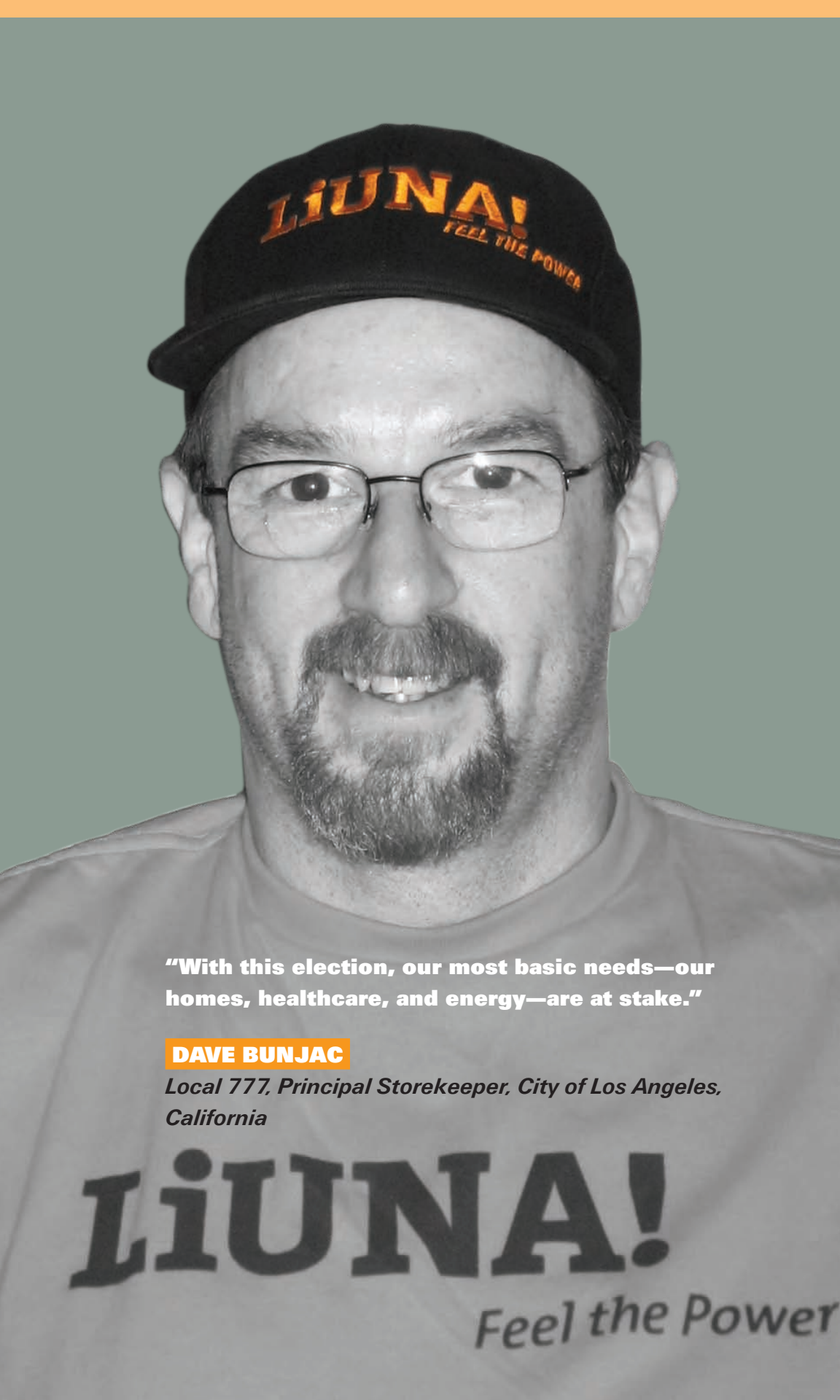


**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR UNION**



**Will you fight  
for your  
Country?**



**“With this election, our most basic needs—our homes, healthcare, and energy—are at stake.”**

**DAVE BUNJAC**

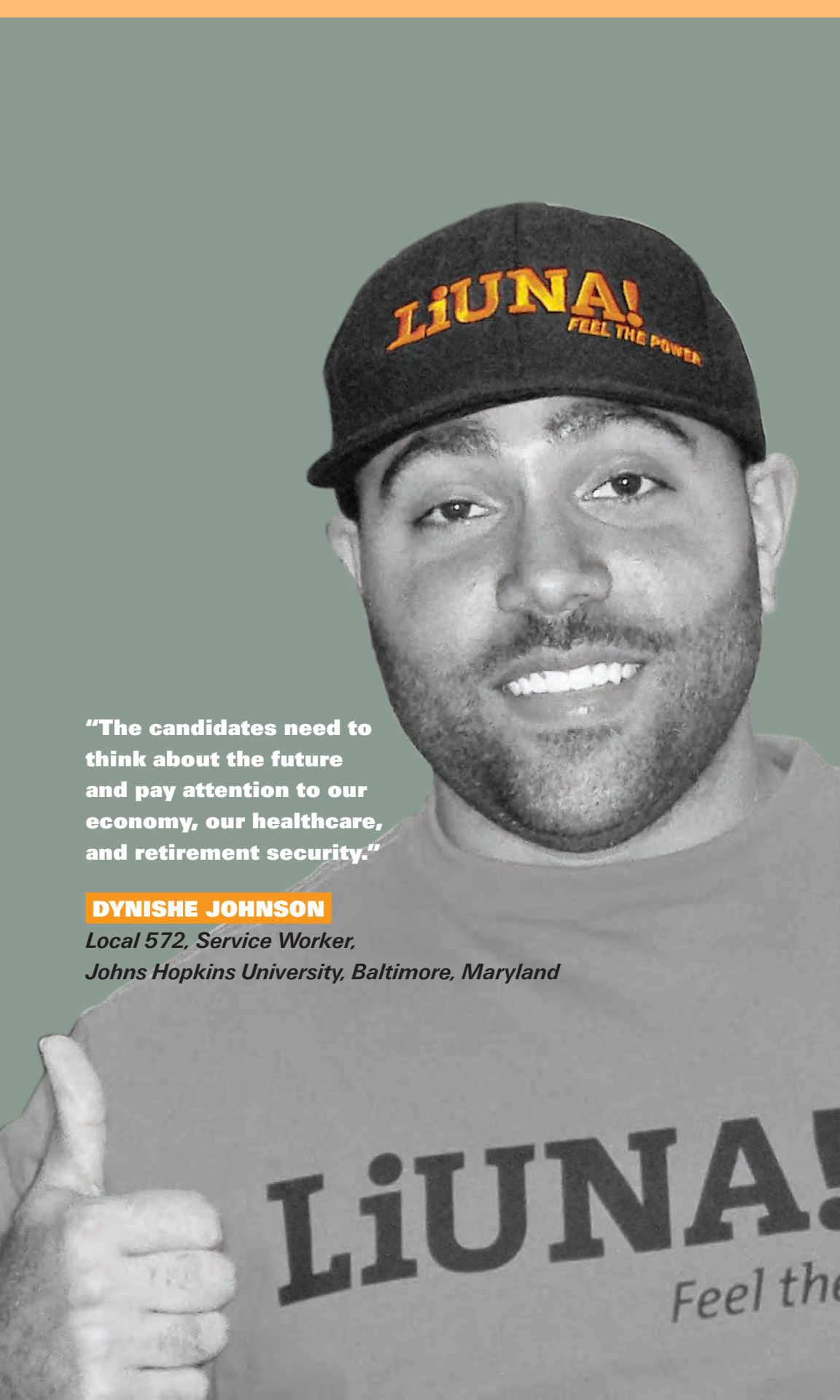
*Local 777, Principal Storekeeper, City of Los Angeles,  
California*

**LiUNA!**

*Feel the Power*

**We build America and keep America working.**  
**So why do politicians too often stand idly by as the way of life in our country is threatened?**

- Already in 2008, 463,000 jobs have been lost and for those who have a job wage increases aren't keeping up with expenses.
- Our bridges, highways, dams, school buildings, energy systems and other essentials which we rely on are falling into disrepair.
- Family-supporting laws like Davis-Bacon, which require fair pay on large government projects, are under attack.
- The mortgage crisis has put as many 3 million homeowners in danger of foreclosure and threatens to taint our pension funds.
- Retirement security after a life of hard work is under attack—two-thirds of Americans no longer have a secure, adequate and predictable retirement check.
- Unfair trade agreements destroy American jobs.
- For those of us fortunate enough to have health care coverage, escalating costs are eating away as much as 75% of wage increases we would otherwise receive—and 47 million Americans have no health care coverage at all.
- Tens of thousands of working people face firings for trying to join unions and reach the middle-class.



**"The candidates need to think about the future and pay attention to our economy, our healthcare, and retirement security."**

**DYNISHE JOHNSON**

*Local 572, Service Worker,  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland*

**LiUNA!**

*Feel the*

**It's time to tell politicians  
to fight for our country.  
Let's build America so  
America works.**

- We can have an economy that creates jobs building America and restores our nation's competitiveness in the global economy.
- If we get our priorities straight and redirect resources, we can invest in America's bridges, highways, energy systems, and public schools and generate 47,500 jobs for every billion dollars invested. Due to neglect, needs now are estimated at \$1.6 trillion—an enormous investment, but less costly than current tax breaks for the rich or a misguided foreign policy.
- We can expand tried-and-true laws like Davis-Bacon, which keep unscrupulous employers from using taxpayer money to drive down wages and benefits.
- We can make affordable healthcare available to everyone.
- In America, every worker's right to join together in a union can be protected.
- International trade can put America first.
- Politicians can be forced to fix the mortgage crisis and protect homeowners and workers, without rewarding those who caused the crisis—Wall Street investors and corporate homebuilders.

