

GMP Horizons

January/February 2009

Serving Workers in the Glass, Metal,

Pottery and Plastics Industries



GMP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS



Notice of Nominations and Elections appear on page 16



Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics & Allied Workers, AFL-CIO, CLC
608 East Baltimore Pike, P.O. Box 607, Media, Pa. 19063

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PRINTED IN U.S.A. M 13

In this Issue:

In his message on page 1, President Ryan discusses how President Obama is taking action to produce the change he promised Americans in his campaign.

The GMP Executive Board meets. See page 3.

The GMP visits Local 233B at Sundstrom Pressed Steel. See page 15.

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Published bi-monthly at 4801 Viewpoint Place, Cheverly, MD. 20781, by the Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics & Allied Workers. Periodicals postage paid at Media, PA. and additional mailing offices. All Correspondence to HORIZONS should be sent to: 608 E. Baltimore Pike, P.O. Box 607, Media, PA 19063.

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JOHN P. RYAN
International President

**“The promises
of the 2008
campaign are
the national
agenda of
2009.”**

Campaign Promises Transform Into 2009 Legislative Agenda

Washington, D.C., is back in business and under new management. President Barack Obama is firmly in charge and impressively taking hold of his authority. He has begun the work of undoing the previous administration's misdeeds.

First, he signed a bill that gives workers more time to sue for wage discrimination. Then he rolled back Bush era anti-union rules that enabled employers to discriminate against union members in hiring and to write off expenses incurred in anti-union campaigns.

Bootstrapping ourselves out of this deep recession won't work. But good union jobs will help mightily. So we are extremely pleased to see that President Obama has acted on some of Labor's concerns.

“We need to level the playing field for workers and the unions that represent their interests,” President Obama said when he signed the orders. “I do not view the labor movement as part of the problem. To me, it's part of the solution.”

More remains to be done.

We have already seen action from the White House lead to passage of a stimulus bill in the House of Representatives (without any GOP votes, we note). Obama has acted on the environment, torture, Guantanamo and a roll-back of Bush-era edicts. He's off to a good start.

Obama has expressed his disapproval of Wall Street firms, including bailed-out companies, which paid \$18.4 billion in bonuses to employees. He called the bonuses “shameful.” We agree. It is wrong to allow the architects of a financial house of cards to reward themselves. Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) has further introduced legislation that would deny any employee of a bailed-out firm a salary greater than the President's. Seems fair to us, even generous.

Faulty financial instruments, risky banking practices and failure to keep the public informed have devastated millions of lives here and around the world. U.S. gross domestic product fell by nearly four percent in the last quarter of 2008. Too many people have neither the money nor the confidence to buy much more than necessities.

We in the GMP have seen many of our co-workers and fellow members and the industries that employ them harmed by government, finance, and corporate policies. Unfair trade agreements,

continued on page 2 ►

tax programs that reward off-shoring, and mergers funded by wholesale layoffs and terminations cannot be allowed to go unchecked. The government must act.

Record home foreclosures and bankruptcy, record 7.6 percent unemployment, and a continuing credit crunch (despite bank coffers filled by taxpayer dollars) are among the burdens that Obama must lift from the American people. Tax policies must focus on the needs of the middle class and wage earners, not on the richest Americans.

One of the key elements in Obama's economic rejuvenation program should be the Employee Free Choice Act. Union membership, freely gained, would strengthen the middle class and rebuild the economy. President Obama promised his support for this measure. Millions of American workers have said they want union representation. The President knows the importance of this measure.

"You cannot have a strong middle class without a strong labor movement," President Obama said when he signed the Executive Orders.

We need a national industrial policy, too. Our foreign trade policy has been a one-way street. That street, lined with foreclosed homes, winds through ravaged communities that once held thriving industries. Now every newscast features a story about closings, layoffs and hardships.

We were right to believe in the Obama campaign doctrine of hope and change. We now look confidently to our President and Democratic-controlled Congress to produce the change we believed in. We look for a system of national healthcare that will make us more competitive with foreign manufacturers. We look for action on education, human services, Social Security, Medicare, housing and labor law reform to better our lives and our country.

President Obama has created a White House Task Force on Middle Class Working Families. Vice President Biden, chair of the group, said the purpose of the task force "is to raise the living standards of the people who are the backbone of this country." It's about time, and we are grateful.

The promises of the 2008 campaign are the national agenda of 2009. They are on the table.



GMP Executive Board Meets

Holds Talks on Budget and Business Conditions



International President John Ryan chaired the GMP Executive Board meeting, which met in Orlando, Florida in January.



International Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Smith presented the 2009 budget to the Executive Board.



The GMP Executive Board met in Orlando, Florida, on January 27, 2009 to January 29, 2009. The Board met to deal with the challenges for the upcoming year and to set the operating budget for 2009.

International President Ryan chaired the meeting and he addressed the Board as to the issues that the GMP faces in the coming year. International Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Smith presented the budget to the Board accompanied with a detailed overview of all financial issues.

The Executive Board affirmed the proposed budget for 2009. Reports were given by the Vice Presidents with respect

to the number of grievances handled, arbitrations presented, organizing attempts and the results.

Director of Research & Education Frank Grotti and Director of Organizing Brenda Scotland gave reports on their respective departments.

Legal Counsel Fred Greenberg reported on legal matters for the GMP. International Representative Larry Johnson reported on the work he is doing on the GMP website.

