

From Joe Savia, Sr., Business Manager

Dues Paid for the Year 2008

Journeyman – 12 x \$63.00 = \$756.00; **Retiree Dues @ \$24** – 12 x \$24.00 = \$288.00; **Retiree Dues @ \$21** – 12 x \$21.00 = \$252.00; **1st & 2nd Yr. Apprentices** – 12 x \$46.00 = \$552.00; **3rd, 4th & 5th Yr. Apprentices** – 12 x \$49.00 = \$588.00; **Metal Trades Dues** – 12 x \$25.00 = \$300.00; **Residential Trades/MES** – 12 x \$49.00 = \$588.00.

There were **35 deaths** for the year – 35 x \$3.00 = \$105.00
Now is a good times to catch up your dues and deaths.

Deaths for 2008

1279 Norman G. Butler
1280 Juan Reyes
1281 George Drago
1282 Henry Brown II
1283 John A. Vucci
1284 Robert J Hastings
1285 Thomas Read
1286 Donald Mullins
1287 Lawrence North
1288 David Carpenter
1289 Richard “Doc” Rossignol
1290 Derick Sigmon
1291 Raymond Estep
1292 Robert C Phillips
1293 Carroll E Goode
1294 Franklin Gessford
1295 Albert Gyskewicz II
1296 Bernard C Shorter
1297 James R. Brown
1298 John J. Lazarz
1299 Thompson H. Toney
1300 Paul C Kemp
1301 David J. Kerr
1302 Robert L Case
1303 Earl F Stack
1304 Alvey F Green
1305 John R. Wood
1306 Robert C Keffer
1307 Bruce Sigman
1308 Walter Whitmer
1309 James E Hagberg
1310 Francis “Fuzzy” Martin

1311 R. Glenn Aheron
1312 Albert D. Glascoe
1313 Robert Vandyke Sr.

2009 Important Dates

Holidays –

Thursday, January 1, 2009 – New Years Day
Monday, January 19, 2009 – Martin Luther King
Monday, May 25, 2009 – Memorial Day
Friday, July 3, 2009 – Holiday for Fourth of July
Monday, September 7, 2009 – Labor Day
Wednesday, November 11, 2009 – Veterans Day
Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27, 2009 – Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday, December 25, 2009 – Christmas

Other Dates to Note –

Saturday, May 16, 2009 – Awards/Dinner Dance
Tuesday, August 18, 2009 – Sam Townsend Memorial Golf Tournament
Sunday, September 13, 2009 – Picnic

Charity Begins at Home Holiday Drive

Our 1st Annual Charity Begins at Home Holiday Drive was a huge success. Over \$8,000.00 was donated, which provided gifts and dinners to 15 Steamfitter families, between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Without your support this would not have been possible. I would especially like to thank Apprentices Charles Isemann, Andrew Mattingly, Carl Maus and Todd Stockslager, these apprentices donated their time to work on this important project.

Dues Check Off Update

Please remember **if you change employers, YOU need to notify the Hall.** Without our members having 100% participation we still must notify the employers of those members who have elected check off.

I also urge you to pay attention to and keep your paystubs. If a dispute arises the paystubs are the only piece of information showing that the dues were deducted. Please also remember that dues' deductions do not cover your Death Assessments.

Shirts, Jackets, Etc...

We now have some new stock of shirts and jackets, all are available for purchase. Come in before the sizes run out.

Maryland License Plates

The new License Plates are out and traveling around town. If you are interested please contact the Hall for the application, checks or money orders for \$25.00 payable to the MVA must be returned to the Hall with the application. The hall will forward the application for you.

Motorcycle plates have been delayed, we currently need 23 more applications to be eligible for the motorcycle plates. If you are interested please file an application with the hall. We will notify you when we have 23 and are submitted the request.

Substance Abuse Issues

We are still holding our Substance Abuse sessions on Thursday's in the hall at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

THIS 'N THAT

Congratulations

Our congratulations go out to David and Darlene Wade, their first grandchild, Kassidy Joy Wade, was for on November 13, 2008 and weighed in at 7lbs. 6.5 oz.

Big Winner

Tim Blackwell, Sr. was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the January Union Meeting.

Latest Retirees

Daniel Agard	1/1/09
Joseph Z Bennett Jr.	12/1/08
Lester H. Billings	1/1/09
Philip Chiera	1/1/09
Raydene M. Deao	1/1/09
Gary B Edwards	12/1/08
Michael L Riddle Sr.	12/1/08
Charles O. Sechler	1/1/09
Bernard C. Young	2/1/09

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of George DeHart who lost his mother on December 6, 2008.