Employee  
**FREE  
CHOICE**  
ACT

**NOW!**

AFL-CIO

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or

supporting

AFL-CIO

CLOSE IT  
FOR  
RENOVATION

LIUNA! **BUILDS  
AMERICA**

Feel the Power

## Politics matters.

# Where we are strong, politicians listen to us. Where politicians listen to us, we are more likely to be strong.

All states with higher union membership have laws protecting workers, taxpayers and communities from low-ball contractors—called “Little Davis Bacon” laws—and a minimum wage set higher than the federal rate. Only 20% of the low union membership states can claim this.

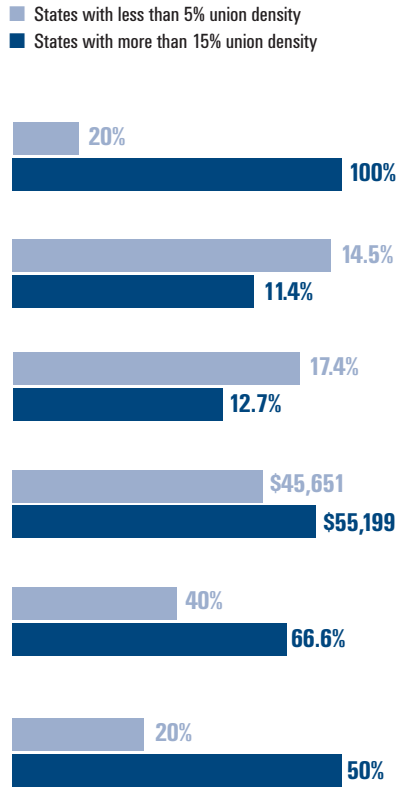
Average poverty rate is 3% lower in high union density states.

Average rate of uninsured is 4.68% lower in high union density states.

Annual income in states with strong union membership is nearly \$10,000 more per year than those with weak union membership.

Strong union states are one and a half times more likely to encourage civic participation through a “No Excuse” Vote by Mail program.

Two and half times more high density union states have both houses of the state legislature under control of candidates endorsed by workers’ unions.



Sources: Union Members in 2007. U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/union2.pdf>; Collective Bargaining Rights: Information on the Number of Workers With and Without Bargaining Rights. Government Accounting Office, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d02835.pdf>; Losing Ground: Lessons from the Repeal of Nine “Little Davis-Bacon” Acts. University of Utah, [http://www.smacna.org/legislative/davis\\_bacon.pdf](http://www.smacna.org/legislative/davis_bacon.pdf); Minimum Wage by State, U.S. Department of Labor, <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm>; U.S. Poverty Rate. U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html>; Mean Annual Household Income by State. Kaiser Family Foundation, [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org); Health Insurance Coverage by State. Kaiser Family Foundation, [www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org); Taking the Lead: 2007 State Legislative Successes in Enacting Progressive Policy. Progressive States Network, <http://www.progressivestates.org/>; The Early Voting Information Center. Reed College, <http://www.earlyvoting.net/states/abslaws.php>



**“You have to get involved in politics—your vote and who you put in office affects our world.”**

**KENNETH JACKSON**

*Local 1655, Chicago, Illinois, Mechanic*



**LiUNA!**  
Feel the Power

**"It's important to vote and be politically involved. We need to get back to the basics and invest in our country."**

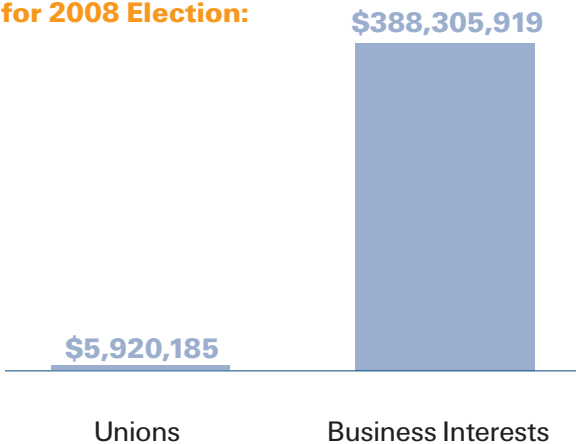
**DOLORES ALCARAZ** *Local 777,  
Technician, Department of Child Support,  
County of Riverside, California*

**We'll never compete  
dollar-for-dollar with corporations.**

**But we can have a war chest  
and we do have people power.**

Labor unions raise only a fraction of what business interests spend on politics. Fundraising to elect candidates for office is crucial, but it's not enough. Our strength is in having our half-million members ready to fight for our country.