Executive Officer Claude Beaudin reported on the Horizons magazine and the direction of the Horizons for the future.

The GMP, like all other labor organizations, continues to face closures and layoffs. The results are a reduced membership and the challenges that result.

The year 2009 portends to be an extremely difficult year for the GMP and all workers in the United States and Canada.

Your GMP Executive Board has taken necessary measures to ensure that the GMP is able to provide the same unmatched service that you as the membership have come to expect.

International Vice President Ignacio De La Fuente and Fred Neibauer, Controller, were unable to attend the meeting.


CORRECTION TO THE GMP EMPLOYERS RETIREE TRUST PPO CHART IN THE PLAN SUMMARY OF COVERAGE BOOKLET

PLEASE NOTE: There was an error on the PPO option chart at the top of page six in the GMP Employers Retiree Trust "Plan Summary of Coverage" booklet you may have received in December 2008. A lifetime maximum benefit of "\$150,000" is shown in both the "in-network" and "out-of-network" columns under the heading "Below the Highest Contribution Level". This is incorrect.

The correct lifetime maximum benefit is \$100,000.

We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this error may have caused. Please feel free to contact the Trust office at 239-936-6242 if you have any questions. Thank you for your understanding.

Courageous Women in Labor History



Historically, in the United States and Canada, women have played a huge role in the shaping of Union history. Their efforts can only be described as courageous and spirited.

Of the many stories of women in history, perhaps the most famous is that of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire in New York City. On Saturday, March 25, 1911, fire rages through the top floors of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory. The firefighters arrive on the scene only to discover that the ladders they have are not tall enough.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Company had locked the doors of the fire escapes. Some terrified workers jumped to their death. The fire was out in thirty minutes, and 146 of the 500 workers, mostly young women, were dead. This activated the power of women's rights and union power and initiated changes to workers' safety laws in the United States.

During Atlanta's Washerwomen Strike, less than two decades after the end of slavery, thousands of black laundresses went on strike for wages, respect and how their work was organized. It was the summer of 1881 and the women took on the Atlanta business and political establishment and gained enough support to use the threat of a general strike that would have shut down Atlanta. Incredible courage given the times.

In Canada, Laure Gaudreault, a unionist, was a teacher in 1906. She was 16 years old and earned a teaching certificate at age 15. She followed that up by attending Laval Teachers College in the female section of the Merici private school. After several years of teaching and health problems, she became a journalist with the newspaper *Le Progres du Saguenay*. Laure returned to the classroom in 1936 and noticed that working conditions had not evolved during her absence. Laure organized

the female rural elementary schoolteachers of the province into an association.

Under her leadership, 13 regional associations and more than 600 rural female teachers became members. In 1937, the Federation des Institutrices Rurales des la Province de Quebec was formed with Ms. Gaudreault as the President. For more than 20 years, Ms. Gaudreault defended the rights of female elementary schoolteachers. She participated in all causes and was known to be direct, firm and not easily deterred. Her career spanned more than 60 years. She was, and still is, an inspiration to everyone due to her involvement in unions and her will to change teaching environments. The teachers of Quebec have benefited by her efforts even today.

Madeleine Parent, a union activist, was born in Montreal in 1918. In 1942, she headed the unionization movement for the Dominion Textile plants in Valleyfield and Montreal. A short time later, there was a strike that resulted in entire families becoming involved in the union rights movement. On more than one occasion, Ms. Parent displayed courage, leadership and determination. Faced with daunting adversaries, she fought a constant battle against governments and the clergy. A sworn enemy of Maurice Duplessis, who accused her of being a communist, she endured threats and was arrested five times. Madeleine Parent and the strikers stood their ground, and, in 1946, more than 6000 cotton workers succeeded in forming a union. Ms. Parent retired in 1983, but only partially. She is a founding member of the National Action Committee on the status of women. Madeleine Parent continues to pursue her dream of social justice.

These women represent a rich history of achievement in unions. Will you be next?

(The source of information for this article was extracted from the AFL-CIO and the Canadian Library and Archives.)

Area Director Wesley Royster Retires with 11 Years of Service



Area Director Wesley Royster has retired, effective January 1, 2009, after eleven years of service.

He entered the trade with Hobart Corporation in Troy, Ohio, in 1966, where he served his Local 45, Columbus, Ohio, under the former Molders Union, as shop committeeman, steward and local organizer.

Royster was a Staff Representative of the Molders Union from 1978 to 1983. He also served as full-time Financial

Secretary of the GMP State of Ohio Local 45B from 1990 to 1997.

In 1997, Royster was hired by the GMP International Union as an International Representative. He was named an Executive Officer in September 2002, and then, in July of 2004, he was named an Area Director.

He and his wife, Willa, who reside in Ohio, have two children and four grandchildren.

GMP Memorial Scholarship Fund

In Memoriam Contributions
June 2008 – January 2009

Maggie Singleton
Hildrige Dockery
Terrie Kirkland
Timothy Ryan
Ralph Brommer, Jr.
Doris Mae McElhaney
Robert Rice
James E. Hatfield
Jarrell Legg
William Menn

Patty Veon
Norman Junior Aikens
Frank Gorman
William Trimbur
Ed Hayhurst
Donald Olmstead
Darrell Pete Lovejoy
Denzil Wilson
Gloria McKinnon
Beverly Girgatis

John Dawson
Finley Tice
Gilbert Shepherd
Josephine Shepherd
Helen E. Schaffer
Frank Bragg
Richard "Rick" Dalrymple
Nellie Bowen

A special thank you to Lankford Buick-Pontiac-GMP in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, for their generous donation to the GMP Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Also Local 117 in Lincoln, Illinois, made a generous donation to the GMP Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Employee Free Choice Act

Now that President Obama is officially in the White House there is hope for the future of American workers and their families.

