



Local Lodge 1746

insight

357 Main St.— East Hartford, CT. 06118 – Telephone: 860-568-3000

March 2011 Volume 9 Issue 3

What Kind of Safety is it?

Culture, Cover up or Vendetta? You decide.

During the last negotiations the company was determined to get Letter 27 over and done without any problems. The Company wants the EH&S Professionals to work together with our Union Safety Representatives to come out and implement a safety Culture program. While all that sounds pretty nice and encouraging; the truth is quite different.

Let's start with the incident in CANMC with the "Laser Went Wild" There was an incident with a laser in which the beam went right thru the cover and if somebody would have been in the way it could have turned a Rooster into a Hen in a Matter of seconds.

There is a Hole where the beam went thru the size of a quarter; but according to Mr. Salt Man (aka Bob Morton) EH&S manager of the CANMC; it was only a "Scratch", and no investigation or near miss or anything was put into the system until one of the Union safety Reps. demanded an investigation and the paperwork that should have been done within 24 hours of the incident. And that is not all.

In TMC one of the safety Reps. questioned Manager Bruce Mace about outside contractors working in the site, and hearing the word Hydrogen, wanted to know what was going on. Well it happens that there was a Hydrogen leak around "J" Bldg. It was nothing, it was decided not to bother notifying the Union Safety Reps. about the incident. As of now they are still working on the so called leak. Had enough? What about the fire at, the Willgoose Facility?

It looks like the newspapers and the general public found out about it before the Union Safety Reps, but that is not all! When OSHA came into the site to investi-

gate, the Union wasn't even involved, because according to the Safety Czar, "there was NO NEED to involve the Union." Article 26, Section 10 of the CBA, keeps getting violated at Will. Because somebody High in the food Chain; ordered that the Chief Safety Rep. of East

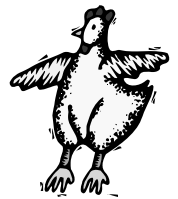
Hartford taken off the incident notification list (aka ITA) while he was on vacation.

Letter 28 of the CBA, already a subject of grievances about non compliances, with dispositions that the Company will abide by it. The Union Safety Chief mysteriously got taken off the list of persons to be supplied with all the minutes of the VH&S meetings in the site.

A few of years ago the Company spent millions in the "Humantech Ergo System" now it is discarded as an old piece of junk. With all the great ergo fixes that came about during that period, managers like Joe Rancid in TMC is trying to

replace all the Good Ergo Carts that were purchased with some metal ones that could create more hazards than ever. But Rancid doesn't stop there; he barges into the Ergo meetings trying to intimidate everybody and circumventing the Complaint procedure, probably with the Approval and encouragement of TMC higher management. To put the icing on the cake, Attila the Hen couldn't keep herself off the Charts, so she decided to do what she does best. Go after anybody who disagrees with her.

There was a fire on a machine in "M" Bldg and she suspended the first shift operator, who coincidentally happens to be the Union Safety Rep. who has been arguing with management about missing DPR's and other safety violations in the Bldg. that Attila and the Gang refuse to address. Did it stop there? NO, she also suspended the 2nd. Shift



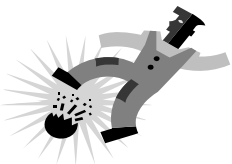
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Continued from cover story

operator the next day at almost the end of his shift. But he was well informed, because when the operator walked in the door on Thursday, the First Shift Foreman's welcome was "why are you here we were told you got suspended for three days".

Brother and Sisters if you see something that doesn't look safe, it probably isn't, so ask your supervisor for a Union Safety Rep. to address your concerns, don't wait for the Company; they are too busy with their "Safety Culture" to pay attention to you. All we could gather from all of this nonsense is that ever since Little Red Riding Hood, who moved up from cell manager to the Position of MC&O EH&S Director, took command of the situation to champion the Company's interests Company /Union relations in the safety arena have taken a turn for the worse. Now the Company is rewarding this person by giving her the command of all the F&S personnel in both Middletown and East Hartford facilities in addition to everything else she has. We believe that the so called "Safety Culture" is nothing more than a nice name for: "Safety Vendettas", kind of like the old Spanish Inquisition; either you agree with us in everything we say and do or you are burned at the stake for being a heretic.



