

GMP *Horizons* November/December 2010

Serving Workers in the Glass, Metal,

Pottery and Plastics Industries.

Greetings of the Season



PEACE · HOPE · PROSPERITY · SOLIDARITY



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

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In this Issue:

In his Message on page 1, President Smith discusses a strategy that helps level the playing field for American businesses and workers.

Director of Research and Education Seal led a delegation to the GMP Western Hemispheric Conference in Colombia, S.A. See page 2.

The GMP featured employer of the month is Mueller Water Products. See page 6.

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BRUCE R. SMITH
International President

“We will continue to work with the entire Labor Movement in opposing legislation that poses threats to our members’ jobs.”

It's Time to Level the Playing Field

The 2010 holiday season comes at a time when many middle income earners are struggling to achieve the American dream. You'd be hard pressed to find a corner of this country that hasn't suffered tremendously from the recession. The GMP and its membership have seen the damage done by globalization and the lack of a comprehensive manufacturing policy. Workers in the U.S. and Canada have seen their jobs outsourced to facilities overseas. Many of our members have seen trade agreements result in job losses. Political leaders on both sides of the aisle have favored free trade without regard for damage to American workers.

The GMP will renew our determination to work within the democratic system despite the results in the national election. We will continue to work with the entire Labor Movement in opposing legislation that poses threats to our members' jobs. And we also are working with broad coalitions promoting legislation to address China's unfair currency policy, MAKE IT IN AMERICA bills and a national manufacturing strategy that helps level the playing field for American businesses and workers.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), speaking before a manufacturing forum in late September stated:

“Make it in America means investing in manufacturing innovation and infrastructure, making the American workforce the best-trained one in the world, and creating an environment in which American manufacturers can create jobs here and still compete globally”.

He went on to say:

“With the renaissance of American manufacturing will come the renaissance of the values that helped our parents and grandparents build the greatest economic engine the world has ever seen: their energy, their hope, their vision, their commitment to compete and win. Those values are the key to realizing the American dream, for ourselves and for our children - a dream that is still within our power to keep alive. Those values are still our inheritance. They must also be our future”.

Even in these very difficult economic times, the GMP remains fortunate to have so many able leaders at every level of our organization. Thank you to all the Local Union officers and their fellow workplace representatives who work so hard to bring benefits and protections to their coworkers.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the officers and staff of the GMP who dedicate themselves to serving our membership. I am very proud of all of our staff, and I thank them for their efforts on behalf of the GMP.

As all of us celebrate the holiday season with our family and friends, let us remember the many benefits and advantages we enjoy. We should be proud that many in the GMP family share their blessings with those who are less fortunate.

On behalf of the Officers and Staff of the GMP, I wish every member and their family a Joyous Holiday Season and Health and Happiness in the New Year.

GMP WESTERN HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE

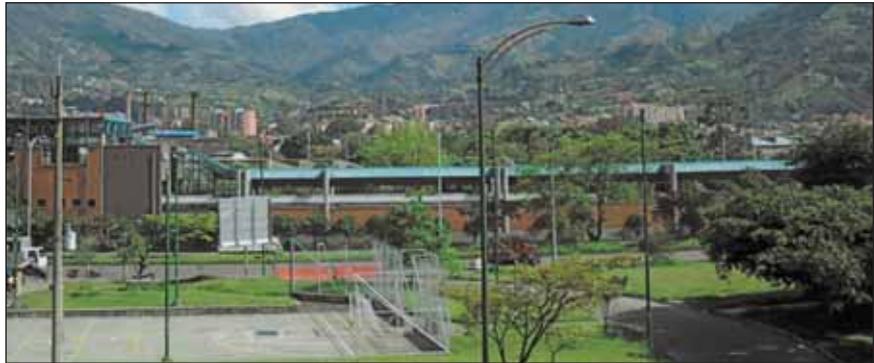
Delegates Meet in Colombia, South America



The GMP Western Hemispheric Conference delegates recently met for one week in Colombia, South America. Seen here, L-R, bottom row: VP Ignacio De La Fuente, Wanda Williams (LU 216), Sally Winterburn (LU 417), and Director Don Seal. Top row: Jim House (LU 101), Dan Trevino (LU 177) and Carlos Contreras (LU 17).