President Obama certainly will have a full plate as the U.S.A. works its way through the recession. The times ahead will undoubtedly be difficult, but, having said that, there is hope for workers and their families with the “Employee Free Choice Act or EFCA”. What is EFCA? Simply put, if this Act is enacted it will become by far the most progressive labor law for American workers rights in decades. EFCA is a series of rights or tools that American workers will be able to use to form a union. The rights or tools are as follows:

If a majority of the employees seeking representation sign an authorization card, the National Labor Relations Board will certify the Union as the Bargaining Representative.

Today, if 30% of the workers sign a card then the NLRB will hold a secret ballot vote for the purpose of certifying representation.

Once recognition is obtained, the Union could then demand that the employer begin bargaining with the Union within ten days of certification.

If agreement on a first Collective Agreement cannot be reached within 90 days then the matter may be submitted for mediation by either party. Should that fail, after 30 days the matter could go to Binding Arbitration.

If the employer were found to have unlawfully terminated pro-union employees, they could be provided with up to three times back pay for damages.

In addition, EFCA could impose a \$20,000.00 penalty upon an employer if the NLRB or a court deemed a violation to be willful or repetitive.

In March 2007, the House of Representatives

passed the Act 241 to 185. The Senate in June 2007 voted 51 to 48 to proceed and consider the Bill. The Bill did not pass the 110th Congress because of the 60 votes needed to enforce cloture.

The question now becomes can we get it now that there is a Democrat running the show. We need EFCA now more than ever in the history of labor in this country. Employers are of course opposed to the Act. They want to be able to continue to intimidate, threaten and generally interfere with the rights of millions of workers to join unions across the country. Will President Obama step up to the plate and help workers who want to join Unions across America the vehicle to do so free of the filthy tactics used by employers to suppress workers forming and joining unions.

President Obama has a lot of issues facing him now and the economy is at the forefront. But, workers being able to earn a decent living has to be at the head of the line. It is the workers of this great land that pay the taxes, they buy the goods and they defend America when called upon. The time is now not later in President Obama’s mandate to act to ensure passage of the Employee Free Choice Act to help get America back onto its feet and move towards economic recovery. As workers and union members, we need to do our part as well. Long gone is the time to enjoy the luxury of sitting back and watching. Call your Senators and Representatives and tell them that you want the Employee Free Choice Act passed this time. Remember, they work for you, not only business.

For more information on the Employee Free Choice Act, go to the AFL-CIO website.

Let’s act now for our future and our children’s future.

Constitutions printed in Spanish are available to local unions. Please make your request to the Research & Education Department in Media, PA via mail, phone # (610-565-5051 ext. 245 or 248) or email (research@gmpiu.org).

Harper's Conservatives Release 2009 Budget

The Conservatives have put out the 2009 budget for the tough economic year ahead. The Canadian Labour Congress has analyzed the budget and this is a synopsis of what the CLC has to say.

The most important priority for the Budget was to not allow unemployment rates to rise to 8% this year and double digits next year.

We said stimulus should be concentrated in two key areas:

- Public investment in infrastructure, green industries and public services.
- Income support for victims of the recession, through major improvements to Employment Insurance and better public pensions.

Corporate tax cuts are a poor way to create jobs and help troubled industries because there is no benefit to companies already losing money and it has no impact on real investment.

Personal income tax cuts are also poor job creators because tax cuts will be saved due to fear of job loss and the higher proportion of consumer spending goes into imports.

This is what we ended up getting, \$34 billion in 2009-10 and \$30 billion in 2010-11 or just over 1% of GDP this year. Half of what the IMF called for, and much less than the Obama proposal for a stimulus of as much as 5% of GDP.

The Government re-announced wage controls of 1.5% for federal workers for 3 years; asset and crown corporation sales; and its commitment to P3S in federally funded infrastructure programs will continue. Spending cuts have not been deducted from the "stimulus package".

The most important issue to the Labour movement is the Manufacturing Crisis. The CLC said that instead of across the board cuts to corporate tax rates, invest directly in support of sector renewal strategies to save jobs and promote successful restructuring in hard hit industries. Promote fundamental changes to unbalanced trade deals to reverse our manufacturing trade deficit and promote higher value added processing of our resources.

Instead there were some modest measures such as temporary extensions of a two year fast to write off new machinery investment and there are small tax breaks for small businesses.

Freeing up credit markets for new mortgages and consumer lending by financial institutions were announced as well. Further steps to improve bank lending are being taken.

Employment Insurance benefits needed to be the centerpiece of the Budget. This directly assists the victims of the recession.

The conservatives have added five weeks of eligibility to all claims taking the maximum outside very high unemployment regions to 50 weeks. This will only last for two years. Nothing is done to equalize the entry system across Canada or to make more of the unemployed eligible for benefits.

Work sharing can run for an additional 14 weeks making the maximum 52 weeks. This is for two years as well.

