

From Joseph Savia, Sr., Business Manger

From time to time some of us tend to forget the true meaning of what we are, I recently read some literature I would like to share with you:

According to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, a Union is 1. The act of uniting two or more things; the state of being **UNITED**.

Why have a Union?

- President John F. Kennedy said: "The American Labor Movement has consistently demonstrated, its devotion to the public interest. It is, and has been, good for all Americans."
- To make a difference with regard to issues affecting our workers, employees can **only** be heard if **we** speak with one **united** voice.
- Simply talking about issues that affect employees isn't enough, to make a difference, the employees' voices **must** be heard only when they organize as a Union and gain the strength and make the real changes on the job. By joining together to form a Union, workers have a greater ability through their strength in numbers to improve conditions at the worksite. In summary: **IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH!**
- Unions Strive to:
 - * Stay involved in State and National Politics.
 - * Increase Wages
 - * Improve working and safety conditions
 - * Give workers a voice
 - * Insure the legal rights of workers
 - * Preserve professional integrity
 - * Give workers Healthcare and Pension Benefits

How Do Unions and Union Members Contribute to Society?

Well paid organized labor is good for any town, the more a worker earns, the more he has to spend, the more he spends, the better it is for the merchant, the farmer and everyone else. Instead of fighting over how the pie is split up, Unions and Companies work together to increase the size of the pie.

The following church sermon was delivered several years ago by David M. Baxter, an Evangelical Protestant Minister. He had been asked for advise by a group of workers, as to whether or not to form a Union.

Why a Union? As long as there is organized capital there will be organized labor. And, that is as it should be in a democratic society. The true Union Member wants to help, not hinder his employer. He realizes that the more successful the business is, the more successful the employee will be...if he receives fair value for his labor, and a fair

share of the profits that he has helped produce. A working man's life is valuable. Every time the clock ticks, there goes a second off that life. When he sells the hours of his life to make a profit for someone else, he is entitled to all he can get for those precious hours. Workers try to get as much as possible for the hours of their lives that they sell to their employers. By himself, this is difficult, he can be broken like a stick. But, breaking a bundle of sticks is not so easy. That is why working people organize Unions: to help in getting a share of the profits they bring into a successful business. Unionism has brought about, in addition to reasonable pay, better working conditions, more job security, and more leisure time for workers to enjoy vacation and pension benefits. It is an ignorant man who values his life cheaply, sells it cheaply, and works hours to make his employer richer, to the extent that he keeps himself poor. Well-paid organized labor is a good thing for any town. The more a worker earns, the more he has to spend. The more he spends, the better it is for everyone else.

A Final Thought:

Why should I pay Union Dues?

Every organization needs money to support that organization.

If you go to church, you give money to the Church. If you belong to the Moose Club, Eagles, Masonic Organizations, dues are necessary to keep that organization afloat. If you belong to a hunt club there is probably a fee involved in order to keep the club going.

Union dues are no different than paying any of the above. It takes money to keep an organization going. In a union, its members set the amount of dues, based on the cost to run the Union.

UA Membership Cards

Some of you may have noticed that the UA Membership Card is due to expire, please note the new cards will be mailed when the January, 2007 dues are paid. We cannot mail cards if you are in arrears.

We also will not be able to order Duplicate Cards after October 1, 2006.

Windbreakers

We have received requests to order the pull over v-neck wind breakers. Because of the cost we are only doing on an as order basis. The cost is \$35.00. If you wish to order, please mail your name, address, telephone number and size. These can only be ordered in groups of 30. Once we have a total of 30 requests we will place the first order. You will be notified when we receive the order.

Lee C. Ashcraft Memorial Union Scholarship - 2006

The law firm of ASHCRAFT & GEREL, LLP offers this scholarship to members of metropolitan area unions and their families to help with the high cost of education. Each

year they award a one-time grant of \$5,000.00 to an eligible student for education expenses.

If you, your spouse or child, plan to pursue education or training *full time*, you can apply now. Applicants must be enrolled for their post-high school education or training by Fall of 2006 to be eligible for this year's award.

