

The

860 EXPRESS

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Spring Issue

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message from anthony liberatore, jr.

business manager, local 860



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The beginning of yet another prosperous construction season is upon us. We must move forward into this season with one thing on our minds and that is safety. To make that point loud and clear to our Union members and to the general public, Local 860 has embarked on a "2006 Work Zone Safety Campaign". This consists of a billboard campaign which

will feature our logo and safety message on 33 various billboards in our jurisdiction; and Local 860 will be airing two different TV commercials that will depict a hard-hitting safety message which will hopefully be heard loud and clear to the motorists in our working area to slow down in work zones.

Although safety is on the forefront, job creation is just as important. We at Local 860 expect several prosperous work seasons ahead of us. With the Euclid Corridor Project being finished within the next two years and the Innerbelt Project starting after that, our future is looking positive. Remember that the funding for these projects comes from construction friendly and labor friendly politicians whom are willing to work to bring those dollars home.

As Union men and women, we have a responsibility to

promote our way of life. It is our responsibility to help better our lives and the lives of hard working men and women all over this state and country. One should never underestimate the power of the people. The people united shall never be defeated. This is why we must unite as one group, as one voice and show our strength in these upcoming elections. One of the most important elections of this year is the Ohio Governors election. Congressman Ted Strickland and his running mate Lee Fisher will help turn this state around. From Cleveland to Toledo all the way to Youngstown and Cincinnati, we must show our strength and vote for the Strickland/Fisher ticket and elect them into the Governor's Office.

Lastly, please take advantage of the free legal services that are being offered to Local 860 members. In this newsletter you will find a detailed description of the free and discounted legal services that will be provided by the law firm of Cosme, D'Angelo & Szollosi Co., LPA. Free benefits include advice and consultation, wills and livings wills, survivorship tenancy and transfer on death deeds, and also real estate closings. Remember, these benefits are free of cost to Local 860 members. Your representatives continually seek and provide greater benefits for our sisters and brothers, and I truly hope that everyone will take advantage of this new service.

Please keep these things in mind as we enter into our new construction season and election season. Remember be safe, be strong and be proud. Thank you.

Fraternally yours,
Anthony Liberatore, Jr.

Notice...



If you have recently changed your address, please notify the Union Hall of your new mailing address so that you continue to receive important mail from Local 860.

the rising costs of health care



Since 2000 there has been an increase in the number of Americans who lack health insurance of any form. This increases the costs to hospitals and doctors, who must pass along these costs to everyone else. For all those with health insurance, this is just one of the many reasons premiums are increasing. Health care cost inflation is a national problem. Health care spending is growing faster than inflation and is quickly outpacing annual increases in the gross domestic product (GDP). In 2004, health care costs amounted to \$1.9 trillion; 16 percent of the GDP. That is 2.5 times higher than the cost of health care in 1990 and over seven times higher than in 1980.

The rising cost of health care places a financial burden on all Americans. However, since the largest percent of health care insurance is provided through employment, the rising cost of health care is of special concern for employers and their Union partners. In 2005 alone, employer-based health insurance rose by 9.2 percent. According to one recent study, employers in Northeast Ohio experienced the highest cost increases in the nation last year, with premiums increasing 12.2% on average.

Health care costs are rapidly increasing for a variety of reasons. Due to advancements in medical care, Americans are living longer. Combined with the fact that the “baby boomer” generation is entering their 50’s, we are seeing a shift in population demographics towards a population with generally higher health care needs. Pharmaceuticals keep us healthy longer, but at an increased cost to everyday life.

The amount of health care each American receives is also on the rise, in part due to the aging population and advances in medical technology. For example, the rate of hip replacements has been increasing as more elderly are in need of the service and as newer technologies have made a minimally invasive and low risk procedure.

Finally, it’s important to factor in the sky rocketing costs of prescription drugs. About 2/3 of the cost inflation comes from price increases – year-to-year increases in the price of existing drugs, and patients switching from older, less expensive drugs, to newer, more expensive ones. The other third results from increased utilization – people using more drugs. Addressing the unnecessarily high cost of prescription drugs is an important step in addressing overall increases in health care costs, and one that I have put at the top of my agenda.