The GMP Delegation is seen here with Colombian union leaders.



A union facility in Medellin, Colombia, where union workers and “temps” produce glass bottles for companies such as Coca-Cola and Pepsi.

The GMP Western Hemispheric Conference for 2010 was held in Colombia, October 31st through November 7th. GMP attendees who were elected at the 73rd Quadrennial Convention and accompanied Director of Research & Education Don Seal on the trip included, Wanda Williams of Local #216 (Cleburne, TX) Sally Winterburn of Local # 417(E. Liverpool, OH), Jim House of Local #101 (Atlanta, GA), Dan Trevino of Local # 177 (Tracy, CA), and Carlos Contreras of Local # 17 (Modesto, CA). International Vice President Ignacio De La Fuente also attended the conference and served as an interpreter. The group was aided tremendously by Molly McCoy of the Solidarity Center in Washington, D.C. Molly set up the trip, made all arrangements and accompanied the group, serving as the interpreter and advisor.

The delegation arrived in Bogotá late Sunday night and began the journey early Monday morning with a bus trip to Zipaquirá, a city 100 miles west of Bogotá. There, the delegates met with leaders and members of the National

Executive Committee of Sintravidricol. Sintravidricol is the Union representing Glass workers throughout Columbia as well as in Argentina, Brazil, Peru and other South American countries. Many of the Companies represented by Sintravidricol are American-based and include Owens-Illinois, Ross International, Sylvania and Coca Cola. Other companies with familiar names include French-owned St. Gobain and Japanese-owned Techneglas.

The union faces numerous problems in Colombia, most notably, a Colombian law that permits companies to outsource their employees to “cooperatives”, often owned by supervisors of the company. These employees are not considered direct employees of the Company and are barred by law from forming or joining Unions. Since the law was passed under former President Uribe, the Union has lost over half of its membership as companies continue to reclassify employees as “co-ops” or “temps”.

Another major problem in Colombia is the violence perpetrated against union leaders by so called



The Delegation met in Bogota with Elizabeth Hoffman from the U.S. Embassy Political Section. (L-R): Hoffman, Representative Umberto Leon (Sintravidricol Union), and GMP delegates Sally Winterburn, Wanda Williams and Jim House.



On the final day of the Conference, Don Seal (center) says goodbye to Colombian glass union leaders.

“paramilitaries”. Over the past 24 years, more than 2,800 trade union members have been murdered. Last year alone, there were 47 murders, 412 documented death threats, 18 attempted murders, 129 trade unionists forced into hiding, 53 detained for no reason, 7 documented cases of torture and 3 disappearances that are presumed to be dead.

In August of this year, a new Colombian President, Juan Manuel Santos, was elected. Though Santos campaigned to end the violence against trade unionists, and heavily pushed for the passage of a Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and Colombia, there have been 19 more murders since his taking office. Currently, over 70 Colombian Congressmen are under investigation for allegedly using “para-military” factions to intimidate people for political gain.

On Tuesday, the delegation met again with leaders of Sintravidricol and 3 workers who are employed by a “cooperative” that services the O-I Plant in nearby Cogua. These employees, 2 women and 1 man, gave us a first hand look at what it is like to be considered second class workers. These workers are paid approximately \$40.00 per day and work primarily as inspectors. We were told that if an employee misses just one bottle defect on the line they are not paid for the entire day.

On Tuesday afternoon, the delegation visited the O-I Plant in Cogua and met with the Director of Labor Relations for about an hour.

On Wednesday, the delegation toured the impressive Credit Union Sintravidricol established in Zipaquirá. The Credit Union is one hundred percent owned and operated by Sintravidricol and is used by its members, as well as the general public in this region, as their main source of banking and financing. The very modern facility also serves as a benefactor for many community projects and is well-respected for its work with schools and institutions.

Later, the delegation met with leaders of the ICEM (International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions) and CUT (Central Unitaria De Trabajadores De Colombia) for a full discussion of the problems faced by organized labor around the world and the need for all unions to work together toward

our common interests. The ICEM is an International Organization of union affiliates that monitors labor situations around the world and works with various unions to establish “International Framework Agreements” covering basic human rights issues around the globe. St. Gobain has entered into such an agreement with the opening of its newest plant in Colombia. CUT is an umbrella labor organization in Colombia, much like the AFL-CIO in the U.S.