A committee of union volunteers screen the applications and a finalist is chosen by an independent party. No one at ASHCRAFT & GEREL, LLP participates in the selection process. This is an equal opportunity program, conducted without regard to race, gender, religion, age or disability.

To obtain your scholarship application, call (703) 931-5500. The deadline to submit your application is **November 17, 2006.**

MEMBERS GET DISCOUNTED DC UNITED TICKETS

CAUSE will once again be an official sponsor of the DC United. As part of the 2006 sponsorship package, MCAMW members can purchase DC United home game tickets at a discounted rate via the following website link:

https://secure.mlsnet.com/MLS/dcu/tickets/2006/group/uam_all/. CAUSE will have a Spanish message field board ad and Hispanic radio ads, all part of CAUSE's Hispanic outreach program.

Washington Capitals Tickets/"Tickets to Troops"

The Washington Capitals and the Washington DC Building Trades Council proudly present the: Tickets to the Troops Campaign. For every four (4) tickets purchased through the BCTC Tickets to Troops Campaign, the Washington Capitals and the BCTC will donate one ticket to the designated military service organization of choice. Those soldiers will attend the April 3, 2007 game. To purchase the tickets please go to www.capstickets.com/bctc.html. If you have any questions contact Pete Sekulow at 202-266-2342.

THIS 'N THAT

Ronald Hester proudly announced the birth of his daughter, Miracle Raney, born October 3, 2006, weighing 6lbs 1 oz.

BIG WINNER

Ric Taylor was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the October Union Meeting, he donated his proceeds to C.O.P.E.

LATEST RETIREES

Mac W. Fisher 10/1/06

Steven E. Mason 09/1/06
Laphonsor Price 11/1/06
Robert E. Robinson 09/1/06
Michael B. Simpson 08/1/06

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the family of Wayne Mays who recently lost his father, to David Schmidt who recently lost his wife and the family of Wes Ringgold and Josh Ringgold who recently lost his father/grandfather.

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of the following members:

Retiree, Joseph M. Ranegan died September 18, 2006. Brother Ranegan was 88 years old and had been a member since December 6, 1966. Death #1236.

Retiree, Leonard Fox died September 21, 2006. Brother Fox was 81 years old and had been a member since April 2, 1957. Death #1237.

Retiree Lawrence L. Vallario died September 26, 2006. Brother Vallario was 66 years old and had been a member since February 12, 1988.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1238. ANYONE NOT
PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1238 IS IN ARREARS.**

From Kevin Sullivan, Business Agent

I remember back in 1992, my General Foreman became disenchanted with me over a project he felt I had taken too much time to accomplish. On paper, the change out of a 6 inch gate valve seemed simple enough. But, when your work partner lays out and scaffolding (3 sections) needs to be built, that simple project becomes a little more difficult. My foreman understood and he made sure the GF knew that I was doing my job. I am only bringing this up because I have seen too many firings, mostly generated from the Micron facility, where "Lack of Production" is the reason given on the Separation Notice. I have had my share of complaints from those on the receiving side that are taken completely by surprise when this happens to them. When I questions the circumstances leading up to the discharge, most of the time I get such answers as "he only put up four hangers yesterday" or "he only installed twenty feet of pipe". I can understand why they were upset; it sounded like one bad day and they were given their money. Well all have bad days, days where we spin our wheels and the results show. My understanding of being judged on production levels in industry should be a culmination of events, not one single instance.

I am probably preaching to the choir because I have talked to many foreman about such situations and how they handle it. Most will realize that you have those days and if it is such a matter of ability, they will move the member around utilizing their strengths. Most foreman, when they were unhappy with a brother's production will serve notice to them, first, verbally and then in writing. When it is done that way, everyone is on the same page as far as expectations and consequences. From another perspective, I have seen my share of work output over a several day period, where it seemed deserving of a termination.

Foremen, I need your help! I do not know what it is like to run your job, to work under your project manager, or to deal with the pressures of getting a job in on time and under budget. What I do know is when that GF questioned me on my work my foreman stuck up for me. As the foreman, I would hope that you would do the same for another brother and if he is screwing up, let him know it.