Severance pay will not be offset against EI if spent on training by an unemployed worker and severance will be protected to some degree through extension of "The wage earner protection fund".

EI premiums are frozen for two years.

There were no new improvements to public pensions or any new action to shore up employer pension plans. The only thing we got were hints of greater flexibility to allow employers to deal with plan shortfalls. There are no pension guarantees.

Training and labour adjustment did receive some major investments. Time will tell if these investments will reflect labour priorities or support high quality, certified, portable training. The Budget includes \$1 billion in training funds for laid-off workers to assist those eligible to collect EI, over two years and another \$500 million over two years for those not eligible for EI.

\$500 million in EI training will be aimed at "long-tenured workers" who have worked at the same job for a long time and have a narrow skill set and are not close to retirement, to provide extended EI benefits and cover training costs.

This is only a quick overview of the Budget. For a more detailed look at what the Canadian Labour Congress's analysis is check out www.clc-ctc.ca

Will the Budget accomplish what is needed remains to be seen, but one thing for sure is that it has fallen far short of Canadian's expectations.

Retirement Luncheon Held For Area Director Wesley Royster



Seen here (L-R): Area Director Wesley M. Royster, who served the Local Union for 16 years, former Local Union President Joe Urbansky (approx 16 yrs), former Local Union President George Hinton (approx 12 yrs), former Local Union Trustee/Auditor McKinley Dickerson (approx 27 yrs) and retired GMP Executive Officer Robert Fada, who served the Local Union for approximately 8 years before joining the International Union.

GMP Local Union #45B retirees took some time to have lunch on October 3, 2008, and prepare upcoming retiree Area Director Wesley Royster for his well earned retirement on January



(L-R): George Hinton and McKinley Dickerson.

1, 2009. The group, which represents only a small portion of the officers who have served the Local Union over the years, got together for a luncheon in Wellington, Ohio.

New Officers Sworn In at Local 2B, Ellwood City, PA



International Representative Richard Baumcraz recently conducted the swearing-in ceremony for new officers at Local Union 2B, Ellwood City, PA. Seen here (L-R): Treasurer Diana Bales, Secretary Scott Lilly, President Frank Seman, Baumcraz, and Vice President Kim Gardner. They will serve a 3-year term.

Executive Officer Vitatoe Conducts Swearing-In of Officers At Local 166 Dolton, IL



On November 18, 2008, Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe conducted the swearing-in of new officers at Local 166. Standing from (L-R): Front row: Financial Secretary Suzy Rhoades and Vitatoe Second row: Trustees Mary Randolph and Sheryl Mailath Third row: President Winstone Davis, Recording Debra Buggs, Vice President (Hot End) Ron Fry and Vice President (P&M) Pam Frazier.

Local 14 Hosts Annual "Lunch with Santa"

GMP Local Union #14, Winchester, Indiana, held their annual Kids Christmas Party at the Winchester Moose Lodge. The day is called "Lunch with Santa". The approximately

75 children in attendance enjoyed lunch, played games, won prizes and had their photos taken with Santa. Local 14 President Patti Davis would like to thank all that helped make this a great

day for our kids. Local 14 would like to extend their wishes to all GMP Locals, Members and International Officers for a "Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year".



Local 14 Christmas Committee members are seen here: (L-R): Cathy McNamara, Local 14 President Patti Davis, Terri Funk, Melissa Rowe, Local 14 Financial Secretary Sandy Newby, Local 14 Recording Secretary Tracy Carpenter, "Santa" Mark Funk, Pam Schroeder, Krista Hampshire, Bill Baldrige and Debbie Hunt. Not pictured are Everett Bradburn, Renny Shaneyfelt and David Armstrong.



Approximately 75 children were treated to the annual Christmas Party called "Lunch with Santa", hosted by the Local 14 Christmas Committee. The children played games, won prizes and had their pictures taken with Santa.

Shop Steward Training and Swearing-In Of New Officers at Local 33, Toano, VA



Research and Education Director Frank Grotti recently conducted a steward training class for Local Union 33 in Toano, VA. He also conducted the swearing-in of new officers. Seen here (L-R): Recording Secretary Barry Christian, Financial Secretary Janice Williams, Vice President Michael Christian, President Joel Easter and Grotti. (Barry and Michael Christian are brothers.)

Executive Officer Vitatoe Attends Union Meetings in Lincoln, Illinois



(L-R): Rick Vitatoe, Local 117 Vice President Steve Mesner, President Tom Gallagher, Financial Secretary Myron Slack and Recording Secretary Bob O'Connell.



(L-R): Rick Vitatoe, Local 71 Financial Secretary Eric Harris, President Ed Deilkes and Recording Secretary Rochelle Bixler.

Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe recently attended the monthly membership meetings for Local Unions 71 & 117 in Lincoln, Illinois. Local Union officers were

sworn in by Officer Vitatoe for the next term of office. Members of both locals work at the Saint-Gobain plant located in Lincoln.

Steward Training Classes in Illinois



Seen here (L-R): 1st row (seated): Betty Shaw, Ana Tostado and Fiesta Faniel, 2nd row (standing): Thomas Walker, Diane Bartke, Mary Randolph, Janet Small, Ron Gordon and Richard Smith, 3rd row (standing): Chester Ulman, Melvin Powell, Melvin Swanson, Martin Upshaw, Vitatoe, Michael Polan and Mark Schreck.

