

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED
TRADES DISTRICT COUNCIL 26**

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008



From the Desk of Steve Mitchell

Local 1803

I would like to thank all the members and staff of the I.U.P.A.T. District Council 26 for the opportunity to serve as Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer of our great Union. Congratulations to Jeff Kelley and Brook Manley for their new positions as BMST and Business Representative. I ask that you support them as you have done for me in the past.

Fraternally,
Steve Mitchell

From the Desk Of Jeff Kelley BM/ST
Local 1052

Let me start out by thanking the Delegates and Officers of the District Council for having the confidence and trust in me to lead the District Council for the remainder of Steve Mitchell's term.

Steve Mitchell has chosen to retire after more than 32 years as a loyal member of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades and Local Union 1803. Steve was a vital part of the formation of the District Council and the continued success of the Council for the past 5 years. Steve was a valuable asset to Local Union 1803 as their Apprenticeship Instructor and then Business Representative until he was elected Business Manager of the District Council. Steve and Judy are planning to travel this summer and will be enjoying the easy life. We will be planning a get together for Steve sometime in the fall when he gets back.

I urge each and every member to read the April-June 2008 IUPAT Journal cover to cover. There is information on issues that we as middle class working citizens need to get involved in. General President Williams talks about the money our government is spending in Iraq and Afghanistan to fight a war and rebuild their infrastructure but can't pass a highway bill to repair our roads and bridges, let alone fund our schools, states and cities. Our own District Council has experienced the effects of this lack of funding in regard to our future Training Center. (See Training Center update)

From the Desk Of Jeff Kelley BM/ST
Local 1052 (Continued)

General Secretary/Treasurer Galis talks about the importance of the Employee Free Choice Act and what we as Union Members have to do to ensure that this Act passes. The IUPAT and its members need to be a crucial part of this effort to let our legislators know that this is good for America and the American workers. There is a post card included in the Journal for you to fill out and send to his office. GST Galis will send these cards to the AFL-CIO who will in turn present them to Congress and the President demanding that the working middle class be heard.

This election year may well be the most important election year since the Great Depression. The economy of the United States is heading into a Recession and the economy of Michigan could be heading into a depression. We need to elect politicians that understand the issues that affect the working class citizens. From the President of the United States to the Council person of your city or township, these elected officials must represent our needs and issues. The Political Departments of the IUPAT and our District Council have been busy interviewing the candidates at all levels of government and will be making recommendations to our members as to the *Labor Friendly* candidates that will work for us and protect our rights. (See list of endorsed candidates). The AFL-CIO has included in the Journal, several articles on John McCain and his anti labor votes as a Senator. His Health Care plan will penalize workers that enjoy health care through a Collective Bargaining Agreement and eliminate affordable health care for the poor and disabled. His policies and voting record could be 4 more years of the same under the Bush administration. I can honestly tell you Michigan and the middle class in general can not afford 4 more years of the Bush philosophy.

Now, let's get back to the business of the District Council:

Please join me in welcoming Brook Manley as the Business Representative for Local Unions 1803 and 1011. In accordance with the Constitution of the IUPAT and the By Laws of the District Council, Steve Mitchell appointed Brook to fill the vacancy created by Steve's retirement. Brook will be working with the other staff members becoming acclimated to the duties and responsibilities of his new job.

As always, I have an open door policy for all members and will hold the staff of the District Council responsible for the members concerns and ensure that members are represented to the best of our ability. I will also be responsive to our employers so that we can work together to regain the market share in Michigan and keep our members working in Michigan rather than having to travel out of state to work and earn a good living.

Over the next few months I will be reviewing what the District Council has done right and/or wrong over the last 5 years. I will be attending Local Union meetings and doing ride-a longs with the Business Representatives and Marketing Representatives visiting jobsites and contractors. We will be reviewing our Organizing Plan and the duties and responsibilities of our staff members and your comments and input will be greatly appreciated. Your concerns and ideas will be used to plan what the next 5 years of the District Council will do and what it will become. I see Michigan recovering quickly and the District Council needs to be on the leading edge to take advantage of this revitalization of the great state of Michigan.

From the Desk Of Jeff Kelley BM/ST Local 1052 (Continued)

Member Service will be the priority of the District Council and the entire staff. For now the Financial Office will be the **Primary Call Center** source for information. A central **Out of Work List** will be maintained there and the phone number to call is 877-231-0005. The member will be asked for their trade, skills level (Journeyman or level of Apprentice), type of work they perform (commercial or industrial), the local union and area they live in and the best phone number to call. So be sure and call the **Central Call Center** even if you call your Local Representative to report your work status.

