability groups and your state reps. Work well and communicate openly with your child's medical specialists. Voice concerns, opinions and



Speak of your family's needs. Listen to recommendations, but if you disagree, explain why and see if you can come to a different solution. Keep all your medical records and, if possible, bring another set of ears with you when you go to the doctor with your child.

You can meet the challenge. Get to know your child. Learn about his/her likes and dislikes, what hopes, dreams and fears he or she may have, and avoid comparing your child to someone else. Focus on your child's positive points such as kindness, determination and cheerfulness. And show unconditional love. Tell your child you love him/her by your voice, a hug, or by being patient. Don't overprotect your child, however. Let him/her feel independent and do things for him or herself whenever possible. This also includes setting limits and consequences according to your child's abilities. And have fun. There is no substitute for laughter. Find things you and your child can both enjoy. Try to eliminate other stressors in your life so you can focus on adjusting to the disability. And don't overload yourself.

Family bonds are important. Take steps to make sure you spend time alone with your partner. Spend time alone with your other children individually and let the other children help care for the sibling with the disability. Be honest about the disability, but don't dwell on it.

You can move forward and focus on the joys and qualities that your child brings to your family based on who he/she is as a person and not their disability. Raising your child can be a joyous experience. Seeing your child reach his or her full potential makes all your efforts worthwhile. It is a prime opportunity for self growth as well. As you raise your child, you will find new strengths within yourself you never knew you had. Your child has unique abilities and gifts and can give you a new appreciation on life and love. Your family can have a wonderful, happy, fulfilling life.

For further information, contact your Labor Assistance Program; Deb at 6-3516 or Jim at 6-5568. Help is just a phone call away!

In part by Channing Bete Co.



Steward Elections Concluded

Elections were held on February 21st at Union Hall for the positions of Chief Job Evaluation Steward, Chief Environmental Health and Safety Steward and Job Evaluation Stewards. A constant flow of members during the day was indicative of the importance of these elections.

Joe “The Chief” Mazzucco was unopposed, retaining his position as Chief Job Evaluation Steward. Also retaining his position is Chief EH&S Steward Joe Grabinski, who defeated three challengers.

Seven candidates ran for three available Job Evaluation Steward positions in Connecticut. The three winners were Tom Matthews, who retains his position, Eduardo “Ponch” Martinez, also retaining his position, and Bob Garbien, a former labor steward.

Elections were also held in Alabama, where Labor, Job Evaluation and EH&S positions were filled. Winners of those elections are as follows:

First Shift Labor Stewards – Harry Jurek, Joe Norsworthy and Michelle Martin.

First Shift EH&S Steward – Jason Fisher

Second Shift Labor Stewards – Roy Ray Jackson and JJ Hand (both ran unopposed)

Second Shift EH&S Steward – O’Neal Sanders

Third Shift EH&S Steward – Chris Sanders (ran unopposed)

Job Evaluation Steward – Jeff Faulkner

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS!

Ongoing Union Hall Renovations Will Enhance Services For Members

Over the past several months, renovations have been taking place at union hall in an effort to make the building more economical to maintain, and to improve services for rank-and-file members.

In late summer, phase one of the project was completed, as a new roof was installed on the building along with new gutters. This upgrade was necessary to alleviate a worsening roof leak problem which threatened to cause major structural damage. This paved the way for the next phase of the endeavor – new heating and air conditioning.

Local 1150 members have long complained about a cold meeting hall in the winter, and a hot one in the summer. This condition should be eliminated with the installation of the new heating and air conditioning systems. The system includes the elimination of a costly and archaic furnace, which is being replaced by a state-of-the-art forced hot-air unit. The new unit will drastically reduce the cost of heating the building, which has reached as much as \$5,000 per month in the past. Also in the works, and the reason that the new roof was a priority, is the addition of air conditioning units that will be installed on the roof. These units will cool the office areas as well as the meeting hall making things more comfortable but maintaining economic sense.

Local 1150 Secretary-Treasurer Rocco Calo said that the Union hall is available for rent at a reasonable fee, but is free for members to use for retirement parties, etc. He added that the Union's goal is to make the meeting hall more esthetically pleasing, so it will become a greater resource for the membership.

