

# **November 2009 Newsletter**

**The Next General Meeting** for IATSE Local 8 will be Wednesday November 4, 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 29, 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.

**Work Outlook** We are currently working through one of our busiest stretches of the year. I encourage everyone to take whatever jobs are available since this will not last. The Spectrum has been booking an inordinate amount of shows since it's scheduled to close October 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, both movies are winding down and are using extras to strike their sets. While we are hopeful the reduced tax incentive will lead to more movies, I am not aware of anything booked in the Philadelphia area after the two current movies. The increased bookings at Annenberg and the Merriam are helping but we are seeing a decrease in shop hours as a result of the economy. For those of you who have not been around, starting mid November until the last week of next March 2010, LOCAL 8 SLOWS DOWN. This has been occurring for the last FIFTEEN YEARS and still some people act surprised. There are reasons for the slowdown that have nothing to do with the economy. The Mann and Penns Landing shut down in the winter. Susquahanna has a reduced indoor schedule. The Wachovia dates are taken up by the professional sports teams. Outdoor shows do not schedule in the winter. Large conventions avoid the Northeast corridor to avoid snow storms between December and April. This happens every year and in April things pick back up. The Office will continue to dig for every opportunity during the Winter to keep as many of our members working as we can.

**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.

**1099.** If any Employer pays you 1099 and does not withhold payroll taxes, call the Business Agent immediately. It took Local 8 years to eradicate this practice and we do not allow our Employers to pay in this fashion. If you are paid 1099, you risk lawsuits by the City of Philadelphia that include large fines. You are also required to pay both ends of the FICA Tax which cost you an additional 7.65% of your pay. There are two things you can't avoid, Death and Taxes. If the Employer doesn't pay the taxes, You will.

*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. 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.*

*The membership has pulled 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** The Golf Outing was a tremendous success. This is our second year and we had twice as many foursomes play in the outing. Local 8 would like to thank Locals, One, 22, 52, 600, 829, and IBEW 98 for buying sponsorships. We would also like to thank Sean Ryder and Mark Grasso for coordinating the event as well as the volunteers, Cheryl Harrison, Stacy McBride, Kelly Barnes and the Local 8 Officers. Pictures of the Golf Outing are posted on our website. We look forward to having another outing next year. The proceeds help support our political action and everyone participating seems to have a good time.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Organizing**

**Ritz** Brother Jason McGuigan is working with the Business Agent to organize the five projectionist in this theater. The projectionist craft has tremendous opportunity for growth including the IMAX operators in the Constitution Center, Franklin Institute and theaters throughout the region.

**Starlight** Executive Board member mark grasso has been meeting with the employees of this company regarding joining Local 8. Starlight has been underbidding the responsible union contractors by paying under the area standard set by this union. To protect our contracts we must continue to pursue these companies.

**Keswick.** The Business Agent is looking for a volunteer to help organize the Keswick. This theater is located in Glenside Pa. We are looking for someone who lives near the theater since we anticipate a long organizing process that will take numerous visits to this theater.

**World Café** The Business Agent is looking for a volunteer to help organize the Word Cafe. This club is located at 38<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Philadelphia Pa. We are looking for

someone who lives near the club since we anticipate a long organizing process that will take numerous visits to this theater.

**Media** The Business Agent is looking for a volunteer to help organize the Media. This theater is located in Media Pa. We are looking for someone who lives near the theater since we anticipate a long organizing process that will take numerous visits to this theater.

### **Stewards**

We will be having a Stewards Meeting Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at the union hall. If you do not know who the steward is in your building email mbarnes@iatse8.com

### **Political Action**

**Corzine Campaign.** Vince Morsillo has volunteered to help with the Corzine Campaign. We are in need of volunteers for labor walks on Saturdays from 9:00am to 12 noon. If you can volunteer call Vince at 609-206-8322. Apprentices should check their volunteer time and make themselves available for this opportunity.

### **Website**

The Office would like to thank Brother Tom Mccarthey for volunteering to gather and post Email and Text information of our members. We still need people to finish the job. Anyone who can volunteer should call Mike Barnes 215-880-3162.

**Contracts.** The following contracts will be brought back to the membership for consideration and approval at the November Meeting; Philadelphia Orchestra Houseman, Pennsylvania Ballet Shop Contract and Tri State Staging

### **Constitution**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the following By-Law change will be read at the November meeting: Page 18, Article IV Dues, change the language as follows “All members employed locally in addition to their regular dues of fifty (\$50) (change to \$60) per quarter- two hundred (\$200) (change to \$240) a year...

