

# FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

A Publication of the Laborers-Employers Cooperation  
and Education Trust of Eastern Missouri

**VOLUME II, 2013**



**MEMBERS' SURVEY INSIDE!!**

**LABORERS' LOCAL 660**

**ST. CHARLES**

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*Foundation for Success* is a magazine published by the Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council  
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## MISSION STATEMENT



LECET is a partnership between the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) and its affiliated construction and environmental contractors.

LECET works to generate business opportunities for signatory union contractors and job opportunities for members of LIUNA by improving communications, cooperative relations, and efficiency of representatives of labor and management.

Through these actions and others, LECET ensures that signatory construction owners and users understand the benefits of working with LIUNA members and their employers.



# FEDERAL HEALTH CARE NOTIFICATION

Whether we like it or not, the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), or ObamaCare as it is commonly called, is the law and we all have to obey the law. To that end, employers are required by October 2013 to notify their workers about their health care plans or lack of any plans.

For Laborers, there is not much new to tell. As part of the collective bargaining agreement the Laborers' Union enters into with construction contractors, health care coverage is provided to Laborers and their dependants. This coverage is part of the "benefits package" that is negotiated on employee's behalf by the union.

But the law also requires all company employees, like the office staff who may not be covered under the Laborers' health care plan, to be made aware of their options for health care insurance.

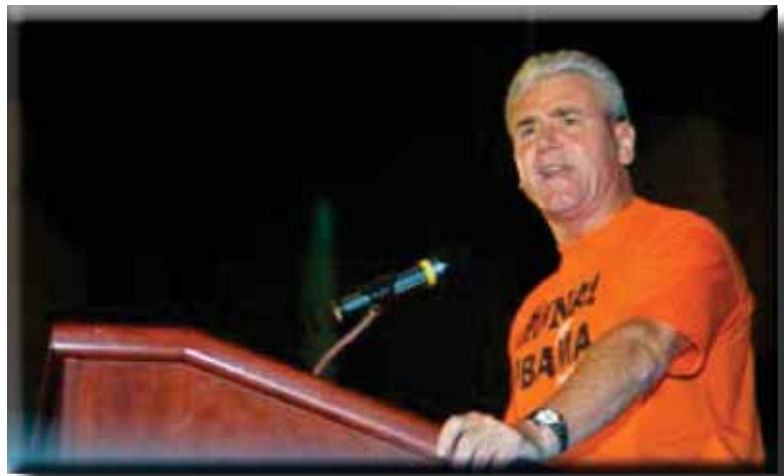
The employer's notice describes how the employee may use what is called a "Marketplace" or healthcare exchange. These Marketplaces or exchanges provide options for employees and their families to consider based on their individual needs and the family budget. Kind of like a "one-stop-shop" for health care insurance.

## LABOR EXPRESSES CONCERNS ABOUT ACA

Labor leaders across the country, including Laborers' International President Terrence O'Sullivan, have expressed some concerns about the Affordable Care Act and its impact on the trade unions. Chief among the concerns expressed is the impact on multi-employer plans, like the health care coverage provided by the Laborers.

Under the Affordable Care Act [ACA], employers like construction companies, that have 50 or less employees are not required to have health insurance coverage. Remember, one of the cornerstones of the ACA was that everyone starting in 2014 must have insurance starting in 2014. However, a union contractor is obligated by contract, to provide health insurance coverage to his/her union employee.

A situation could develop in which a union contractor with 50 employees, paying health insurance coverage for his/her employees, would be at a competitive disadvantage against a non-union contractor with less than 50 workers because the non-union contractor nor his/her employees would have to obtain health insurance. Another problem would be larger contractors (with) more than 50 employees, may lay off workers to get below the cut off number for required insurance coverage under ACA. Congressional members have been contacted to try and correct the problems impacting the unions and their contractors.



**LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT AND STAUCH OBAMA SUPPORTER HAS CONCERNS ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.**

# PETITION DRIVE STARTED FOR STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

If you work on state highway construction projects, you know the amount of construction work the Missouri Department of Transportation [MoDOT] has been letting has slowed considerably. That's because MoDOT is experiencing a shortfall in funding for new road and bridge work. Since the legislature failed to pass a resolution placing a one-cent sales tax increase for transportation on the November 2014 ballot, the Missouri highway construction industry has taken matters into its own hands.