Lack of production is a real issue. I have been called to look into a mechanic's work output over a 2 to 3 day period. When I talked to the Steward, and fellow workers in an attempt to get to the exact nature of the problem, there seems to be three common denominators: a sense of entitlement, laziness and lack of knowledge. I know I am not the best, but I am very capable of being lazy. I do not know if it was instilled in me as a child or maybe that I had good role models on the job, but I realized that while on the job I was there to work. I am not lazy in that respect; there is a time and a place for everything. This is not to say that you can't have fun on the job because we can. We must realize that someone is paying our way and for that, they are entitled to a good days work.

What I can speak on is lack of knowledge. It has affected me in my life and as the Business Agent I am in the position where I can see that I am not alone. Often enough I see members let go because of not knowing the basics: blueprint reading and laying out work. If they are teamed up with another person, they will do well, but left to their own devices they flounder. Many a job have I seen passed up because members do not have their welding certifications, medical gas certifications, etc...As a fitter you may get passed up by the fitter who can weld or has medical gas certifications.

In 1994 we had 250-300 members out of work, I was one of them. Out of those, there were only a dozen welders; I knew what I had to do. As a matter of fact, the same GF that had become disenchanted in me two years prior, promised me he would hire me if I got my welding certification. I am grateful to Brother Butch Blanche for giving me that opportunity, also to Brother Dave Keffer for covering up my awfully ugly first position weld and the subsequent encouragement and knowledge he bestowed on me.

When I went out to Micron and was exposed to the high purity field; by showing an interest and with a little effort, I replaced a Traveler on the welding machine and received my certifications there too!

I am not tooting my horn that I am all that and a bag of chips, because I am not. I am just a fitter that recognizes that continuing education opens doors and gives me comfort in knowing that I can do my job; that feeling is priceless. Journeyman training will be starting in November, give Ron or Sean a call so you too can experience that confident feeling of knowing one more aspect of this diverse trade.

From Bill Durkin/Business Rep – Organizer

November 7th is the mid term election, please get out and vote. It is your right, make yourself heard.

Your Union Representatives track legislations and see how it affects working and retired members. I am sorry to say very little as of late has been of any benefit to working families.

Taxes for the most wealthy in this country have been cut. The poor can't afford to pay much in the way of taxes. The wars have caused tremendous deficits. Those of us in the middle are stuck paying the tab.

In Maryland, we have worked to override Governor Ehrlich's vetoes. He believes that big companies like Wal Mart have a right to force their poorly paid and uninsured workers on to the public medical system. Who pays those bills? We do!

He believes that with CAFTA, foreign contractors should be allowed to come into this country and do work without adhering to any of our labor environmental laws. If there is an objection they don't answer to our Legal System rather, they go to a world court.

The Governor of Maryland is not alone in this endeavor. We are under attack across the nation. Labor needs to be heard.

The AFL-CIO, the United Association, the Washington Building Trades and your own Local 602 have watched the candidates to see who will work for who and, who will work against our needs as working people. We have a list of candidates that we believe will work to improve our lives. The Radio and Television will be filled with 30 second sound bytes taken out of context. They will try to sway your vote on hot button items.

As your elected officials, we have been entrusted by you to do what we think is best for your future. We have put in time to select the best candidates on Labor Issues. If your conscience will not allow you to support a certain candidate, follow your conscience, but please, make sure you do your homework, we can safely say we did ours. The future of working men and women depends on it.

Virginia Endorsements

U.S. Senate: Jim Webb

U.S. House of Representatives

1 st District : Shawn O'Donnell	2 nd District: Phillip Kellam
3 rd District: Robert Scott	4 th District: No Endorsement
5 th District: Al Weed	6 th District: No Endorsement
7 th District: James Nachman	8 th District: Jim Moran
9 th District: Rick Boucher	10 th District: Judy Feder
11 th District: No Endorsement	

District of Columbia Endorsements

Delegate to House (at large): Eleanor Holmes Norton
Mayor: Adrian Fenty
Council Chair: Vincent Gray
Council (at large): Phil Mendelson
Council 1: Jim Graham
Council 3: Mary Cheh
Council 5: Harry Thomas Jr.
Council 6: Tommy Wells

