

LABOR'S



SEPTEMBER

V I E W S

2020

Volume 5, No. 97

114 Poquonnock Road, Groton, CT 06340

860-445-6383

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Brothers and Sisters

This is my first article since being appointed to the position of President to complete the unexpired term of retired President Ken DelaCruz. Part of this article is a conversation I had with the Chief Stewards of the affiliates, the MTC Executive Board and Delegates and I believe the membership will benefit from it: This is not a position that I aspired to although I knew that at anytime I could be called upon to fill it. It is true that I have been involved in controversy; however, the things you have heard or think you know about me may not be true. I feel that the controversies have better prepared me for this position. I am not the smartest or best person but I am surrounded by good, smart people. The decisions that need to be made will be made by those elected to make those decisions as a Council.

The first person I have to please everyday is the guy I have to look at in the mirror every morning, and whatever I do during the day I

have to be able to sleep with him at night. I will be as honest and truthful as I can be. I say as I can be, because not everybody needs to know everything. They may not need to know where something begins, but they do need to know where it ends. I make no promises except I will do my best every day. This is my solemn vow.

The MTC is making some changes; we have taken on an office manager. Kathy Burger is a member of OPEIU Local 106, and although she is still learning has made our office more efficient already.

The printing of Labor Views has been difficult during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic and we plan to keep printing. However, we are looking at options to move to a web based publication. We will have to continue to print some but the format may change.

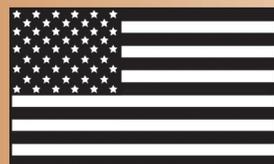
I expect the MTC Safety Committee to be more accessible and proactive. We will hold those responsible for safety of our members more accountable, but we all need to do our part starting with the use of PPE including mask and social distancing whenever possible.

John Adamson was recently elected to Vice President of the MTC. John brings with him to that office years of Contract interpretation and grievance administration. John has been a great friend to me and the Council and I am proud to have as my right hand.

Open enrollment for the new health plan will be this fall. We have been working with the Company to provide briefings on the clock to give everybody a better understanding of how this plan works. Please attend these briefings when you are scheduled and if you haven't yet register on the benefits website to make the process smoother.

PETER E. BAKER,	
MTC President.....	445-6383
JOHN ADAMSON	
MTC Vice President	445-1277
RICHARD McCOMBS,	
Rec. Sec'y. MTC	445-1277
CAT RACE,	
Sec'y Treasurer	445-1277
GEORGE NOWOSIELSKI,	
Local 777	445-8170
DENNIS URQUHART,	
Local 1122	446-1927
RICHARD (CHICK) McCOMBS,	
Local 261	445-2224
JIM SPENCER	
Local 1871	445-8619
PATRICK JOYCE, Local 614.....	445-4973
PETER BAKER, Local 547.....	448-2577
ROBERT HILL, Local 493	575-1384
PAUL BRUNO, Local 106.....	445-1216
CAT RACE,	
Occup. Health & Safety Comm....	445-1277
FRANK WARD,	
MTC Benefits	501-3263

In Solidarity,
Peter E. Baker
President Metal Trades Council



UNITED WE STAND



**LOCAL
LODGE
1871**

We are currently looking for a temporary steward for third shift to cover for Nate while he is away. If you are interested, please contact me, and attend our next union meeting.

Next meeting is coming up! Thursday, September 17th this time due to our regular meeting falling on a floater week. Same time and place though. Please wear your masks or you will be asked to leave the meeting. We will try to distance from each other as best as possible as well. Please be considerate of each other.

I am sure you are all staying up to date on current regulations surrounding Covid 19 issues. I just want to reiterate that if you travel to any place considered a Hot Spot, please quarantine before returning to work. It is appreciated by all.

Please keep in mind that starting this year, we will all be moved to the high deductible health insurance. Please look at the options so that you are familiar with any changes that will come your way. You can call 888-432-3633 or go to www.gdbenefits.com

Everyone should have been given a contract book by their supervisor by now. If you do not have one, please let me or your supervisor know.

If you would like a copy of each LL 1871 Labor View sent to your email, please email your Recording Secretary, Mel Marshall, at melihnam@gmail.com and ask to be added to the email list. Thank you.

If you are a Military Veteran, please see Christopher Wasilewski on first or James Palmer on second shift for any support.

New Members: Between days 0-30 days after your date of hire you must log onto the General Dynamics Service Center website at www.gdbenefits.com to enroll yourself, and your dependents, in the benefits package.

