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A brochure is available at www.laborerslocal942.org



John Zuleger, Organizer

Organizer's Report

The International Union has recently finished drafting a Laborers' history manual and this material is now available for us to share with our members. Also, last month I attended a Train the Trainer V.O.I.C.E. class in Seattle, Washington. VOICE stands for Volunteer Organizers in Construction Empowerment. We are planning on offering both the VOICE class and the labor history class here at Local 942 and I strongly recommend taking both classes. The first VOICE class and labor history class will be held during the February steward's training. Watch for more details on the next classes which will be offered throughout the year and will be open to the general membership. The goal of these classes is to educate every member on the history of the Laborers' Union, the importance of organizing, and what role each member can play in creating a stronger Local Union.

January 5th through the 19th of this year, I had the opportunity to be involved in the Alliance for Economic Justice Campaign on behalf of Richard Gephardt. Even though Gephardt dropped out of the Democratic Presidential race after Iowa, I have nothing but positive things to say about my experience. The planning and attention to detail were amazing. It was evident every day that not only were the people coordinating the campaign determined to win, but their energy was being carried forward by the soldiers on the ground. Having the power of 17 unions focused on one goal was an amazing sight. There is no doubt that in future political and organizing campaigns, this level of cooperation can turn the tide for Labor. I see not only trained organizers as the soldiers but also the pairing of members with them as a critical next step.

Just a quick update of some of our current activities. Our campaign is getting underway with DGR Associates, a service contract provider on Eielson AFB. They are a non-union contractor out of Missouri who recently moved into the state. Potentially they could be competing with our contractors for work and taking jobs away from our members.

After an extensive house calling and polling of the known employees of Chugach/McKinley General, a housing maintenance contractor, we've postponed any further action until there is a greater showing of support from within the group.

R & D Environmental has agreed to sign with us on their upcoming asbestos work. Currently they are working in Ketchikan at the Safeway with four to five hands on the job.

Talks are still underway with Nippon Hoddo and International Bridge in Koyukuk, and Dawson Construction in Southeast. Things look good for a successful resolution for this potential work.

I have taken over where Tim Sharp and others left off with Nabors organizing. After nine years of struggle, the hands are still firm in their desire for a union contract.

You'll notice the suggestion box at the hall. It is located over near the phone for members. Through conversations

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Regular member dues are \$25.00 per month.
Retiree dues are \$12.00 per month.



Nabors Drill Rig. John Hanna is in the foreground



By Jonna Weed, Office Manager

Jonna's Corner

Good news! Dental coverage has been restored for everyone except for those on Plan 502 and Retirees. Time to make that dental appointment. Effective January 1, 2004, Preventive Services are covered at 80%, Restorative and Major Services are covered at 50%, and the annual maximum benefit is \$1500.00.

These reinstated dental benefits are not subject to the 10% rollback that applies to medical coverage. We do still have a 10% medical rollback in effect for our medical coverage.

Dues have gone up to \$25.00 a month. Don't forget that dues must not get more than two months behind, or you will be suspended. Retiree dues remain at \$12.00 a month. If a retiree wants to sign up on the out-of-work list and go to work, full dues are required.

The NSTC class (North Slope Training Class) is required for all members working North Slope and pipeline jobs. Refresher classes must be taken each year. These classes are offered **every** month. Don't wait until the last minute to take the class!

Thanks to Sandy Thompson for the beautiful Christmas tree she made for the Union.

Organizer's Report (continued from page 9)

I've had with many of you, I've come to realize there are a lot of great ideas that never get voiced. I'm hoping that the suggestion box will act as a way for folks to share potential organizing opportunities and replies to the posted question. I'd like to thank Hugh, Tabatha Hornsby, and Gareth Ward for putting that together.