On our next day, the delegation flew to Medellin to meet with Sintravidricol leaders from the O-I plant there and to further discuss ways to create a long-term relationship with our brothers and sisters in Colombia.

On Friday, the delegates went to the National Union School (ENS) where we were given an extensive education on the history of the Colombian labor movement, and data concerning current conditions in the region.

The group returned to Bogotá on Friday night and on Saturday morning met with Elizabeth Hoffman from the U.S. Embassy Political Section for a discussion on the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia and the conditions that need to be corrected before any such agreement can be finalized.

Later on Saturday, the delegation met with workers from the O-I plant in Soacha and workers from the Sylvania plant in Bogotá. The stories were the same, again, the biggest problems faced by these Unions in Colombia deal with the outsourcing of work to the “co-ops” and “temps”.

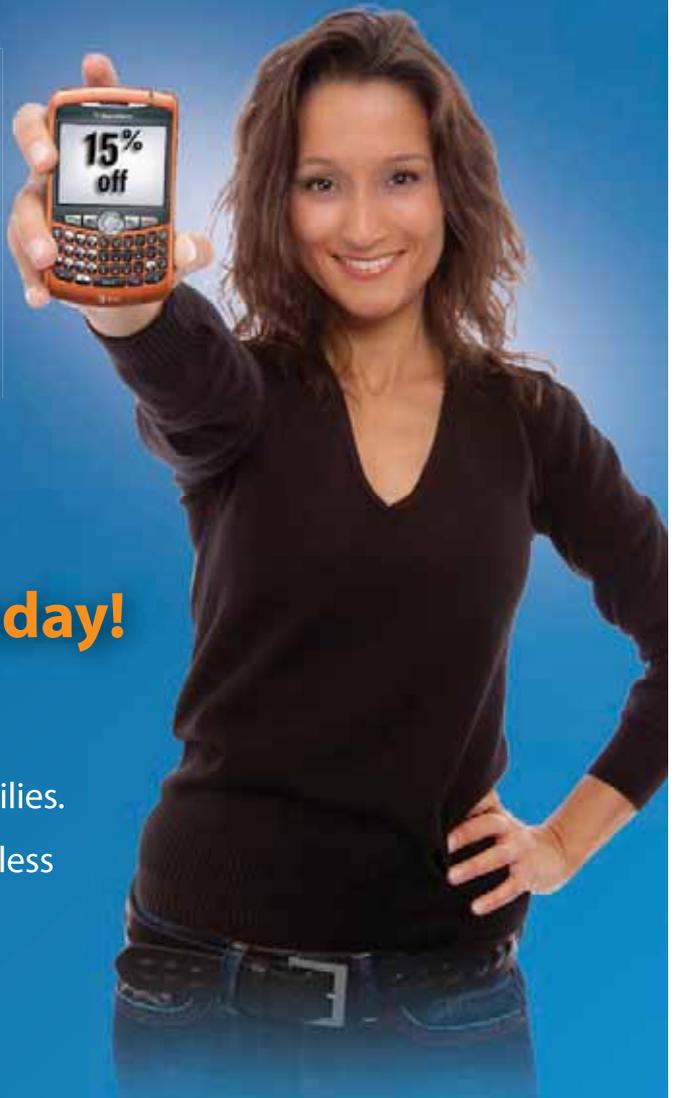
On Sunday morning, the delegation left Bogotá for the United States. All of us are more aware of the similarities of the problems faced by both American and Colombian workers, and each of us are dedicated to creating a long term relationship with our friends in Colombia. The work has gone global, the problems are global and so too must the fight for workers rights be global. While workers in Colombia face much more serious obstacles, and in many cases risk their lives to form unions, it is really not much different than what our forefathers faced in building the American Labor Movement. With God’s help, and the hard work of the GMP and other American Unions, the Colombians can win their fight for dignity and fairness in the workplace.

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ATT-GMP-1110

Workplace Safety and Health: The Role of OSHA



Why should everyone be concerned about job safety and health?

