

By Joe Savia, Sr., Business Manager

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of the Officers & Staff of Local 602 to wish each and every one of you and your families a Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for the New Year.

We started the year celebrating our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our Apprentices held their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bull Roast, although not the success that we had hoped, those that attended all had a great time. Our Apprentices then continued on and are in the midst of our 1<sup>st</sup> "Charity Begins at Home" drive, which seems to be a big success. The Apprentice Committee opened a satellite school in Springfield, Virginia, all 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year apprentices living in Virginia are now attending school in Virginia. We have ended our year with Hope, an eight year term in the White House of an unfriendly labor regime and hopefully, we will start the year with a labor friendly President.

We do have more unemployment than we have seen in some time, but not on the same scale as other industries. The only thing I would like to say to you is to remain hopeful and remember this is a brotherhood, let's stick together and show everyone what 95 years strong truly means.

### **Out Of Work**

For those who are unemployed and on the out of work list beginning the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, 2008, please stop by the Hall for your Gift Certificate.

### **A Look in the Past**

Washington, DC, August 6, 1913

The Meeting of Local 602 was opened by President A. Biggs reading the prayer from the Ritual of the U.A. in memory of our late Brother Thomas Flanagan, who died July 31, 1913.

The minutes of previous meeting approved. Roll call of Officers and absentees noted. Communication from Thomas E. Burke in regards to resolutions for the U.A. Convention about Elevator Constructors.

Reports of Committees

Building Trades – Read and filed.

Central Labor Union – Read and filed.

Pipe Trades Council reported that after the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1913 no Union fitter would be allowed to work with a non Union Plumber and no Union Plumber would work with a non Union Steamfitter. By a vote of 15 to 3 Local 602 accepted the action of the council.

Brothers Ingram and Carroll had a fight in the auto room and the President secured the following names as witnesses. Brothers Vesper, Lee, Nau, Luce, Burrows, Bealle Jr., Botts, Revelle. The President then appointed the following Shop Stewards:

Zellars & Co. – Bro Hepburn

Morris & Eagen – Luce

Biggs & Co. – Meitzler

Cornell Co. – Freeman

Thompson Sterrell Co. – Hickman  
Cornell & Co., B.E. & Print – Breslin  
McGinley – Giddons  
Hess & Rodgers – Thompson  
Woodward & Lothrop – Kennedy  
Slyder & Clough – Moore  
House Office Bldg – Whyte  
Standard Engineering Co. – Locraft  
D.D. Condon – Harris  
Poore and Talcott – Duffy  
Frewinds – Reichard  
Donovan – Shipley

Law and Order Committee

Brothers Lucas, Shockency, Dougherty, Burter, Fiddesopp, Collins, Meitzler, Holahan, Lee and Moore

Visiting and Sick Committee – Bros. Halahan, Zea and Nau

The Examining Board reported favorably upon Thomas McDonald and Edward Mastin

Motion made and carried that the special Examining Board be discharged.

Business Agents report received and filed.

Applications for membership received

J.S. Kidwell- Helper - \$10.00

Charles Cohen Helper - \$10.00

Martin Bladen, Helper, applied for examination as fitter accompanied by \$10.00, referred to Examining Board.

The Executive Board recommends that any member failing to attend one meeting a month will be fined 25 cents.

The work on House Office Building the officials in charge would not recognize Helper and would only pay \$2.00 pay day, the fitters to receive \$4.50 per day.

Appropriations of Money

S.D. Zea – Salary and Expenses, July 17 to August 6, 1913	\$75.10
Printing Cards for assessment	3.50
C & P Telephone Co.	3.40
Rent, Business Agents room M. Stein	8.00
W Whyte Typewriting resolutions, postage stamps & cards	1.50
F K Kramer, florist	10.00
N Schokency, Dan Ready – pall bearers – Bro Flanagan	2.40
Rent of paperhangers hall	16.50
J M Botts, charter fee	1.00
C F Hickman Delegate Con	25.00

Total

\$146.40

Motion made and carried by Brother Harris that all fines put on members by the temporary chairman Brother Hamilton be remitted.

Motion made and carried that the Secretary draw a warrant for one dollar and remit same to Brother Len Watts

Brother Nau was elected outside guard. Brother Shockency was elected inside guard.

Motion made and carried that the King Heating Company be declared unfair.

Motion made and carried by Brother Fiddesop to appoint a committee of three to see the Superintendent of the Capital in regards to getting Helpers on at \$2.00, the following appointed including Business Agent Brother Fiddesop, Dougherty, Butter and Business Agent Zea.

Brother Zea installed the Finance Committee, Brothers, Lucas, Meitzler and Hurdle.