This is the first increase in union stamps in thirteen years. The change is required to comply with the increases charged to Local 8 by the International per capita.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Local 8 recognized Jack Dirk's 50 year membership in the IATSE at a luncheon attended by members of Local 8 from Mercer County. President O'Shea along with Secretary Nolan and Business Agent Barnes presented Jack with a Gold Card and watch for his dedication to the union. Jack was the Business Representative of Local 116 during the merger and was instrumental in transitioning Local 116 into Local 8.**

***Luke and Juliieanna Quendenfeld on the birth of their son Graham***

***David and Alba Silvestri on the birth of their son David***

***Frank and Bethanne Grasso on the birth of their son Jackson***

***John Succio Jr and Nicole on their daughter Brianna***

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN THE I.A.T.S.E. NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN C**

Dear Plan Participant:

This notice is intended to notify you of some significant changes to Plan C and remind you of the upcoming CAPP charges that, essentially, will only increase for Plan C-1. You were recently alerted to some of this information in the Fund's summer 2009 Behind the Scenes newsletter. Please read this notice carefully and save it for future reference. A copy will also be posted on the Fund's Web site, [www.iatsenbf.org](http://www.iatsenbf.org), for your convenience.

\* CAPP: Contributions available for premium payments

### **CHANGING TO THE MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT PLAN – WILL BE EFFECTIVE ON START OF THE QUARTER**

Participants enrolled in Plan C-1, C-2 or C-3 who obtain medical/hospital/prescription drug coverage from another source, perhaps through a spouse's employment, may request that their enrollment be transferred to Plan C's Medical Reimbursement Program (described below). Such transition to Plan C's Medical Reimbursement Program will occur at the beginning of the calendar quarter following the Fund Office's receipt of proof of such outside health insurance coverage. The Plan is eliminating the ability to enroll in the Medical Reimbursement Program off the established quarterly cycles.

### **TWO ENROLLMENT EXCEPTIONS**

If a participant already enrolled in Plan C's Medical Reimbursement Program involuntarily loses the underlying other source of health insurance coverage, he or she can enroll in Plan C-1, C-2 or C-3 as of the first of the month following the appropriate notification to the Fund Office.

Furthermore, adding newly acquired dependents, as a result of marriage or birth of a child, for example, to Plan C enrollment, which may include a change from individual to family coverage, will occur on the first of the month following proper notification to the Fund Office as long as you apply for the coverage within 30 days of the applicable event. Likewise, in the event of a divorce, the elimination of the former dependent spouse's coverage occurs on the first of the month following the divorce. For more information please see the Special Enrollment rules in the Summary Plan Description.

### **ONE-TIME FREE PASS**

While Plan C is innovative and flexible in providing health insurance coverage to meet the varying needs of many, it requires intensive participant attention to complete the enrollment maintenance process, which occurs on a quarterly basis. When a participant inadvertently misses a step that causes an unintended loss of coverage or a "downgrade" to a less extensive and lower cost enrollment package at the start of the next quarter, an appeal to the Board of Trustees can be filed. The appeal process allows the participant to provide verification that an attempt was made to provide the required information and/or self-payment before the deadline.

In some cases, an appeal on its own merits results in a reinstatement of the desired coverage. If not, you may now be eligible for a new one-time free pass. This can occur when a missed quarterly enrollment step threatens to disrupt the coverage of a participant who has maintained at least eight calendar quarters of continuous Plan C coverage immediately preceding the loss of or change in coverage. This free pass is only available once every five years. As such, an affected participant may still choose not to exercise it if he or she can file an appeal, which on its own merits corrects the misstep.

When there is a misstep or error leading to a loss or downgrade in coverage, the Fund Office sends the participant such notice that includes the effective date as well as his or her continuation rights under COBRA's self-pay program. To exercise the free pass, the participant who qualifies on continuity must, within 45 days of the date coverage was lost or downgraded, send a written request for consideration. If approved, he or she must: (1) correct the error or missed step retroactively to the date of the error, including promptly remitting any required co-payment; and (2) maintain the coverage level in effect prior to the error.

#### CAPP CHARGE REMINDER EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2009

As a reminder, the quarterly CAPP charge for Plan C-2 individual coverage will increase by only \$12, to \$1,542, effective October 1, 2009. (CAPP charges for Plan C-2 family coverage and Plan C-3 individual and family coverage will stay the same.)

The current and all the October 1, 2009 quarterly CAPP charges are as follows:

I.A.T.S.E. National Health and Welfare Fund – Plan C

Quarterly CAPP Account Charges Current and Effective October 1, 2009

PLAN C-1 Current Effective

October 1, 2009

#### COVERAGE

Individual \$2,730 \$3,174

Family \$5,694 \$6,846

PLAN C-2

#### COVERAGE

Individual \$1,530 \$1,542

Family \$2,598 \$2,598

PLAN C-3

#### COVERAGE

Individual \$1,086 \$1,086

Family \$2,058 \$2,058

Plan C-2 remains a cost-effective health benefits plan; it balances broad coverage with the ability to spread the risk among its large number of enrollees with varying health care needs. Plan C-3 provides more basic benefits at a lower cost. As per the earlier notice on CAPP charges, effective October 1, 2009, Plan C-1 quarterly charges are increasing considerably, to \$3,174 for individual coverage and \$6,846 for family coverage. As with all Plan C's health insurance coverage options, CAPP charges are intended to reflect the current and projected cost of benefits. Plan C-1 (with benefits only somewhat more generous than that of Plan C-2) attracts fewer and fewer enrollees, but those few enrollees tend to have a greater than average need for medical services.