On November 10, 2008 Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe conducted a Steward Training Class in Dolton, Illinois, and the following Local Unions were in attendance: Local 70, Gerresheimer Glass, Chicago Heights, IL; Local 166, Saint-Gobain, Dolton, IL; and Local 221, Alcan Packaging, Des Plaines, IL.



Seen here (L-R), 1st row (seated): Susan Brown, Dolores Martinez, Suzy Rhoades and Debra Buggs, 2nd row (seated): Pamela Frazier, Sheryl Mailath and Ron Fry, 3rd row (standing): Andre Brown, Terry West, John Schrage, Vitatoe, Winstone Davis, Paul Dodd, Carey Becton, Jr., Richard Carr, Hector Rodriguez, Nick Lukianovich and Melvin Powell.

On January 12, 2009, Executive Officer Vitatoe conducted another Steward Training Class in Dolton, IL, and the following Local Unions attended: Local 70, Gerresheimer Glass, Chicago Heights, IL; Local 138, Graham Packaging, Chicago, IL; and Local 166, Saint-Gobain, Dolton, IL.

New 4-Year Agreement Between Local 137, Los Angeles, CA And Carmeuse Industrial Sands, San Juan Capistrano



Local Union 137 (Los Angeles, CA) Shop Steward Luis Tellez show off the new Carmeuse Company (San Juan Capistrano) shirt and newly negotiated four-year agreement. Executive Officer David Pope was the lead negotiator for the new contract.

Carmeuse Industrial Sands Holds Picnic For Local Union 137 Members



Executive Officer David Pope and Shop Steward Luis Tellez.

Carmeuse Industrial Sands in San Juan Capistrano, CA, recently held a picnic for the Local 137 members employed at their facility. The employees recently completed two years without any lost-time accidents.



Employees and families at Carmeuse Industrial Sands enjoyed a picnic which celebrated two years without any lost-time accidents.

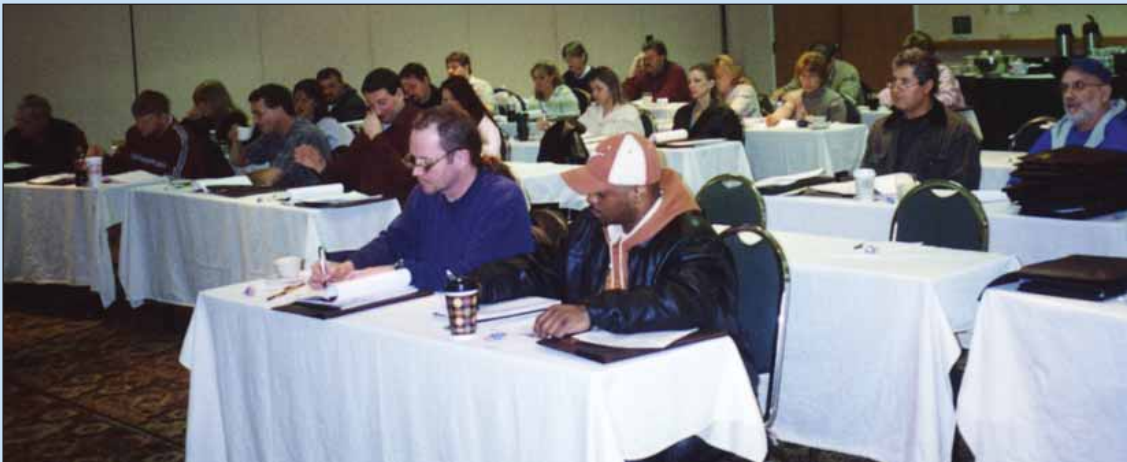
Steward Training Class Held in Indiana

On January 16, 2009, Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe conducted a Shop Steward Training Class in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the Indiana State Council & Educational Conference. Vitatoe was assisted by International Vice President Frank J. Brandao, Sr. and Executive Officer Randy Gould.

There were a total of forty-three GMP members in attendance from ten different Local Unions in Indiana. Local Unions in attendance were: #14 (Winchester), #38 (Marion), #42 (Lawrenceburg), #65 (Winchester), #96 (Dunkirk), #121 (Dunkirk), #207 (Lapel), #229 (Ligonier), #285 (Ft. Wayne) and 316B (Michigan City).



Seen here are the officers of the IN State Council & Education Conference (L-R, front row): International Vice President Frank J. Brandao, Sr., Trustee John Dulworth, Treasurer Sandy Newby, Legislative Director Patti Davis and Recording Secretary Rick Wayman. (back row): Gould, President Paul McCoy and Vitatoe.

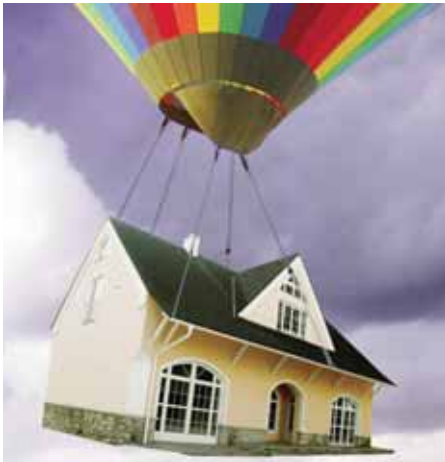


GMP members take notes during the meeting.