The drug industry routinely charges American consumers 2, 3, or 5-times more than consumers in Canada, because Canada’s government takes a stand for its citizens and the U.S. government allows drug companies to charge Americans any price they want. Data collected by the Alliance for Retired Americans confirms that, on average, Canadian consumers paid 45% less than American consumers *for the same medicine*.

A responsible policy on drug pricing should include opening America’s markets to the same safe, effective, and much more affordable medicine sold in Canada. America’s total retail prescription drug expenditures topped \$140 billion in 2001. If we saved only 10% on importation, American consumers and businesses would get to keep \$14 billion in their pockets.

A key factor in the increasing demand for prescription drugs is direct-to-consumer advertising (DTCA) for drugs. Increased sales of the 50 most heavily advertised drugs account for nearly half of the annual increase in drug costs. Drug companies claim these ads are educational, yet the drug industry advertises only 1% of the nearly 10,000 prescription drugs available to consumers. If public education is really the goal, we should educate the public about all of the alternatives – not just the most profitable ones.

Not only does direct-to-consumer advertising cost millions which shows up in higher drug prices, but it also misleads the public into thinking that every ailment can and should be remedied with a pill. This increases the doctor’s time explaining away advertising solutions and diverts real examination time which could be better used to heal the patient.

FDA used to exert more authority over the nature and content of direct-to-consumer advertisements, and I believe it should reassert that authority. I have introduced legislation that would place a 2-year moratorium on all new prescription drugs and require that the FDA approve all ads before they are broadcast.

Tackling the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs will be in uphill battle, in part because of the drug industry’s overwhelming political influence. Drugmakers donate millions of dollars to politicians, with most of those dollars going to Republicans. Not surprisingly, the Bush Administration and Republicans in Congress have fought every meaningful attempt to bring prescription drug prices down.

Republican leaders have fought efforts to safely import affordable medicines from Canada, they have blocked Medicare from negotiating bulk discounts on prescription drugs for seniors, and they have vigorously defended direct-to-consumer advertising as “educational,” even though it is clearly slanted to maximize sales. Republican leaders have even inserted provisions into global trade agreements that are designed to block lower-priced drugs from both US and foreign markets. Republican opposition will make bringing drug prices down more of a challenge, but with the public behind us I am confident that members of Congress who care about this issue can get it done.

There are other steps our Nation can and should take to help reduce health care costs. Information technology can be used to reduce medical errors and administrative costs,

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rising costs of health care, continued from page 3

more attention can be paid to the cost-effectiveness of new treatments and technologies, and more emphasis can be placed on discouraging unhealthy behaviors and preventing chronic illnesses. Congress is considering initiatives in all of these areas.

The rising cost of health care affects all Americans. Hospitals struggle to keep costs down to keep their doors open to patients. Doctors are under pressure to minimize treatments as a way to keep costs down. Employers continue to face rising health care premiums, and employees must deal with the burden of increased cost-sharing.

We must recognize the importance of this issue and how it will affect us and the generations ahead of us. By electing public officials to office that are aware of the importance of this issue and sincerely strive to fix our health care problems is only the first step in the right direction. Our health care problems will hardly be fixed over night but if we work together as one voice, we will make the correct reforms to bring us closer to efficient, effective and affordable health care coverage.

*Article received from Rep. Sherrod Brown's office in Washington, D.C. and used with their permission.

everyday political action

a message from terence m. o'sullivan, liuna general president



It is time for Laborers at every level to get politically active. From county boards and city councils to statehouses, and the United States Congress, we need to be heard. And, our voice rings loudest when it is raised in unison.

I encourage every member to be involved in their union and its political action program. Active members make a union

strong, and elected officials and politicians listen to strong unions and their members.

With this year's critical elections fast approaching, we must begin our planning and start thinking about politics. In fact, the most successful unions and organizations around the nation make political action a part of their everyday activities and operations. The more members who are engaged in the process on a regular basis the easier it is for us to mobilize and be heard.

Our effectiveness in stopping legislation that impedes our growth or passing bills that will increase our market share depends on how well motivated and organized we are and the level of our activity within our local unions.

Political action and mobilization does not start nor does it end with any particular election. There are elected officials who are trying to weaken us every day. We must recognize that it is our solemn obligation to be politically active every day.

Whether it is leafleting, phone banking, letter writing, or talking to your co-workers, making the Laborers voice heard on a regular basis is important. That voice needs

to be heard by your fellow members and it needs to be heard by the elected officials and politicians.