As always, do not forget to use the safety boot and eyeglass program that was negotiated by the MTC. A list of the different shoe manufacturers and times that they will be outside the front gate is available. The eyeglass store is open on both the inside of the main gate and the outside entrance for your convenience, check bulletin boards for the times they are open.

IMPORTANT: If you are put on notice, going to be disciplined, or sent to Security to give a statement of any kind, you have the right to have a steward present. Your first words should be, "I want to talk to a Steward".

MEETING NOTICE:

Upcoming meetings will be September 17th and October 8th at 3:00 p.m. at 18 Pleasant St Groton, CT 06340.

Fraternally,

Jim Spencer

President/Chief Steward

STEWARDS

Chief Steward:

James Spencer 860-705-2266

First Shift OSM:

Bill Harris 860-510-8315

Mark Sousa 401-743-3033

Mike Fantacci 860-884-7339

First Shift Machine Shop:

Mike Shell 860-790-9136

First Shift All Other Areas:

Janet Orr 860-608-8528

Second Shift ISM:

George Raposa JR 860-908-0002

Second Shift OSM:

George Blanchette 860-908-4149

Bill Ericson 860-705-6739

Second Shift All Other Areas:

James Marcy 860-617-8035

Third Shift All Areas:

Nate Cook 401-578-2199

United Way Contact:

Janet Orr 860-608-8528

INSURANCE UPDATE

Starting on January 1, 2021 the membership will be moving over to the High Deductible plan. The two plans are the same as far as medical coverage goes. The difference is how you pay for it. The Benefits Office will be scheduling meetings throughout the shipyard to help our members understand how to fund them and at the Boilermakers Hall. These meetings teach how to fund your new (HSA) Health Savings Account. They will also show you how to pledge money to get a company match to help pay for medical services along with company seed money. These meetings will be on the clock but you will have to tell your supervisor to make arrangements to get a reservation, because space will be limited due to the covid 19 pandemic. The Open Enrollment Period to make changes to the plan is November 18, 2021 to December 4, 2021.



FAMILY DENTAL CENTER
Vincent Antonelli, D.D.S.
Ted Malahias, D.D.S.
Sean Kim, D.D.S., FAGD
 115 Bridge Street
 Groton, CT 06340
446-8744

CONVENIENT TO E.B.
 "We Cater to Cowards"

FAMILY DENTISTRY
 Bonding - Crown and Bridge

FULL PARTICIPANT IN
 MTC DENTAL PLAN

Congratulations and a happy retirement to Eddie Honnen. Eddie is our latest retiree who started in 1962 as a pipefitter, then went to brazing, and later on to UT Operator. Because of the recent issues we are having with the company's cell phone policy, I would recommend that the membership not use personal cell phones to converse with supervision on company related issues.



Anyone who has been here over 4 years and their Union book still has mtc apprentice on it, please turn it back to the local so we can get it changed to journeyman. Anyone retiring in the future, again, please call the hall and turn in your book so we can get it changed over to retiree. Anyone out 3 months or longer, notify the hall, so we can explain your dues obligation, and also call the benefits office (433-4201) so there are no insurance disruptions.

There is a new regime starting to take over the company from the President, Managers, Directors, supervision, down. It used to be people who hired here, worked their way up, after learning their jobs. And in some cases, still happens. But, more often than not, people are hired from the outside and are put into supervisory roles to fill needed openings.

There are a couple of important dates to remember in September, Monday the 7th, Labor day, another Union negotiated paid holiday. And the 11th, when this country was attacked and many lives and families were changed forever. Never forget either one of them for their true meanings.

Fraternally yours,
 George C. Nowosielski,
 Business Agent/ Chief Steward, Pipefitters Local 777



Dear essential brothers and sisters;

We held our nominations at the last union meeting. We had 2 officers step down. Recording secretary Pat Hammel and chief trustee Red Tripplet. Thank you guys for your years of service to our union. You both will be missed on the executive board.

Nominations: business manager has charlie lamon vs frank ward, president, i have competition with mike bilby, recording secretary is miguel castillo vs andrea chabotte. We have 5 new candidates running for the 3 trustee spots. They are phil adams, adam desautels. Wendy gentile, shane gilligan and last, but not least jorge, big daddy, morales. Good luck to all of the candidates.

Please remember to vote on tuesday, september 8th from 5:30 am to 5:00 pm at the parking garage across from the main gate.