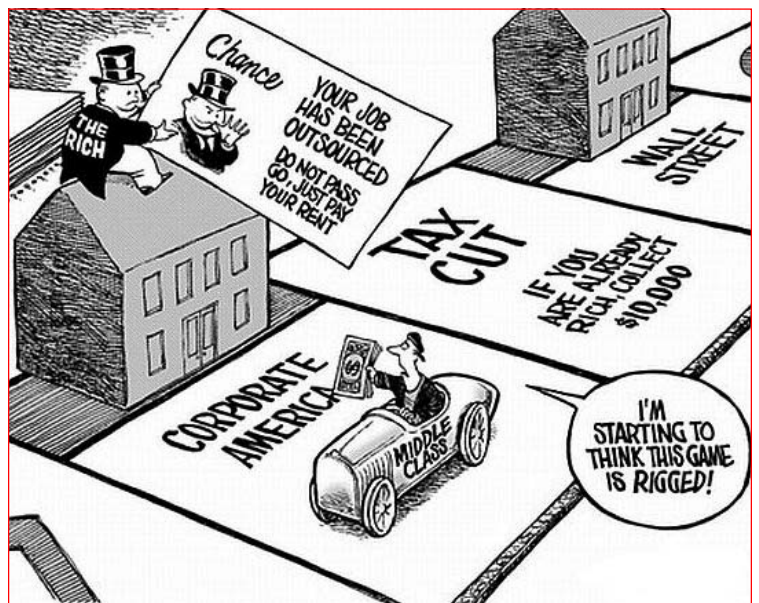
"The air conditioning was added specifically at the request of the membership," Calo said. "Our intent is to do additional work to make the meeting hall comfortable for Union meetings, but more importantly, for members to have the opportunity to use it for parties or other gatherings. This is the members' hall, and we believe members deserve a facility which they can be proud of, and one which can be used for a wide variety of events and activities."

The union is working to upgrade the hall so that Local 1150 will protect its investment. Real estate is premium in the area surrounding union hall, and the Union wants its investment to remain strong. The upgrades being done will raise the value of the property and help maintain a good resale value in the future. Estimates are that the building's resale value, when the work is completed, will be in the millions of dollars.

"The building that houses our offices and our meeting facilities is the largest investment the Local has," Calo said. "We have a fiduciary responsibility to protect that investment for our members and these upgrades will accomplish that."



The new air conditioning system and digital climate controls will help insure a more comfortable meeting hall for Local 1150 members.



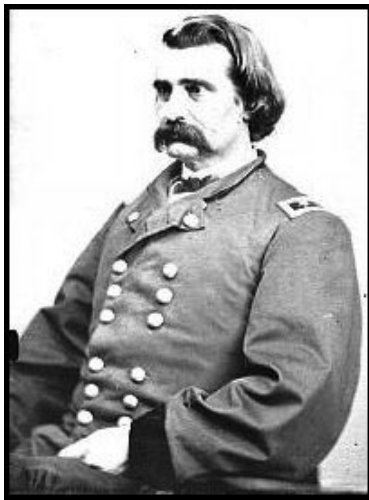
A LOOK AT HISTORY

Memorial Day

On May 30, 1868, flowers were placed on the graves of every Confederate and Union soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. This act of honoring those who died in service to our country was by no means the first, but it was the first time it was done so in an official capacity. There is evidence that even before the end of the Civil War, women were adorning graves of soldiers of the Confederacy in honor of their ultimate sacrifice.

On May 5, 1868, General John Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed "Memorial Day" when he ordered the decoration of the Arlington graves. The day continued to be observed in this symbolic fashion for several years until New York recognized it as an official holiday in 1873. Other northern states followed and all had declared it a holiday by 1890, although the southern states refused, choosing to honor their dead on different days. The south did not observe Memorial Day until after WWI, when the holiday was altered to honor those who died in any war, rather than just the Civil War.