Questions in regard to Health Insurance, Pension, Dues and other benefits will also be handled through the **Central Call Center**. The information may not be readily available through the Central Call Center but you will be directed as to where you can get the information or a staff member will be notified of your needs and be assigned to work with you to get the answers. Grievances and Collective Bargaining Agreement issues must be handled by a Business Representative and the office staff can not give advice. The Call Center will take your information and a Business Representative will get in contact with you As Soon As Possible. The **Central Call Center** will follow up with you to ensure that you have been contacted by a Representative. The **Central Call Center** may contact you at a later date to see how your concern was handled. Please remember that the **Central Call Center** staff will usually be the office personal and are only taking the information so please be courteous to them and give them the respect they deserve.

With the vast area that the District Council covers and the limited personal that we have to visit contractors throughout the larger Local Union jurisdictions of the District Council I have revised the areas that each Representative or Organizer is responsible for. The major change will be the Local Union 1803 jurisdiction. Brook Manley will be responsible for the area west of I-75 from Saginaw to the Mackinac Bridge and Steve Ellery will cover an additional area east of I-75 to the Alpena area. Ray Whitaker will now cover his area and the area including Mt. Pleasant and Alma. Ken Pifer will now be responsible for Grand Rapids and Kent County in addition to his area. These changes do not change the jurisdiction of the Local Unions or the pay scale for these areas only the District Council staff member that will work to organize the contractors and reclaim the market share that we have lost over the years.

WWW.DCOUNCIL26.NET

The District Council website is up and running (www.dccouncil26.net). Keith Comer of Local 1052 has taken on the challenge to develop it and keep it up and running. The website has information on your benefits and there are links to MUST, Union Plus, the International Website, and the AFL-CIO political website through the **Turn America Around** icon. There is a link to the Apprenticeship programs of the District Council where photos of the students learning and doing committee projects. Keith has a link as webmaster where you can send him articles or photos, newsworthy items and events or just let him know that is doing a great job.

From the Desk Of Jeff Kelley BM/ST

Local 1052 (Continued)

Local 1052

I would like to thank the Contract Negotiation team (Chuck Fox, Mark Schreiber and Keith Comer) for their efforts in getting a fair contract in these trying times. The contractors were tough this time and with little work in the jurisdiction of the Local Union the contractors were very reluctant to give us anything. The team did a good job of proving to the contractors that even though the work was not in the area the 1052 members traveled anywhere for them and were dedicated to their companies.

As a result of the team, the travel pay was increased to \$20.00 per person and the language clarified. Sub Contract language was included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement to control the contractors subbing out the work and a wage reopener for 2009 was obtained. The wage/fringe benefit increase for 2008 is:

June 1st, 2008 \$.25/hr to Local 1052 Pension Fund, \$.30/hr on the wage

Dec. 1st, 2008 \$.20/hr on the wage

Congratulations to Keith Comer who was elected a Trustee of the Local Union.

The GLS Building Trades has been conducting a rolling Picket Line throughout the 3 counties that we cover. We have had a great response from the trades but the Painters need to help when they can. If you have a morning available call Jeff or the **Central Call Center** to find out when and where the next picket line is. It is very important that we as Painters, Drywall Finishers, Glaziers and Sign Workers need to support the trades that are bad on a project. We never know when we will need their help on a project that is being painted or the drywall is being finished by **non-union workers**. In fact the rolling picket line turned a project around in Grand Blanc for the painters and the General Contractor has continued to use Union contractors for their painting work.

Apprenticeship and Journey person Upgrade

The District Council Training Center is getting closer to being a reality. The Genesee County Land Bank has committed to the two year no cost lease at the Great Lakes Tech Center, Mott College is in the process of transferring Workforce Development funds to our program and The State of Michigan "No Worker Left Behind" funds are in the works. The second spray booth has been secured from the City of Flint and will be moved to the Training Center shortly. (Niles Industrial donated a spray booth to the Apprenticeship program).

The Finishing Trades Institute has committed to supply the SSPC C-3 and C-7 curriculum and we will be presenting the new Industrial Painter program developed by the FTI. The LMCI is working on a grant to furnish the SSPC instructors at our training center rather than sending our members to the FTI in Maryland.