State of Maryland

Governor: Martin O'Malley
State Comptroller: Peter Franchot
Attorney General: Doug Gansler
U.S. Senate: Ben Cardin

U.S. Congress

1 st : Jim Corwin	2 nd : Dutch Ruppersberger
3 rd : John Sarbanes	4 th : Albert Wynn
5 th : Steny Hoyer	6 th : Andrew Duck
7 th : Elijah Cummings	8 th : Chris Van Hollen

State Legislature

District 1 – Senate:	No Recommendation
House of Delegates:	1A – Bill Aiken
	1B – No Recommendation
	1C - Brian Grimm
District 2 – Senate	No Endorsement
House of Delegates:	2A – No Endorsement
	2B – No Endorsement
	2C – John P. Donoghue
District 3 – Senate	Candy Greenway
House of Delegates:	3A – Galen Clagett
	Sue Hecht
	3B - No Endorsement
District 4 - Senate	No Endorsement
House of Delegates:	4A – Maggi Hays
	4B – Timothy Schlauch
District 5 – Senate	No Endorsement

	House of Delegates:	5A – No Endorsement 5B – No Endorsement
District 6 – Senate		Norman R. Stone
	House of Delegates:	Joseph J. Minnick Linda Hart Jack Sturgill No Endorsement
District 8 – Senate		Katherine Klausmeier
	House of Delegates:	No Endorsement Todd L. Schuler
District 9 - Senate		Rich Cockran
	House of Delegates:	9A – David L Osmundson 9B – Anita Lombardi Riley
District 10 - Senate		Delores G. Kelly
	House of Delegates:	Emmett C. Burns Adrienne A. Jones Shirley Nathan - Pulliam
District 11 – Senate:		Bobby Zirkin
	House of Delegates:	Dan K. Morhaim Jon S Cardin Dana Stein
District 12 – Senate:		Edward J Kasemeyer
	House of Delegates	12A – James E. Malone, Jr. 12B – Elizabeth Bobo
District 13 – Senate		James N. Robey
	House of Delegates:	Shane E. Pendergrass Guy Guzzone Frank S. Turner
District 14 – Senate		No Endorsement
	House of Delegates	Herman Taylor Anne Kaiser Karen Montgomery
District 15 – Senate		Rob Garagiola
	House of Delegates	Brian Feldman Kathleen Dumais Jean Cryor
District 16 – Senate		Brian Frosh
	House of Delegates	William A. Bonrott Susan C. Lee Marilyn Goldwater
District 17 – Senate		Jennie M. Forehand
	House of Delegates	Kumar P. Barve Jim Gilchrist Lou Simmons
District 18 – Senate		Rich Madaleno
	House of Delegates	Ana Sol Guitierrez

District 19 – Senate	Jane Lawton
House of Delegates	Jeff Waldstreicher
	Mike Lennett
	No Recommendation
	Hank Heller
	Roger Manno
District 20 – Senate	Jamin Raskin
House of Delegates	Heather Mizeur
	Sheila Hixson
	Tom Hucker
District 21 – Senate	Jim Rosapepe
House of Delegates	Barbara A. Frush
	Ben Barnes
	No Recommendation
District 22 – Senate	Paul G. Pinsky
House of Delegates	Ann Healy
	Tawanna P. Gains
	Justin Ross
District 23 – Senate	Douglas Peters
House of Delegates	23A – Gerron Levi
	James W. Hubbard
	23B – Marvin Holmes
District 24 – Senate	Nathaniel Exum
House of Delegates	Joanne C. Benson
	Carolyn J.B. Howard
	Michael Vaughn
District 25 – Senate	Ulysses Currie
House of Delegates	Aisha Braveboy
	Dereck E. Davis
	Melony Ghee Griffith
District 26 – Senate	Anthony Muse
House of Delegates	No Endorsement
	Kris Valderrama
	Veronica Turner
District 27 – Senate	No Recommendation
House of Delegates	27A – Joseph F. Vallerio, Jr.
	James E. Proctor, Jr.
	27B – Sue Kullen
District 28 – Senate	Thomas “Mac” Middleton
House of Delegates	Peter Murphy
District 29 – Senate	Roy P Dyson
House of Delegates	29A – No Recommendation
	29B – John L. Bohanan, Jr.
	29C – Norma Powers
District 30 – Senate	No Recommendation
House of Delegates	Michael E. Busch