Submitting photos to *Horizons*: To achieve the best printed results, the following guidelines should be followed: **Traditional film photography:** 4" x 6" glossy prints on photographic film paper (such as that from your local drug store developer) are preferred. Do not send ink jet, copier, or laser prints. **Digital photography:** A 4.1 megapixel camera or better is recommended. Our printing press requires 300 dpi (dots per inch) for b&w photographs at the final size printed. This means subjects should be photographed using the highest quality JPEG setting on your digital camera (fine). Only JPEG or TIFF formats are acceptable. Images should be unmanipulated; not corrected for size, cropping, color mode, quality of color, or sharpness. Download them from your camera and submit on a CD with a hard-copy print out. Do not e-mail due to large file sizes and the possibility for corruption in transmission.

Having Problems Paying Your Mortgage?

Act Now



Don't Let Your Home Get Away From You.

If your adjustable rate mortgage (ARM) payments have increased or you are facing other challenges in being able to afford your mortgage, the Union Plus Save My Home Hotline may be able to help. Free, confidential counseling is available from HUD-certified housing counselors who can help you develop a budget, answer your questions and explain the strategies available to help you avoid foreclosure.

The Save My Home Hotline Can Help

The recent surge in foreclosures means that many working families are being put out of their homes. Don't let it happen to you!

Whether you are looking to stay ahead of the game, falling behind on your payments, or in foreclosure, we can help.

The Union Plus Save My Home Hotline can provide information and advice.

Get Help from HUD Certified Counselors

Free, confidential telephone counseling is available 24 hours a day. Face-to-face counseling is also available.

HUD-certified counselors from the nation's largest nonprofit credit counseling service provide past due mortgage assistance, including foreclosure prevention services.

The counselors can also help BEFORE you get in trouble by working with you to develop a budget and an action plan to manage your debt, including credit cards, student loans, tax debt.

Don't Risk Losing Your Home to Foreclosure

The Save My Home Hotline is dedicated to educating homeowners about their loans. Don't wait until trouble comes knocking at your door. Call now to find out where you stand with your mortgage.



Call the Save My Home Hotline at:

1-866-490-5361

For more information log onto:

www.UnionPlus.org/SaveMyHome

Local 28B Marches in Labour Day Parade



Seen here are the participants from Local 28B (Toronto) in the Annual Labour Day Parade in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

GMP Delegates Attend CLC Convention in Toronto



Seen here (L-R): Executive Officer Claude Beaudin, OFL President Wayne Samuelson and Local 28B President Mike Mantello.

The Canadian Labour Congress Convention was recently held in Toronto at then Metro Convention Centre. The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) represents over 3 million workers and is the umbrella group for Canadian national and international unions, provincial and territorial federations of labour and 136 labour councils. The CLC leads labour in Canada in a variety of labour issues on the Federal level, including, but not limited to, political action, organizing, human rights and all other issues of interest to labour. The Convention was held and conducted in the same manner as any Convention to set direction and policy for the CLC for the next term. Local 28B President Mike Mantello represented the GMP as a delegate to the Convention. Mantello and Executive Officer Claude Beaudin met with OFL (Ontario Labour of Federation) President Wayne Samuelson at the Convention, where they discussed a variety of current topics concerning labour in Ontario.



(L-R): Lowery, Local 28B Secretary-Treasurer Luigi Di Fonzo, Mantello, John Guglielmelli, Carlo Fracassa and Beaudin.

CANADIAN ROUNDUP

Local 28B President Mantello Presents Cheque To Oshawa Hospital Foundation



Local 28B (Toronto, ON) President Mike Mantello presented a cheque in the amount of \$17,002.00 to the R.S. McLaughlin Durham Regional Cancer Centre. Mantello (seen 3rd from the left) is seen here with representatives of the Oshawa Hospital Foundation. Canadian International Vice President Dave Doyle donated to the cause as well. Mantello is an active fundraiser for a variety of causes in the community.

Executive Officer Beaudin Attends LU 28B Dinner

Executive Officer Claude Beaudin recently attended the Annual 28B Appreciation Dinner held in Toronto. John Guglielmelli and Carlo Fracassa were honoured guests. Fracassa has recently retired and Guglielmelli's plant (Aleris) recently closed. Both are long-time activists in the labour movement and have served 28B in a variety of roles on the Local Committee. Guglielmelli also served as President of the GMP Ontario Council. Their presence will be greatly missed by Local 28B and the GMP International Union.



Seen here at the Local 28B Appreciation dinner held in Toronto (L-R): Executive Officer Claude Beaudin, Local 28B President Mike Mantello, Committee Member Terry "Tex" Lowery, Di Fonzo, Guglielmelli and Fracassa.

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Local 233B Hosts Tour at Sundstrom Pressed Steel

Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe met with officers and members of Local Union 233B, on October 1, 2008, as he toured the Sundstrom Pressed Steel facility in Chicago, Illinois.

The majority of business at Sundstrom Pressed Steel is pressed stamped metal products.

Currently, 40 GMP Local 233B members working at this facility produce hand brake wheels for the railroad. Sundstrom Pressed Steel Company, located on South Chicago Avenue in Chicago, first opened in 1922.

The officers of Local 233B, Chicago, Illinois, are: President Willie Morrow and Secretary-Treasurer Calvin Thomas. Local 233B was chartered in 1892.



Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe recently toured the Sundstrom Pressed Steel facility in Chicago, IL. Seen here (L-R): Local 233B member Mohammad Hunter (Machine Operator with 30 yrs seniority), Vitatoe, Terrance Miller (Machine Operator with 17 yrs seniority) and Calvin Thomas (Quality Assistance & Shop Chairman with 13 yrs seniority).



(L-R): Vega, Hunter, Miller & Herb Rentschler (Plant Manager).



Vitatoe met with Local 233B members and officers as he toured the Sundstrom facility. Seen here (L-R): Jose Vega (Machine Operator with 4 yrs seniority), Vitatoe and Calvin Thomas (Financial Secretary & Shop Chairman).

GMP Summer School Announcement

PLACE: West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia; Stalnaker Hall

TIME: Sunday, May 31, 2009 – Friday, June 5, 2009

COST: The International Union will pay for room, board and tuition. Lost time, travel, etc. are paid by the Local Union or Student.

SUBJECTS: The subjects taught to students will be basic trade union topics, i. e., steward training, negotiations, labor law, etc.

SELECTION: Applications are sent to the Local Union President.

DEADLINE: Scholarship applications MUST be submitted by February 27, 2009. Awards will be made on March 11, 2009.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The National Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is the basis on which our Cost of Living clauses are calculated. Thus, changes in the CPI-W are the basis for wage increases as required by many GMP contracts.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics which publishes the Consumer Price Index has re-formulated the CPI-W, and discontinued the old index in July, 1985 when it published the June, 1985 Index. The new CPI-W reflects a change from home ownership costs to rental equivalent costs.

GMP HORIZONS will continue to publish the CPI-W for the benefit of GMP members.

Although most contracts call for a COL increase based on an increase in points, some have provisions for increases based on percentages. Therefore, both the percentage increase and point increase are shown below.

Effective dates and terms of the contract clauses vary. Consequently, an interested member should consult his current Union Contract for effective dates and provisions. He then can judge from the changes noted in the table if the agreement provisions call for an increase.

For purposes of gauging changes, the base index will remain 1967 = 100.



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U.S.A. for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

| | (1967 = 100) Index | Percent Increase | Point Increase |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| January 2008 | 615.8 | 0.5% | 2.9 |
| February 2008 | 617.3 | 0.3% | 1.5 |
| March 2008 | 622.9 | 0.9% | 5.6 |
| April 2008 | 627.6 | 0.8% | 4.7 |
| May 2008 | 633.8 | 1.0% | 6.2 |
| June 2008 | 641.1 | 1.1% | 7.3 |
| July 2008 | 644.3 | 0.5% | 3.2 |
| August 2008 | 641.2 | -0.5% | -3.1 |
| September 2008 | 640.2 | -0.1% | -0.9 |
| October 2008 | 632.0 | -1.3% | -8.2 |
| November 2008 | 617.4 | -2.3% | -14.6 |
| December 2008 | 610.1 | -1.2% | -7.3 |

12 Month Index Increase = -2.8 • Year-to-Date Inflation Rate Increased by Approximately -2.1%

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL CANADA

| | (1986=100) | | (1992=100) | |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| January | 166.9 | 171.3 | 130.3 | 133.7 |
| February | 168.1 | 171.8 | 131.2 | 134.1 |
| March | 169.5 | 172.4 | 132.2 | 134.6 |
| April | 170.1 | 173.8 | 132.8 | 135.7 |
| May | 170.8 | 176.3 | 133.4 | 137.6 |
| June | 171.3 | 176.6 | 133.8 | 137.9 |
| July | 171.5 | 177.3 | 133.9 | 138.4 |
| August | 171.0 | 177.0 | 133.5 | 138.2 |
| September | 171.3 | 177.2 | 133.7 | 138.3 |
| October | 170.8 | | 133.4 | |
| November | 171.4 | | 133.8 | |
| December | 171.7 | | 134.0 | |
| Annual Average | | | | |
| Average Annual Increase | | | | |
| March 2007 to March 2008 | 3.4% | | 3.4% | |
| | (1971=100) | | (1981=100) | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| January | 533.29 | 536.9 | 221.2 | 227.0 |
| February | 526.9 | 538.5 | 222.8 | 227.7 |
| March | 531.3 | 540.6 | 224.6 | 228.5 |
| April | 533.3 | 544.9 | 225.5 | 230.4 |
| May | 535.7 | 552.6 | 226.5 | 233.6 |
| June | 537.3 | 553.8 | 227.2 | 234.1 |
| July | 537.8 | 555.8 | 227.3 | 235.0 |
| August | 536.1 | 555.0 | 226.7 | 234.6 |
| September | 536.9 | 555.4 | 227.1 | 234.8 |
| October | 535.7 | | 226.5 | |
| November | 537.3 | | 227.2 | |
| December | 538.1 | | 227.5 | |

Notices of Nominations and Elections

Local 140, Streator, IL

The nomination of officers for Local 140, Streator, Illinois, will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at the regular monthly meeting at 7:00 P.M. at the American Legion Hall, Post 29, 218 West Main Street, Streator, IL.

The election of officers for Local 140 will be held at the O-I North Selecting Door Entrance "Pay Check/Lock-Box Area" located at 901 North Shabbona Street, Streator, IL, on Thursday, July 16, 2009. Polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. until 8:00 A.M., 1:30 P.M. until 4:00 P.M., and 9:30 P.M. until 11:00 P.M.