We are developing partnerships with the suppliers to acquire equipment and materials at a reduced rate or when possible donated. So far Independent Paint Supply, Sherwin Williams, Hertz Rental and Advance Glove and Safety have joined our team and are committed to helping us get

From the Desk Of Jeff Kelley BM/ST Local 1052 (Continued)

the Training Center up and running. (Trident National has offered several pieces of equipment that we are in need of too.)

Our goal is to start the training classes in August for the 6 "Train the Trainers" selected by the local Apprenticeship Committees and 14 additional members. We will be announcing the class schedule as soon as the funds are secured. Our plan is to start a new class of students every month for 2 years starting in September. Each class will be limited to 20 students. Look for an announcement and sign up information soon. If you are interested in being an instructor for the SSPC classes there is still time to get in the first class.

Instructors are needed for all safety training classes. There are programs and grants available through the FTI and the LMCI for transportation, lodging and tuition for members that will make the commitment to provide the training to our members when it is needed. Right now there is a huge demand for a Lead Worker Trainer, Scaffold Instructor and a DOT Pipeline Safety instructor. Contact Jeff Kelley for more information.

June 14th District Council Meeting brought changes in the District Council staff with a new Business Manager and a new Business Representative.



Brook Manley and Jeff Kelley being sworn in by Vice President Ray Price



(L to R) Chuck Fox, Brook Manley, Steve Mitchell, Jeff Kelley, Casey Hathaway



The Delegates congratulated Steve on his retirement



Ray Heddy working with Jon Phinney and Jason Garner at the IMA Brookwood during Apprenticeship class

From the Desk Of Jim Anderson Organizer
Local 1011

Summer is here and after a long cold winter that sunshine feels great and with work starting to pick up it should be a good summer.

A big thank you to all the members who were able to make it to the hall to vote on our new Collective Bargaining Agreement. The vote to accept the contract offer was approved by a large majority of the members.

This Presidential election is so important to us, the working class of America that we need to give all our support to the candidate who will support us and not turn their back on Unions and America.

Please remember that our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm EST.

On behalf of members of Local 1011 I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful summer, so turn off the TV and get out and enjoy the nice weather. Buy Union, Buy USA and please work safe.

In Solidarity;

Jim

From the Desk of Ken Pifer Business Representative
Local 312

Dear District Council 26 Members

I don't have a lot to say as work in the 312 area is going very slowly, there is quite a bit of work that will start around August of this year for our trades, most of this work is just coming out of the ground now, we have PLA's (Project Labor Agreements) signed for most of the work coming up in the area. Kellogg's is building a new facility that will be all Union, this job will take two years to complete, the Battle Creek Casino is all Union, it will take 19 months to complete, there is a hospital in Mishawaka that will take 4 years to complete, so don't despair there is work on the way. I would like to say Goodbye to Steve Mitchell; we will miss you and Congratulations to Jeff Kelley on your election as the new Business Manager of the District Council. I have a couple of articles that I thought you might find very intriguing, one is about John McCain's Bushenomics. The other is what the ABC American Builders Association sends out to Democratic Politicians running for office and the response they received from the media.

Ken Pifer

Painters Local 312

Phone: 269-323-1001

Fax: 269-323-1030

From the Desk Of Brook Manley Business Representative
Local 1803

All of us at 1803 and 1011 wish Steve a leisurely and fun filled retirement! Thank you Steve for your leadership through out the years. I have the privilege of fulfilling Steve's obligation as Business Representative for Local 1803 and 1011. Even though work is tight in Michigan we intend to gain in the marketplace. This is a challenge that takes time, lots of hard work and patience. It is also very important to maintain the rights and benefits we have gained in the past. I will do my best to maintain the integrity of the union, preserve our work and secure a prosperous future for all members. We are all brothers and sisters; make sure we treat every brother and sister the way we expect to be treated. Communicate with your Business Representatives. You are their eyes and ears out in the field. Communication, respect and working together is our recipe for success.

From the Desk of Ray Whitaker Business Representative
Local 845

Congratulations to Jeff Kelley on his recent advancement to the position of BM/ST for District Council 26. Jeff will prove to be one of our most valuable assets in the years to come with his experience and expertise in our industry.

Thanks to Steve Mitchell for the years of service to the Union and for his help in coordinating and organizing the formation of District Council 26. Good luck and enjoy your retirement.

