Workers Memorial Day

Decades of struggle by workers and their unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. But the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remains enormous. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions more are injured or diseased because of their jobs. The unions of the AFL-CIO remember these workers on April 28, Workers Memorial Day.

The first Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989. April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the day of a similar remembrance in Canada. Every year, people in hundreds of communities and at worksites recognize workers who have been killed or injured on the job. Trade unionists around the world now mark April 28 as an International Day of Mourning.

Spotlight on the Women’s Center and Harbor House Domestic Violence Shelter

By Kathy Solka, Engineering Technology

The statistics don’t lie. The need is real. You can make a difference! I recently spoke with Jane Richards, who is Program Director for the Women’s Center for Marquette and Alger counties. I wanted to learn more about the Harbor House Domestic Violence Shelter and the services it provides. Some of the facts include (from last fiscal year figures):

- The Harbor House and Women’s Center served 1,026 victims of either emotional, physical or sexual abuse—818 women, 18 men and 190 children.
- A total of 2,227 crisis calls were received at the Harbor House. Their crisis line is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. This is an average of 6 crisis calls per day – which is an increase of over 30% from the last fiscal year!
- There were 2,783 shelter nights recorded. This is an average of 8 women, children and men staying each night at the Harbor House.

Jane said that most of the time when a woman (I will refer to women here only because women are the ones mostly abused. Men are also sometimes victims) leaves her home, she leaves with her children and nothing else. Once at the shelter, she is given counseling and her options are discussed. These include financial options, legal options, and employment options. Ultimately, the decision on whether or not she will go back into the home is up to her. If she decides to back into the home, a safety plan for the future should she have to leave again is discussed. The biggest reason a woman chooses to go back into the abusive relationship is financial; it is also the biggest reason why she won’t leave the relationship in the first place, even IF she is being abused! If a woman is being abused, statistics also show that 75-80% of the children are ALSO being abused.

Once the victim is safe at the shelter, everything (with the exception of alcohol, soda pop and cigarettes) is provided for them. Those staying at the shelter take turns cooking meals and everyone has chores. Everyone that comes to the shelter is also provided with a “Welcome Bag.” For women the bag contains shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, shaving cream and a comb or brush. For the children the bag includes a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, along with a coloring book, crayons and a stuffed animal of some kind. (Calling all unwanted beanie babies!)

Our May 9th luncheon is fast approaching, and the Community Services Committee is asking for donations so that we can continue to make a difference in lives of the victims of abuse in our area. All donations (cont. p 6)
Congratulations

Lyla Mae Rae (named after her great grandmother) was born December 15, 2006 in Eugene, OR, weighing 7 lbs 8 oz. She is the daughter of Brad and Lyn Smith and is the gorgeous first grandchild of Karen Smith (Degree Audits).

“God did not give us the Scriptures to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives.”
- D. L. MOODY

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Good and Welfare

Beth Sanderson was sent a sympathy card for the loss of her father;
Karen Cox received a gift celebrating the birth of her baby boy;
Kitty Davis received candy while recuperating from surgery.

Thank You

Dear UAW Local 1950,
“Your need not be big to have an idea, but you may need big help to pull it off.”
I am sure that when Sister Johnice initiated this program in 1984 with the help of the DNR, little did she or they think that it would become so big. But, 22 years later, 103 families benefited from this simple idea. I am sure she smiles down on this success.
This was the first year we had an abundance of sponsors. Four groups called in late to sponsor a family so I told them they would be first on the list for next year. Writing about next year, if you wish to sponsor, call in early and you will get “the pick of the litter”. October is a good month for that.
Don’t forget our Back Pack Project. Sponsor one child for school. June and July are the months for that. We give you all the information you need.
I can’t thank you enough for all you do. The organizers, the ones who donate, the shoppers, the ones who deliver to my house, all of you that help to make this a well-oiled machine.
Happy 2007 to all of you.
Sister Ludmilla Gramann, Outreach Coordinator, Diocese of Marquette

Dear UAW Local 1950,
“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist . . .” This passage summed it up for me. Santa Claus lives in all of you. Your generosity was overwhelming for us. You hit it on the head with the gifts that you chose for our family. I personally loved the George Forman grill, and the popcorn popper was perfect! We eat popcorn almost every night. Cleo had been wishing for a digital camera and Tom wanted a remote control car. Britney loved the clothes you chose and the outfits for Alice and Alex were adorable! The Target gift cards were great, and the kids will all enjoy shopping for themselves. We are going to enjoy the movies and out to Bonanza!
There was way too much to mention everything, but I want you to know that everything was perfect and we really appreciate everything you did for us!
Thank you and God bless.
Your 2006 Adopted Family
EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

RETIREMENTS
Barb Munson will retire effective 6/1/07.