Each year, approximately 6,000 employees in this country die from workplace injuries while another 50,000 die from illnesses caused by exposure to workplace hazards. In addition, 6 million workers suffer non-fatal workplace injuries at an annual cost to U.S. businesses of more than \$125 billion.

Effective job safety and health add value to the workplace and help reduce worker injuries and illnesses.

How does OSHA contribute to job safety and health?

Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, (OSH Act), “to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources.” Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1902- 1990, contains OSHA regulations and standards.

Some states have enacted occupational safety and health laws and operate federally approved state plans. Such states adopt and enforce state standards and regulations that are at least as effective as those enacted under federal law.

Are all employees covered by the OSH Act?

The OSH Act covers all employees except workers who are self-employed and public employees in state and local governments.

In states with OSHA-approved state plans, public employees in state and local governments are covered by their state’s OSHA-approved plan. Federal employees are covered under the OSH Act’s federal employee occupational safety and health programs, see 29 CFR Part 1960. United States Postal Service employees, however, are subject to the same OSH Act coverage provisions as are private sector employers.

The OSH Act does not apply to particular working conditions addressed by regulations or standards affecting occupational safety or health that are issued by federal agencies, other than OSHA, or by a state atomic energy agency. Other federal agencies that have issued requirements affecting job safety or health include the Mine Safety and Health Administration and some agencies of the Department of Transportation.

What are your responsibilities as an employee?

To help prevent exposure to workplace safety and health hazards, you must comply with all OSHA requirements that apply to your actions and conduct.

What are your rights as an employee?

In your associations with OSHA and your employer, you have the right, among other actions, to do the following:

- Review employer-provided OSHA standards, regulations and requirements;
- Request information from your employer on emergency procedures;
- Receive adequate safety and health training when required by OSHA standards related to toxic substances and any such procedures set forth in any emergency action plan required by an OSHA standard;
- Ask the OSHA Area Director to investigate hazardous conditions or violations of standards in your workplace;
- Have your name withheld from your employer if you file a complaint with OSHA;
- Be advised of OSHA actions regarding your complaint, and have an informal review of any decision not to inspect or to issue a citation;
- Have your employee representative accompany the OSHA compliance officer on inspections;
- Observe any monitoring or measuring of toxic substances or harmful physical agents and review any related monitoring or medical records;
- Review at a reasonable time the Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (OSHA 300) if your employer is required to maintain it;
- Request a closing discussion following an inspection;
- Object to the abatement period set in a citation issued to your employer; and
- Seek safe and healthful working conditions without your employer retaliating against you.

How can you get more information on safety and health?

OSHA has various publications, standards, technical assistance, and compliance tools to help you, and offers extensive assistance through workplace consultation, voluntary protection programs, grants, strategic partnerships, state plans, training, and education. OSHA’s Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines (Federal Register 54:3904-3916, January 26, 1989) detail elements critical to the development of a successful safety and health management system. This and other information are available on OSHA’s website: www.osha.gov

MUELLER WATER PRODUCTS

ALBERTVILLE, AL

A Leading Manufacturer of Fire Hydrants

The Mueller Water Products facility, located in Albertville, Alabama, produces fire hydrants for a worldwide market.

Mueller Company was founded when a 25 year-old German immigrant with a passion for craftsmanship, Hieronymous Mueller, established a one-room machine shop in 1857, in Decatur, Illinois. Mueller's philosophy of "always looking for a better way" to do things propelled the company to the forefront of American industry.

In the 1930's, Mueller Company was already at the forefront of hydrant sales in North America. By the mid-1970's, the Mueller Centurion Fire Hydrant was introduced and was the culmination of cutting-edge hydrant design. At this time, a new foundry and manufacturing plant was built in Albertville. The plant produced its 1 millionth fire hydrant in 1989 and earned the title of "Fire Hydrant Capital of the World."

Approximately 405 GMP Local 65B members employed at this Mueller facility produce a variety of hydrants, including some for custom applications, such as below-the-freeze line in Alaska, and the Mi.Hydrant, a smart hydrant. A smart hydrant wirelessly transmits water flow data either on demand or according to a schedule. Widespread use of smart hydrants could make a significant dent in water wasted due to utility system leaks. Mueller makes other products at this facility including meter yokes and pits, meter setters and a patented coil setter.