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

Brother Albert D. Glascoe died on December 15, 2008. Brother Glascoe was 49 years old and had been a member since October 2, 1978. Death #1312.

Retiree Robert F VanDyke, died on December 23, 2008. Brother VanDyke was 74 years old and had been a member since October 3, 1978. Death #1313.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO 1313. ANY MEMBER
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1313 ARREARS.**

From Kevin Sullivan, Business Agent

Let's take a *Look into the Future* of energy and it's affect on our local. With four coal/oil fired and two nuclear plants in our jurisdiction our eyes are on the new administration's energy and economic stimulus plan. There is much speculation surrounding the *IF*, *WHEN* and *Where* regarding the re-birth of nuclear energy in this country.

In regard to the *IF* surrounding the construction of a nuclear power plant in this country I would say there is no doubt it will happen. Obama has it in his agenda to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil and promoting alternative energies. In the same breath he is concerned with the security of nuclear fuel and waste. Obama will push his agenda for tighter regulations on storage of nuclear waste and fuel. He will also be dealing with a job and energy shortage. I believe job creation and the energy shortfall will win out; ushering in nuclear power plants. President Obama's pick for U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu said "I will act quickly to get the Energy Department \$18 billion for new nuclear plants available. Nuclear power is going to be an important part of our energy mix". There is not much doubt that Congress, along with the President, will try to impose some kinds of limits on fossil fuel plants and their carbon emissions. The carbon limits is a win-win. It will either create SCR and Scrubber work or it will open the doors for alternatives. With Congress setting aside \$18.5 billion for nuclear plant construction; it will happen. We now have to ask *WHEN* that will be.

In regard to *WHEN* will it happen? Well the crystal ball has clouded up a bit due to the economic slowdown. You see it happening on a personal level right now. The data center where you were working has shut down. Your company is having layoffs or cutting back to 32 hours because banks aren't lending the money to enable those new jobs to start. Why would the start of a new power plant be any different? Plans are on hold for Arizona's largest solar plant, Solana Generating Station, because the funding has become un-available. A nuclear plant in South Africa was halted because of money not flowing globally. When this new economic stimulus plan gets money flowing, it will be just a matter of time. We now ask ourselves *WHERE* it will happen.

WHERE will it happen? Why not right here in Calvert County? All last year you could see the pieces coming together in regards to a third reactor at Calvert Cliffs. Constellation Energy partnering up with Areva to form a company called Unistar. Areva is a French nuclear company known for the EPR reactor that it designs and builds. Constellation filed, with the NRC, an

application to build and operate a third reactor at Calvert Cliffs. An environmental impact study was done and found favorable. Unistar applied in July for a federally-backed loan guarantee with the Department of Energy to finance about 80% of the estimated 10 billion dollar project. The DOE has received Part 1 applications to support 21 new reactors. With limited money, at this time, only a few plants will get approval for loans. Upon review of those applications a priority ranking is given for each project to determine the likelihood of approval for the loan guarantee. The rankings were not made public but obviously Unistar felt confident after receiving the results. They are now proceeding to submit the 2nd part of the loan guarantee application at a filing cost of \$600,000.

In the last month there have been a couple other significant events leading to the possibility of Calvert Cliffs as being the site of choice. Electricite de France, a large utility giant, has agreed to a \$4.5 partnership with Constellation Energy. The company plans on moving their American headquarters to Maryland to lead its expansion into U.S. energy markets. The Paris based utility is the world's largest owner of nuclear power plants with a portfolio that includes 58 reactors in France alone and 17% of the world's nuclear power generation. A unit of France's Areva group applied to the NRC to build a \$2 billion uranium enrichment plant in Idaho. Areva Enrichment Services is based in Bethesda, MD. Could the Electricite de France and Areva Enrichment Services move to Maryland be about being close to the politicians in Washington or are these nuclear giants setting up shop for the 1st new nuclear plant in the USA – Calvert Cliffs, MD.

Bill Durkin, Business Rep/Organizer

I would like to take this opportunity to reprint a recent article from the “Union Democracy Review” that hits home in a very important way.