Recently, the Missourians for Safe Transportation and New jobs filed paperwork with the Missouri Secretary of State's office to begin a petition drive to place the sales and use tax issue on the ballot.

More than 141,000 registered voters in the state from four of the six Missouri Congressional districts will be required to place the issue on the ballot. All signatures must be turned into the Secretary of State's office by May 2014. The Secretary of State's office will then review the signatures to make sure they are valid voters living in the Congressional districts. And, if everything checks out and the



required number of signatures is met, the measure will be placed on the November 2014 statewide ballot.

MoDOT officials say their highway construction program has "fallen off the cliff" in terms of funding. MoDOT has roughly \$685 million for its construction program in the current fiscal year, 2014; down from the \$1.1 billion the department spent on highway work only three years ago. And, the picture doesn't get much better in future years! Falling revenue from fuel taxes (gas and diesel) along with money required to pay off their debt has zapped the department of much new money for highway/transportation construction funding.

By Fiscal Year 2018[July 2017], the state would not have enough funding to match the federal dollars coming into Missouri.

That would mean a return of federal highway construction money earmarked for Missouri to the federal government.

The one cent sales and use tax increase would generate \$700 million per year in new transportation dollars. Five percent of the funds would go to Missouri Counties and another five percent would go to Missouri cities for their use in upgrading their transportation system, whether it is roads or mass transit. The tax would remain in place for 10 years and then it would be sunset, unless voters reauthorize it for another 10-year period.

The tax proposal would provide thousands of new construction jobs during its 10-year cycle. These are jobs many Laborers and their signatory contractors could use after coming out of the recession. There would also be additional jobs created by businesses potentially expanding their facilities or new industry locating in Missouri because of its efficient and modern transportation system.

If the issue is not placed on the ballot in 2014 or it fails, it would



**THE 10-YEAR FUNDING PROPOSAL IS ESTIMATED TO CREATE APPROXIMATELY 270,000 JOBS. LABORERS WILL BENEFIT GREATLY WITH THE TYPE OF WORK SHOWN ABOVE AND BELOW.**



be at least 2016 before another issue would be presented to voters. Can the industry wait that long?

Voters would be asked to approve the increase at the November 4, 2014, general election. A simple majority is required for passage.



## LABOR WAS SUCCESSFUL IN LEGISLATIVE VETO SESSION

The Laborers and labor unions in generally did very well in the recently concluded legislative veto session of the Missouri General Assembly. Efforts to override Governor Nixon's (pictured on right) veto of the "paycheck protection bill", Senate Bill 29, failed in the Senate where the motion to "override" failed by one vote (22-11 with one abstention). This despite the fact the bill had easily passed the Senate during the regular session!

Not to be outdone by the upper chamber, the House defeated an attempted to override the governor's veto of Senate Bill 34. The bill would have established an electronic database of all workers who had filed claims for workers' compensation insurance. Opponents to the bill argued that such access would enable potential employers to view such a list and then not hire someone who may have filed legitimate claims. Supporters of the bill argued

it gave employers a tool to "weed out" potential applicants who abused the workers' comp. system. The vote was not even that close in the House, failing by 19 votes.

The House also failed to get enough votes to override the governor's veto of a bill redefining "misconduct" and "good cause" in Missouri's unemployment laws [S.B.

28]. The legislature approved the changes in the law as a means to deny individuals their unemployment claims when released from their employer. But Governor Nixon objected to the bill contending it was so broadly written that an employee's actions outside of the job site could also be used as grounds to dismiss the worker and deny unemployment benefits.



House Bill 650, a measure that caps the amount of damages and individual could receive from filing a lawsuit over sickness caused by lead poisoning from Missouri's only operating lead mine in Jefferson and St. Francois counties. Operators of the Doe Run mine had contacted the St. Louis Building

and Construction Trades Council and sought the Council's help in overriding the governor's objections. Mine officials hope to rebuild their smelter in Herculaneum (Jefferson County), providing hundreds of construction jobs, but company officials said the only way they could move forward was by limiting their exposure to lawsuits filed over the lead poisoning issue.