A new parent company, Mueller Water Products, Inc., was formed in late 2006, with headquarters in Atlanta, GA. The Mueller name today represents more than 12 manufacturing locations in the U.S. and Canada, with its products reaching all parts of the world. With 150 years of history and change along the way, Mueller's motto still rings true: "Never make a product you would not be proud to put your name on."

To help preserve our planet for future generations, Mueller and its employees are committed to "going green" by "operating in a manner that conserves, as well as protects the environment."



The Mueller facility in Albertville, Alabama.



A GMP member at work.



GMP members assemble hydrants.



For more information on Mueller, visit their website at: muellerwaterproducts.com



MUELLER COMPANY FOUNDER RECOGNIZED AT MUSEUM:



Hieronymous Mueller and his descendants owned and managed Mueller Company from 1857 to 1986. Mueller died tragically in 1900, at the age of 43, and his sons carried on the

business. The last Mueller family member to work for the company was Frank H. Mueller, the founder's grandson, who retired in 1968. The family sold its interest in the company in 1986. While the Mueller family no longer has a direct involvement in the company, it retains a presence in the H. Mueller Museum. For information regarding the museum and library, you can visit their website at: muellermuseum.org



Finished products.

What's the right packaging for wine?

In a word,
it's **glass**



Over 98% of American wine consumers with a preference prefer wine packaged in glass bottles, reaching nearly 100% for younger wine consumers, ages 20 to 35.¹

Good Packaging Should Maintain a Product's Original Taste

Characteristics of wine may have an important effect on the package integrity.² Glass containers are preferred for bottling wine because they are the only material with a high impermeability to gases and vapors, prove stable over time, are transparent, and are readily recycled.³ Unlike plastic, cans and multi-layered or bag-in-box cartons, glass does not need any plastic layers or other additives to preserve the taste of wine.

Glass packaged wine will never have a sell-by date. In glass, wine can maintain its taste for half-a-century or longer, whereas in plastic containers or bag-in-box containers, wine is only good for a few months at most. Research finds exposure of white wines packaged in bag-in-box packaging to elevated temperature and oxygen can influence their enological parameters during

Glass is the only packaging material that:

- ✓ protects the taste of wine
- ✓ protects the environment
- ✓ consumers trust as safe for its contents

the secondary shelf life storage.⁴ A new Bordeaux study also finds wine oxidizes in plastic after just six months, whereas the glass bottle preserves white wine's original characteristics with stability.⁵

Good Packaging Should Not Pollute the Environment

Glass bottles are **endlessly recyclable** and can go from recycling bin to the store shelf in as little as 30 days. Recycling glass reduces consumption of raw materials, reduces CO₂ emissions, and saves energy. Improved technology has also led to lighter weight glass containers that are remarkably strong, safe, and up to **40 percent lighter** than they were 20 years ago.



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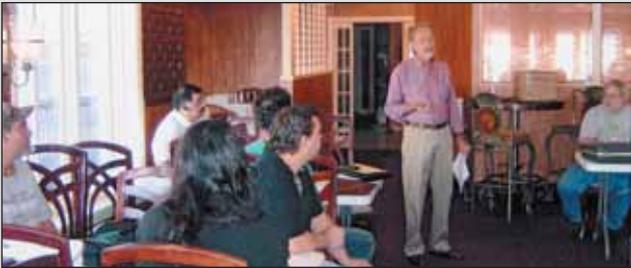
The Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) is the trade association representing the North American glass container industry. Through GPI, glass container manufacturers speak with one voice to advocate industry standards, promote sound environmental policies and educate packaging professionals. GPI member companies manufacture glass containers for food, beverage, cosmetic and many other products. GPI also has associate members that represent a broad range of suppliers and closure manufacturers.

New Officers Sworn In At Local 65B, Boaz, AL



International Representative Larry Harris recently swore in new officers at Local 65B in Boaz, Alabama. See here (L-R) are: Recording Secretary Chris Kilburn, Vice President Charles Brown, President Tim Scott, Financial Secretary Kathy Lacks and Harris.

WI Conference Board Meets in Pewaukee, WI



Director of Research and Education Don Seal conducted a shop steward training class for the WEC Board delegates.