District 31 – Senate	Virginia P. Clagett
House of Delegates	Barbara Samorajczyk
	Walter J. Shandrowsky
	Thomas Fleckenstein
	Craig A. Reynolds
	No Recommendation
District 32 – Senate	No Recommendation
House of Delegates	Pamela Beidle
	Mary Ann Love
	No Recommendation
District 33 – Senate	Scott Hymes
House of Delegates	33A – Torey Jacobson
	Patricia Wethersbee
	33B – No Recommendation
District 34 – Senate	No Endorsement
House of Delegates	34A – Daniel B. Riley
	No Recommendation
	34B – David D. Rudolph
District 35 – Senate	No Endorsement
House of Delegates	35A – No Endorsement
	Craig DeRan
	35B – David Carey
District 36 – Senate	Harry Sampson
House of Delegates	Randall Bellows
	Mark Guns
	No Recommendation
District 37 – Senate	Hilary Spence
House of Delegates	37A – Rudy Cane
	37B – Tim Quinn
District 38 – Senate	No Recommendation
House of Delegates	38A – Patrick Armstrong
	38B – Jim Mathias
	Norman Conway
District 39 – Senate	No Endorsement
House of Delegates	Charles E. Barkley
	Nancy King
	Saquib Ali
District 40 – Senate	Catherine Pugh
House of Delegates	Frank M. Conway, Jr.
	No Endorsement
	Shawn Z. Tarrant
District 41 – Senate	Lisa Gladden
House of Delegates	Jill P. Carter
	Nathaniel T. Oaks
	Sandy Rosenberg
District 42 – Senate	Jim Brochin

	House of Delegates	Andrew Belt Stephen W. Lafferty Tracy Miller
District 43 – Senate		Joan Carter Conway
	House of Delegates	Curt Anderson Maggie McIntosh Ann Marie Doory
District 44 – Senate		Verna Jones
	House of Delegates	Keith E. Haynes Ruth M. Kirk Melvin L. Stukes
District 45 – Senate		Nathaniel J. McFadden
	House of Delegates	Talmadge Branch Hattie N. Harrison Cheryl D. Glenn
District 46 – Senate		George W. Della Jr
	House of Delegates	Brian K. McHale Peter A. Hammen Carolyn Krysiak
District 47 – Senate		Gwendolyn Britt
	House of Delegates	Doyle Niemann Jolene Ivey Victor Ramirez

SOLIDARITY

President, John P. Sullivan

Is it time to re-negotiate?

There is an old saying that: "Power corrupts, but absolute powers corrupts, absolutely". Twelve years ago, the Republicans seized the majority and the power of the U.S. Congress. They were led by Newt Gingrich offering a new "Contract With America". The signatories included Fairfax Co. Executive Tom Davis and an overly friendly Republican guy from Florida, Mark Foley. Perhaps now is a good time to review the contract. In the preamble the Republicans explained that:

"This year's election offers the chance, after four decades of one-party rule, to bring to the House a new majority that will transform the way Congress works. That historic change would be the end of government that is too big, too intrusive, and too easy with the public's money. It can be the beginning of a Congress that respects the values and shares the faith of the American family.

Like Lincoln, our first Republican president, we intend to act "with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right." To restore accountability to Congress. To end it's cycle of scandal and disgrace. To make us all proud again of the way free people govern themselves".

If allowed to become the majority, they promised that they would pass the following legislation:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. The Fiscal Responsibility Act
Our Steets Act | 2. The Taking Back |
| 3. The Personal Responsibility Act
Reinforcement Act | 4. The Family |
| 5. The American Dream Restoration Act
Security Restoration Act | 6. The National |
| 7. The Senior Citizen Fairness Act
Wage Enhancement Act | 8. The Job Creation And |
| 9. The Common Sense Legal Reform Act
Legislature Act (12 Yr. Term Limit) | 10. The Citizen |

The Republicans won, and have continued to rule in the majority ever since. They have tinkered but they have not delivered on their promises. Let's examine a few of their causes.