Congratulations also to Brook Manley on his new position as Business Representative for Local 1803. Brook has been the apprentice instructor for Local 1803 for the past 18 months and has been doing a great job.

I was recently requested by our International Union to go to the state of New Jersey to help with a problem our Union was facing with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC). The UBC had signed up a large drywall contracting company to take control of the drywall finishers that were already members of the IUPAT. This affected the IUPAT drywall finishers that worked for 3 other companies controlled by the larger parent company. Our Union was forced to file for an election in order for our members to maintain their status as members of the IUPAT. My job was to visit our members on jobsites and in their homes to inform them of the tricks being played by the New Jersey UBC.

The UBC had done what was predicted: they lowered the scale of the "drywall finishers" separated them from the contract as a sub-class of carpenter, They then negotiated a raise for the Carpenters and froze the lower wages for the new "drywall finishers"

To top it off the new "drywall finishers" of the UBC-Carpenters Union were not allowed to vote on the pay rate. *This is standard practice for that Union.*

UBC Members are not allowed a vote in elections or contract ratifications.

Needless to say, the Drywall Finishers OVERWHELMINGLY voted to continue as IUPAT members.

From the Desk of Ray Whitaker Business Representative Local 845 (Continued)

We have year pins ready to award to members of Local 845 for those who have been members for 20 years and more. We will have a special meeting to award these pins and hope that all members gather to meet those who have worked hard to promote the union and have proven themselves as excellent journeyman craftsmen.

We recently lost one of our long term members, Harold Wing. Harold was a long standing member of Local 845 for 63 years. Brother Wing was a Field Superintendent for B and J Painting before he retired from the industry in 1980. He will be missed by many who knew him.

MIOSHA has hired 6 more field Representatives for the area where Local 845 has jurisdiction and they intend to make their presence known. One of our local companies is having trouble with MIOSHA due to a respirator that was spotted by the field representative while a Detroit based bridge painting contractor currently working in the area is being distressed over some scaffolding issues. So, please work safe and remember to keep your respirators in your vehicles when not in use.

There will be no Union meeting on July 3rd due to the Independence Day holiday. The next meeting will be on August 7, 2008 where we will discuss the options and vote on a possible increase in contribution to our Pension Fund. This meeting will be held at the Union Hall located at 5914 Executive Dr. Lansing, MI 48910 at 7:00 p.m. sharp!

Remember, Local 845 has the lowest contribution of any Local Union in District Council 26. A pension increase of \$.25 adds up to \$10.00 less on your gross pay for a 40 hour week and figures to around only \$6.00 less on your net take-home pay.

From the Desk Of Steve Ellery Organizer Local 1474

St.Clair County Mental Health was picketed on June 9th, 2008. Baker College awarded painting to JB Fenner, they will be picketed soon. Also Steve has been meeting with MSC Flooring Company. Seven Brothers Coating was signed. International Company signed a MEMO National Maintenance Agreement.

Fund raiser for Lieutenant Gov. John Cherry.

Sporting Clay Friday June 20th, 2008. \$150.00 per shooter.

Gary Peters for Congress, June 18th, 2008, \$100.00 per person.

We are still waiting for a list of registered voters from the AFL-CIO.

Steve also thanked Steve Mitchell for his help in forming the District Council and working with him.

From the Desk of Denny Redinger Business Representative Glaziers Local 826

Work out look, As of 6/26/08, there are 11 glaziers out of work. Our contractors claim to have a large backlog for 2007-2008 and we should have full employment within 3-4 weeks.

If you are laid off and available for work, you must call the local office at 517-663-9132 to get on the Out of Work list. This list is provided to glazing contractors looking for man power.

All Trades Softball Tournament, Congratulations!!!!!! To the DC 26 softball team, headed up by Local 826's Craig Richardson, for the 1st place finish in their division at the 19th annual All Trades Softball Tournament May 17th & 18th, 2008 at Gier Park in Lansing. Next years tournament is scheduled for May 16th & 17th in Lansing. We are always looking for players.