As i am speaking of elections, it is very important as well as your duty to vote in the general elections this november. You will see and hear a lot of mud slinging and people pushing their narratives be it left or right. Please think hard about who you choose to vote for. Use your best judgement on who you think will be the best for our country.

We have cancelled our september meeting due to our elections. We will have our regular meeting on tuesday, october 13th. We will be swearing in our newly elected officers then. I hope to see you there.

Essentially Yours,
Patrick Joyce
 President

**Groton
 Dental Group**

Dennis Flanagan, DDS MSc
 American Board of Oral
 Implantology/Implant Dentistry
 American Board of General Dentistry
 Bruce Dougherty, D.D.S.
 Danielle Green, D.M.D.

- General Dentistry
- Implants Placed and Restored
- Dentures - Same Day Service
- Relines and Repairs

1100 Poquonnock Rd., Groton
445-9765

Windham Dental Group
 1671 West Main St., Willimantic
456-3153

WE PARTICIPATE IN
 MTC DENTAL PLAN
 Retiree's Are Accepted

IBEW LU
261

The next union meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Yes we are going to have a face to face meeting or at least try. We have to adhere to the social distancing guidelines which will make it difficult but we need to get back to normalcy. The meeting will be at the Machinist Lodge located at 18 Pleasant Street Groton CT. All members are invited and encouraged to attend with any concerns or questions. Note that second shift employees do not have to use their own time to attend, and a union business shop order will be provided for their supervisor.

Once again I would like to thank all that are adhering to our social gathering guidelines here in the shipyard. I think all would agree that the masks are a pain but primarily the reason why we have a low rate of exposure in our workplace & throughout the community. To put the seriousness of this pandemic in perspective, while you may not agree with the mask requirement, please think of more than just yourselves in this situation. In just over 7 months this virus is responsible for over 170 thousand deaths in the US while during the ten years of fighting in Viet Nam we lost fifty six thousand men & women. This pandemic is not a farce, we don't even hear about the thousands of people young and old that have acquired permanent health effects from this disease.

Currently our members in Department 241 have a lot of work that will keep them busy towards the end of the year. Unfortunately because of delays such as material, vendor issues & scheduling it may cause some work shortages. The Department is reaching out to other shipyards for work assignments that will get us through these issues. It is time to update our road job rotation list so we can properly assign the right people. We will post the list so that you can check for your availability. Any questions please see John Hinehold, Nicole, or call me.

NFFS Assignments: Please be aware that assignments at the sub base become available now. These appointments are made by seniority, occupational title and shift. Anyone interested must submit an IRM requesting this position. Any questions please contact your Steward. For those that have not signed up for the High Deductible Medical Plan it will be mandatory next year.

Because we expressed concerns that there will be a lot of questions during the enrollment period the Company is providing briefings to help with the sign-up as well assigning individuals to assist us. We need to start thinking about this now to be prepared for the enrollment. More to come on this.

We have recently agreed to the second half incentive bonus for the period July through December. The award is based on hours worked which I feel is designed so that most will not make the maximum amount. This was forced down our throat without anytime to counter or question the issues. Some felt that we shouldn't have accepted the offer but the consensus was we would have a hard time justifying that we left money on the table. But the one thing I can tell you with our new leadership this is not going to happen again. *Lessons learned!*

We are going to make some important decisions this November. It is the position of the IBEW that their support will be to the Democratic Nominee. This current administration has been anti labor and has passed many rules that hurt working families. We can't in good faith support a regime that put our workers in jeopardy. In the near future we will be providing you with information to educate you on these issues. I would hope that you would take this information in consideration and focus on the real life priorities that impact you, your family and co-workers. If you have not registered or have moved recently please contact your Steward for a voter registration form. Please vote it is your right.

Please Work Safe

Respectfully and Fraternally,

Richard "Chick" McCombs
President IBEW Local 261

ALL MTC MEMBERS:

Please Note: It has been brought to our attention that some members haven't received their MTC contract book.

**If you have not, please contact
MTC Office, Kathy Burger
at 860-445-6383.**



POLITICAL ACTION

OPEIU and the labor movement have a responsibility to protect and advance the rights of members in the political arena as well as at the bargaining table. The importance of this political responsibility has never been greater. Only through effective political action will we achieve programs that rebuild our industrial base; that help every young American who needs such help as far up the education ladder as his or her talents and capacity permit; that guarantee equal rights for women and minorities in all aspects of our political and economic life; that rejuvenates America's infrastructure; that allow every elderly American to retire in dignity and security; that protect the rights of every working American to organize and bargain collectively; and all other policies that affect union members and their families.