They have not been fiscally responsible. We are deeper in debt than ever. Clinton inherited an economy that was operating with a \$ 290 Billion deficit and handed over a \$ 230 Billion surplus to Bush in 2000. The present deficit is over \$ 500 Billion. In an attempt to keep down the numbers the Republicans continue to raid future Social Security benefits. They now owe the SS Fund over \$ 2 Trillion. In all, our national debt is over \$ 8.5 Trillion and with interest; it is increasing by \$ 2 Billion dollars every day. Our government is bigger, more intrusive and far easier with the public's money than anytime in the history of this great nation.

They Republican have not restored either national security or the American Dream. An estimated 12 to 20 million illegals now occupy our streets. They have replaced the American Dream with the nightmares of Afghanistan and Iraq. Through NAFTA and CAFTA, most favored trade relations with Communist China, and tax breaks for corporations, they have exported and off-shored our jobs. Our wages in real terms have shrunk. Our children's future has been relegated to fighting over McJobs.

They certainly have not been fair to our senior citizens who are losing their pension plans and medical coverage through the Republican Bankruptcy Reform. Our seniors have been forced into prescription drug coverage plans, which erode their life savings. They have even been threatened as criminals for seeking less expensive medications from outside the United States.

The Republicans dropped their enthusiasm for term limits once they won their majority. If they had remained true to their word neither Tom Davis, Mark Foley, and for that matter, Frank Wolf would not be running for re-election.

As a last point of re-examination of the "Contract With America", let's take a peak at the family values and ethics of the Republican majority. Newt left the House in disgrace but the Party retained power and mothballed the Ethics Committee. This last term has been peppered with scandal and abuse. There has been very little oversight. There is no better example of this than the Republican Party's reaction to Republican Mark Foley's pedophilia.

Foley's behavior was officially known for months, perhaps years, and unofficially accepted for over a decade by the Republican leadership. The Speaker of the House, the Majority Leader, the head of the National Republican Congressional Committee, and the overseer of the Congressional Page Program, were all aware of the complaints. Republican pages were warned but Democratic pages were left vulnerable.

The *Foley Four*, Hastert, Boehner, Reynolds and Shimkus, enabled Mark Foley's perversions. He was emboldened by their inaction when they failed to notify the Ethics Committee, the police and the FBI. Foley remained as a chair of the Missing and Exploited Children's' Caucus while, as the White House Press Chief put it, he continued his "*naughty*" behavior. Foley was a more depraved crime waiting to happen. He was openly preying on children but he was a safe seat in Florida. In the end, the *Foley Four* were more interested in protecting the majority than protecting the children in their care.

Mark Foley was not an independently wealthy man and yet he was able to give over a half million dollars from his Political Action Committee to his party and their candidates, such as Senator George Allen. Foley, in fact, gave \$ 100,000 to the Republican Congressional Committee last summer as this story began to emerge and the President polling numbers began to tank. Could this timely contribution be considered a bribe or the result of an act of extortion? Or could a hundred grand be the product of a bribe and an act of extortion? Oh heck, silly me, it is probably just an innocent, accidental, coincidence of events involving an overly friendly Republican guy. He has always been known to shower gifts and for the last twelve years, always to give all of his self while loyally standing behind his holy Party.

Absolute power corrupts absolutely. It has become all about big money and maintaining control. Allen has a PAC that recently exceeded \$ 12 Million. Va. Congressman, Tom Davis, has a PAC worth over \$2 Million. Va. Congressman, Frank Wolf's PAC borders a Million dollars. It can, if allowed, and it is, be all pass-around money to keep the majority intact.

We are watching a most pernicious and unpatriotic parade, led by the drum major, Carl Rove. He has been down this street before. He knows where he can boldly turn to the right, wriggle to the left, sit down, stand up, fight, fight, fight, and then high-step it right up the middle of Bourbon Street with no shame. He is followed by the calumny clowns, Duke Cunningham, Black Jack Abramoff, Ralph "The Christian Coalition" Reed, the Rev. Louis "Traditional Values Coalition" Sheldon, Tom "The Hammer" Delay, Bob "Never Say" Ney and "Scooter" Libby. Huddled in the center are Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Rice riding on the denial float. They will stay their wobbly course wherever that fatefully may take the nation. And finally, in the rear are Republican Mark Foley, Hastert, Boener, Reynolds, and Siskind.

