

Gearing Up for Election Day

Throughout my years as a member and officer of this great Alliance I have never been quite as concerned as I am now about our future in these United States. We have been a country with unparalleled strength and envied throughout the world for the democracy we so cherish.

Over the past several years we in the labor community have been continuously forced to endure challenges being tossed in our direction. As we work hard to provide the best representation to our members we must continue to stave off the assaults on our very existence. We have fought long and hard to attain the right to organize and to negotiate contracts providing for decent wages, conditions and benefits so our members may live in decency and retire with dignity. Every working American is entitled to at least that much.

Instead, we have a society now that faces foreclosure on homes, an economy that is in great need of restoration, rising fuel prices, little or no health insurance and the like.

After many months of an unprecedented primary season, just recently the IATSE endorsed Barack Obama's candidacy for President of the United States and by the time you read this Bulletin he will be our Democratic nominee. We all know how important it is to the stabilization of this country's future that we work as hard as we can to take back the White House. Senators Obama and Clinton have been working together to ensure a Democratic victory this November. They are both committed to winning back the White House and to ensuring that the voices of all 35 million people who participated in this historic primary election are respected and heard in Denver. To honor and celebrate these voices and votes, both Senator Obama's and Senator Clinton's names were placed in nomination. Senator Obama's campaign encouraged Senator Clinton's name to be placed in nomination as a show of unity and in recognition of the historic race she ran and the fact that she was the first woman to compete in all our nation's primary contests. In early August Senator Clinton stated "With every voice heard and the Party strongly united, we will elect Senator Obama President of the United States and put our nation on the path to peace and prosperity once again."

We must do everything we can to get our members to the polls on November 4th. I cannot impress upon each and every one of you enough the importance of our upcoming elections. We cannot go on for another four years like we have the past eight. Don't allow yourself to be disillusioned and distracted by the ideological issues that do not directly bear on our everyday survival.

You will no doubt expect to hear about issues designed to distract, but don't let them sway your vote from the practical to the ideological. I would ask that each and every one of you go to the polls on Election Day and cast your vote for the candidate who has *your* best interests on his agenda, and urge your co-workers and families to follow suit.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

This is to advise that the regular mid-winter meeting of the General Executive Board is scheduled to be held at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown, 2600 Louisiana Blvd., N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2009, and will remain in session through and including Friday, January 30, 2009. All business to come before the Board must be submitted to the General Office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.

Local Union representatives planning to attend the meeting must make hotel reservations with the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown by calling the hotel reservations department at 505-881-0000 or 800-252-7772. Guest room rate for the IATSE is \$159.00, single or double occupancy, plus applicable taxes. In order to ensure that you receive the preferred room rate established for our meeting, you must identify your affiliation with the IATSE.

Reservations can also be made through the IATSE Web site (www.iatse-intl.org).

Cut Off Date: December 25, 2008