In March a construction crane fell 32 stories, killing six and injuring 24; and in May, another crane fall killed two and injured two others. The two falls, both in crowded Manhattan, touched off a series of news reports of other construction-related accidents and dangerous conditions in the city: tumbling scaffolds, falls of window washers, collapse of scaffolds, crumbling concrete, collapsing trenches. The New York Council was so concerned that it placed the subject on its agenda. But the city's problem is part of a larger picture of danger, disease and death in construction and of neglect by enforcement authorities responsible for policing industry for health and safety. The fact is revealed in a research report by Vernon Mogensen, associate professor of political science at the City University of New York. Writing in the fall 2008 issue of Hofstra University's Regional Labor Review under the title of “Deconstructing OSHA; The case of the construction industry.” In his account of the failure of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration to fulfill its responsibilities under federal law, he reminds us of how dangerous working conditions are in construction throughout the nation.

Crane accidents, which touch off the big stories in New York, the author writes, are a common nation-wide event. This year (2008) there have already been major crane collapses in Las Vegas, Miami, Kansas City and Houston. “There were 176 deaths nation-wide due to crane accidents in 2007, more than double the 74 fatalities in 2006.”

Working conditions in construction, which employs more than 7.5 million workers, Morgensen notes, are among the most dangerous in the United States. He buttresses his conclusions with an array of hard facts: 837 fatal falls in 2006, up from 770 in 2005; 1,239 fatal work injuries in 2006 which was 21% of all job fatalities; a fatality rate of 10.9 per 100,000 employed in construction compared with 4.0 for all workers; 412,900 construction workers injured in 2006, a rate of 5.9 per 100 compared to 4.4 for all workers. Most of the statistics on injuries, he argues, are under-reported.

In making a strong case to prove that government enforcement activities are inexcusably lax, he adds, “Workers must be empowered to inspect and report dangerous working conditions without fear of reprisal... Workers must be immunized against retaliation for reporting injuries and illnesses for their own safety and health and for more accurate count.”

In enforcing safe working conditions in construction, the one resource that has never been utilized is the hundreds of thousands of construction workers, those who pay with their lives and limbs for dangerous working conditions. Why doesn't anyone call upon them to police the industry for unsafe practices and expose violations? When danger is threatened in other areas of life, people are called upon to be alert and to act. Suspect a terrorist? Speak up! Police ask for public assistance in the battle against crime. A \$10,000 reward for information against a cop shooter posted on buses and bus stops. Why not something like that for construction?

For one thing, there is a flaw in construction hiring hall practices. Almost all union contracts grant employers the right to reject any applicant for a job, even those dispatched from union hall. In an industry where jobs are transient and job security is absent, any worker, even a union member, who complains about anything, is in danger of long term blacklisting. And so, the norm becomes: Shut up, go along to get along. Until the employers' unilateral right to reject is ended and workers win protection under the grievance procedure against arbitrary rejection, whistleblowers will remain without protection and will be reluctant to speak out.

I have seen, myself how difficult it is to find some agency to respond to safety violations; asbestos, ditches, scaffolding. I have seen where employees are let go or forced out for complaining. We need government to do its job and be accessible to the workers.

We also need to introduce in our contract “right of refusal **with cause**”. People are rejected from hiring on what someone has heard or just because that person is unknown or someone has voiced their opinion on something at a Union meeting. We have instituted the “Standards of Excellence” to deal with members that don't comply with reasonable codes of conduct.

It's time we deal with our members' right to a job, a safe work environment and their right to free speech.

SOLIDARITY

President, John P. Sullivan

Year-end reports from the Associated Press, The Washington Post, and the Richmond Times Dispatch

Pressured by the Bush administration to quickly approve a Wall Street Bailout, Congress surrendered its fiscal responsibility and approved a \$700 billion give away with few strings attached. Worse, the Treasury Department, which doled out the money allocated for the *Troubled Asset Relief Program* (TARP), never asked the banks how it would be spent. The Treasury made no demands and received no assurances.

Do you think that you could borrow money from a bank without saying what you were going to do with it? Well, apparently the bankers and the Wall Street elite know that they can. Their only rhyme, their only reason, their combined litany is that they are too big to be allowed to fail. They need not reform; in fact they must be allowed to continue their largess and greed. They have refused to explain or account for hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer money.

The Associated Press contacted 21 banks that received at least \$1 billion in government money and asked four questions: How much has been spent? What was it spent on? How much is being held in savings, and what's the plan for the rest?

Some of the nation's largest banks say they can't track exactly how they're spending it. Some won't even talk about it. If they did comment, their remarks were evasive and confusing. None of the banks provided specific answers.

"We're choosing not to disclose that," said Kevin Heine, spokesman for Bank of New York Mellon, which received about \$3 billion. "We're not providing dollar-in, dollar-out tracking," said Barry Koling, a spokesman for Atlanta-based SunTrust Banks Inc., which got \$3.5 billion in taxpayer dollars.