I'm working on a program through which community-based organizations could put in a call for volunteers similar to the way contractors do. We'd then "dispatch" willing volunteers to help out. The hours they accumulate would be totalled and credit given towards merchandise or other forms of recognition. I'd like to thank all of you that have volunteered for various activities, especially during the Christmas season. Thanks to those who helped out at the Kiwanis tree sale and also at Santa's Clearing House. If anyone else is interested in volunteer opportunities, just let me know.

On a final note I'd like to ask each of you to pay particular attention this summer to the contractors working out there. With the volume of work that will be done this year, there's going to be a lot of new players on the scene. Without your help, some of these contractors may slip by and work non-union, taking jobs from the mouths of everyone here. Please call 456-4584 if you see any new contractors. Thanks for your help.

Did you know you can get insurance forms on our web site?
Go to www.laborerslocal942.org today!



By Don Etheridge, Southeast Representative

Southeast Report

In the Southeast we are looking for a fairly busy year this season with projects that are almost ready to bid. We are going to start soon on a harbor project in Wrangell and the NOAA Facility is finally supposed to get started this year. The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) portion of this project is supposed to get going also. The Bartlett Hospital project has gone back to the designers with the expectation that an additional 6 million dollars will be cut from the project budget. It is hoped to be back out for bid this season.

The new Juneau High School is slated to hit the street this summer but may run into a wall. A petition is being circulated to stop the project until the school board proves their projected numbers for student population and that the necessary funds will be available to operate a new school. Hopefully all will work out to build the school.

Some local bond money is available this year for improvements to the water and sewer systems and to extend the city water system out past Tee Harbor.

On the political front, we need some help to get the Unemployment Insurance Bill out of the State Senator's Labor and Commerce Committee. We need people to contact Senator Seekins' office and ask him to support moving bill HB 305 out of committee as is. As it stands right now Alaska ranks number 47 in the nation for benefits paid out. With the passage of the bill we would move up to the middle of the pack.

The Governor has introduced a bill that makes many changes to the workers comp system. The bill has 58 pages to it. It is our hope that the legislature will allow the bill to go to the Labor Management Ad Hoc Committee as has been the case for the last 23 years.

Thanks, Glen



Glen Pilcher

Due to his increased responsibilities as Houston/Nana's Civil Construction Manager, Brother Glenn Pilcher has resigned from his elected position as Recording Secretary of the Local effective February 2004. Glen has been a local member for over thirty years and an officer since 1996. During those years, Glen never wavered in living up to his duties to this local as a loyal member, steward, foreman, general foreman or local union officer.

Glen has also announced he will retire August 1, 2004. The staff and Executive Board of Local 942 wish him well on his retirement and want him to know that they have no concerns that wherever his new career will take him, Brother Pilcher will never forget where he comes from.



Photo by John Hanna

President's Report (cont'd from pg. 4)

line, Power and Communications. The intent of this business decision is reported to enable ASRC Energy Services to compete for projects in a much broader market. The senior management pledges their commitment to remain union and compete as a union company. Once the legal formalities are completed, the union will update contracts and dispatches to reflect the changes.

Houston/Nana, now ASRC Energy Services was awarded the contract to perform approximately twenty-two corrosion investigation digs line-wide. The contract for the vaults went to Ahtna/KBR.

ASRC Energy Services was also awarded a contract by Bechtel to construct a power supply project for the GMD Ballistic Missile Project. Details will be forth coming at our daily call.

AIC was awarded the contract to construct the mine road to the Teck/Pogo mine site along with the civil site work. Pre-job information about this project and others will be posted at the Union hall as the pre-job is completed.

