

## GUEST EDITOR

***Guest Commentary, William "Bill" O'Heir  
Consultant/Labor Liaison- M&O Insulation***

When Brian asked me to write this article, the first thing I thought about was all of the great people I have met during my time in the insulation business. Some of these guys were members of local 17, and some were contractors or suppliers of our materials. The one thing they all had in common was that they understood the world and the people around them. This understanding and the fact that they were always ready to help the young guys learn our business was of great importance then, and even more now. Knowing our business is more than applying the insulation. It is also knowing and understanding our customers and in my opinion they are everybody's customers not just the contractors.

I would like to mention some of the guys I am talking about. First of all, the guys that our Loving God has taken from us, my brothers ***Rich and John O'Heir, Jack Healy, Willie Glynn, John Bedalow, Bob Curran, Sr., Charlie McCarthy, Frank McGuire, Henry Ghormley, and Jim Wyness***. Then there are those that are still with us ***Jack McNamara, Ron Hatje, and Jack Lovell***. All of these guys in their own special way had a profound influence on me. They are the people that taught me all I know about our business; they did it with great humor and kindness and on a few occasions anger, but always with the intention of helping me be a better man and superintendent. The one other thing these men always had in mind was the history of Local 17. They knew if we forgot where we came from, our future would be full of the mistakes we made in the past. And that is one point I would like to make. Forgetting our past is always a mistake, so I urge those of you who know the past to pass it on to the younger people in the business, and the younger people should ask questions about the people who brought our business to where it is today. People like ***Mike O'Neill Sr., Terry Lynch, John Caddick, Hugh Mulligan and John Quinn***.

I think it is time to say a few words about the future, which I think is going to be very good. The men that are involved with both the union and contractors are working hard to insure that your future will be as good as our past has been. ***Brian Glynn***, along with ***John Crinion***, and the rest of your elected officials, work together with ***Al Rexroat, Pete Castellarin, Kevin Doherty***, and all the ***other IRIC members*** to protect the future of the union insulation business. Your international organization has also made tremendous movement in protecting the future of our business.

In closing I would just like to say it has always been a pleasure dealing with both the members of Local 17 and the contractors of IRIC, and I pray that our future will be as good as our past.

### **APPRENTICESHIP TESTING**

Everyone reading this newsletter is well aware of the economic downturn we are experiencing. We currently have unemployment that includes apprentices. Because of this we have no choice but to slow down the apprentice testing procedure. We started with approximately 620 applicants. After various requirements it was narrowed down to 250 applicants. The Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee acquired the services of a third-party testing facilitator. His background includes the testing of many of the local building trades unions for their various apprenticeships.

The JATC decided to use these results to further narrow the number of applicants. The top 100 scorers of this Aptitude Test will move on to the Interview Round. Everyone by now should have received his or her score. The interviews won't start until this coming Fall. After the interview process, the number of applicants will be reduced to the final 50. These remaining 50 will likely be broke into two groups of 25 each. Each group will be inducted into our training program depending on our workload at that given time.

### **QUALITY CONTROL CRAFTSMAN TRAINING**

Local 17 is ready to complete the final stages of the PC3 Training. Starting Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 AM, we will conduct our first QCC Training session. Certain jobsites will be designated and have an appointed QCC person on the job. We will have only 3 or 4 jobsites designated at any one time. We are in the process of deciding which jobs should qualify. Anyone is invited to attend. Foremen, Stewards and Local 17 members are eligible to attend. This training is **NOT** mandatory.

### **RETIREES**

Local 17 would like to honor these recent retirees. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Steve Kokinadis	R# 39844	12-01-08
David Labus	R# 39846	02-01-09
David Pfeifer	R# 43860	02-01-09

**THE RETIREE LUNCHEON IS MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009**  
(Which happens to be the SOX Home Opener)

## PARADES

Our St. Patrick's Day Parades were the best attended in recent memory. The weather was spectacular for both of the parades! The Downtown Parade had over 400 of our members and their families marching along Columbus Drive. It was quite a site to see our block long contingent proudly walking along side our 2 floats. We are still receiving compliments on the workmanship of our "Saving Energy" Float.