Motion made and carried that the sum of twenty five \$25.00 dollars be given Delegate Hickman to defray his expenses to Boston. 6 for 2 against, carried.

Received of meeting \$319.40.

Adjourned 11:15 p.m.

William Whyte, Secretary Local 602

Delegates, Central Labor Committee

Brothers Moore, Gosnell, Dougherty, Hamilton and Whyte

Building Trades Council

Brothers Zea, Divers and Shockency.

### **AFLAC Update**

Many of you have contacted this office in regards to the AFLAC Disability Insurance. Unfortunately we have parted company with AFLAC. After months of working with AFLAC and what may have been a "bait and switch", AFLAC has determined that it is unwilling to deal directly with the Union.

### **Dues Check Off Update**

Please remember **if you change employers, YOU need to notify the Hall.** Without our members having 100% participation we still must notify the employers of those members who have elected check off.

I also urge you to pay attention to and keep your paystubs. If a dispute arises the paystubs are the only piece of information showing that the dues were deducted. Please also remember that dues' deductions do not cover your Death Assessments.

## **Shirts, Jackets, Etc...**

We now have some new stock of shirts and jackets, all are available for purchase. Come in before the sizes run out.

## **Maryland License Plates**

The new License Plates are out and traveling around town. If you are interested please contact the Hall for the application, checks or money orders for \$25.00 payable to the MVA must be returned to the Hall with the application. The hall will forward the application for you.

Motorcycle plates have been delayed, we currently need 23 more applications to be eligible for the motorcycle plates. If you are interested please file an application with the hall. We will notify you when we have 23 and are submitted the request.

## **Substance Abuse Issues**

We are still holding our Substance Abuse sessions on Thursday's in the hall at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

## **From Kevin Sullivan, Business Agent**

With the national unemployment rate reaching 6% we are weathering the storm a little better than most. We are probably at about 3% and, if you are one of those, hold on for this too shall pass.

Until then how do we help a brother out? It is all too often that we have members from other Locals working here when, in reality, their Local has the work to call them back home. If you are working for a Local Contractor and there are Travelers working there, let us know. It is not always that we know of everyone working for our many contractors. If they are not a local contractor, they can bring with them their own on a 1:1 ration, capping off at six. Look around your job at the work being done. How many Helpers are on your job and how are they being utilized. Could there be an apprentice there instead? That plumber or sheet metal mechanic doing steamfitting may be the cause of a not-so-merry Christmas for a brother. We reached a jurisdictional settlement with the Sheet Metal Workers regarding the Chilled Beam Coils which should parlay into work for our members. Thank you Joe Savia, Marlin Gibson, and the employees of Pierce Associates for your efforts. What I am trying to say is we are doing, and you can help us do more, in securing work for those that are without.

For those that are out of work, utilize this time to upgrade your skills through the classes that our offered at our school. I have done this so I know it's possible. When we had 15% unemployment in the 90's very few of them were welders. While off work, I went to the school every day until I was able to certify. Never was that fast, as a welder, but it got me a job. I will never forget my boss and the other welders who helped me in those early days.

Finally, in regards to helping a brother out, thank you to the apprentices who have gotten together in an effort to help the children of our members on disability. Through their efforts, and the many members who have contributed, they have shown what brotherhood is all about.

And from this brother and from all the other officers thank you for allowing us to serve you. Have a Happy Holiday and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

### **THIS 'N THAT**

Terry O'Quinn proudly announces the birth of his first granddaughter, Sophia Isla DeSibaugh, born on December 4, 2008 weighing 6 ½ pounds.

#### **Congratulations**

Our congratulations goes out to Dan Loveless and Kenny Bradford on their recent marriages.

#### **Big Winner**

Joe Severt was the winner of the 50/50 raffle held at the December Union Meeting and donated his proceeds to the Christmas Fund.

#### **Sick Bay**

Ron Sieben reported that his wife donated her kidney to her brother. Both donor and recipient are doing well.

#### **Sympathy**

Our sympathy to the family of Woody Woodall, Jr., on the recent loss of his father.

Our sympathy to the family of Leonard Noone, on the recent loss of his mother.

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of the following members:

Retiree Robert C Keffer died on November 11, 2008. Brother Keffer was 69 years old and had been a member since October 1, 1985. Death #1306.

Retiree Bruce Sigman died on November 10, 2008. Brother Sigman was 66 years old and had been a member since April 4, 1961. Death #1307

Retiree Walter L. Whitmer died on October 26, 2008. Brother Whitmer was 86 years old and had been a member since April 7, 1964. Death #1308

Retiree James E Hagberg died November 19, 2008. Brother Hagberg was 76 years old and had been a member since March 5, 1957. Death #1309

Retiree Francis (Fuzzy) M Martin died November 20, 2008. Brother Martin was 70 years old and had been a member since April 2, 1957. Death #1310

Retiree Robert Glen Aheron died December 1, 2008. Brother Aheron was 66 years old and had been a member since August 6, 1963. Death #1311.