HIRES
Christie Parsley filled the grant-funded, 11 month Senior Secretary II 4C position in Student Support Services effective 3/26/07.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters will be holding their annual fundraiser “Bowl for Kids Sake” on Saturday March 24th. Teams are desperately needed to help raise funds to help local underprivileged boys and girls. (2877) This is a fun event, requiring a minimal amount of time and effort. (9458) Teams can sign up to bowl in either Marquette or Ishpeming. All money raised stays in the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters Chapter. If you are interested in forming a team or making a contribution, please contact Big Brothers/Big Sisters at 475-7801 for more information.

Thanks to Kathy A. Sella.

School of Technology & Applied Sciences

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Officers of Local 1950, but are those of the individual writers. Articles of interest submitted by Local 1950 members will be printed as space provides; however, they must bear the name of the writers. All articles are subject to review and editing as necessary and to the approval of the Editor, the Local President, and the Officers of Local 1950.

Each issue of the Flame contains 5, 4-digit numbers of the member’s choosing. If you see your number, call Rita Leppanen @ ext. 2495. She will issue a $5 check to you. Denis Johnson, Patty Sarvello, Tracy Vanabel, Bernadette Norden, and Nancy Anderson were our February winners.

Grammar Watch

The purpose of this column is to help us recognize and correct mistakes in speech and writing. Please share your questions, ideas, and peeves!

The word “SEEN”: It is **not proper to say “I seen that”, the correct way is to say “I saw that” or I saw what ever it is you happen to be talking about.** To use the word seen, you must also use a form of “to be” with it. Examples, “to be seen”, “I have seen” “haven’t you seen”. Otherwise you should be using “saw”.

Thanks to Terri Mattson, Financial Services

Today’s Message of the Day

How Things Have Changed in 100 Years

Theodore Roosevelt’s ideas on Immigrants and being an AMERICAN in 1907.

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person’s becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn’t an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.”

Save Pop Can Tabs

Superior Hills Elementary School is saving pop can tabs to give to the American Legion Post —— so a Spinoza bear (/http://www.spinozabear.com/) can be purchased for the neonatal unit at MGH. This stuffed animal has a tape recorder so parents can record their voices. This is played to the baby when the parents are not available. (1218) They can also record music for the baby to hear. A second use for the bear is in abuse cases. The child is asked to talk to the bear. The conversation is recorded. Since November, Superior Hills children have saved 100 lbs of tabs. It takes 300 lbs to buy a bear. Cathy Catherwell, mom/coordinator, said, “This is a way to teach children to recycle and to help their community.”

Save those tabs. Bring them to the union meetings or send them through campus mail. Thanks so much for your help.

Thanks to Phyllis Zaenglein, SLHS

True Test

Like a lot of folks in this state, I have a job. I work, they pay me. I pay my taxes and the government distributes my taxes as they see fit. In order to get that paycheck, I am required to pass a random urine test. I have no problem with that.

What I do have a problem with is the distribution of my taxes to people who don’t have to pass a urine test. Shouldn’t one have to pass a urine test to get a welfare check, because I have to pass one to earn it for them?

Please understand, I have no problem with helping people get back on their feet. I do, on the other hand, have a problem with helping someone sit on their behind. Could you imagine how much money the state would save if people had to pass a urine test to get a public assistance check?

Thanks to Sue Henderson, Military Science

Princess Grace had a fabulous birthday!
How can you avoid the guilt experiences by John Bunyan?
How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults.
Keep me from deliberate sins! Don’t let them control me.

Psalm 19:12-13 NLT
Now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence innocent of sin and with great joy.

Jude 1:24 NLT
Adapted from The One Year® Book of Psalms by William J. Petersen and Randy Petersen,, Tyndale House Publishers (1999), entry for February 6

Content is derived from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation and other publications of Tyndale Publishing House.
“Law reflects, but in no sense determines the moral worth of a society.... The better the society, the less law there will be. In Heaven, there will be no law, and the lion will lie down with the lamb.... The worse the society, the more law there will be. In Hell, there will be nothing but law, and due process will be meticulously observed.”


Thanks to Drew Wilder, Math and CS

Harbor House  (conclusion)

collected will go directly to the Harbor House.

The shelter is in desperate need of the following items at this time:
- Toilet paper, paper toweling, feminine hygiene products, laundry soap, fabric softener, dryer sheets.
- Toiletries of all kinds – shampoo, conditioner, razors, toothbrushes & toothpaste (for adults and children), deodorant, shaving cream, soap, lotion, combs and brushes.
- Coloring books, crayons, small stuffed animals for the kids

Helpful Hints to Help Harbor House:
- Take advantage of buy one get one free offers. Set the “free” toiletry aside for the Harbor House. Use manufacturer/store coupons and save even more!
- While in the Dollar Tree or any other store that has a “$1 aisle” pick up a few things and set them aside – you will be amazed at what you can buy for $5! Shop the clearance baskets also.
- While traveling, save your travel size toiletries that are provided in hotel rooms and set them aside for the Harbor House. Ask your family members to do the same. Everything helps!
- Logon to Walmart.com and go to the free samples page. Request free samples and save them. Other Internet sites also offer free samples.
- Save unwanted toiletry gifts and set them aside. Almost everyone has received shower gel, lotion, hair products and the like that you will never use or don’t want….but the Harbor House has a great need for it.