Our programs, and the laws that have benefited us and all working men and women for decades, are constantly under attack. They are under attack all across the United States by people who do not think it is right for workers to have fair pay and good benefits. They are under attack by politicians beholden to big businesses who want to weaken labor unions and curtail workers' rights.

It is vital that every Laborer considers how their locally elected officials are performing in regards to legislation important to working families. While federal laws get most of the headlines, often it is legislation at the state and county levels that affect our lives the most. We must hold elected officials accountable at all levels, to an agenda that works for our union and all working families.

In Ohio, you have historically supported and voted for politicians who have put Laborer issues first. This year there is an extremely high profile race in this state in which you can play a vital role. Congressman Ted Strickland is running for Governor and needs our support. This man is a friend of working class Americans and is the type of politician we need in office to help us move our agenda forward.

We are fortunate. Laborers historically have been the union with the best grassroots political mobilization program around. And I know from our past experiences that we can accomplish great things when we work together. It is time to step up to the plate once again and redouble our efforts in the political arena. Electing our friends and punishing our enemies at every level this year starts right now.

When Laborers take action, Laborers and all working families win.

it's time for a change!

a message from vice-president and regional manger district 8, liuna



As the ground continues to thaw and temps rise in Ohio, the work season is getting ready to start up.

And so is one of the most important midterm elections this country has seen in years. As I watch the ex-Republican Majority Leader, Tom Delay, pull out of his re-election bid in Texas and watch his anti-labor friends being revealed in scandal after scandal, I am energized about the potential that is unfolding for working families in 2006. As Laborers, we need to focus on this potential if we are going to make an impact.

Ohio has been consistently making national headlines with all of the scandals in the state. Your Governor, Bob Taft, after four misdemeanor counts, became the first Ohio Governor to be charged with a crime. "Coingate" set off more scandal headlines when it was found that Ohio had given Tom Noe \$50 million dollars from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation fund to invest and then found out that only \$13 million of the original \$50 million could be accounted for. These are just a few of the many scandals that have occurred in your state.

There has been no greater opportunity in recent years to turn this state around than now. OHIO IS THE BATTLEGROUND. When we successfully turn Ohio around this election cycle, we send a message of CHANGE throughout the country.

With friends of labor like Ted Strickland/Lee Fisher running for Governor and one of your own, State Rep. Kenny Yuko running for re-election in Ohio District 7, we have the ability through these many races in Ohio to effectuate great change locally and nationally for working men and women.

These friends of labor cannot do it alone. In this crucial election year, we need to be engaged in every facet of the grass roots campaign to get these friends elected. It is tough when the work season gets going, but if we are going to maintain and even increase our opportunities for working families, we must find time to donate to these friends of labor. Whether you leaflet or phone bank members, we need to be active in this election cycle if we are going to send a strong, unified message of CHANGE here locally and nationally.

The eyes of the nation fall upon you Ohio, what you do in 2006 will greatly affect the political landscape for 2008. Let us lead the charge like Laborers always do, and together we can start putting basic ideas like a living wage, good benefits and a good retirement at the forefront for working men and women.

I truly appreciate how your Local has taken it upon itself to get involved politically. When you run for office like Lenny Rizzo did for Geauga County Commissioner or Kenny Yuko for State Representative or get appointed to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer Board like your Business Manager Anthony Liberatore did, it shows you are committed to making that CHANGE.

Stand strong in 2006!
Fraternally,
James Hale
Vice President, Regional Manager
Ohio Valley and Southern States

With friends of labor like Ted Strickland/Lee Fisher running for Governor and one of your own, State Rep. Kenny Yuko running for re-election in Ohio District 7, we have the ability through these many races in Ohio to effectuate great change locally and nationally for working men and women.



lee fisher visits local 860

Lieutenant Gubernatorial Candidate, Lee Fisher, addresses the membership at the April 6, 2006 Union meeting. He spoke of ending corruption in Columbus, job creation, economic development, his steadfast beliefs in organized labor and his love for Northeast Ohio. Lee Fisher is a great friend of Local 860 and Local 860 has supported him with his political career. We stand firmly behind Congressman Ted Strickland and Lee Fisher for their candidacy for the State of Ohio Governor's Office. We wish them the Best of Luck!

local 860 legal services plan

Beginning in April 2006, all members of Laborers' Local 860 will be entitled to participate in Local 860's Legal Services Plan. The Plan will be provided by the Law Offices of Cosme, D'Angelo & Szollosi Co., L.P.A., (CDS) a union side labor law firm representing numerous labor organizations and their members across the State of Ohio.