The override of H.B. 650 was one of a record 10 bills lawmakers voted to go against the governor. Even with this number, political observers still view the veto session as a success for Governor Nixon. That's because legislators failed to override the two largest impact bills vetoed by the governor, an income and business tax reduction and a gun rights bill.



**MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL  
IN JEFFERSON CITY, MO**

House Bill 253 would have phased-in a one-percent deduction in the state individual income tax over a 10-year period and would have given a business/corporate tax cut of 3% over a 10-year period. Supporters contended it would help create new jobs in Missouri. However opponents, including Governor Nixon, contended such a tax reduction would lead to drastic cuts in state services, most notably in

Legislators did override the governor's veto of

.....CONT'D ON BOTTOM OF NEXT PAGE

## APPRENTICESHIP BOARD MEMBERS HONORED

Two more members of the Eastern Missouri Laborers' Joint Training Fund Apprenticeship Board Trustees were honored recently for their years of service and dedication to helping Laborers. Plaques commemorating contractor Board members Frank Wojehowski and Bob Weselich for their service will go on display at the Laborers' Training Center in High Hill.

Wojehowski served for 27 years on the board until retiring from service this summer. He worked for Gypsum Specialty Contractors.

Bob Weselich was recognized for his 26 years of service on the Board. And, Bob is not done as he is still an active Board member. Weselich worked for the Tarlton Corporation before retiring.

Both men were representatives of the AGC-St. Louis on the Joint Training Fund Board.



**Pictured from left to right: Musial Braungardt, Associate Director of Training, Jerry Pelker, retired Training Center Director, Gary Elliott, EMLDC Business Manager, Bob Weselich, Frank Wojehowski, Larry LaMontagne, current Training Center Director and Roger Pryor, current board member and retired business manager of the Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council and of Local 660 in St. Charles.**

### .....CONT'D FROM PAGE 4

state colleges and universities and in public grade and high schools. Public education officials led the charge against the tax cut proposal and convinced 15 House Republican members to go against their party and vote not to override the governor's veto. It was a major defeat of House Speaker Tim Jones and his allies.

Meanwhile the gun rights bill, H.B. 436, ran into trouble with law enforcement officials. Supporters contended the bill did nothing more than reaffirm the Second Amendment rights of citizens to own guns. However critics contended the bill, as written, would have prevented federal and law enforcement officials from doing their job. While the bill won easy approval to override the governor's veto in the House, it never came up for a vote in the Senate.

Legislators won't get together again until January 2014 when the General Assembly begins again.

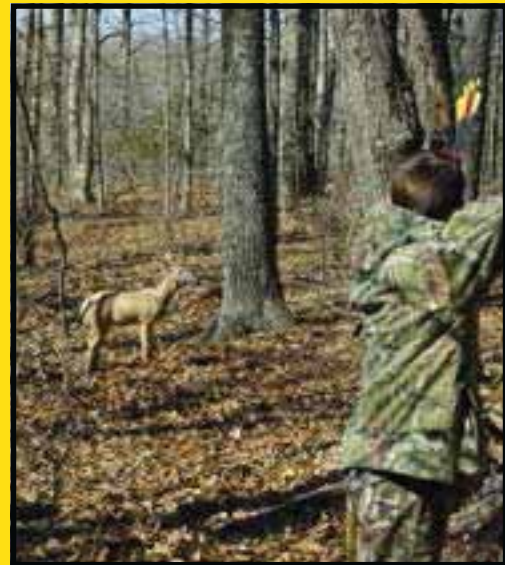
# WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

Did you get a chance to attend one of the Membership Events this year? If not, why? If you did get to one of the events, what did you like about it?

This year, as it has in the past, LECET

and the Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council (EMLDC) teamed-up to sponsor six different activities that members could participate in to test their skills and have a chance to win some great prizes!

## The Spring Archery Tournament, April 13 at High Hill



## The Crappie Fishing Tournament, May 18 at Mark Twain Lake





## The Members Golf Tournament, June 1 at Warrenton



GET INVOLVED IN YOUR UNION &  
WIN GREAT PRIZES!!!