Jane Richards offered a few suggestions for other ways you can help the Harbor House throughout the year:
- Donate your unwanted clothing, furniture and household items to the Women’s Center Resale Shop.
- Report batterers! The only way to stop them is to report them to the police. Someone’s life could be in danger!
- If you know someone who is battering someone else, tell them this is wrong.
- Be there to help and support the victim if you know of someone being abused.
- Shop at the Resale Shop. They are located on South Front Street, past Beef-A-Roo. Some items are brand new! All money raised goes to support programs at the Women’s Center and helps victims of domestic violence get a new start. (3612) All victims of domestic violence can “shop” at the resale shop for free.

On behalf of the Community Services Committee, THANK YOU UNION BROTHERS AND SISTERS for your continued support of the Harbor House and all of the victims and families of domestic violence that it serves throughout the year. Your donation(s) on May 9th will make a difference!
Michigan’s Budget Crisis
March 16, 2007

Senator Mike Prusi
515 Farnum Building
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Prusi,

Michigan is facing a budget crisis that gets worse every day that the legislature fails to act on the Governor’s Budget and Revenue proposal. It is time for you to find a comprehensive solution to the budget crisis.

The solution must generate at least $1 billion in new revenue and completely replace the SBT with a new tax on business. We have to do this without cutting any more out of an already gutted state government. $4 billion has already been cut from the budget and we cannot afford more cuts to vital services.

I support the Governor’s proposal because it accomplishes those things while asking business to pay their fair share. Any alternative plan must raise at least as much revenue as the Governor’s plan and be acted upon quickly.

Sincerely,
Dawn Wilder

Senator Prusi’s Response:
March 20, 2007

Dear Ms. Wilder,

Thank you for taking the opportunity to share your thoughts with me regarding the state budget, and in particular the Governor’s proposal to invest in Michigan’s future.

The Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference held on January 18th revised revenue estimates downward for both the School Aid Fund (SAF) and the General Fund in Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Compared with the consensus estimate adopted in May 2006, the revised SAF estimate indicates a $322.4 million deficit in FY 2006-2007, while the General Fund faces a $441.9 million deficit. Both must be resolved before the Fiscal Year ends on September 30th.

I spoke out strongly against eliminating the Single Business Tax (SBT) last year. I felt then as I do now that ending the tax without putting a replacement

(cont. p. 8)

Senior Corner
Attention MIPS Members:
Since I’m retiring next year, I have been asking many, many questions. I learned that if you are in MIPS, the best time to retire is October 1. October 1 is the beginning of their financial year. A member must be retired for one year to receive the cost-of-living raise. Therefore, if your last day at NMU is September 30, October 1 of the following year you will receive this increase. If you retire in October or later, you will have to wait up to 2 years to receive this raise.

Next, I go to Social Security. I’ll report to you what they tell me.

Phyllis Zanglair, SLHS

LOW INCOME? HERE’S HELP TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT

If your financial situation makes it hard to put money aside for retirement, Uncle Sam is ready to help. Qualifying taxpayers can take a tax credit of up to $2,000 for contributing to an IRA, 401(k), or other qualified retirement plan. You may be eligible if:
* Your income is below a certain level ($25,000 for singles, $37,500 for heads of household, $50,000 for married filing jointly)
* You are 18 or older, not a full-time student, and not claimed as a dependent on someone else’s tax return

You may be able to deduct your savings contribution, too. (A deduction reduces your taxable income, while a credit reduces the tax you owe, dollar for dollar.) For details, see http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/ Jpz9ZAF1qFUo/

Thanks to Dawn Wilder, Math&CS

Emails are circulating, stating which senators voted to allow social security to illegal immigrants and voting against English as our official language. They are practically true. Please check http://www.snopes.com/politics/immigration/socialsecurity.asp AND http://www.snopes.com/politics/immigration/englishvote.asp before passing them along.
Senator Prusi’s Response

in place was a huge mistake. I also believe that the absence of a new, reformed state tax structure for 2008 has already created uncertainty in the business community, which needs that information now to plan for the future.

The current year budget shortfall is not a result of the SBT or its’ pending elimination. Michigan is still struggling economically, as we all know. There are many factors involved, but it is my belief that our historic reliance on heavy manufacturing, current troubles with our “Big Three” domestic auto companies, and federal trade policy unfairness in a changing global marketplace are the primary causes of our economic troubles.