Recently the newspaper reported on the application of Mid-America Energy Holdings Company and MEHC Alaska Gas Transmission Company to the State of Alaska Department of Revenue. They applied for approval under the Alaska Stranded Gas Development Act to negotiate tax and financial terms with the State of Alaska to facilitate the transportation of stranded Alaskan natural gas. MAGTC is a subsidiary of Mid America Energy Holdings Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Other members of the project's sponsor group include Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and Pacific Star Energy, LLC. This proposal to construct a 48-inch diameter high-pressure natural gas pipeline from the North Slope area to the Alaska-Yukon border near Beaver Creek is very promising. It meets the state's criteria for an Alaskan pipeline along the Alaska Highway, then tying into the existing Canadian pipeline infrastructure for distribution of Alaska's gas. MAGTC will be responsible for the Alaska segment of the project and is pursuing project development in anticipation of a December 31, 2010 in-service date. Phillips/Conoco has also announced similar intentions. (continued on page 13)

Union Generations



Retired member Gil Dobbs (left), joined Laborers Local 942 in 1970. Here he is pictured with his son Mike Dobbs (center), also a member of 942 since 1976. Jacob (right) is the son of Mike Dobbs. Jacob graduated from the Laborers Apprenticeship program in 2001.



But that is not all! Pat and Cary Dobbs are also members of Local 942 and both are sons of Gil Dobbs. Pictured here from left to right: Pat, Mike, Gil and Cary Dobbs.

"If I were a worker...the first thing I would do would be to join a union."
-- Franklin D. Roosevelt



President's Report (cont'd from pg. 12)

As a trustee, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss our Health and Welfare, Pension, and Training Funds. The Trustees of the Alaska Laborers-Employers Trust Funds are in the process of reviewing our service providers. The goal of the Trustees is to ensure the integrity of our providers and their ability to be competitive in their particular field.

During the last meeting of the Trustees, the decision to reinstate the dental benefit was approved and became effective January 1, 2004. The Health and Welfare Trust continues on the path of recovery and reserves continue to grow. It is the desire of all Trustees to restore medical benefits to the levels the participants enjoyed prior to the current cost containment measures.

The Trustees also terminated Express Scripts because of their inability to live up to their responsibility of providing an efficient prescription service to our members. They were replaced with Pharmaceutical Care Network (PCN) and Postal Prescription Services (PPS) as the mail order vendor through PCN. The feedback from the members has been positive so far concerning this change of vendor.

We urge all members to take time and review the medical services, charges and unnecessary lab tests when you visit your doctor. **Be an informed patient.**

After three years of dismal investment returns, the market ended 2003 with some very good news for pension funds who stayed the course. The Trustees continue to monitor and adjust our asset allocation to take advantage of this positive trend.

The Alaska Laborers-Employers Training Trust continues to grow with our commitment to the apprentice program, journeyman training classes and upgrades. The Union's leadership is looking into the future and developing plans and direction to move to the cutting edge of industry training. The time is upon us to move into an environment of continuous training for journeymen. The industry is changing at such a rapid pace. The introduction of new techniques, products, and regulations demands us to keep up in order to remain competitive.

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Union Generations



Carl Weed (left), retired Local 942 member and a former Business Representative is shown with his wife, Jonna Weed, Office Manager for Local 942, Carl J. Weed, newest family member of Local 942, and Sumner J. Weed, Local 942 Retiree and former Recording Secretary of the Union.

Are you a member of a third or fourth generation laborer family? Let us know!





Photo by John Hanna



President's Report (cont'd from pg. 13)

This year is a presidential election year and there will be a lot of debate on the economy, the effects of NAFTA, lack of decent jobs, corporate greed and scandal, and, of course, the war in the Middle East. In the Business Manager's Report, Tim spoke on the importance of working men and women sticking together and voting with one voice on matters that secure good paying jobs, medical coverage, pensions, and your ability to provide decent housing for your family. We can make a difference in our future.

Those of us that are employed in the public sector will continue to be threatened by the reductions in state funding, the inability of the City of Fairbanks to raise funds, the struggles of the Fairbanks North Star Borough with escalating health care costs, and increased demands on their PERS contributions to meet financial obligations to the public employees retirement system.

I would like to congratulate those of you who got involved in defeating the latest ballot initiative regarding the FNSB I/M program. Some may think it was a small victory, but to the members whose jobs were saved, it was BIG! I encourage you to come to meetings and get involved. **The job you save may be your own.**


Congratulations to Kurtis Knutson, Renna Hoener and Risa Nabielski, winners of the Fall/Winter 2003/2004 scholarship awards. Each received a \$750.00 award towards their studies.