## The Sporting Clays Shoot, June 22 in Moscow Mills



...MORE EVENTS & PHOTOS ON THE NEXT PAGE

## The Summer Archery Tournament, August 24 at High Hill



## Labor Day Parades in Downtown St. Louis & Jefferson City



As you can see, the activities and events were varied to try and find something that members may enjoy.

This year, as it has in the past, LECET and the Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council (EMLDC) teamed-up to sponsor six different activities members could participate in and test their skills.

\*\*\*\*\*On the next page, is a brief survey we would like you to complete and send back to us. \*\*\*\*\*+

It will help us plan for the activities and events next year and possibly add or subtract something.

Please take the time to complete the survey and send it in.

Remember, we are hosting these activities for Laborers and the contractors who hire them.

Thanks in advance for your help.

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# Survey [Please Print]

Please fill out the survey, tear out this page and mail back by **November 1st** to:

**LECET Survey  
3450 Hollenberg Dr.  
Bridgeton, MO 63044**

Your Local # \_\_\_\_\_ If a contractor, your company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Which, if any, of these activities did you attend or take part in during 2013? (check as many that apply)

- |                          |                            |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring Archery Shoot       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fall Archery Shoot        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Crappie Fishing Tournament | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sporting Clay Shoot       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Members' Golf Tournament   | <input type="checkbox"/> | March in Labor Day Parade |

What did you like about the event(s) that made you want to participate?

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What would you change to make the event(s) more attractive for you to attend next year?

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We are considering a ***Poker Run motorcycle ride*** next year. Would you be interested in this event?       YES       NO

We are considering a ***Texas Holdem' Tournament*** next year. Would you be interested in this event?       YES       NO

Are there other events/activities you and other Laborers' might like to participate in?  
 YES       NO

If yes, what are your suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_

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Thanks for your time!

Optional name: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional email address: \_\_\_\_\_



# LETTING THE ARROWS FLY



Seventy-six archers tested their skills on the 3-D archery course set up for the Fall Archery Tournament at the Laborers' Training Center in High Hill on August 24. The event is sponsored by LECET and the Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council. This is the eighth year the Laborers have held the tournament.



Participants often remarked that the course and the targets are some of the best they have ever shot at in an archery tournament. Five different categories of archers are established for the tournament; bow hunter, traditionalist, junior, women and cub. Forty-two different stations are set up with each having different spots where the archer stands; depending upon the category they are shooting. After shooting, participants were treated to lunch while waiting for the outcome of the tournament.

Congratulations to all the winners!



**JUNIOR: LEFT TO RIGHT; DALTON BANDY, 1<sup>ST</sup>, JOSH GUNN, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND ZAIN MATHENA, 3<sup>RD</sup>**



**ALL THE CUB SHOOTERS ARE SHOWN WITH THEIR TROPHIES AND MEDALS.**



**WOMEN: LEFT TO RIGHT; ANDREA BOCKELKAMP, 1<sup>ST</sup>, STACEY LAGARCE, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND DOROTHY BELL, 3<sup>RD</sup>**



**Traditional: Left to Right; James Barker, 3<sup>rd</sup> and John Hembrock, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Not pictured is Scott Langston, 1<sup>st</sup>**