Those who oppose this agenda can generate many millions of dollars for their political candidates. We need to offset the huge amounts still being generated by wealthy individuals and corporations. Effective political action, including financial contributions to labor-friendly candidates, is the only way working people can have a positive impact on the legislative process. You can get involved in the political process by supporting the OPEIU Voice of the Electorate Fund through payroll deduction. See your officers and steward and sign up now.

If you wish to get involved in mobilizing members to elect pro-worker representatives contact this office. For more information visit www.ctaficio.org.

OPEIU FREE COLLEGE

Call 888-590-9009 or visit freecollege.opeiu.org

You must have your Local Union number (106) available when completing the application process.

UNION REMINDERS:

NEW HIRES

YOU must stay on top of your insurance coverage. There are many choices for you to review and time limits for you to apply for these benefits. You are now eligible to join the insurance **between days 0-30 of your date of hire.** This is the only 30 days to execute access to the health plan. If you do nothing you will automatically get medical but will not receive dental, extra eye care, and additional life insurance. If you are married or married with children, they will not be covered. It is important to enroll as soon as possible. **Do not be late. I suggest that you call to make arrangements for health insurance since all calls are recorded.** In the past, there were problems with online enrollments. There are many options to choose or reject. Contact General Dynamics Service Center (1-888 432-3633) Monday – Friday 9am to 9pm. OR www.gdbenefit.com (24hrs/7days).

Any questions call EB Benefits: 860-433-4201 or Frank Ward, Union Insurance Representative: 860-501-3263

“Weingarten” Rights

If **YOU** are sent to **SECURITY** for any reason or are being questioned by **MANAGEMENT**, **YOU** should request a STEWARD. **YOU** do not have to answer any questions until you have **UNION REPRESENTATION.**

If you change your **home address, phone number, or e-mail**, do not forget to notify the Union.

FMLA, ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT ISSUES

Problems with Sedgewick FMLA, Insurance or Workers Compensation?? Contact me at the Union Hall or one of our Stewards in the shipyard. Don't wait for your benefits!

www.opeiulocal106.com

Visit this site and search the many links of valuable information. The Media Center is one example that is updated by our International Union with new information on Union Benefits and current issues of interest.

LABOR'S VIEWS ON LINE

If you would like a copy please email our Recording Secretary, Maggie Marley, at prof.emp@snet.net and ask to be added to the email list. Please state “Subject LV” and use your home email address.

MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

September 14th and October 5th (Change due to Holiday) at 5:30pm at our Union hall.

STEWARDS FOR EB:

Howie Manual	D274	860-303-5982
Jeffery Jordan	D438	860-574-5563
Arlene Allard	D221	X37797 2nd Shift
Mark Cross	D321	X35569 3rd Shift

UNION COMMUNICATIONS:

Local 106	Web Site	opeiulocal106.org
Local 106	Phone	860-445-1216
	FAX	860-445-0175
	E-mail	prof.emp@snet.net

Do not send e-mails to any EB addresses. We may not get them.

If you have sent an e-mail and did not get a response in a day or two please call the Union Hall.

International Union Web Site	opeiu.org
International Magazine	White Collar
Union Benefits	UnionPlus.org

If you change your **home address, phone number, or e-mail** do not forget to notify the Union.

PLEASE, TRY TO ATTEND UNION MEETINGS.

Paul A. Bruno Jr.
President/Chief Steward



On behalf of Local 1122/251, I would like to congratulate Neftali Sostre, Darryl Gilblair, and William Przygoda for 40 years of service. As of this writing the Blue/Gold payout is still being worked on by the MTC and the Company. Local 1122 Union meetings are still suspended until further notice. As soon as meetings are reconvened I will notify all members via the locker room bulletin boards. There is an upcoming class on the high deductible insurance that will be replacing the protection plus next year. Members Matt Frank, Bob Deronck, and Edwin Garay will be attending to help better explain how the high deductible plan work, how to enroll, and other questions pertaining to the new insurance.

NSSF, NRMD, Shipping port request forms The Department will no longer survey, you will have to fill out a form, See your steward for these forms.

Shift change request forms: Once you have been offered to transfer and you refuse, you will be responsible to fill out new shift change request form.

BENEFITS- Ernest (TJ) Holley is our benefits rep. Any questions concerning benefits he will get the answer for you.