**THE CURRENT DEATH IS NO. 1311. ANY MEMBER  
NOT PAID THROUGH DEATH NO. 1311 IS IN ARREARS.**

## SOLIDARITY

President, John P. Sullivan

An old story with a Steamfitter's twist

*The holyman fasted for forty days and in a trance he entered the dream world. His last prayer was for a vision of heaven and hell. He awoke in a large room seated at a huge round table with a pile of the most exquisite food in the world sitting at its center. Tied to his right arm was a long pole with a fork at the end. Tied to his left was a similar pole with a spoon at the end. All around him at the table were bare skeletons of men. They all had the same type of fork and spoon tied to their arms. They were all beyond starving and were slowly perishing.*

*Food was spilled everywhere on the top of the table. Time and time again, each starving person reached into the pile at the center of the table but they could not put food in their mouths because of their "long arms". They were forever damned to eternally starve to death.*

*The holy man was then led into another large room. It was similar to the previous room with one exception. Both rooms had a large table with exquisite food at its center. In both rooms everyone was crowded around the table and had long forks and spoons strapped to their arms. And in both rooms, each person's forks and spoons were long enough to take food from the center of table but too long to put any of it into their mouth.*

*But strangely, as famished as each person was in the first room, those in the second room were full. And as miserable as each person was in the first room those in the second row were obviously well fed and contented.*

*The holy man stood in awe for a while and then approached the table. He still hadn't broken his fast of forty days. He sat down as encumbered as he was in the first room. He gave thanks for the bounty and then enjoyed a most sumptuous feast.*

*He awoke satisfied in body and spirit and rushed off to his followers. His disciples were dumbstruck by his parable and begged for it's meaning.*

*The holy man explained that those in the first room had spent their whole life looking out for number one and no one else. They were mostly bankers, lenders, Wall Street analysts, junk bondsmen, and day traders. They were selfish and greedy and had always fed off of the plates of others. They couldn't possibly learn to feed themselves let alone anyone else and so they were condemned to eternally starve.*

*But those in the second room were mostly social activists and trade unionists. They had already spent an eternity working for the mutual reward of their families and communities. They understood the value of helping one another even if it involved a struggle. Although they couldn't feed themselves, each person could feed two others seated around the table by simply turning slightly to their right or their left. It was an awkward communion but it worked. It was hard work but all those who acted in solidarity with their neighbor were, in turn, well fed by their community.*

We are far less secure at the end of this year than we were at the beginning. A frightening portion of our personal savings and our pensions have been stolen. We are all poorer and our jobs are at risk. "These are the times that try men's soul" and these are the times for which we will be later judged.

Which table will you take a seat at? Will you take advantage of other's misfortune or will you look for ways to help all of your brothers and sisters? As you consider these questions remember this, we are a UNION with roots that are over a hundred years old. We have been through worse times.

**Why We Need the Employee Free Choice Act,  
By Bill Durkin, Business Representative/Organizer**

Thanks in large part to the efforts of union volunteers around the country, working families won a strong victory on Nov. 4, sending [Barack Obama](#) to the White House and electing a stronger pro-worker majority of senators and representatives.

However, winning an election isn't the end of the fight. Now, our elected leaders need to tackle the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. They have to keep their promises to the people who voted for them—and we have to give them the support they need to make the tough choices. We need an economic recovery package that will turn around this broken economy for working families with good jobs, green jobs, re-regulation of our financial system and health care that works for all of us. But no matter what else we do, it won't result in real shared prosperity unless we restore workers' freedom to form unions so they can bargain for a better life with better wages and benefits. That's what this proposed legislation, the [Employee Free Choice Act](#), will do. The Employee Free Choice Act will:

- Put real teeth in the laws that are supposed to bar companies from intimidating, harassing—even firing—workers who want to form unions.
- Allow workers to form their union when a majority signs cards indicating that's what they desire.
- Require arbitration to end corporate foot-dragging when workers try to get a first contract.

The Employee Free Choice Act will level the playing field that today leaves all the power in the hands of corporations, not workers.

And Big Business and the [front groups](#) set up by corporations are preparing an all-out, \$200 million propaganda and lobbying war to block it.

Unions have made passage of the Employee Free Choice Act a top priority for this year because it is the key to good wages, benefits, a voice in the workplace and the amplified political voice

unions bring workers. In 2007, the U.S. House passed the measure and it had majority support in the Senate, but a minority [killed it with a filibuster](#), emboldened by President George W. Bush's promise to veto the legislation. Now we have elected a new Congress that has promised to be beside us in this fight and a president who has promised to sign the Employee Free Choice Act.

