



Business Manager's Report

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Negotiation Update**
- **New Business Rep in Anchorage**
- **LIUNA Elections**
- **Open Enrollment**
- **Member spotlight**

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I want to start off by thanking everyone who has taken the time to get involved with the Union and our activities these last few months. I have seen more participation and involvement lately than ever before. This participation is very critical and will definitely go a long ways in continuing to make Local 71 a strong and cohesive unit. This allows us to continue to build on our reputation of providing involved, quality-minded workers to many of the aspects of public service.

I'll give a brief recap of our activities for these last few months and where we are regarding negotiations for our different bargaining units.

Each of our four different bargaining units is unique and has its own specific concerns, requirements and "wish-list". All of these factors are taken into consideration when we sit down to negotiate the respective contract provisions.

The main concern of the members working under the provisions of the contract covering the MOA (Municipality of Anchorage) was the employer portion of the health trust contributions. The MOA contract has already been ratified and will be in affect through June of 2008 however, the provisions of the Health Trust contributions were open for renegotiation this last January and were going to be opened again the following January. We were able to negotiate the needed increase in the employer provided contribution for the remaining two years of the contract. This should assure us the money we need to maintain the current level of benefits through the life of the contract.

On January 19 we were able to finalize and ratify the wage and step schedule of the contract covering our members who work for the Haines Borough. Originally this unit was only 12 people strong but after the other employees witnessed the level of support and professionalism that Local 71 was providing our members there they voted to have Local 71 represent them too. Our Haines Bargaining Unit is

now approximately 35 members strong and they are doing a great job. The last negotiations with the Haines Borough were difficult because we had to negotiate provisions for the new positions. A big round of thanks goes to Tom Brice, Marva Crecelius, Sue Neilson, Dan Coleman and Sergeant Jason Dollarhide for doing an outstanding job in those negotiations.



James S Ashton
Business Manager
Secretary-Treasurer

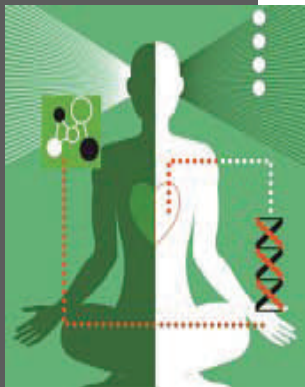
The Contract for the Anchorage School District (ASD) will expire at the end of June 2007. We have had preliminary talks with the ASD members regarding their concerns and recommendations with this contract and feel that we should be successful in addressing most if not all of the membership's concerns in the following contract. The main issue of concern for the members is protection against contracting out of their jobs.

The Contract for the State of Alaska (SOA) members is set to expire at the end of December this year. We have been moving ahead with establishing the bargaining resource committees and collect-

ing input from the various departments and work sites. As we have reported in the membership meetings; these committees will be open to anyone who would like to take an active part in negotiations and to be kept informed of the status of the negotiations. The committees will go through the recommendations from the membership and correlate these recommendations to the existing contract language. We will then put together and mail out a survey form with these recommendations on it along with space for anyone to add a recommendation of their own. When we receive these forms back in the office we will sort them out and list the recommendations and concerns in order of importance to the membership. This information will be used in negotiations with the State of Alaska.

The negotiation team will meet with the resource committees as often as needed and update them on the status of negotiations. This way everyone who wants to can take an active role in the process and learn more about what comprises successful negotiations. There will be a lot more on this subject at a later date.

Trust Bulletin - Renita Williams & Debi Hansen



A few words from **your** Health Trust office:

The Trust office would like to take this opportunity to remind **each** Plan participant that it is **their** responsibility to ensure that the Trust is provided with timely, current and accurate information which may affect their Health Trust benefits, including (but not limited to): address changes; employment status changes (i.e. return to work, layoff, FMLA leave, transfers, etc); as well as dependent status changes (i.e. marriage, birth or adoption of a child, divorce; death of a dependent, etc.)

ALSO: It is almost **that** time of year again and the Trust is gearing up for Open Enrollment 2006/2007. Ensuring that the Trust has your correct mailing address is very important to **YOU!** Because your **current** Plan elections **DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY** continue each year and because the Trust requires that each Plan participant annually complete and sign an enrollment form to either maintain or change their plan elections and because, if the Trust does not have your correct mailing address (to mail you your enrollment packet), there is the distinct possibility that the Trust will be required to place you in it's "default

plan" (Plan 101) without voluntary benefits for the 2006/2007 Plan year. We are taking this opportunity to strongly encourage you to ensure that we have your correct mailing address.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Trust will be holding Open Enrollment meetings during May and June 2006 in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Haines and Soldotna. Watch your mail for notification of the specific dates, times and places of these meetings.