Every member will be entitled to a free consultation. In person consultations are by appointment only, but members are encouraged to contact the CDS offices to either schedule an appointment or speak with an attorney over the phone.

The primary categories of the Plan include: (1) benefits provided to the members *free* of charge; and (2) the discounted fee schedule for specific legal activities.

FREE BENEFITS BY CDS TO ALL MEMBERS

1. Advice and Consultation. All plan participants are encouraged to take advantage of unlimited counsel and consultation on any legal matter. Obtaining legal advice may often prevent the occurrence of legal problems and enable the participant to make better decisions, with full knowledge of his or her rights, duties and options. Legal advice and consultation services include demand letters and other written communications on behalf of the participant, drafted and sent at the discretion of the attorney. Advice may be obtained for issues including, but not limited to the following: consumer matters, unemployment compensation, landlord/tenant matters, small claims proceedings, civil litigation, criminal/traffic defense, domestic relations (divorce, dissolution, parental rights, custody rights), probate, estate planning, personal injury, workers' compensation, disability claims, and general practice work. Whether a participant's question "fits" into one of these categories is irrelevant. To be clear, if a participant has a question, we encourage a phone call and/or an appointment with one of our attorneys. There is no charge for participant calls or meetings with our staff.

2. Wills, Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorneys.

(1) Every adult participant should, irrespective of any other estate planning mechanism in effect, have a **Testamentary Will**. A will determines who will benefit from the property owned by the participant at the time of death and appoints an Executor/Executrix to be in charge of carrying out the participant's directives including, but not limited to, the guardianship for minor children, management of financial affairs, and other important information such as funeral and burial instructions. (2) In situations involving incapacity, a **Living Will (or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care)** is a legal instrument that appoints an adult to have legal

authority to make health care decisions for the participant, and provides specific binding instructions for what must be done, or not done, in certain situations (e.g. use or non-use of artificial life support). (3) A **Durable Power of Attorney for Financial Affairs** allows the participant to name an adult with the authority to legally handle the participant's financial matters in the event of incapacity.

3. Survivorship Tenancy and Transfer on Death Deeds.

These real estate conveyance instruments allow the participant to grant an interest in her home or other real property during her lifetime, which becomes effective upon her death. In addition to other estate planning techniques, the use of survivorship and transfer on death deeds is primarily intended to avoid the cost and delay associated with probate proceedings.

4. Real Estate Closings. Our attorneys will review the closing documents, prepare the transfer deed where the participant is the seller in the transaction, and will attend the closing to ensure that the member's interest is being protected.

DISCOUNTED FEE SCHEDULE FOR MEMBERS

- a. Uncontested Divorce or Dissolution

No Children	\$400
Children	\$500
- b. Chapter 7 Bankruptcy – Joint or Single \$475
- c. Chapter 13 Bankruptcy – Joint or Single \$650
- d. Post Decree Modification/Enforcement

Custody	\$500
Non-Custody	\$375
- e. Misdemeanor Criminal Defense
(not including trial) \$500
- f. D.U.I. Defense (first offense, not including trial) \$500
- g. Traffic Defense (not including trial) \$350
(all criminal and traffic defense trials \$100 per hour)

CDS also handles personal injury and workers' compensation cases. Please call us for more information. CDS is genuinely excited to work with the members of Laborers' Local 860 through its comprehensive Legal Services Plan.

COSME, D'ANGELO & SZOLLOSI CO., L.P.A.

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Weekdays: 8:00am – 4:00pm **Saturdays:** 9:00am – Noon **Sundays:** Closed
(Sat. hours end Sept. 30)

contact us

4220 Prospect Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44103 (216) 432-1022



**Business Manager/
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Anthony Liberatore, Jr.
(ext. 9)



**Business
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Bobby Ina
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Field Representatives



Mallory Jackson
(ext. 7)



Lenny Rizzo
(ext. 6)



Mark Olivo
(ext. 5)

Secretaries
(ext. 0)

For more information, check out the
Local 860 website at www.laborers860.com



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