



Local Lodge 1746

# insight

357 Main St.— East Hartford, CT. 06118 — Telephone: 568-3000

July 2007

Volume 10, Issue 7

## The Waiting Game



If you thought that veto-proof Democratic control of the State Senate and House of Representatives would be a good thing for labor issues, boy oh boy, have our elected officials got news for you! Seems like any time there's a

pro-labor bill on the legislative agenda, the CBIA (CT Business and Industry Association) summons their lobbying buzzards to descend upon the Capitol and squawk about how "bad these bills are for Connecticut business". Our jittery legislators run as fast as they can back to their cushy chamber seats to press their quivering fingers on the big red "NO" button.

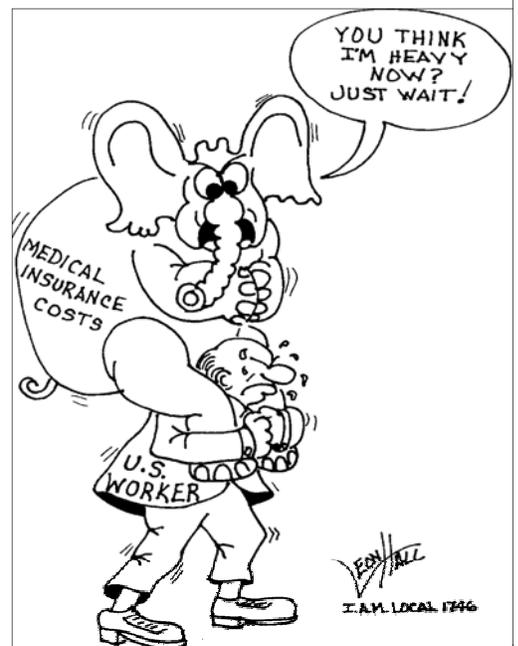
A bill to improve **Workers Compensation**, a bill to stop mandatory anti-labor "**captive audiences**" meetings at work, one to require companies with 50 or more employees to provide **sick leave**, and a bill to study how **out-sourcing** impacts on Connecticut families all fell by the wayside. The CBIA's blaring message prevailed: "**Workers interests are bad for Connecticut businesses**". Despite holding a **veto-proof majority** in both houses, the pathetic Dems tucked their tails between their legs and failed to over-ride Governor Rell's veto of their own income tax bill, to cut taxes for 95% of Connecticut Taxpayers.

Even universal health care, supported by a large majority of state residents (84%), died a shameful political death. Conspicuously missing from the Connecticut General Assembly's list of bills passed were S.B. 1371 (single-payer reform) and HB 7314 (large-pool reform), both of which would have paved the way for universal health care. Neither bill ever made it through the quagmire of legislative commit-

tees. Instead what we got was S.B. 1484, a hastily-concocted, face-saving measure that increases HUSKY enrollment and Medicaid income limits--but which remains a far cry from universal health care. The only silver-lining in the bill is the establishment of an Authority with a labor representative to recommend a universal health care plan for the *next* session. **Don't hold your breath waiting**, especially if you don't have health insurance: ***you might pass out, hit your head, and lose your house from paying your medical bills.***

Juan Figueroa, president of the Universal Health Care Foundation of CT, stressed the grassroots effort to tackle the health care crisis wasn't in vain. "*What the Governor and legislature missed, **the people of Connecticut got.** People from around the state put aside their differences and united around the common goal of building a just, coherent, and sustainable system of health care for our state...**Connecticut can't afford to wait.***"

For now we have to wait. But rest assured, the issue will be back in 2008 in the glaring spotlight of a presidential election. Until then, it's time to let our legislators know how disappointed we are in their performance, in our letters and phone calls as well as at the election booth next November. The politicians may be packing for *(Cont.- page 2)*





**IFSOA**  
Independent Fire/Security  
Officers Association



## 2007 United Way Poker Run Saturday~July 14<sup>th</sup>

Last year's Pratt & Whitney United Way Poker Run was the biggest yet, and great fun too. We had over 300 participants, and raised over \$6700, all of which was donated to the United Way. Over the last six years, the motorcycle event has generated over \$21,000 in donations to the United Way. The event is a lot of fun, but not only for those who participate in the ride. The dozens of volunteers, some of who have worked the event every year since the beginning, also find it a real satisfying experience. The teamwork, camaraderie, and all those cool motorcycles continue to make the Poker Run an event worthy of everyone's charitable work.