*"I got a blank memo too.
Management must have added another unwritten rule."*

History of the Triangle Shirt Waist factory Fire!

This is how important Safety and Health in the work place is. Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, located on the Lower East side of New York was the sight of a tragic fire on, March 25th, 1911. It was a horrific day in New York and although it has been 100 years, the history lingers on.

It was started by a careless act of someone throwing a cigarette butt into a bin of rags. A fire broke out. All the doors and exits were locked by the owners Isaac Harris and Max Blanck for fear someone would steal a shirt. Because of this, human lives were gone, approximately 146 deaths, 13 of which were men. The deaths were primarily of young teens and women in their 20's. Immigrants of Italian and Jewish women. Back then there were no Safety and Health laws to prevent this. They had faulty fire escapes that could not be used, many just jumped out of windows and were found dead on the side-



walks below.

There was an outcry from the public to start a commission to investigate work places. In 1914, the commission called for change to make work places safer. Workers then contacted workers from unionized places for help. Their request was simply, a safe workplace for all. (The owners of the factory got out alive.) Some of the bodies were so badly charred they could not be identified. The city actually had a makeshift morgue set up inside a warehouse. There were just so many deaths that the public morgue couldn't handle it.

For more information type Triangle Shirt Waist factory into Google. You will see the horrific pictures and more history than this article can give you

This my brothers and sisters is why EH&S is so important in the work place. If you see something that may be a safety and health issues, contact a safety rep and report it. Make sure all aisles are clear and all doors are not blocked.

*Respectfully yours in solidarity,
Deb Belancik*

What is all this talk about unions?

Unionized state workers in Wisconsin are fighting for their right to keep the union in place. The republican governor wants to take away their ability to have collective bargaining.

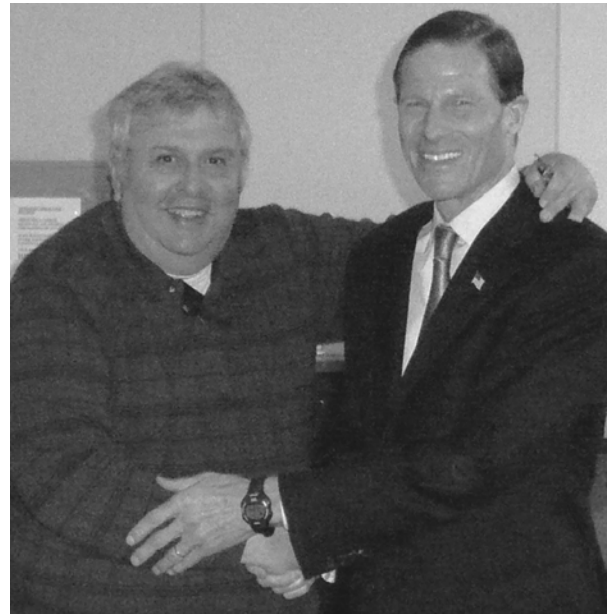
A union is initially established by the workers. They vote as to whether the union should be established or not. It doesn't just happen, people make it happen. Some people think that a union simply takes their money in the form the dues.

Please keep these thoughts in your mind as you read the following. It is the "preamble" of the constitution of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Believing that the right of those who toil to enjoy to the full extent the wealth created by their labor is a natural right, and realizing that under the changing industrial conditions incident to the enormous growth of syndicates and other aggregations of capital it is impossible for those who toil to obtain the full reward of their labor other than through united action; and recognizing the fact that those who toil should use their rights of citizenship intelligently, through organizations founded and acting along cooperative, economic and political lines, using the natural resources, means of production and distribution for the benefit of all the

people, with the view of restoring the commonwealth to all those performing useful service to society; Now,

Therefore, we the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, pledge ourselves to labor united, in behalf of the principles herein set forth, to perpetuate our Association on the basis of solidarity and justice, to expound its objects, to labor for the general adoption of its principles, to consistently endeavor to bring about a higher standard of living



***President of Local lodge 1746 Juan Gelabert on Left
Senator Richard Blumenthal On right***



Foodshare Walk Against Hunger May 1st,2011@1:00P.M.

