



International Union of Operating Engineers

Local 487

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2012

What a Party!

Our Local Union just turned 100 years old on December 18th, 2011 and in celebration of this momentous occasion we held a **100th Anniversary Gala** at the beautiful Bonaventure Hyatt Regency on December 3rd, 2011.

We have heard back from some of those who attended and they all said "this was one HECK of a celebration". We enjoyed a full evening of music; from easy listening (during dinner) to real lively dance music (that had everybody out on the dance floor). The dinner was excellent and the cheese cake dessert had everybody wanting seconds. We also enjoyed an open bar (at no additional cost to guests) and the hotel provided rooms for our members and guests, at a bargain rate, so they would not have to drive home.

We had approximately 300 in attendance with some retirees traveling several hundred miles to enjoy the evening. We had Business Managers from other sister locals, Business Managers from other Building Trade crafts, Union contractors, professional advisors and local elected officials; all of whom also helped to make our Anniversary Gala Journal one of a kind. All members and guests had their photos taken by our professional photographer and when they were ready to leave received a souvenir photo. *continued on page 2*

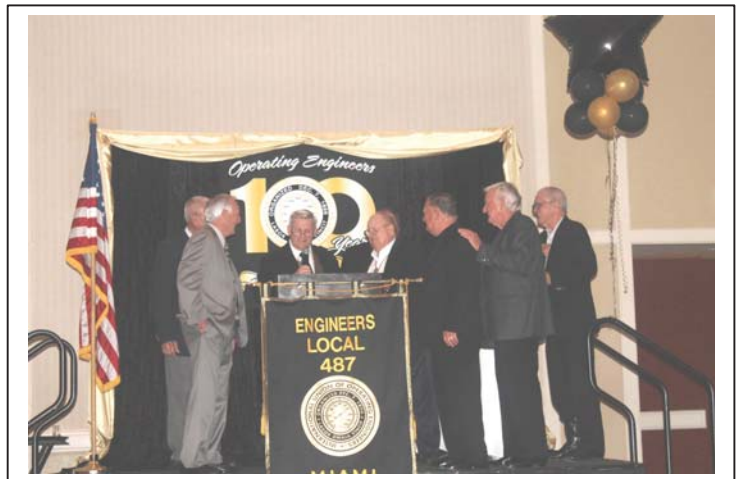
General President Vincent J. Giblin announced his retirement on Nov. 15, 2011, at the International's General Executive Board, meeting in session at the International headquarters in Washington, D.C. His sudden retirement was effective Jan. 1. In subsequent action, the board elected General Secretary-Treasurer James T. Callahan to fill the unexpired term of the General President.

Brother Callahan is currently the Business Manager of Local 15 in New York City. A positive for our local is Callahan is a construction guy versus stationary which helps in understanding our issues regarding the AFL-CIO Building Trades. The vacancy created in the office of General Secretary-Treasurer was filled by Brian Hickey, Second General Vice President who also was elected by the General Executive Board. With Hickey's elevation, a vacancy existed on the General Executive Board. International Trustee, Local 139 President/Business Manager Terrance E. McGowan was elected to fill that vacancy as Fourteenth General Vice President of the International.

Fifty year members Terry Sparks, Whitey Neuzil, Pete Hill Bob Moore, Johnny Grimes and James Hartwick.

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Brother Johnny Grimes received the award for the furthest traveled and Brother Francis "Whitey" Neuzil received the award for the oldest initiation into the union having joined in Aug. 15, 1953.

Local 487 can never have another **100th Anniversary** so for those who were able to participate and for those who helped to make this occasion so special – Local 487 says "thank you". The whole weekend was a lot of fun and the hospitality room was rockin from Friday night to well after the Gala ended on Saturday night. What goes on in the hospitality room stays in the hospitality room. The weekend was a great celebration of Brotherhood & Sisterhood by our membership and their spouses and one that our forefathers would certainly be proud of...

Job Progress Report

Bringing in the New Year with calls starting to come in for operators. This good news is a result of three projects. One is Florida Power & Light's Turkey Point nuclear facility. FPL is investing more than \$1 billion to upgrade the forty year old plant. The normal work force at Turkey Point is roughly 800 employees but during this overhaul the workforce is expected to swell to 3,200 workers and to peak at around 5,000 workers by the end of January. Turkey Point is literally a city in it's self. Our members who took the time to get their NCCCO, OSHA and NANTEL training are now reaping the benefits of attending these classes with full employment and a lot of overtime at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant.

The AFL-CIO South Florida Building & Construction Trades reached an agreement with Bechtel Construction Co. on an addendum, beyond the General Presidents' Project Maintenance Agreement, for additional compensations. The compensation will come as a commuting allowance. Craft workers living within 60 miles will receive \$24.50 a day and those living more than 60 miles will receive \$40.00 a day. This should help some of our members driving long distances to Turkey Point.