**PLAN C'S MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (PREVIOUSLY CALLED "OTHER COVERAGE")**

Please recall that the Medical Reimbursement Program allows enrollees to obtain reimbursement for a wide variety of medical and dental services that are not otherwise (fully) covered by the basic health insurance plan you are required to have. Depending on how you use the required underlying health insurance plan, your out-of-pocket payments available for medical reimbursement include co-payments, deductibles, co-insurance, and other incurred charges over the coverage limits. The Plan's SPD (which can be found on our Web site, [www.iatsenbf.org](http://www.iatsenbf.org)) lists the items available for reimbursement.

If your underlying insurance coverage is through Plan C-1, C-2 or C-3, you can use the medical reimbursement program for supplemental coverage provided your CAPP account balance exceeds the CAPP charge for your enrollment choice for the current and the next quarter.

If you already have health insurance coverage through another source, perhaps through a spouse's employment, you may choose the Medical Reimbursement Program as your Plan C enrollment. If you make such choice and submit proof that you have basic medical/hospital/prescription drug coverage through another source, your entire CAPP account balance can be applied to the Medical Reimbursement Program. The election of the Medical Reimbursement Program for Plan C enrollment can be made by a new participant (initial enrollment), or through the annual open-enrollment period that takes effect each January 1. Exclusive enrollment in the medical reimbursement program can also occur at the beginning of any calendar quarter following the quarter in which a Plan C-1, C-2 or C-3 enrollee obtains and provides proof of health insurance coverage through another source.

Henceforth, when you enroll in Plan C's Medical Reimbursement Program, you must specify either individual or family coverage. If you are filing Medical Reimbursement claims on behalf of a dependent, it is important that you enroll in family coverage and provide proof of dependent status, such as a marriage or birth certificate, the same as you would if you were enrolling in one of the other Plan C health insurance offerings. Please keep this requirement in mind during the next open enrollment period. Otherwise, as previously noted, newly acquired dependents can be added as of the first of the month following your notification to the Fund Office.

When you file a claim for medical reimbursement, please allow 90 days for the receipt of your check.

Please recall that enrollees in the Medical Reimbursement Program must submit proof of basic health insurance coverage through another source by December 15 of every year.

Otherwise, the open-enrollment process will result in enrollment or default to Plan C-2 or C-3 at the start of the new year, if you have at least the cost of one quarter of coverage in your CAPP account. If your CAPP balance is less than the cost of one quarter of C-3 coverage, you will cease to be enrolled in the Plan and have to meet the initial enrollment requirements to requalify. Please also recall that the \$150 annual administrative fee for Plan C participants enrolled exclusively in the Medical Reimbursement Program is applied each November 15th for the current enrollment year.

#### OTHER PLAN C COVERAGE CHANGES

Please note that the open enrollment materials you will later receive for the quarter beginning January 1, 2010 will no longer include (in certain areas of California and New England) enrollment in the Kaiser Permanente or the Harvard Pilgrim HMOs as an alternative to the standard Plan C-1, C-2 or C-3 health insurance coverage. The Kaiser and Harvard Plans have been serving an ever decreasing number of participants and their CAPP charges, at the Plan C-1 level, have also lost their cost-effectiveness. Another change applies to the consolidation to one provider of network optical coverage, which most participants obtain through Davis Vision. The alternative providers General Vision Services (GVS) and Comprehensive Professional Services (CPS) serve a limited number of participants in specific areas of the country, and those providers will be discontinued on October 1, 2009.

We think the coming changes underscore the evolution of Plan C to a more effective model of health care access.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Fund Office.

## **“Yes We Can – Again! On November 3, 2009”**

**Dear Union Member and family,**

**In times like these, it’s important for each of us to examine the records of the candidates for governor to make sure they share our values. We think you should know what Chris Christie and Governor Jon Corzine are saying about the issues affecting your ability to provide for yourself and your family.**

**Governor Jon Corzine has been a strong leader for New Jersey’s working families. He championed paid family leave for workers, foreclosure relief for struggling homeowners, education funding reform, expansion of health care programs for children and achieved a reduction in crime. Corzine says his first priority now is “easing the pain of working families while building a foundation for future prosperity and growth.” Corzine continues to work with the Obama administration to bring solutions to the economic crisis that will create good paying jobs and provide relief for working families.**

**Republican gubernatorial candidate Chris Christie has made attacks on working families the centerpiece of his campaign. He promises to lay off 10,000 public employees, end defined benefit pensions, eliminate project labor agreements as well as prevailing wages. Christie supports vouchers and merit pay which will weaken public education. He opposes requiring health insurance companies to cover basic healthcare procedures, including childhood check-ups, prostate cancer screenings and mammograms. Christie even opposes accepting our fair share of federal stimulus funds to help pay for new schools, retain and create good paying jobs, support Medicaid programs and provide unemployment insurance assistance to workers who have lost their jobs in this global recession.**

**In the next few months, you will receive information from our union about the two gubernatorial candidates in your mailbox and at your worksite. How you vote is a personal decision. Our union strongly encourages you to research the candidates’ records before you decide how to vote on November 3rd.**

**In Solidarity,  
Michael Barnes  
Business Agent**

# **VOTE**