Local Lodge 1746 will once again be participating in this annual event and is looking for fellow brothers and sisters to join our team. Our Team name is "IAM Local Lodge 1746." The walk is only three miles and is at your own speed. This is a non competition event. Water, orange slices, and rest rooms are provided along the way. Easy access free parking is supplied. Many other local unions will be participating. Our team has finished in first place under the "civic" group for the past four years. Please help this tradition continue.

For every dollar raised it will purchase ten dollars worth of food. We encourage our walkers to donate to the John Driscoll United Labor Agency but the

choice is, of course, yours. You are welcomed to have your family members and friends also join you on the walk.

As you all know the need has increased greatly due to the economy being in a slump. Foodshare is again facing a huge challenge.

Please consider signing up and participating with your brothers and sisters from local Lodge 1746. To sign up you can contact Howard Haberern at Cell # 836-5337, the union hall @ 568-3000 or sign up on the internet @ www.foodshare.org . If you select the internet please sign up under the "join an existing team" logo and we are team "IAMLocalLodge1746". Thanks in advance and we look forward towards your participation.

***Howard A. Haberern
Chairperson
IAM Local Lodge 1746
Community Services Committee***

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

There has been an ongoing issue over the release of the medical information form that AIG/Chartis has been using for the last year or so. I sent a copy of this release form to the Chairman of the State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission John A. Mastropietro recently with some questions. At least one of the AIG/Chartis Representatives claimed that the form they have been having people sign was approved by the Chairman. As it turns out he has never seen this release form and has some issues with it. The contents of Chairman Mastropietro's response follows:

Dear Mr. Merrick:

Mike Petosa was kind enough to forward a copy of the "Authorization For Use or Disclosure of Medical Information" you provided to him. One of the questions you asked was whether I approved Chartis' use of the authorization form that you supplied. I did not have any role in the authoring of its authorization form.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of this agency's suggested Authorization For Release of Medical Records. You will note that the authorization form we have proposed varies from the language of the authorization form utilized by Chartis. It appears that Chartis's form lacks some items that we require and imposes some items for which there is no support.

Specifically, and as you noted, the Chartis form fails to provide a provision indicating the body part(s) to which the release pertains. The Chartis form also does not identify a specific provider to whom the authorization to release information is conferred, nor does it reference that the primary health information to be disclosed pertains to a claim for benefits under the Connecticut Workers' Compensation Act.

Additionally, a provision in the Chartis form indicates that it is valid for twenty-four (24) months. The form we propose suggests expiration of the authorization occurs at the "completion of workers' compensation as evidenced by a stipulation or finding and award/dismissal, or in the event of appellate review, a final determination by the highest appellate *authority to whom an appeal is made.*"

Finally, I note that the Chartis' form includes language that releases it "from any liability or loss due to the release of any medical information". The form we propose contains no such language.

I hope this information is helpful and if we may be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

*Sincerely,
John A. Mastropietro
Chairman*



The above was sent on State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission letterhead with an attachment of their Release of Medical Records form which you will find as an insert in this month's newsletter. Workers' Compensation forms are also available on their website wcc.state.ct.us when you get to the website click on FORMS and you can get one from there. If you have any questions in regards to this form please call Business Representative Steve Merrick at 860-568-3000. If I am not there when you call, please leave your name and a phone number that I can reach you at.

The Challenge Episode III

As we start the 3rd month of the year and also the continuation of the SSP's and the reallocation of union members throughout Middletown and East Hartford, progress is slow but at least it is steady. As of today, CARO is officially closed with only but a handful of employees still working there to wrap up the remaining work. All of the Caro's Occ. 176 members have now been transferred to their new jobs either in Middletown or TMC according to the survey preferences. There were a few minor glitches but we believe that all has been resolved. The placement of the Caro's Occ. 400 is going as planned with people being placed according to the mapping and some are waiting for others to be released from their jobs with the SSP's, so that members can move into those positions. There are a handful of employees in that situation and the union worked out a temporary loaning assignment for those members, rather than send them out on "Furloughs" as the company had suggested at the beginning.