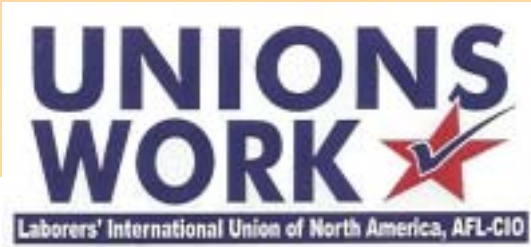
Volunteer eight hours of your time each year on union issues. Eight hours is not much to ask, and the results will be a stronger and more powerful Union. If you have any questions, suggestions, or ideas, please feel free to come in and discuss them.



With Fond Memories.....

Local 942 Members Who Passed Away in 2003

Ed Hallman		02/06/2003
Cecil Vest		03/05/2003
Orval Dillon		04/21/2003
William Bolton Sr.		05/12/2003
Wilbur Sampson		05/24/2003
George H. Provine		06/03/2003
George C. Reed		06/19/2003
Lawrence Germain		07/06/2003
Michael Herrity		08/07/2003
Russell Malone		08/12/2003
Russell Duvall		08/13/2003
James Brown		08/29/2003
John Tucker		09/27/2003
Frank Carley		10/08/2003
Bill Webster		10/17/2003
Michael Beasley		11/01/2003
James Cornwell		11/05/2003
Clifford Mullin		12/20/2003
Orlo Holder		02/15/2004



Recent Retirees.....

Congratulations to our New Retirees!

Aug - Dec 2003	John Ward
Lloyd Abfalter	James Wojtanek
Beverly Aleck	Phillip Zastrow
Steven Baskin	2004
David Bergstrom	Joe J. Blount
John Colagiovanni	Robert K. Erickson
Hank Freshwaters	Stephen Fitzgerald
Tommy Garner	John R. Miller
Gary Hammond	Jimmy R. Newton
Robert Jameyson	
Steve Kelly	
Michael C. Martin	
Kenneth G. Myers	
Gary C. Olson	
Michael Potter	
Donald J. Russell	
Gergory Selig	
Andre Thibodeau	
Timothy VanDonsel	
Pamela Wages	

Seasonal Business Agent Opening

The Local Union is currently accepting applications for a seasonal Business Agent for the months of May through September or October of 2004. Working knowledge of our AGC Master Agreement, union jurisdiction, basic labor law is helpful but not required. Must have transportation and valid Alaskan driver's license. Applicants should submit a letter of interest along with a resume of qualifications by April 15th to be considered for this position. Compensation is based on a forty-five hour work week. Address all applications to:

Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Laborers Local No. 942
2740 Davis Rd.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Zuleger new Recording Secretary

John Zuleger has been appointed to the Executive Board to serve as Recording Secretary, and the current Recording Secretary, Don McTaggart, is now the Vice-President. Congratulations to former Recording Secretary Glen Pilcher on his upcoming retirement from Local 942.

John Zuleger comes from a strong union background, beginning with his great grandfather. The Zuleger family has been in the road construction business for generations and naturally John followed the family trade. He remembers going to job sites with his father, who was a business agent for the Operating Engineers.



Laborers VOTE!



LIUNA News to Use

Why do workers join the Laborers Union?
Better pay, better health insurance, a better pension, and better training and job advancement.

The U.S. Senate voted February 19th to support a \$318 billion highway and transit bill turning back efforts to slash funding. The fight isn't over yet, as the U.S. House needs to approve the bill and the Bush Administration is talking veto. Ask Congressman Young to keep the funding at least at \$318 million.

Go to www.unionvoice.org/campaign/nabors to show your support for Nabors Alaska Laborers. This will be the fourth year that Nabors continues to refuse to negotiate for a fair contract even though a majority of workers have voted for union representation.

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