

October 2009 Newsletter

The Next General Meeting for IATSE Local 8 will be Wednesday October 7, 2009. The Meeting will be held at 2237 Hartranft Philadelphia Pa. beginning 11:00 a.m. According to the Local 8 Constitution, IATSE Local 8 meets the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00a.m.at 2237 Hartranft Street Philadelphia Pa. except during the months of June, July and August.

The Next Executive Board Meeting for IATSE Local 8 will be Thursday October 1, 2009. The Meeting will be held at 2237 Hartranft Philadelphia Pa. beginning 11:00 a.m.

Financial 2009. Fourth quarter stamps are now due. Stamps are \$50.00 per quarter \$200 per year for 2009. The 2008 Audit was recently completed by an outside accounting firm. Results of the audit will be reviewed by the Union Trustees and presented to the membership at an upcoming meeting.

Important Dates:

October 6, 2009 2nd Annual IATSE Local 8 Golf Tournament

October 12, 2009 New Jersey Voter Registration deadline

October 29, 2009. Al Haulbert Benefit Academy of Music

Work Outlook As the Country suffers through its highest level of unemployment, for the most part Local 8 has been able to keep our heads above water. In order for members to maintain their income levels, you must be willing to take all calls and answer your phone twenty-four seven. While these changes can be annoying, the alternative could be worse. For those members unable to pay your union obligation, contact the Office for an appearance at the Executive Board. The bookings at the Academy and Merriam has started as well as some shows at the Convention Center. Annenberg has a number of days booked in October and the Wachovia Center is scheduling shows to coincide with the closing of the Spectrum. The Pennsylvania State budget passed this weekend and looks to include the Film Tax Incentive which will generate jobs in the movie Local. To maximize your earning potential; 1) Advance your skills be it rigging, Board Op, A.V. or Shop work. 2) Answer your phone. 3) Take all the work that is available to you. Remember you are not just earning your paycheck, but are also building up your medical and retirement benefits.

YEAR OF SERVICE. The membership of Local 8 at the April Meeting voted to eliminate any earnings outside Local 8 towards a Year of Service. Based on the advice given to us by the Local 8 attorney, the Executive Board voted that this policy should not be implemented four months into a calendar year and will begin January 1, 2010 unless changed by the membership before that date. If you are paying percentage on earnings outside of Local 8 for 2009, you can pay up to \$10,750 dollars.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As reported this past Summer, Local 8 sent a delegation to the IATSE Quadrennial Convention. Last week, I had the honor of being one of the six delegates from the IATSE sent to the AFL-CIO Convention in Pittsburgh. As with our own convention, the AFL-CIO needed to update its constitution, set finances, pass resolutions and elect officers. During the convention, the eight hundred union delegates were addressed by President Obama, Senators Specter and Casey as well as a number of other local and international labor leaders.

At any given time in history we have all heard that this is the moment, this is the time that we need to act to change and determine our future. Given what I heard at the last two conventions, I firmly believe this is true. There is no doubt this is the most pro-labor President we have had in office in our lifetime. Couple this with the majorities the Democrats have in the House and Senate and it adds up to the best opportunity we will have to re-establish organized labor as a force in this country. President Obama's message to the AFL-CIO was clear; rebuild the American economy through a strong middle class and recognize Organized Labor as part of the solution not the problem. President Obama has appointed Hilda Solis as the Secretary of Labor. I suggest you Google Secretary Solis to get a true indication of who she is. Her pro-labor votes and positions are too numerous to include in this Newsletter. President Obama has also committed his full support to the Employee Free Choice Act. This law when passed will be the best law for labor since the 1935 Wagner Act. The Wagner Act gave unions the RIGHT to organize and was the leading cause for the growth of unions. This law along with GI Bill of WWII strengthened and educated the workforce that provided America with its best economy for decades. President Obama's stimulus package, though highly criticized at the time, prevented America from going into a depression. His plan to increase the rights of workers to allow them to join a union and negotiate a fair contract will rebuild the middle class. His plan to invest in alternative energy programs rather than waste money in the Middle East to protect other countries energy reserves will create the jobs we need in this country while lessening our dependence on those that want to hurt this country. Rebuild the middle class through union jobs created to lessen our dependency on foreign oil. It would be simple if not for the politics.