There are still about 5 or 6 CARO's Occ. 400 members that have not been mapped to a new job, but we are still a "work in progress", working hard to secure positions for these employees in the near future. Last report we talked about the brothers and sisters that were on the active recall list that were called back. Today we are again happy to report that a total of 4 laid off members, Occ. 585's (1) and Occ. 520's (3), have been called back, accepted and are in the process of scheduling Medical visits etc.



This zeros out the layoff liabilities in those two codes; leaving only the 400 and 901 codes with layoff liabilities. The Surplus to need in CANMC, of the Occ. 240's is almost complete with all of the members affected already placed or in the process of being placed in Occ. 176's and 583's in the CANMC as well as "M" Bldg and Middletown. We are continuing to experience people backing out of the SSP at the last minute, and that creates problems because all of the previous mapping took into consideration those jobs being available and they are not there anymore.

We are hopeful than in the near future almost everybody in East Hartford that were affected by the CARO closing will be placed in a new Job, whether in this plant or in Middletown. The trades are also being looked at in order for those members that signed up for the SSP be allowed to take it. We must be able to locate members that over the years were in the trades in different PRATT plants and now are in other Codes.

We have identified some 585's and some 520's from the CARO & Cheshire Surveys. There are now postings for some F&S jobs as well as MTS jobs; they are all entry level positions. Hutton at the last meeting agreed to open up to 20 positions for the move of the FAR145 which is now being done in Cheshire to transfer to "M" Bldg. in EHRO. The numbers are 17 occ. 400's and 3 occ. 901. Because of the provisions in the CBA members will move with their work from Cheshire.



ORGANIZED LABOR RECOGNITION NIGHT

Rock Cats vs. Thunder
Saturday, June 25, 2011

Gates open at 5:05 PM; Game Time is 6:35 PM

For the third consecutive year, Local Lodge 1746 has purchased 200 vouchers so that our members can attend this fun-filled night in New Britain. Tickets are on a first come first served basis and may be reserved by calling the Local at **860-568-3000** between 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday.

In addition to the game and recognition of the various labor unions, the Rock Cats and the AFL-CIO will be collecting household and toiletry goods to raise supplies for the John J. Driscoll, UNITED LABOR AGENCY. Be sure to bring your donations with you.





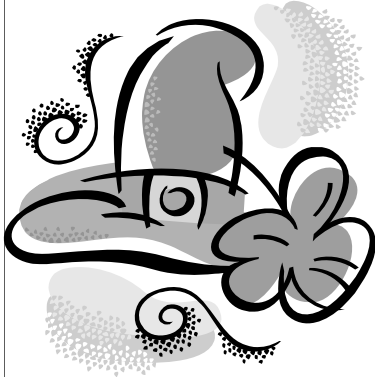
The Next Monthly Meeting is
March 13th at 11:00 am
It's Spring time !



EAP Corner

For IAM Local Lodge 1746: P&W in East Hartford and UTC Power in South Windsor.

Please feel free to contact me with any of your issues or concerns and know that it will be in total confidentiality.



Lenny Ward

*EAP Coordinator
 LAP-C Certified
 NAADAC / NCAC Certified
 AFL-CIO Union Peer
 Counselor
 SAP (Substance abuse Professional) Certified.
 Fax 203-787-4180
 Cell 203-444-0267*



Here are some of the officers email addresses to contact with your concerns and suggestions.

- ☐ Juan A. Gelabert
prezjuan1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net
- ☐ Rodney Conlogue
vp1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net
- ☐ Howie Huestis rs1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net
- ☐ Nancy Flagg st1746@ll1746.comcastbiz.net



WEBSITES:

- www.iamLL1746.org
- www.iamdistrict26.org
- www.goiam.org



Last Dinner of the season

Friday, March 18, 2011 4 pm – 8 pm
 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner \$8.00
 Fish and Chips \$ 8.00
 Ted Sanders Band at 9:00 pm



Remember Our Troops Red-Shirt Friday's!

LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President Juan Gelabert; Vice President Rodney Conlogue; Howie Huestis, Recording Secretary; Nancy Flagg, Secretary Treasurer; Eustace Jones, Conductor/Sentinel; Trustees: Brad Chase, Pete Gieraltowski, Ron Ouellette

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