International Vice President Frank Brandao, Sr., swearing in the newly elected officers of the WEC at the fall meeting in Pewaukee.

The Wisconsin Educational Conference Board held its Fall Meeting on October 10, 2010, in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. GMP stewards and officers in attendance were from the following Local Unions in Wisconsin: Local Unions #6B and #125B (Milwaukee), #226 (Burlington), #261 (Cedar Grove), #271 (Kaukauna) and #437 (La Crosse).

There was a business meeting and election of officers. Director of Research and Education Donald Seal conducted a shop steward training session. Seal covered topics that included: grievance preparation, Weingarten Rights, Legal Rights of Stewards and The Seven Tests for Just Cause. Director Seal also spoke to the delegates regarding the November mid-term elections.

The officers of the WEC are: President Rick Stilwell (LU#113B), VP Jeff Shuda (#437), Recording Secretary Roger Post (#6B) and Financial Secretary Don Eaton (6B).

New Officers Sworn In at Local 112, Portland, Oregon



Seen here on October 12, 2010, Executive Officer Donald "Butch" Carter after the swearing-in of new officers at Local 112, Portland, OR (L-R): Executive Officer Donald "Butch" Carter, 2nd VP Wayne Reinerstein, Financial Secretary Sherri Raab, President Brian Copeland, Recording Secretary Cindy Galluci and 1st VP Mario Beauliere. Local 112 was chartered in 1956. Approximately 220 members are employed at the Owens-Illinois plant in Portland.

GMP and U.S. Senator-Elect Joe Manchin Tour Homer Laughlin China in Newell, WV



Seen here during the tour of Homer Laughlin China Company in Newell, WV, are (L-R): Executive Officer Edward Bedocs, GMP President Bruce Smith, Local 419 Committee Member/Labor Council FS Marilyn Boyd, Senator-Elect Joe Manchin, Local 419/Labor Council RS Shelba Kirkbride, Local 419 President Charles Bartley, Jr., and Local 419 VP David Rice.

At the end of October 2010, GMP Local Union 419 (Newell, WV) and the Brooke-Hancock County Labor Council worked together and organized a luncheon and plant tour of Homer Laughlin China Company. Those in attendance included: U.S. Senator-elect Joe Manchin, International President Bruce Smith, Executive Officer Edward Bedocs and various other West Virginia political leaders. At the time of the tour and luncheon, Joe Manchin was still Governor of West Virginia. Manchin was elected to the United States Senate on November 2, 2010 and will take office on January 3, 2011. Local 419 President Charles Bartley would like to thank Local 419 officers, Labor Council Financial Secretary Marilyn Boyd and Brooke-Hancock County Labor Council President Phil Desirio for all their time and hard work planning this successful tour and luncheon. Bartley would also like to thank Homer Laughlin for their hospitality during the tour. Local Union 419 officers are - President Charles Bartley, Jr., Vice President David Rice, Recording Secretary Shelba Kirkbride and Financial Secretary Ralph Goldsmith. Local 419 was chartered in 1979.

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GMP Memorial Scholarship Fund

In Memoriam Contributions

July 2010 - December 2010

Margaret "Peg" Smith

Julie Hurshman

Patricia Lewis

Charles Anderson

Woodrow Wilson Quinn

Harry Price

Jack Graham

Willodean Seal

Rose Dos Santos

GMP Summer School Announcement

- PLACE** West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV; **SUBJECTS** The subjects taught to students will be basic trade union topics, i. e., steward training, negotiations, labor law, etc.
- TIME** Sunday, May 15, 2011 – Friday, May 20, 2011
- COST** The International Union will pay for room, board and tuition. Lost time, travel, etc. are paid by the Local Union or Student. **SELECTION** Applications are sent to the Local Union President.
- DEADLINE** Scholarship applications MUST be submitted by March 1, 2011. Awards will be made on March 15, 2011.

Jack Graham Dies at 68, Former Executive Officer

Jack Graham, a retired GMP Executive Officer, died on November 9 in Streator, IL, at the age of 68, after ten years of service.

He was born and raised in the Long Point, Illinois, area, and graduated from Woodland High School.

Jack Graham entered the trade in 1961, at the Owens-Illinois plant in Streator, Illinois, where he worked for more than 35 years. He joined Local Union 140 and served as Local President for 21 years.