As always, feel free to contact **your** Trust office if you have any questions, suggestions and/or concerns.

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New Rep in Anchorage

-Jim Ashton

Ralph Maston has been appointed as the new Business Representative for the Anchorage region. Ralph has been employed as a mechanic for the State of Alaska since 1987. In 1993 Ralph was appointed as shop steward for his duty station and has continuously held that position. In 1995 Ralph was appointed to the position of auditor, reviewing the finances and budget for the Local. In 1999 Ralph was appointed to the executive board as Sergeant at Arms and then that same year he was appointed to the position of Executive Board member at large and has continuously held that position.

Ralph has been very involved in many union activities through the years. Some of these activities include helping on phone banks, assisting in Local Union election ballot counting, candidate interviews and endorsements, filling in as Business Representative and being elected to represent Local 71 at the Laborers International Convention. His hard work and dedication make him a valuable asset to the staff and membership of Public Employees Local 71.

Please help me in welcoming Ralph to his new position as Business Representative and give him your complete cooperation and support as he undertakes his new duties.

Lapel Pin Design Selected -Ralph Maston

A big thank you goes out to those of you who submitted entries in our lapel pin contest. It was great to see some of the designs that our members have in mind. After careful consideration we have decided on a winner and a runner-up. Please join me in congratulating the winner Brian Flaherty from State Equipment Fleet on Tudor road in Anchorage and the runner-up Melinda Miles from the Fairbanks Pioneer Home. The winner receives \$100 and both will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for their

efforts. We have sent the winning design out for bid to several lapel pin manufacturers for estimates and are expecting to complete the process and receive the pins by June 1. We are very excited about the new design since it has some elements of our old pins and incorporates some new elements. This has been a long time in coming and it will be something that we as members can wear with pride! As soon as we receive the artwork back we will publish it in our newsletter.

Member Spotlight

-what's new on our website

Recently added to our website is a button labeled "Member Spotlight" anyone who's interest might have been piqued would have enjoyed the new links to information regarding the wonderful job our members are doing. We would like to encourage you to submit pictures of our members taking care of our roads, of our elderly, of our schools and of Alaska in general.

make sure they are not taken advantage of, they are able to put their all into their jobs and, with low turn over rates and pride in their work, home and community are what make Alaska great. So please, help us let the public as well as your fellow brothers and sisters know what a great job you are doing.

We really do want to get our image out there to the general public who, due to politics and old preconceived notions, may still believe that Union Workers are lazy and over paid. We want them to know that they are hard working, loyal, and that being part of a union is what keeps them that way. With fair wages, benefits, and people who represent them to

Check out our website for updates regularly. Let us know what you think. What information would you like to see?



Fraternal Accolades

-Sheldon Meier, Eden Mentor

I would like to take a few moments and say thank you to my Local 71 Labor Trades and Crafts brothers and sisters who work in the six Alaska Pioneers Homes throughout the state.

Local 71 workers are an important link for making the lives of the elders worth living. Building warm relationships by spending quality time with elders, giving personal attention to their food preferences and dining, providing daily care of their rooms and environment, helping them care for plants and pets, and making physical modifications to make these places more like home.

These homes are registered with the "Eden Alternative" which is part of the nation wide movement involved in changing the way we take care of our elders. Many members of our union have risen to occasion by helping make our Eden Vision and Mission Statement come true. Our members seem to hold themselves at a higher level of accountability to the elders and the people they work with.

Please take a few moments to say thank you to these brothers and sisters who are "making a difference" and taking the Pioneers' Homes to a new level that we can all be proud of.

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www.local71.com

2006 LIUNA Convention of Delegates, Las Vegas

Elections are coming. Very shortly we will be sending out notification regarding the elections for delegates to the LIUNA Convention. Delegates will be sent to Las Vegas, NV in order to nominate candidates for International office and set the policies which govern the union for the next five years.

When you receive your letter please read through it completely. There are many rules and regulations that must be followed in order to make sure that every member who would like to be a delegate to the convention has the opportunity to be nominated and to accept that nomination.

Our Constitution is revised at this convention so it is vitally important that each member's voice be heard. The way to do that is to vote for the members you believe have your best interest at heart. Is that member you? Then get nominated.

You must be a "member in good standing" to vote, to be nominated, and to make a nomination. Not sure of your member status, then contact the local and find out. Make sure we have a current address for you this is important not only for the election but also for the upcoming Open Enrollment for the 2006/2007 benefits plan year.

Office Locations

Anchorage Office

2510 Arctic Blvd
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Fairbanks Office

2122 Airport Way
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