Thomas Kelly, a spokesman for JPMorgan Chase, which received \$25 billion in emergency bailout money, said that while some of the money was lent, some was not, and the bank has not given any accounting of exactly how the money is being used. "We have not disclosed that to the public. We're declining to," Kelly said.

"We manage our capital in its aggregate," said Regions Financial Corp. spokesman Tim Deighton, who said the Birmingham, Ala.-based company is not tracking how it is spending the \$3.5 billion it received as part of the financial bailout.

In a related series of stories we've learned that the banks and security firms that are getting taxpayer bailouts awarded their top executives nearly \$1.6 billion in salaries, bonuses, and other benefits last year. The AP story was based on compiled reports from 116 banks that submitted annual compensation reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Among their findings:

"The total amount given to nearly 600 executives would cover bailout costs for many of the 116 banks that have so far accepted (\$ 188 Billion in) tax dollars to boost their bottom lines." "The average paid to each of the banks' top executives was \$2.6 million in salary, bonuses and benefits."

"Benefits included cash bonuses, stock options, personal use of company jets and chauffeurs, home security, country club memberships and professional money management..." Some banks even paid for financial advisers. "Wells Fargo of San Francisco, which took \$25 billion in taxpayer bailout money, gave its top executives up to \$20,000 each to pay (for) personal financial planners."

“John A. Thain, chief executive officer of Merrill Lynch, topped all corporate bank bosses with \$83 million in earnings last year. Thain, a former chief operating officer for Goldman Sachs, took the reins of the company in December 2007, avoiding the blame for a year in which Merrill lost \$7.8 billion. Since he began work late in the year, he earned \$57,692 in salary, a \$15 million signing bonus and an additional \$68 million in stock options.”

“Lloyd Blankfein, president and chief executive officer of Goldman Sachs, took home nearly \$54 million in compensation last year. The company's top five executives received a total of \$242 million.”

“Even where banks cut back on pay, some executives were left with seven- or eight-figure compensation that most people can only dream about. Richard D. Fairbank, the chairman of Capital One Financial Corp., took a \$1 million hit in compensation after his company had a disappointing year, but still got \$17 million in stock options.”

“At Bank of New York Mellon Corp., chief executive Robert P. Kelly's stipend for financial planning services came to \$66,748, on top of his \$975,000 salary and \$7.5 million bonus. His car and driver cost \$178,879. Kelly also received \$846,000 in relocation expenses, including help selling his home in Pittsburgh and purchasing one in Manhattan, the company said.”

“Goldman Sachs' tab for leased cars and drivers ran as high as \$233,000 per executive. The firm told its shareholders this year that financial counseling and chauffeurs are important in giving executives more time to focus on their jobs.

“JP Morgan-Chase chairman James Dimon ran up a \$211,182 private jet travel tab last year when his family lived in Chicago and he was commuting to New York. The company got \$25 billion in bailout funds.”

Shame on Senator Harry Reid and every other politician and pundit who piled on the American Auto Industry and the American Auto Worker when they asked for a bridge loan instead of a handout.

FROM WAYNE'S WORLD

Do you have a New Year's Resolution?

This is a time of year when we take stock of what has taken place in the past year. We could have done this at anytime but it seems we always wait until this time of year to look back. This year is a year unlike any other. The bad economy, the war still going on and a new Administration coming in to replace the one that has been there for eight years. Everyone is looking for help to start fixing all of the problems. Let's ask ourselves what will be the new year be like and is there a way that 2009 will be a better year? This makes me think, what can I do to make my life better for myself and my family? I could start by asking am I where I want to be in my life and in my trade. Do I need more education and training in the trade that might make me better at what I do? Are you often satisfied with the ways things are and get lazy with your life and trade? I wonder why we let ourselves get into that spot. Do we lose site on being better at what we do or do we tell ourselves, I have come a long way and I am doing OK. Our trade provides us with a good living and benefits for ourselves and our families. We can't get lazy with it. It's like a bank, you only get out what you put in. Will Rogers said" Don't let your

yesterdays fill up your tomorrows.” So don’t let last year get in the way of where you can be this year. This year try to be positive, not negative! Be more productive, have a better attitude and look ahead to tomorrow. Look at this year as a race with yourself. Have determination, set your goals and go for them. The Trade School has all that a member needs to become the best at our trade, it’s like having a tool box full of tools but you never open it to take any out. 602 has some big Medical Gas jobs starting I hope we will have the manpower. So if you have not made any New Year’s resolutions, maybe you should think about it.

I wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year