Federal regulators signed off on a next generation nuclear reactor slated for FPL's Turkey Point plant and five others plants in the Southeastern United States paving the way for the first new reactor in the U.S. in three decades. The Nuclear Regulator Commission's approval of the Westinghouse AP1000 design was a major milestone for the nuclear power industry which has not built a nuclear reactor since 1979. FPL hopes to secure its license for two reactors at Turkey Point by June 2014. If the utility decides to go ahead with the project the costs will run between \$12 and \$18 Billion, the new reactors would be scheduled to go online in 2022 and 2023, meaning there would be eight years worth of work.

The second Project is the Port St. Lucie Power Plant where FPL's investing millions in upgrading that facility. The improvements to St. Lucie will replace the need for

approximately 5 million barrels of oil each year, reducing CO2 emissions by 33 million tons over the life of the project. This outage will employ approximately 4,000 workers and will run thru March of 2012.

The Miami Tunnel Project is the third big job that is keeping our membership working with Nicholson Construction and Malcolm Drilling we have over 50 members presently working on the Miami tunnel project. The project is scheduled to be completed in October of 2012. These infrastructure projects are vital to our employment. Private investment has remained somewhat stagnant but starting to gain some momentum in the Coral Gables and downtown Miami areas.

H J Foundation was awarded the test piling on Brickell CitiCentre project, which was revived by Hong Kong based owners Swire Properties on April 28, 2011. It was announced that the complex containing a walking mall and over 4,600,000 sq. ft. of retail, office, condo, and hotel space. The project will house three towers. **Brickell CitiCentre III**, the tallest 76 floors. The 76 floors will tie it with the Met 3 building as the tallest buildings in Miami in terms of the number of floors. **Brickell CitiCentre II**, will be 72 floors and **Brickell CitiCentre I**, will be 69 floors and will be located on the west side of Miami Avenue. Construction will begin construction early this year

LOCAL 487, has signed contract with ISS, covering approximately 175 Bridge Tenders in Florida's District 4. The tenders will receive a pay increase along with several other improvements regarding their working conditions. **TO ALL THE BRIDGE TENDERS**, Local 487 says welcome to the brotherhood and sisterhood of this local union. We need to thank our President James Allbritton for his commitment to this campaign along with Valerie Grima who helped with the many mailing and letters. We need to commend those Bridge Tenders who volunteer to be on the steering committee that took time to get the message out to all the other tenders. For the Tenders it took lot of courage to confront your employer and make your demands heard, you inspire us all.

A word from Business Manager, Mark Schaunaman

With every New Year comes change, just the fact that we have to start writing 2012, is a change. I know I will scribe 2011 a couple times before it sinks in but that is why we have a distaste for change it requires us to do something that is uncomfortable. Change can be good or bad but the tone for 2012 is upbeat which is good for all of us. The housing market is on the mend (even though nothing was done to make sure it does not happen again), unemployment is slowing creeping at a snails pace towards improving and there seems to be a general optimism that things are getting better. Cont. pg 4

National Labor Relations Board

The NLRB, which investigates unfair labor practices, in August ordered employers to display notices informing workers about their rights to form a union and bargain on contracts. Companies using posters to announce personnel rules or policies must add a notice about the right to bargain. The notices have to be posted by Jan. 31 2012.

But as history would have it the National Association of Manufactures a group of business owners that embraced the idea of collective association or in other terms a "union" filed suit in federal court to put the kibosh on the NLRB requiring them to notify workers of their rights on joining a union. Kind of ironic situation where one group of individuals trying to deny another group of individuals the same rights that they have.

The case is National Association of Manufacturers v. National Labor Relations Board, 1:11-cv-1629, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia (Washington). The NLRB said the National Labor Relations Act gives it the authority to pursue new workplace rules such as the proposed requirement. The AFL-CIO and other union groups praised the labor board's proposal when it was issued. This type of resistance by employers exemplifies the need for unions to exist and demonstrates why unions are essential for workers to have a voice in the work place. After all the workers are just trying to post a simple poster on a bulletin board and the issue ends up in Federal Court. What are employers intending to do take away workers rights? Never mind I answered my own question. Hopefully justice will prevail.

