STEEL MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION UNIT

Joe Carley, President



COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

Henry Horne attended the 2003 Community Action Program (CAP) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.; Henry is our Unit CAP chairperson. Henry reported that this was one of the better conferences for information on what legislation is affecting our families and union.

The theme for this year's conference was "Fighting for Our Future." Delegates from around the country heard from keynote speakers such as UAW President Ron Gettelfinger. Ron spoke on how terrorism in America and abroad affects our families and Union, how Labor laws are now under attack, and also on health insurance. Other speakers were Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and Representative Maxine Waters, (D. Calif.). Representative Waters spoke on the cuts in different programs, e.g. education; just to give a $360 million-dividend tax cut to the rich. Representative Waters says that the tax cuts should be going back into the working family's pockets.

Unemployment has risen since President Bush has been in office. People now have to work longer just to live. Also President Bush has not put any monies into all state treasuries to fund Homeland security. Representative Waters stresses that, " We have to get off our butts and vote, get the information out, and get involved in politics, because politics do affect our lives."

On February 4, 2003 the UAW CAP delegates attended the first Industrial Union Council Legislative Conference. There were over three thousand delegates from around the country from all manufacturing unions in the United States. Those unions were UAW, UNITE, PACE, IBEW, USWA, IVE-CWA, UMWA. This meeting was held at the Washington Hilton, which has the largest hotel ballroom in Washington D.C. This conference focused on the crisis in manufacturing – the loss of industrial jobs. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney was the keynote speaker for the conference. President Sweeny spoke on re-industrializing America. What it would be like if there were no union, no OSHA, no health benefits, or no retirement benefits. An economist named John Foe talked about the loss of jobs since 1979. These losses started because of trade agreements and policies. These policies benefit corporations more than working families. Health care, Labor Law Reform and Trade/Taxes were the three issues that concerned the delegates. After the conference, all delegates went up to Capital Hill to

talk to their Congressional Representatives about the issues that concern working families.

TESPHE

Because of negotiations with Rouge Steel, seniority employees will soon have additional choices to invest in. The changes are expected to take place the first of May, with employees notified by postings.

UAW SCHOLARSHIPS

High School seniors graduating in 2003 are eligible to win one of two $1,500 Director Awards or one of four $1,000 Retired Workers Awards.

Aside from being a high school senior graduating in 2003, you must also be the child, grandchild, or ward of a UAW member, active or retired in Region 1A.

The deadline for all entrance forms is April 30, 2003. For further information and application forms please contact George Snow at 59-47745

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

The annual Region 1A Workers Memorial Day service will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27th at Elizabeth Park in Trenton, Michigan. This event is a superb way to honor those workers who were killed in the work place. It is also an opportunity to help remind everyone that there are still many people injured and killed in the workplace, and that we need to strive to make our workplace as safe as possible.

Anyone who would like to help with the event, or for further information, call SEMCOSH at 313-849-3345.

GOOD FRIDAY

This year, seniority employees (90 days) will have Friday, April 18th as a paid holiday.

APPRENTICE ROTATION

The next Apprentice Rotation is scheduled to take place Monday, May 5th. This is also the first day of the new school semester. Any apprentice not registered for their summer classes should do so now.

APPRENTICE NOTICE

Before any apprentice can add or drop a work-related class, they must have written approval from a member of the J.A.C. Failure to follow this procedure could result in punitive action, up to and including removal from the program.

RETIREMENT PARTY

Our 8th annual retirement party will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21st at Local 600 on Dix Avenue in Dearborn.

The party will start at 4:30 p.m. with cocktails (open bar). Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Tickets for retirees and their guests will be $10.00. Tickets for other guests will cost $20.00 in advance (by May 10th) and $35.00 for couples, if purchased in advance. Tickets purchased at the door will cost $25.00.

Tickets may be purchased from any elected or appointed Union representative and numerous other Unit members.

Besides the great food and conversation at the party, there will be a 50/50 raffle, numerous door prizes, and a friendly game of cards to top off the evening.

Anyone interested in helping with the party, or if you have any questions, call the Committeeroom at 313-317-1212.

SOFTBALL

Softball season is upon us once again. Anyone interested in playing on the Steel Maintenance and Construction Team should contact Steve Labodie in person or leave a message at the Committeeroom.

CONGRATULATIONS

From all the elected and appointed union representatives to the following employees on the completion of their apprenticeship: Millwrights Robert Sutton and Thomas Pilkington.

RETIREMENTS

Congratulations from all the elected and appointed union representatives to Crane Repair Welder Tom Montroy, J-9 Welder Ross Hill, and Blast Furnace Blacksmith Peter Yeager.

May your retirement be long, happy, and healthy. Also, stay in touch by joining the Retirees Chapter. We also look forward to seeing all retirees at our Retirement Party in May.

CONDOLENCES

From all elected and appointed union representatives, our deepest condolences to Welder James Cain and family on the loss of his father; to Blast Furnace Millwright Tom Landini and family on the loss of his father-in-law; and to Hot Strip Hydraulic Repairman Jim Kacin and family on the loss of his father.