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SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE DC 9 BUSINESS MANAGER

January 26, 2011

Dear Members,

I am writing to you because one of my promises when I first took office was to always keep the members informed and to tell them the truth - good or bad. As I have been reporting over the past few years, to keep our members working and to create more jobs we have been negotiating Economic Recovery Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) with the Building & Construction Trades Council, The Building Trades Employers Association (BTEA) and Developers. These Economic Recovery PLA projects have and will create over 54 million hours of work.

Despite these efforts, unemployment is still high and it doesn't look like the economy is going to get better anytime soon. Owners and Developers simply cannot get the financing they once had and are starting to seriously consider building non-union if the BTEA cannot significantly reduce the cost of union construction.

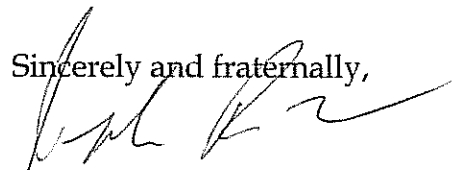
The BTEA Contractors, Owners and Developers are all calling for cost reductions. The good news is that many of their demands such as the elimination of non-productive jobs and no limitations on tools do not affect us. But they are looking to make many of the other PLA rules apply to every job for all trades until the economic crisis is over. Some of the cost savings they want are an 8 hour day/40 hour week, shift work, flexible start times, straight time for overtime benefits and a 20% reduction in wages and benefits across the board. Attached is "The Framework For Cost Reduction", the 26 item list presented to the unions from the Building Trades Employers.

Although we are under mounting pressure, we will continue to do whatever it takes to protect our collective bargaining agreements but we are all going to need to stick together. At a minimum we need every member to demand their proper wages and benefits in exchange for a fair days work. **We need to show the contractors we are one and that we will stick together as one - because make no mistake about it - we are in a fight for survival here brothers and sisters. If we abandon each other we risk losing it all.**

The harsh reality is that Union Construction is losing market share. More and more buildings in our areas are being built non-union and the union contractors are our partners. If they go out of business we go out of business. We believe the BTEA contractors when they say they do not want to engage in a "race to the bottom" or have wages and benefits reduced to those of the non-union worker. We are all going to need to think creatively to save union construction and until this economic crisis is over we may need to change some work rules to conform to some of the Project Labor Agreement rules to keep our members working. However as I have already said we will fight to maintain our current wages and benefits.

At the January 18th Council Delegates Meeting myself, DC 9 President Bill Elfeld and DC 9 Representatives Anthony Buscema, Gerard O'Brien and John Drew were selected to serve as the negotiating committee for the NYC, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Putnam DC 9 Painters Agreement. As negotiations progress we will keep you informed through your Business Representatives and Council Delegates so attend your local union meetings to get updates and in the meantime stick together and watch each other's backs.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Joseph Ramaglia
Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer
District Council 9, IUPAT, AFL-CIO

The Framework For Cost Reduction

1. Elimination of non-productive jobs/practices; everybody works a full eight hour day;
2. Elimination of non-productive work rules;
3. No limitations on the contractor's choice of materials, techniques, methods, technologies or designs;
4. No limitations on the use and installation of equipment, machinery, packaged units, pre-cast, pre-fabricated, pre-finished or pre-assembled materials or devices;
5. No limitations on the use of tools or other labor-saving devices;
6. No limitation on materials, supplies or equipment, regardless of their source or origin;
7. Elimination of prohibitions of or restrictions on work which is performed off-site on materials or products modified or fabricated for installation on the project;
8. Elimination of rules, customs or practices that, in the exclusive judgment of the contractor/employer, limit or restrict the productivity or efficiency of employees; provided that safety priorities are maintained.
9. Elimination of temporary services unless requested by the Owner/Construction Manager; temporary facilities will remain under the control of the Construction Manager;
10. Coffee breaks may be consumed at the work station; and only during the times allocated for such breaks;

11. All workers shall be at their assigned work stations at starting time;
12. Employees shall not leave their work stations for the lunch break until ten minutes before the break starts;
13. All workers shall be back at their work stations at the end of the lunch break;
14. The standard work week is 40 hours a week and 8 hours a day at straight time rates;
15. All overtime shall be paid after 40 hours at the rate of 1 1/2 ;
16. Flexible starting time as determined by the contractor/employer;
17. Staggered starting times within each Trade, as determined by each contractor;
18. Shift work shall be paid for with a 10% differential;
19. Seven standard holidays;
20. Contractor/employer established and published work rules and a code of conduct;
21. Saturday make-up day at straight time in the event work is canceled for inclement weather;
22. Only working Shop Stewards selected from Journeyman on the job;
23. No tolerance policy for non-performance or a poor work ethic;
24. Increased apprenticeship to journeymen ratios;
25. Mandatory drug and alcohol testing;
26. A 20% reduction in the wage/benefit package.