He completed courses in arbitration and organizing at the George Meany Labor Studies Center in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Graham was hired in 1997 by the International Union as an International Representative, and, in 2002, he was appointed to the Executive Board. He retired in February 2007.

His wife, Sandra, his son, Jack Graham, Jr., and a grandson, Cody Jacob Graham, survive him. He was preceded in death by a son, Robert Dean "Bobby" Graham.



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
November 2009	631.5	0.2%	1.4
December 2009	630.6	-0.1%	-0.9
January 2010	633.1	0.4%	2.5
February 2010	633.1	0.0%	0.0
March 2010	636.0	0.5%	2.9
April 2010	637.3	0.2%	1.3
May 2010	637.8	0.1%	0.5
June 2010	636.9	-0.1%	-0.9
July 2010	637.1	0.0%	0.2
August 2010	638.0	0.1%	0.9
September 2010	638.3	0.0%	0.3
October 2010	639.3	0.2%	1.0

12 Month Index Increase = 9.1 • Year-to-Date Inflation Rate Increased by Approximately 0.3%

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	175.4	133.4	136.9
November	171.4	173.9	133.8	135.8
December	171.7	172.8	134.0	134.9
Annual Average		173.9		135.8
Average Annual Increase		2.3%		2.3%
March 2007 to March 2008	1.2%		1.2%	
	(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	549.9	226.5	232.4
November	537.3	545.4	227.2	230.5
December	538.1	541.8	227.5	229.0

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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 takes 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 five (5) years 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:

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



'Tis the Season to Be Jolly

The Holiday Season is upon us. It's a time of joy and hope, peace and tranquility. A time to visit family and rejoice in our blessings, and of course, a time for body scans by the millions at airports all over the country. Oh well, there's always a Grinch somewhere.

With all the media coverage of late, one has to wonder if there are really that many Americans more concerned about body parts than about their own safety when flying. Which would you prefer, a little embarrassment at the check-in, or a terrorist with a bomb sitting next to you as you travel over the river and through the woods?

And what's the big deal? Anyone who has ever been to a hospital for any type of test has already endured all the indignity one can imagine. Perhaps people would feel more comfortable if we were all given one of those hospital gowns with no back side to wear as we go through the scan.

I suspect that not everyone is upset about the airport procedure. I have a feeling that Santa Claus will not be the only jolly old man this season as thousands of old men opt out of the scan in favor of the pat down. Hey, whatever floats your boat!

As usual, the issue seems to get more ridiculous as we go. U.S. Representative John Mica of Florida, the Republican who is set to become the Chairman of the Transportation Committee in Congress in January, has offered that the solution to the problem is to privatize the TSA! Huh? If I get this right, I will be less embarrassed if a private company looks at my private parts than I would if a Government agency does so!

And who does he have in mind? Hugh Hefner, I hope. At least old Hugh has some experience at this sort of thing.

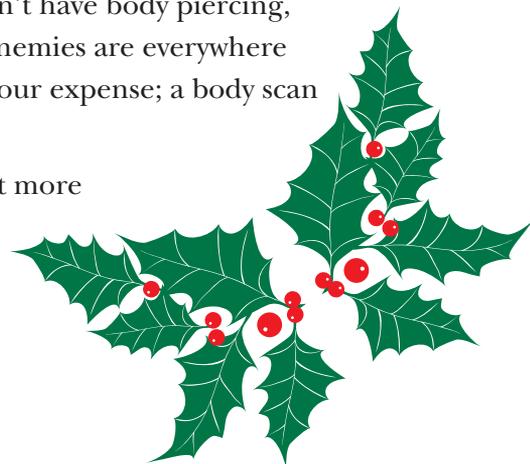
Unless you have body piercing in places you really shouldn't have body piercing, there's no reason to get upset. We live in a time when our enemies are everywhere and they will take any opportunity to advance their cause at our expense; a body scan is a small price to pay for our safety.

So, if Santa shows up at your house this year just a little bit more "red-faced" than usual, just remember, he has to fly too!

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

DON SEAL

Editor





*Wishing you
Happy Holidays
in Solidarity*

Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics & Allied Workers
International Union, AFL-CIO, CLC

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