This year will mark the 7th Annual Pratt & Whitney United Way Poker Run, and we are working hard to insure this year's motorcycle event is even better. It will be held on **Saturday, July 14, 2007 (Rain Date July 15), at the East Hartford Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Museum and Hangar.** The run isn't a race, and it isn't done in a large convoy. It's a great way to ride for a good cause, see some of Connecticut's beautiful scenery, and to meet some really great people.

We have event pins, biker pens, door prizes, and a Barbecue lunch is also available. There is a 50/50 mileage pool; buy a square, and guess how far the run

takes you; closest guess (not over) to actual run mileage wins. You need to be present to win prizes, and a barbecue lunch will be provided for participants. Registration and departure is from 8:30-10AM. If you are not a biker, you can show up, purchase a hand and have someone ride for you. Check out all the bikes, enjoy the camaraderie, have something to eat, and just have a great time while supporting a great cause.

### 2006 United Way Poker Run



**Nice Ride**



**Good Food**

## CHESHIRE ENGINE CENTER UNITED WAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Friday, July 13, 2007

**Tee Time:** 9:30 AM (20 Teams Needed For Shotgun)

**Place:** Hawk's Landing Golf Club, Southington, Ct  
4 Person Scramble (Individuals or Foursomes)

**Entry Fee:** \$100 Per Person (Fee includes: donation to United Way, green fees, carts, prizes & buffet consisting of: Chicken Romano, Sausage & Peppers, Ziti Marinara, Red Roasted Potatoes, Veggies, Tossed Salad, Bread/Butter and Cake)

For reservations, call Paul Polzella 203-250-4449

No later than June 30, 2007

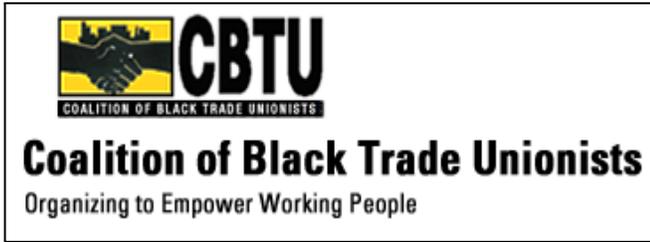
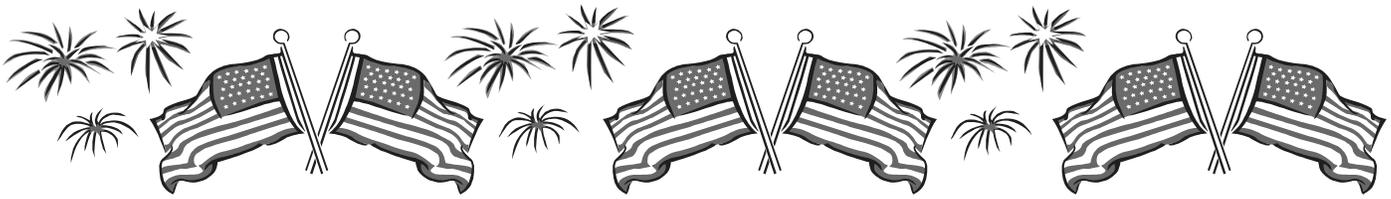
**Method of payment:** Cash or check payable to CASH  
Fees must be received no later than Noon July 6, 2007



*("Waiting" cont. from pg 1)*

summer vacation, but the activists are still keeping the faith.

Next stop: the annual **4<sup>th</sup> of July Boombox Parade** in Willimantic, this year with a health care twist from the Caring Families Coalition. Want to be part of a fun celebration? Go to <http://www.wili-am.com/parade.htm> for more information. Thanks to all who worked stood up for universal health care in Connecticut this session-your efforts are truly appreciated! See you again NEXT YEAR. **We will never give up.**



# CBTU 36<sup>th</sup> International Convention-2007

By CBTU Delegate Howard Small

I would like to thank Local 1746 for sending me to Chicago for the 36<sup>th</sup> International Convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), held from May 23-28.

William Lucy, President of the CBTU presided over the convention. The long list of invited speakers included: Linda Chavez, AFL-CIO Vice-President; Larry Cohen, President of the Communication Workers Union (CWA); Gerald McEntee, President of AFSCME; and Congressman Bennie Thompson (Mississippi).