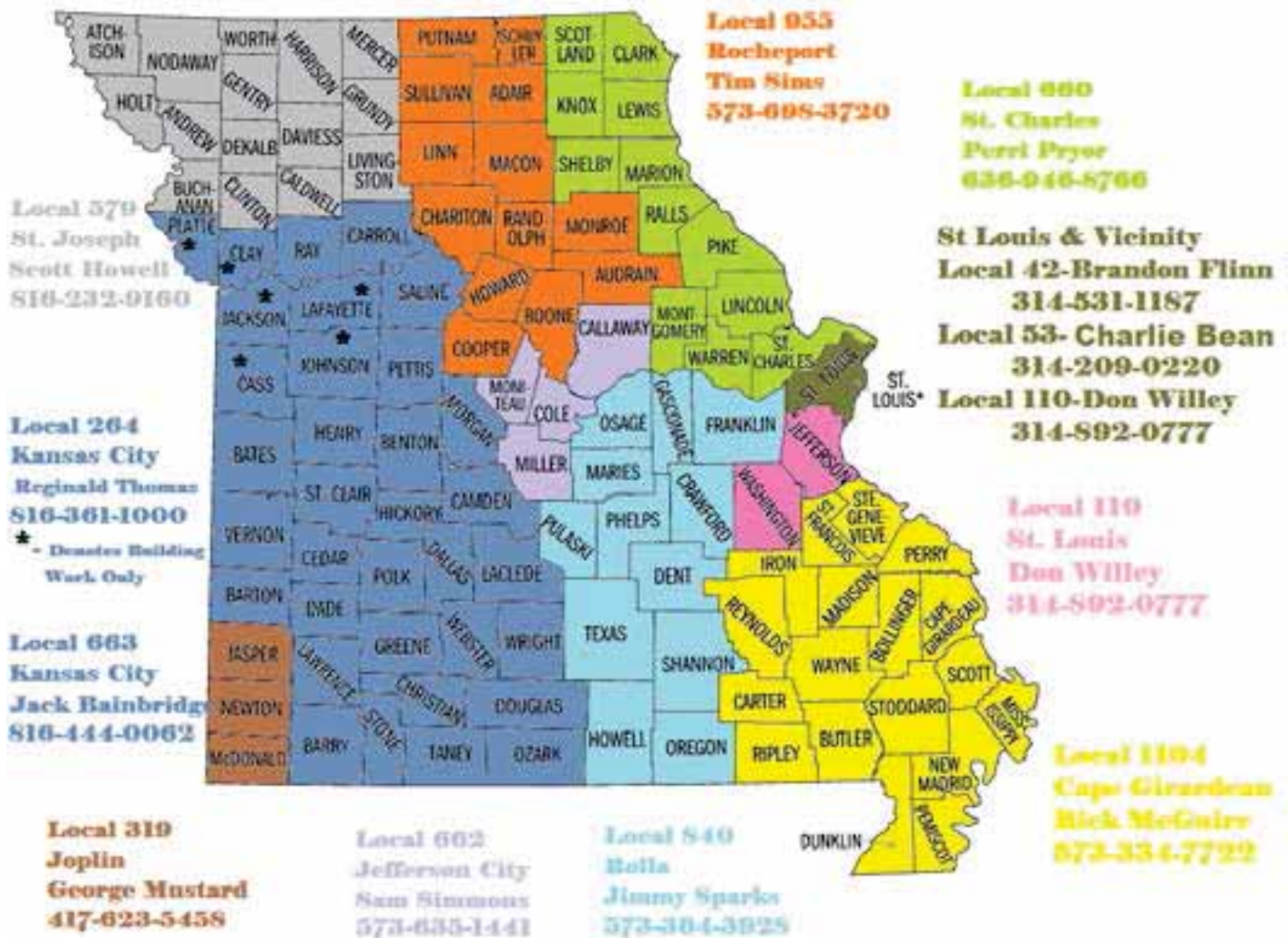


**BOWHUNTER: LEFT TO RIGHT SHAWN BRUNING 3<sup>RD</sup> CHAD MCCLEARY, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND JARED LEWIS, 1<sup>ST</sup>**

# LABOR LOCALS

There have been a few changes at Laborers' Locals throughout the state. The map below shows the current Laborers' locals jurisdictional area and the leadership at each of those locals.

You might want to save this page as a resource for future use.





# LABOR DAY 2013

Hundreds of men, women and children met at various Labor Day celebrations across Missouri this year to recognize the importance of working men and women. As usual, the Laborers' had a very strong presence at each parade and afterward everyone was treated to food and refreshments with friends and family. Laborers' Locals 42, 53, 110 and 660 assembled in downtown St. Louis to walk in one of our country's largest parades. Laborers' Locals 662 and 955 also had a strong showing in the Jefferson City Labor Day parade.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Labor Day is a United States federal holiday that originated in 1882 as the Central Labor

Union of New York City sought to create "a day off for the working citizens". The first celebration of this holiday was a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and spirit de corps of the trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the workers and their families. Although it has been over a century since the first Labor Day celebration, the aspects of honoring Labor Day remain the same today.

The Eastern Missouri Laborers District Council would like to thank all of the members who participated in each parade.

Below and on the next page are pictures of Laborers' Locals 42, 53, 110, 660, 662 and 955 commemorating their Labor Day event.









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