OVERTIME— Dennis Urquhart and Ron Ingves are the overtime coordinator, any questions concerning Overtime you can question Ron. If he doesn't know the answer he will get it for you from me.

ROAD JOB LIST. Will be updated by myself, information will be sent to me as to who is going, who said no and who said yes, what job and place, start dates and end dates.

All stewards will have a copy of the road job list.

STEWARDS-First shift Stewards: Danny Leblanc All Nuclear issues 860-884-3907, Ernest (TJ) Holly 860-538-1926, Ron Ingves 860-334-8141, Alternate Victor Delima 401-481-3947
Second shift Stewards: Elaine Key 860-460-7621, Chris Wilson 860-501-2304/860-961-2930

IMPORTANT – Members who are out of work on any leave of absence such as Workers Compensation, or short term disability insurance, Family leave etc., it is your responsibility to pay your portion for medical, dental, and vision you can be dropped from your benefits if you don't keep up your payments.

SAFETY: Just a reminder that safety is everyone's concern. If you see an unsafe act you should report it to your Union Steward or M.T.C. Safety Steward . They will take the necessary actions to correct the situation. Phone # is 32811. Or the MTC 860-445-6383

If you are sent to Security for any reason or are being questioned by any Management, **YOU SHOULD REQUEST A STEWARD !!! REMEMBER, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO UNION REPRESENTATION, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WITHOUT THIS REPRESENTATION.**

IMPORTANT!!! DON'T FORGET TO NOTIFY A STEWARD OR THE UNION HALL (860-442-8281) IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER OR NAME. WE NEED TO HAVE THIS CORRECT INFORMATION! (NOTE: WHEN YOU NOTIFY THE COMPANY OF AN ADDRESS CHANGE, ETC., THEY DO NOT GIVE THE UNION THIS NEW INFORMATION.) PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU !!! We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

REMINDER: If you are out of work on compensation or accident & sickness insurance or any unpaid leave it is your responsibility to pay your dues. If your dues fall behind more than three months, your membership could be suspended. If you are out of work and have any questions regarding your dues, please call the Union Hall at 860-442-8281. New London office

IMPORTANT: It is advised that you notify me one week in advance or as soon as you know when you will be returning to work from any Medical, Compensation or unpaid leave. The company doesn't know if you kept your dues paid up while you were out. It is important that I know your return date so I can submit a letter to the company to have your dues zeroed out under non collected. Once the company takes out your dues it will take me at least a month to return your money.

The monthly Union meeting of Painters' Local #1122 will be held every 4th Monday of each month at the Union Hall 597 Broad St., New London, Ct. at 7:00 PM. Second shift employees please give your foreman 24hrs notice if you plan to attend the meeting. If you have any problems/issues to discuss, the union meeting is the place to do this.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me. My numbers are as follows: 401-573-6956 and 860-941-1579 Email address: painters.union@snet.net
Thank you for your ongoing support.

Fraternally yours,

Dennis Urquhart

Chief Steward, Painters' Local #1122

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CharterOak.org | 860.446.8085 | 800.962.3237



*Some restrictions may apply. [†]APY=Annual Percentage Yield.



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MTC SAFETY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020

**PAINTERS • BOILERMAKERS • ELECTRICIANS
LABORERS • MACHINISTS • OPEIU • PIPEFITTERS • TEAMSTERS**

We've been having a high rate of injuries going to and from the work areas. We need to be a little more diligent in what we're doing, where we're walking, what's under our feet and let's not forget what's above our heads, what's coming at us from all sides. Listen for the back-up alarms on the vehicles, crane alarms, and crane walkers. It's all there for your protection. Don't become complacent.

Due to the fire in San Diego in their shipyard there have been questions by the company as to whether or not we have a good understanding of fire prevention here in our shipyard. A few might have had the MTC safety reps going around asking some questions about fire prevention. This is just so the company has a better understanding as to where they might need to ramp up in training or be satisfied as to the answers they got and make no changes. Most importantly we need to remember to clean up our areas at the end of our shifts of trade debris and burnables.

Thanks, and stay safe
MTC Safety
Cat Race

CAT RACE
1st Shift
860-405-4784

GARY FONTAINE
1st Shift
860-326-4832

DAVE CROWLEY
860-326-4729

BILL ZAKS
2nd Shift
860-326-4353

HARRY WEYANT
2nd Shift
860-326-4341

SAFETY OFFICE 433-2811

METAL TRADES
445-6383/1277

MAKE SAFETY OUR NUMBER # 1 PRIORITY.