Here are the facts on why we need the Employee Free Choice Act:

**[Working families are struggling](#). For too long, workers haven't had the power to get their fair share of [the value they create](#). Workers are finding it harder and harder to stay in our homes, pay for our health care and save for our retirement. And our economy is suffering as a result.**

**Unions make people's lives better.** The freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life is a basic human right, and it [makes a difference](#): Union members [make 30 percent more](#) than workers who don't have unions. They're 59 percent more likely to have [health benefits](#) and four times more likely to have [pensions](#). That's real economic security. Communities with strong unions have higher standards of living for everyone.

**But [the system is broken](#).** More than [60 million workers](#) who don't have a union would join one if they could. But under existing law, corporations essentially have a veto over the process. In our company-dominated system, workers can be intimidated, coerced and even fired by their bosses for trying to form a union. A decision that should be in the hands of workers is instead in the hands of corporate executives.

**Why union members should support the Employee Free Choice Act.** The Employee Free Choice Act doesn't just matter for workers who are trying to form unions. When more workers are in unions, workers have greater strength in numbers to demand good wages and good benefits across [communities](#) and [industries](#). That raises the living and working standards for all workers and helps us all bargain for better contracts and counterbalance corporate power.

**The Employee Free Choice Act means long-term shared prosperity.** The Employee Free Choice Act is essential to rebuilding the middle class and ensuring the survival of the American Dream. We can build an economy that works for everyone if workers can exercise the freedom to form unions.

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A union election was held on Nov.21 for Union representation by Local 602. The election was lost despite the fact that we had a majority of the workers signed to Union Authorization cards. We had filed for an election and tried to separate the power plant from the other employees that did maintenance work, The Labor Board denied our request and allowed an office administrator and a supervisor to vote. This is the second election that followed the same pattern. Last summer we attempted to organize workers at Ft. Belvoir. The majority showed interest and after the election we ended up with another loss.

How does this happen? The law requires a Union to show interest by presenting cards signed by a minimum of 30% of the employees. The Labor Board then notifies the Company. Now the games begin. The Company will hire professional "Union Avoidance" consultants. The employees are required to attend meetings during work hours and then hear horror stories and outright lies. At Ft. Belvoir the

company told its employees that Local 602 was on strike in Philadelphia. This sounds ludicrous to us but these people have very little understanding about Unions and the damage is done. As an organizer you need to try and make house calls at night and refute the lies. At Ft. Belvoir the employees lived in King George, Spotsylvania counties as far west as Culpeper and as far north as DC. About 150 employees we had to contact at night and weekends. Each workday the company had another opportunity to dump more garbage.

Labor law has been under attack since 1947 when the Taft Hartley act was passed, that started this country on a downward decline as far as working people were concerned. We now have an opportunity to chart our own future. Tell Congress to support "The Employees Free Choice Act". It passed the House last session but will need help in the Senate.



**FROM WAYNE'S WORLD  
COMPLAINING TOO MUCH**

"Happy Thanksgiving"! In the last couple of weeks you have probably discovered long rides and kids don't go together, but you did it anyway because you wanted to be with your family, being thankful that you could. I hope in these hard economic times you took the time to sit down and think about what you are thankful for. It's a good time of year to count our blessings. I started to think of some of the things that upset me the most. On the top of the list is unemployment. There are some members who are out of work because the company they were working for has hit a slow period, which cannot be helped. But there are members who are out of work because of their own bad habits and could still be working if it was not for that. When talking to them, it is never their fault. It is always someone else that caused them to be laid off. So, I guess I am complaining, expressing my dissatisfaction in them. I hate to see someone lose a job over something stupid! Do you think going through life not complaining would make our lives any better? If you think about it, I am sure there was a time in your life that you did not have anything to complain about. There are real problems in our lives that are hard to accept. So, there is a good chance in your family that there is a problem, that there is something you do not like. I am sure there are coworkers, bosses and neighbors who are very hard to be around, and it is very easy to complain about them. I am asked every day "how is it going", and my response is "Another day in paradise". Because most of us live in a place where there are all kinds of things to complain about, choosing not to complain is a better way, which I try to do. So ask yourself this, "what do I do when I want to complain?" Sometimes just knowing there is something to complain about should be a wakeup call to fix it. Taking responsibility, if you caused the problem is a start. There are some problems that are out of your control and cannot be fixed, hopefully you will have the wisdom to know the difference. I know that work is slow at this time, but the outlook for the upcoming year is good. I am hopeful that everyone will be back to work soon.

**SEASONS GREETING AND BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**