President Barack Obama made a recess appointment to the National Labor Relations Board on January 4, 2012, appointing Richard Griffin the General Counsel for the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). He also serves on the board of directors for the AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee, a position he has held since 1994. Since 1983, he has held a number of leadership positions with the IUOE from Assistant House Counsel to Associate General Counsel. From 1985 to 1994, Mr. Griffin served as a member of the board of trustees of the IUOE's Central Pension Fund. From 1981 to 1983, he served as a Counsel to NLRB Board Members. Mr. Griffin holds a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law. It be an will honor to have one of our own on the NLRB. Richard Griffin will certainly be missed at or international and for local 487 whom we had to call on many times with legal issues. Wish the best to our good friend Richard "Dick" Griffin. Joining Griffin as a new appointment to the Board are Sharon Block, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs at the federal Department of Labor and Terence F. Flynn, Chief Counsel to the NLRB member Brian Hayes.

Safety & Training

It's NCCCO time again. Registration will began on Jan. 8, 2012, 8:00am at the union hall. The schedule is as follows: Jan 14 & 15 general knowledge, Jan 21& 22, load charts. Jan 28, tower crane, Jan 29, review, and written exam on Saturday Feb 4. If you are one of those having to attend the written prep classes please let your employer know so they can have a replacement operator ready to cover for you if needed. As all of you know by now the OSHA crane regulations have been updated as of November 8, 2010, so the study material varies from past years to reflect the new OSHA 1926.1400, regulations. Apprenticeship Director Dan McCullers has all the cranes that will be used for the NCCCO practical exams up and running. For those members that don't normally operate cranes but need an NCCCO to work in the power plants should go to the training center and practice.

Classes planned for this quarter:

February 11, CPR class, bring someone financially dependant on you that would want to save your life and make sure they get trained. If you need a certification on any of the following: Crane Signaling, Qualified Rigging, Forklift Certification, Backhoe & Trench Safety, OSHA 10 Construction, MSHA, Fall Protection, Confined Space please contact Dan McCullers, 954-434-8309.

Local 487's annual picnic is planned for Saturday March 17, 2012 at the training center. Again we will have plenty of good food, ribs, chicken, hamburgers & hotdogs, and all the fixins. There will be entertainment for the kids, clown face painting, pony rides (kids only) and snow cones. If you have not made a picnic yet you need to come out and share some great brotherhood and if you attended before well you already know about the fun we have.

Health & Welfare

We have currently begun contract negotiations with Coventry Health Care on the contract that will expire on March 31st. Our agent Robert Sudler is in the beginning stages of the talks with Coventry. We made it known to Coventry that we are in no position to afford any increase in premiums because of the low man hours being worked and minimal returns on the fund's invest. It is crucial that we begin negotiations early in the event that we are unable to reach an agreement; we have time to solicit bids from other insurance carriers. We are going to do everything we can to prevent changing insurance carriers but we must have a plan B in place in the event we feel the benefit level or the premiums are unacceptable.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility for yourself or dependences please contact our administrator at: 1-877-291-2387. Continued pg4

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You can always go to our web site: www.IUOE487.org for this information. If you need to find a physician or need a new insurance card contact Coventry Health Care 1-866-847-8235 or go to <http://chcflorida.coventryhealthcare.com>.

Pension

We currently have 640 retirees collecting a pension from Local 487. I could not imagine what life would be like without a pension but that is a reality for many construction workers. When you talk to nonunion operators ask them about their pension and when they say they don't have one, you may explain to them they need a union more than they think. 401K's are good for employers but pensions are good for employees and once you start receiving a pension its good for life, a 401K you could easily run out money and not have anything to live on. We must do everything we can to keep our pension strong.

Any questions regarding the IUOE Local 487 Pension Plan should be directed to Associated Administrators, LLC, at 1-877-291-2387. The phone number for the CPF is 202-362-1000. Remember, if you have any trouble getting the information you need, please call the Union Hall for assistance.

Business Manager, Continued from pg 2

The last few New Years have not been so promising with the deliberate plans by Republican Governors to eliminate to public sector workers rights to bargain collectively. The media campaign by Republican legislators sets the premise that unions are the problem to public budgets woes seems to be very persuasive to the general public.

The public sector unions are now getting a taste of what private sector unions have been experiencing for years. Union workers are the last of the Mohicans in terms having a pension plans and the most visible are police, firefighters and teachers. Somehow they (being the Republicans) made it sound like pensions are ruining America and workers with pensions are a bunch of freeloaders. Well that is not a philosophical change we need to embrace. We (being all workers) need to change this course of animosity towards those who have fought for good wages and benefits including pensions and say "I deserve what they have" instead of saying "If I don't have a pension then they shouldn't have one". This mentality is what is killing the working class. But we (union members) can change and be more proactive by explaining to others what the power of union can do to improve their lives and give them dignity later by having a pension. We if you want change you have to do it yourself. Usually change is spearheaded by youth but it's going to take every one of us young and old to change by being more self-promoting union members. The change we need is to make sure everyone we know that, UNIONS ARE STILL THE BEST WAY GO FOR GOOD WAGES AND BENEFITS!

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