The Southside Parade was also a well-attended success. We applaud the efforts of Jack Shine in securing the St John Fisher Parish Hall. It's a great location and has served us well for many years now. Many people deserve thanks in making these events go so smoothly. **Mark Schneider** for popular design of the Tee shirts this year. The newly designed caps were a big hit also. Special thanks goes out to **Robert McGuckin** and his father, **Robert McGuckin, Sr.** for their help in coordinating this event. They spent a great deal of time to insure everything went without a hitch. Local 17 is also grateful to the following people for the roles they played in making this a success: **M. Autenreith, B. Hogan, J. Bollin, T. Pinner, H. Alvarez, D. Alvarez, E. Brock, B. O'Hara, P. Glynn, J. Foster, T. Keane.** Members' getting involved is what makes this union great! Pictures are available at <http://www.local17insulators.com/>

## WORKLOAD

Work is starting to slow up a bit and when we talk about it, it's not meant to **alarm** you, it is meant to **inform** you. Times like this can provide an opportunity to work on your skills. Be aware of any "journeymen upgrade classes". If there is something you need to brush up on, please call the Training Center. Now that we are open many nights for apprenticeship training, there would be someone available to help with any of your needs. Please keep us up to date with any changes with both your house or cell phone numbers.

For those fortunate enough to be working, it's probably a good time to become model employees. This is not the time to appear before the E-Board with PC3 Violations. All of the Local 17 Officers will work to protect our jurisdiction in the field and help place you when opportunities arise. Please understand that we do not **manufacture** jobs, nor do we keep a **secret list** of jobs. We are very proud of the fact that we have been as fair as we possibly can when it comes to employing our members.

We would like to thank the following locals for employing our members as travelers:  
**Locals 1, 81, 75, 135, and 5.**

## DECEASED MEMBERS

These members have served Local 17 well. Our Local will remember them for eternity.

Gary Fogarty	R# 37175	01-06-09
Jack Mills	R# 37243	02-04-09
Robert Sullivan	R# 23266	02-25-09
Jack Lowder	R# 32258	03-20-09

## **EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT**

Thanks to everyone who made the Chicago Employee Free Choice Act Rally at Plumbers' Hall - *a resounding success*. Over 3,000 Union Activists crammed into the Hall to deliver the message of change to allow workers to choose a Union free from employer intimidation and coercion.

In addition to the Chicago event, union members took part in Employee Free Choice press conferences in Northwest Indiana, Decatur, Champaign, Peru and Bloomington-Normal.

Our actions that night, had an immediate effect on gaining one additional Employee Free Choice Act vote in the United States Senate. Senator Roland Burris committed to the Illinois AFL-CIO and the Chicago Federation of Labor that he would support the Employee Free Choice Act when it comes before the United States Senate. To learn more about this important issue for unions go to: <http://www.aflcio.org/>

## **STIMULOUS PACKAGE**

On February 17, President Barack Obama signed into law the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009” (ARRA). This historic legislation is the critical first step to putting our nation on the path to economic revival and job creation.

America’s Building Trades Unions were heavily engaged throughout the process of shaping this law. In the end, we believe that they succeeded on many levels. Of utmost importance was the application of Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage provisions to any and all construction funding contained in this legislation.

There is money for school construction, mass transit, clean coal technologies, sanitary & water treatment, energy programs, renewable fuels and money for both Argonne & Fermi Labs.

Just as important for the State of Illinois is Governor Quinn and State Senate President Cullerton along with the State House President Madigan’s commitments to formulating a “Capital Bill” which would go even further in creating much needed jobs for construction workers now and well into the future. We have not had a “Capital Bill” for 10 years.

## **BITS & PIECES**

For those people who have not taken the OSHA 10 Hour class, there will be an OSHA 10 class at the Union Hall on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 7:00 A.M. Please call Sue to sign up for this class.

Editors,  
B. Glynn, J. Crinion, D. Byrne, M. Foster, T. Keane, Donna