Keynote speaker was Senator Barack Obama, (D-IL) who is also a 2008 presidential candidate. The Senator stated that we need to end the war in Iraq, which is not winnable, and is costing billions of dollars that could be better spent meeting the needs of our citizens at home. If elected, he promised to do everything in his power to ensure that every American has adequate healthcare for themselves and their families. He also strongly supports the rights of workers to organize into unions and to bargain over wages, health care and other benefits. Quality education for all children is also of utmost importance to Senator Obama.

The CBTU consists of members from 75 national and international unions, with 42 chapters across the country. CBTU seeks to fulfill the dream of the black trade-unionists, both living and deceased, who have courageously and unremittingly struggled to build a national movement *to bring all our strengths and varied talents to bear in the unend-*

*ing effort to achieve economic, political and social justice for every American.*

*Some of CBTU's basic objectives are:*

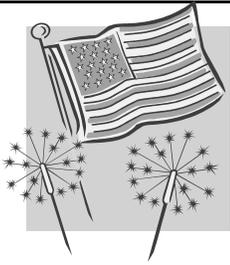
- ☉ Improve economic development and job opportunities for black workers.
- ☉ Work within the trade union movement to provide a voice and vehicle for greater black and minority participation in all levels of their unions.
- ☉ Increase union participation in voter registration, voter education and *“Get Out The Vote”* efforts on Election Day.
- ☉ Organize unorganized (non-union) workers.
- ☉ Actively support Civil Rights groups working to improve living and working conditions in black communities.
- ☉ Increase effective political alliances between labor, religious groups and the community organizations.

The CBTU will continue to support job training initiatives and other programs aimed at reducing the black youth unemployment rate. Additionally, CBTU will keep working for the protection of consumers from escalating price increases in the *“Four Necessities”* of life: FOOD, HOUSING, ENERGY AND MEDICAL CARE...all of which are hit the hardest by today's inflation.

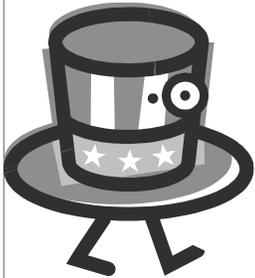
**REMEMBER: Get out and vote!!**  
**You can make a change in 2008!!**

*Thank you again,  
Howard Small.*





**The Next Monthly Meeting is  
Sunday, July 8th at 11:00 am**  
“Happy Fourth of July to  
You and Your Family”



Please email your  
announcements &  
messages.  
Items for the next issue  
must  
be emailed by  
July 1st, 2007.

**In Memoriam**



*Insight* would like to honor the memory of two distinguished Union Brothers—both long time members of Local 1746—who recently passed away.

**James Waring**, age 100, most recently of Port St. Lucie, Florida, passed away on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Brother Waring was a member of this Local for **53 years**, since 1953. In 1972, he founded the IAM District 91 Retirees Club, serving as its president for a number of years.

**George Cope**, age 95, of East Hartford passed away on June 7<sup>th</sup>. He was an assembler at Pratt for a number of years,

before serving as Business Representative for Local 1746 in the 60s and 70s. Brother Cope was a member of our Local for **61 years**, originally joining the IAM in 1946. After retiring as Business Rep, George would regularly visit Local Lodge Stewards Classes to present the history of the **1960 Strike Against United Aircraft**.

We thank both of these brothers for their hard work and sacrifices over the years, to make life better for their fellow workers and for all of mankind.

[www.iamLL1746.org](http://www.iamLL1746.org)  
[www.iamdistrict26.org](http://www.iamdistrict26.org)  
[www.goiam.org](http://www.goiam.org)  
[www.shopunionmade.org](http://www.shopunionmade.org)



**July 2007**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**5 Months Until New Contract!**

**Don't Forget to Wear RED on Fridays**

**LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

John Taylor, President; James Bullock, Vice-President;  
Bill Coney, Recording Secretary; Nancy Flagg, Secretary Treasurer;  
David Batchelder, Conductor/Sentinel; Howard Huestis, Brad Chase, Ron Ouellette; Trustees

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*Special Thanks to Brother Leon Hall for His Original Cartoon on Page 1*