The SBT has become something of a “boogeyman” and easy target to point to when some seek to place blame for the current state of our economy and state budget. Some have gone as far to say that companies are “fleeing” Michigan because of the SBT. In the mid- to late-1990s, when Michigan’s economy was booming, the SBT rate was a higher 2.2% with a broad base. Since then, the Legislature has carved out numerous exemptions, given waivers to certain businesses, and reduced the rate to 1.9% before eliminating the tax completely last year. SBT collections peaked in 1999 at $2.35 billion and fell to $1.9 billion in 2005, essentially a $460 million tax cut for business in Michigan out of the General Fund. It is also worthy to note that businesses with gross receipts under $350,000 do not pay the SBT, contrary to popular belief. A near decade’s worth of cutting taxes without reducing spending has created a structural budget hole. Some in Lansing continue to insist that we can solve our budget problems simply by slashing spending across all areas of state government. No person or group likes tax increases, but simultaneously, my office has received literally thousands of emails and letters from U.P. constituents not wanting their particular budget area of concern to receive any cuts. I will continue to advocate for a long term budget solution rather than one time fixes. My personal belief is that it is time for Michigan to get serious about investing in our future by adequately funding the services our constituents value and depend on. It remains to be seen whether we have the political will to find revenue sources and whether taxpayers are willing to provide them.

Again, thank you for writing, and please do not hesitate to contact me further regarding any other state issue of your concern if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. PRUSI
State Senator 38th District

__________________________

Secrets to Staying Young

You have to laugh and find humor every day.

You have to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die. We have so many people walking around who are dead and don’t even know it!

UNION PLUS BENEFITS

Union members, retirees, and their families enjoy everyday savings with Union Plus Benefits. You can save even more just in time for spring (and Mother’s Day). Union members now save 20% on every order of beautiful flowers, plants, baskets, balloons and more. Go to the Union Plus Website at http://www.unionplus.org/discounts/ to learn more.

Thanks to Dawn Wilder, Math and CS
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Election Committee
We would like to thank Rachelle Misun for stepping up to chair the Election Committee. Other members are Andrea Jordan and Chris Olivier-Hakes. Our Bylaws under Article XI, Section 1 state, “The Election Committee of Local 1950 shall consist of five (5) members nominated and elected at the regular April membership meeting and shall serve three (3) year terms . . .” We are currently two short of that number. Please let Rachelle, Andrea or Chris know if you are interested in serving on the Election Committee.

Education Committee
UAW Local 1950 fall 2007 Scholarship applications are due on Monday, April 16, 2007. Please submit your application to the Education Committee to the attention of D.W. in the Math & CS Department.

Funds available will be listed on the Treasurer’s Report beginning February, 2007. These reports are available on our Website under MEMBERS ONLY.

Community Services
The Community Services Committee met in February, and one of the things we discussed was how our funds are replenished. Currently they are replenished by 50/50 drawings during the December through April membership meetings, and by donations at the May Luncheon, and After Holidays Party. The September, October, and November 50/50 drawings are used for CAP tickets. (4462) We do not meet during June, July, and August. Funds available will be listed on the Treasurer’s Report beginning February, 2007. These reports are available on our Website under MEMBERS ONLY.

The Committee proposes having a “donation box” for Community Services set up at all membership meetings for those people who would like to contribute to Community Services in lieu of or in addition to the 50/50 drawings. These funds will be used for the Women’s Center/ Harbor House, Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul, Lake Superior Hospice, and other worthy causes like when the Chants lost their home to fire. The funds would also augment our annual Adopt-a-Family and Back-to-School Backpack drives.

We would also like to try something else. Please donate your returnable pop cans and bottles to the Community Services fund. Contact Kathy Solka at ksolka@nm.edu or Ext. 2141, and she will coordinate a pick up. This is a painless way to help your Union replenish the Community Services fund without any extra work. Phyllis Zaenglein is collecting pop can TABS for Superior Elementary School.

Please bring any concerns or suggestions regarding these requests to the April 11th Membership Meeting.

Health Care/Wellness
Kristen Portale (HR) reported that there is $3086.55 in the Health Care/Wellness budget.

Our Contract states in section 11.3.6 that, “When calculating the average cost per year for the hospitalization and medical program, the Union agrees to include $2.50 per covered employee per year to help fund wellness activities of the Health Care/Wellness Committee. The Employer also agrees to contribute $2.50 per covered employee per year for this purpose.” All other employee groups, including non-represented, have similar language in their contracts.

Health care costs for February 2007 are up 1.52% as compared to the same time last year. Costs for the past six months are up 14.12% as compared to the six months prior to that. Kristen also reported that according to Blue Cross the November 2006 health care costs were high because of “out of the ordinary” expenses that occurred.

Always remember you’re unique... just like everyone else.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.