President Obama is currently engaged in a battle to fix health care. Concerns regarding the double digit inflation workers were forced to pay were ignored until this President. Obama's message was clear at the Convention, without a public option, health care cost will continue to increase and prevent middle class working Americans the ability increase their wages or fund their retirements.

I began working as a stagehand in 1980, the year the Great Communicator Ronald Reagan took office. Reagan's decision at the beginning of his first term to take on the Air traffic Controllers Union set the trend for twenty-eight years of attacks on unions. Over the twenty-eight years the anti-union politicians weakened the unions, weakened the middle class and weakened the economy. The advances in the stock market and wealth generated by Americans over this time was paper wealth generated by the Stock Market and Housing Bubbles. Just like in 1935 when the Country needed real solutions, the Employee Free Choice Act, health care reform, market regulation and the rebuilding of the middle class through unions needs to take place. I am looking forward to having Local 8 lead the charge to rebuild the labor movement in our City and our Country.

*Sincerely,
Michael Barnes*

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On October 29, 2009 on stage at the Academy of Music, we will be hosting a benefit for Bunky. The benefit will take place from 6 Pm to 9 Pm. Tickets will be available at the Union Hall starting on Thursday. The donation for attendance will be \$50 per person. All proceeds will go to Al Haulbert aka Bunky. This, as you know, is a very worthy cause. We look forward to your help in selling as many tickets as possible.

If ever there was ever a time to come together this is the time and this is the person. For those of you who know Bunky he would be the first to come to the aid of one of us. His concern is always about other people so now we should show our support to Bunky and his family.

There will be a silent auction at the benefit. If you know of any businesses or individuals who would like to donate to the auction please contact John Pettrick Sr at 215 620 1372 or Mary McCullough at 610 316 2047.

We are confident that the membership will pull together to make this a successful event for Bunky. If you cannot attend, your donation in any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Feel free to let other unions know of the benefit as we would welcome their attendance and support.

We are hopeful that Bunky will be in attendance at the event.

*Thank You,
Anthony Tortorice
Vice President, Local #8*

GOLF OUTING Enclosed is a brochure for the 2nd Annual Local 8 Golf Outing. This Outing is soliciting money at the same time we are raising money for Brother Haulbert. We realize times are tough and having two fundraisers at the same time can be challenging. In an effort to allow our members to participate in both events, the payment for the Golf Outing can be deferred for thirty days. This will allow members to participate and make payment as work picks up. The Golf outing is not just a fundraiser but an event we schedule to bring our membership together. While there are a few ultra competitive teams, the best ball format allows even the novice golfer to participate and have a good time. The event is scheduled in less than three weeks. If you plan on playing, please call the office so that we can get an accurate count.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Another day another anonymous letter sent to the International suggesting Our Business Agent of wrong doing. Since I became President I have seen the positives of a unified union. I have also seen the negatives of dirty politics'. An anonymous letter to the Labor Board resulted in an audit that cost our local tens of thousands of dollars. The Labor Board Audit proved what I already knew we run old school but all the money was accounted for. The money spent on this hurts because it could have been spent on things to benefit the local.

It's easy to sit back and ignore these attacks on our Business Agent, but I believe Enough is Enough I am asking any member who may have knowledge of the parties involved in these letters to contact me so we can gather information and call the parties involved on the carpet. I don't see any reason to not put your name on the letters if you have proof of wrongdoing. I am considering asking the Executive Board and Membership to hire a private investigator to find the source of these letters. Your thoughts are welcome.

I have been in office for over 3 years now and we have been involved in MAJOR contract negotiations that could have changed our local forever. Michael Barnes through his experience and knowledge did a great job as the spearhead on the negotiations and we came out as a stronger union.

Now is a tough time for us as a union and as citizens of the United States. Everyone is hurting in this economy and this cannot be overlooked. I know the country will rebound as it always does and I pray it happens sooner than later. Politics are politics and anyone has a right to disagree with and run against any elected officer. That is why we need to put an end to these letters because they aren't attacking our Business Agent they are attacking everyone's livelihoods. These anonymous letters of false accusations, sent to outside agencies, only disrupt the harmony of our union. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Francis "Chip" O'Shea III
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