Apprenticeship, This class year, 2007-2008, five 826 members have completed the Department of Labor-Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (DOL-BAT) requirements and have been granted journeyman status. Congratulations to: Jason Motsinger (GSI), Jace Dubay (Calvin & Co.), Tony Ferretti (Lansing Glass), Roger Gillmer (A-1 Glass) and Troy Hooker (Lansing Glass). This class has two Burley Award winners, Jason and Roger. The Burley Award is given by the 826 JATC each year to the apprentice who demonstrates those qualities necessary to become a well rounded glazier. Calvin & Company established the Burley Award in May of 2005 after Bob Burley, good friend and glazier, passed away. As a memorial to Bob's memory, Calvin & Co. provides annually the 826 Apprenticeship Committee with a \$200.00 check for the award.

New 3 year contract (CBA), On June 12th, 2008, at a Special Called Meeting of the Local 826 membership, a new 3 year agreement was ratified by the membership, 30 yes, 14 no. \$1.00 per hour per year to be divided between wages and benefits. Copies of the contract will be available to the membership on July 15th, 2008.

Deceased, John Foutain, Hill-Billy John, long time employee of Koerts Glass, Flint, Passed away mid April. John was 76. for those who knew John he will always be a source for some great stories. Our sympathy to his family, John was a good friend.

From the Desk of Kelly Overly Financial Manager

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Steve Mitchell a happy retirement and thank him for giving me the opportunity to work with him the past 11 years. I would also like to congratulate Jeff Kelley as the new BM/ST and Brook Manley as the new 1803/1011 Business Representative and look forward to working with both of them.

We are still mailing out numerous delinquent dues notices every month, to help defray the cost of mailing all the notices, it would be appreciated if you would forward your \$25.00 per capita tax owed to the International if you know you worked less than 39 hours in a month or are working out of the District Council 26 jurisdiction. Also, if you receive a bill from us and you know you had the hours, please contact the Financial Office as soon as possible as your employer might not be submitting your benefits and we need to look into it immediately. If a member gets injured and cannot work, the District Council will pay your monthly per cap for up to 1 year, all I need is a copy of the doctors slip stating the date you became disabled and an approximate return to work date. Beneficiary cards are also very important for the District Council to have on file. If you do not have one on file or are not sure, please contact us so that we can get a card on file for you. Working Cards have been issued to all of the members who are paid through May 2008. If you did not receive a working card in this package, then you owe dues. These cards are very important to carry with you especially when you are working out of the DC 26 jurisdiction.

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND
ALLIED TRADES DISTRICT COUNCIL 26**

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IUPAT Appoints Organizing Chief

General President James A. Williams has tasked Greg Raftery to head the organizing department for the International as a special assistant to the general president. Although the general president will continue to act as the director of organizing (as mandated by the IUPAT General Constitution), brother Raftery is now responsible for coordinating and driving organizing efforts on the International level.

His new duties include reviewing and monitoring the progress of local organizing plans that were submitted to the International for financial assistance, assigning the regional organizing coordinators (ROC) to specific campaigns throughout the U.S. and Canada, conducting regional organizing seminars and providing overall direction and assistance to local organizing efforts. Raftery is also tasked with spearheading the new GO Fund organizing campaigns recently initiated throughout North America.

"There is no question that Greg has the drive, energy and know-how to take our organizing program to a new level of success," said Williams. "We're fortunate to have his experience as a resource for every director of organizing in the union."

"The IUPAT has some fantastic organizing opportunities and I'm excited to lead our efforts," said Raftery. "I'm looking forward to working with each of our district councils in the coming months."

Previously, Raftery served as an IUPAT ROC for the Central Region since 2006. General President Williams has filled this vacancy by appointing General President Representative Mark Van Zevern to be the new ROC for the Western Region. He joins Assistant to the General President/ROC Rick Root (who has been reassigned to the Central Region), AGP/ROC James Williams Jr. in the Eastern Region and AGP/ROC Jack White in the Canadian Region.

"We've got a solid team leading this department and I fully expect them to have a productive and successful run ahead of them," said Williams.

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Endorses Obama for President

Washington, DC – June 19, 2008 – The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades today endorsed Barack Obama for President of the United States. The union, which represents more than 140,000 skilled construction and design workers, cited Obama's leadership on labor issues, workers' rights and strengthening the economy for hardworking Americans.

"Barack Obama is a champion for working Americans, and his economic plan has the vision and strength to secure American prosperity for the future," said James Williams, President of IUPAT. "The IUPAT and our members are proud to stand with Senator Obama for real change."

"I'm honored to receive the IUPAT's endorsement. Their leaders and their members are committed to hardworking Americans, and I look forward to working with them to strengthen our economy and protect workers' rights and their right to organize," said Senator Obama.