Have the Republicans "*restored accountability to Congress*"? Have they ended "*it's cycle of scandal and disgrace*"? Are we *proud again of the way free people govern themselves*"?

The whole facade of Republican Family Values is crumbling. The nation now knows that this amoral majority will lie, bribe, cheat, steal, and deny. They will eventually cover up

their sins. And if they are finally cornered they will wrap themselves in the flag, lash out at any perceived threat to their political security, blame the media and the Democrats and then play possum while hugging the baby Jesus. There is never a *mea culpa*.

We have no recourse other than to renegotiate this "Contract With America". **VOTE on November 7th.**

*Northern Virginia
Central Labor Council
GOTV '06 Schedule*

Labor-to-Labor Precinct Walks

Each Saturday Until Election Day!

**October 7 October 14
October 21 October 28
November 4**

Doors open 9 am, Walks start by 10 am

Please wear your union shirts, jackets and caps!!!

Labor-to-Labor Phone Banks

Begins Monday, October 9

6 pm-9 pm

Every Monday-Thursday until Election Day!

**ALL At the CLC Office
4536-B John Marr Drive
Annandale, Virginia**

(inside the Beltway, just off Little River Turnpike
between Backlick Road and John Marr Drive,
across from the Annandale Giant Supermarket)

For more information, contact the CLC office at 703-750-3633

WHAT'S NEW IN TRAINING

The next Foremen's Training Class will start on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.. The class will be held at the Union Hall.

The next Medical Gas Class will start on Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 7:00 a.m.. The class will be held on the second floor in the main building at 8509 Ardwick Ardmore Road., Landover, MD.

For Registration information and to sign up for these classes, please call the school at 301-341-1555.

FROM WAYNE'S WORLD

REFLECTIONS

By the time this newsletter arrives, I will have celebrated another birthday. A time of celebration, reflection and a milestone in my life, the realization that I am a Senior Citizen. It sure has made me stop and think of the things I've witnessed over my 60 years, not only in my life, but in our trade. Starting the Trade in 1964, right out of High School, I was making around \$1.75 per hour, \$70.00 per week. Journeymen were making around \$5.00 per hour. I thought if I could only make \$200.00 a week I would be living on Easy Street. Think about that, from then to now how much our wages, benefits, working conditions, Journeymen and Apprentice Training have improved, not to mention the Journeyman and Apprentice Training as well as, our membership tripling in size. We are more productive and do higher quality work now. Our attitudes are better and we work safer. We are worth our wage package because we are the best in the trade. All of this is our Union Heritage, which is something we should all be proud of. I Know I Am. We should never lose sight of the professional job it takes to be a very proud 602 member. The quality of work we perform is how we serve our contractors' needs and this quality work is what keeps us employed. The technology in our trade gets more sophisticated every day, just think how it will change in the next sixty years. This is why it is so important to continuing your training after your apprenticeship ends. Keep getting the new certifications and keep all certifications current. This is the only way our members will not have a tough time competing with the open shops, and will continue to be the best in the trade, as well as in life. The knowledge you get from Training will allow us to earn the money we expect and deserve, in the future. Its all in your hands, there is no limit to what you can achieve!

In Switching Gears, the primary elections are behind us I hope you all Voted! I urge you and your families to support candidates that are Labor Friendly, in the upcoming General Election. We are in a fight for survival in 2008. Without you there is no Union!

We are continuously updating our records. We now have over 3300 Members and close to 200 Contractors. Addresses, phone numbers and

many other changes that we, at the Hall need to keep current. We have found that with upcoming events, and the speed that the world expects, we have found that we need to include email addresses in our database. If you have changed ANY of your vital information please let the union office know. You can email us at ua602@aol.com or mail in the changed information.

Name

Address

Email

Telephone

Cell #