NOTICE: Any Local Union advertising its nominations and elections in Horizons must submit 120 days prior to the nominations date, an up-to-date corrected mailing list along with other details.

DEATH BENEFIT DUES - In the event you leave employment seeking permanent and total disability, YOU MUST CONTINUE PAYING YOUR DEATH BENEFIT DUES until such time as permanent and total disability status is established. As a general rule, disability determination routinely take from 6 to 8 months.

Any overpayments will be refunded.

Do not permit your DEATH BENEFIT DUES to become delinquent over 90 days. All GMP members are responsible for making payments to maintain death benefit eligibility. Persons wishing to report a death or discuss the death benefit may call the Death Benefit Department at 1-610-565-5051 ext. 221. Remember to check your official beneficiary information. The beneficiary of record is solely entitled to the Death Benefit.

Submit beneficiary changes immediately.

All claims must be filed within one (1) year of death.

Early retirees are also responsible for payment up to age 65. If you are self-paying, indicate your local union number and forward your check to:

Bruce Smith
GMP Int'l. Secretary-Treasurer
PO Box 607
608 E. Baltimore Pike
Media, PA 19063



Lighten Up

Well greetings readers. Hope you enjoyed the previous "Publisher's Rant" and here we are again. This issue I want to rant about being "Politically Correct".

Now don't get me wrong, those of you who know me personally know that I have absolutely no time for racism, harassment of any kind, religious prejudice etc.

We just went through the Christmas season and you know what, I had a great "Christmas"

I didn't have a great "Holiday Season", I had a great "Christmas Season". I have the utmost respect for any religious holiday, season or period, what ever these other periods of celebrations are. But, and I mean "BUT", let's let everybody have the right to celebrate whatever it is they celebrate. In my home we have a Christmas Tree. Not a "Holiday Tree" and you know what? There is nothing wrong with that. When I was a kid, and that is sometime ago now, we took great joy, Mom in decorating and celebrating our very often, modest but genuinely "Merry Christmas". Like I am sure the same was with all of you, as children, we did the big build up to the magic day. We couldn't sleep that well Christmas Eve but we managed to remain in bed until at least 6:00 a.m., under the threat of physical violence, usually from Dad. Come 6:00 a.m., look out, we sprang out of bed and hit the floor running. We opened the gifts that Santa had delivered and had an awesome time. Don't you think it funny as we got older we never attempted to track old Santa? Some of us became great hunters but, we couldn't track this fat, old guy. Huh,

guess we didn't want to give up on the old guy. Anyhow, there is nothing wrong with celebrating Christmas, the old fashion way and calling it Christmas. You know up in Canada I speak to several members and they are a very diverse group of people. They don't have a problem with us celebrating Christmas. They will tell you they are happy to have the day off with pay. They are also happy to allow us to have our day of celebration. Would they like to have a paid holiday for their special day? Sure they would. I guess we will have to address their needs in the very near future as both countries become more and more diverse. That is only fair and makes sense as trade unionists and GMP members. If we don't look out for each other, who will?

So who is it that demanded that we call the coveted "Christmas tree" a "Holiday Tree"? That will be the easy part, the hard part will be explaining why? Why is so offensive to this person or group of people that we call it a "Christmas Tree"? Is it the tree itself? Is it that they don't want the day off with pay? Is it a special interest group that hates people cutting down Balsam Fir trees or Pine trees? What? You know in both Canada and the United States we have celebrated Christmas in the same manner. There are those who choose not to celebrate the season and that's O.K. I personally have some friends that do not celebrate or even acknowledge Christmas for religious or commercial reasons. They just ignore it and carry on. No problem, what ever floats your boat! People, People, People, let's not allow a traditional observance get our knickers in a

bunch. You don't agree, don't celebrate it, but please, please, please don't burst the bubble for those of us whom enjoy it. I have a friend who is Vietnamese. He celebrates "Chinese New Years". Seems odd that a guy who was on the good guys side during the war would celebrate anything "Chinese" but he does. It was my job each year after our traditional New Years, to get him the time off work and I did. That was his time of year and bully for him. There was a musical group that penned a song called "Live and Let Live". We need to do more of that on all fronts. Not just Christmas but in everything we do. Intolerance is nothing more than a poison to the Labour (note the spelling) movement. Solidarity is what we are about. Now more than ever is the time to practice and truly mean "Solidarity". Both of our countries are under attack from the corporate world and not the workers from other countries. We need to band together and stand together as workers to keep jobs in our countries. We don't need to be squabbling about Holiday Trees or Holiday Parties.

You know what, Christmas will be here when we are all gone, so when we speak about being "Politically Correct", let's use our heads. Politically Correct means and should mean respecting one another as Brothers and Sisters; respecting cultures, religions, freedom of speech and the freedom to celebrate as we see fit at a particular time of year and be able to call the apparatus of the season by it's proper given name.

Peace and solidarity brothers and sisters.

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- **Hospital Grants** may help with large non-reimbursable hospital bills. Apply online at UnionPlus.org/UnionSafe.

Always at your side...

Whatever difficulty you face, Union Plus is here to help you. We'll make sure you get the most from your union benefits, including:

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- **Education Assistance** provides scholarships and college savings grants. Apply online at UnionPlus.org/UnionSafe.



For more details, visit

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