In 1971, Congress passed the National Holiday Act, which calls for a guaranteed three-day weekend for all federal holidays. The Act includes the declaration of Memorial Day as a federal holiday. Memorial Day is now observed every-



General John Logan
Founder of Memorial Day

where on the last Monday in May.

As our nation continues to lose young men and women in uniform today, it is important to remember the meaning of Memorial Day. In many places it is seen simply as the day that marks the beginning of summer. It is often celebrated as "opening day" for little league baseball or thought of as the first day you can wear white pants and white shoes.

All of these things may hold a certain level of importance to some people, but they strip this day of its true meaning and glaze over something that should be in the forefront of our minds, not just on this day, but everyday. The scores of men and women who sacrificed their lives so that we may enjoy the freedoms that we have deserve to have this day for themselves, yet it is more difficult each year to find a parade on Memorial Day, much less a meaningful celebration.

Whether you agree with the politics behind a war or not, you should honor and respect those men and women who are willing to do that which terrifies most of us. The way of life we cherish so much is protected by a fighting force of individuals who are willing to sacrifice that very same life in order to preserve it for others. Our nation has grown to understand this in the last few years and has begun to recognize those in uniform. However, we still seem to forget the ones who have died in that uniform. We will thank a soldier for his or her service when we see them in the airport or bus terminal, yet more often than not we do not take the time to attend a parade or put flowers on the grave of a fallen soldier.

Back in December, 2000, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed, calling for a silent, personal moment of remembrance at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day. The playing of "Taps" is recommended, if possible. We ask all members to observe this moment of remembrance and urge all Sikorsky Aircraft locations to facilitate this observance. Our hope is that this will be a step in bringing the true meaning of Memorial Day back into hearts and minds of America.

Memorial Day is sacred and should be treated as such. It is as if we are attending the funeral of a fallen war hero each year. Honor and respect should be paramount in our observance of this special day.

PAY WATCH

George David
2006

Salary	\$1.7M
Bonus	\$3.8M
Other	\$0.87M
Stock Gains	\$26.37M
Total Compensation	\$32.73M
Stock Owned	\$102.6M
6-Year Compensation Average	\$40.6M

King David's Rankings

26th among all CEO's
1st among CEO's of conglomerates

UTC

WE CAN'T SHIP THOSE PARTS TODAY, OUR C.E.O. IS USING ALL THE TRUCKS TO HAVE HIS STOCK OPTIONS DELIVERED

SHIPPING DEPT.

2007 Hoffa Scholarship Applications Available

Local 1150 members are advised that applications for the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund, for use in the 2007-2008 academic year, are available at the IBT website www.teamster.org. **Deadline is March 30, 2007.**



James R. Hoffa

The Fund awards scholarships to outstanding high school seniors. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Be the son, daughter or grandchild of an active, retired, disabled, deceased or laid-off Teamster member who has or had at least twelve months of consecutive membership in good standing in the Teamsters Union.**
- 2. Be in his/her last year of high school and may not apply if he/she has already graduated from high school.**
- 3. Be in the top 15% of his/her high school class.**
- 4. Plan to submit excellent SAT or ACT scores for evaluation.**
- 5. Plan to attend an accredited college or university. Those who plan to attend non-academic or certificate programs may not apply.**

Unions must send applications to the Scholarship Fund by March 30, 2007. Applications received after March 30, 2007 will not be processed.

Members with questions about this scholarship should contact the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund at (202) 624-8735 or via e-mail at SCHOLARSHIP@TEAMSTER.ORG

International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 1150

150 Garfield Avenue
Stratford, Conn. 06615-7101
(203) 381-9240

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Connecticut Stewards

March 14th
1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

April 11th
1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

May 9th
1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Connecticut Members

March 21st
1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

April 18th
1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

May 16th
1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.



Alabama Stewards

March 26th @ 4:00 p.m.
April 23rd @ 4:00 p.m.
May 21st @ 4:00 p.m.

Alabama Members

March 27th
2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

April 24th
2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

May 22nd
2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Florida Stewards

March 28th @ 4:00 p.m.
April 25th @ 4:00 p.m.
May 23rd @ 4:00 p.m.

Florida Members

March 29th
12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

April 26th
12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

May 24th
12:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.



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