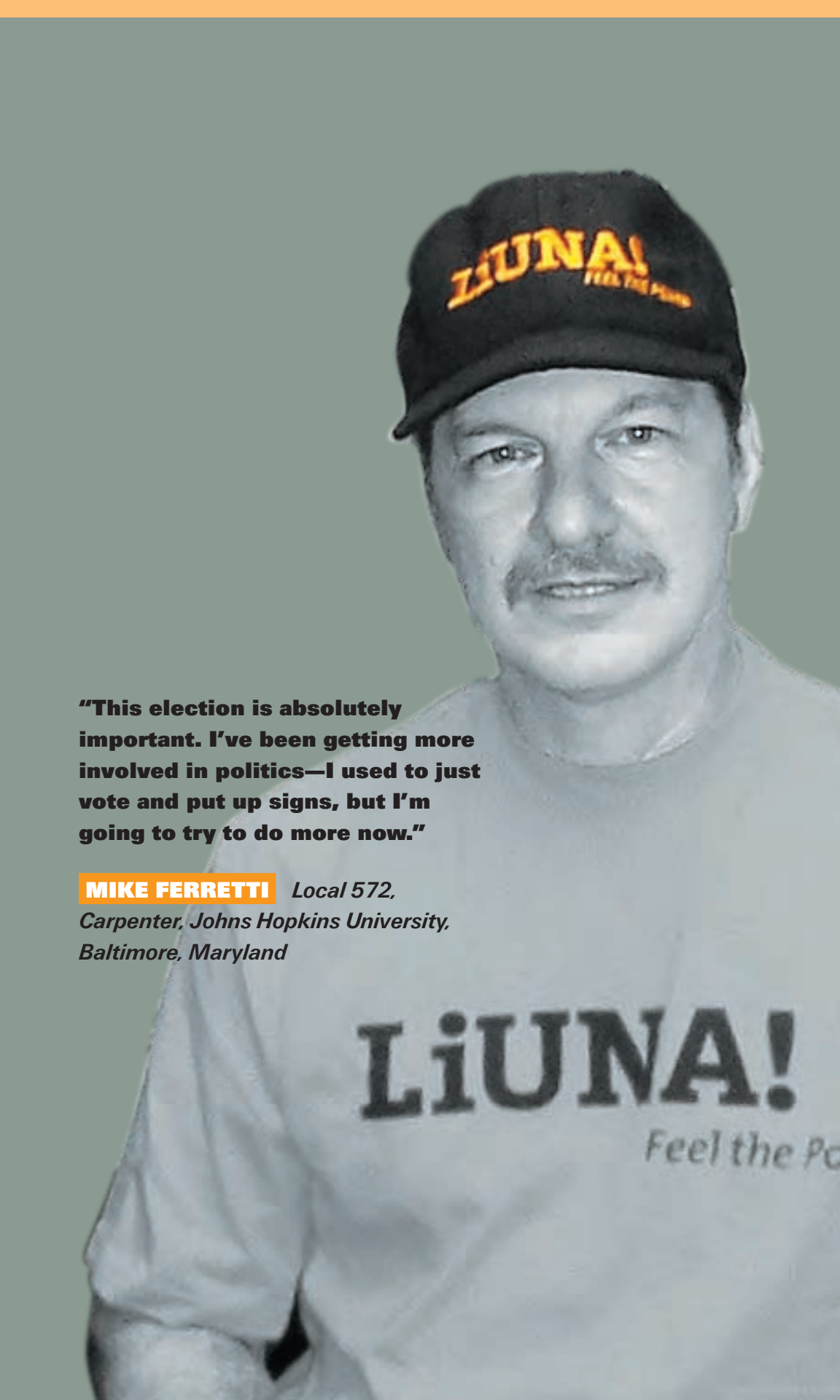
**Contributions to Presidential Candidates  
for 2008 Election:**



Source: Center for Responsive Politics

**If 50% of all LIUNA members contributed at least  
\$1.25 per week for a year, LIUNA could dedicate  
more than \$16 million a year to a war chest for the  
men and women who Build America.**

**\$1.25 per week = \$16 MILLION  
BUILD AMERICA WAR CHEST**



**"This election is absolutely important. I've been getting more involved in politics—I used to just vote and put up signs, but I'm going to try to do more now."**

**MIKE FERRETTI** *Local 572,  
Carpenter, Johns Hopkins University,  
Baltimore, Maryland*

**LiUNA!**

*Feel the Po*

## **Fight for your country. Take the 1st step:**

**Sign the Petition to Build America.  
Text BUILD and your name to the number 69866  
on your cellphone or learn more at  
[www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org](http://www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org).**

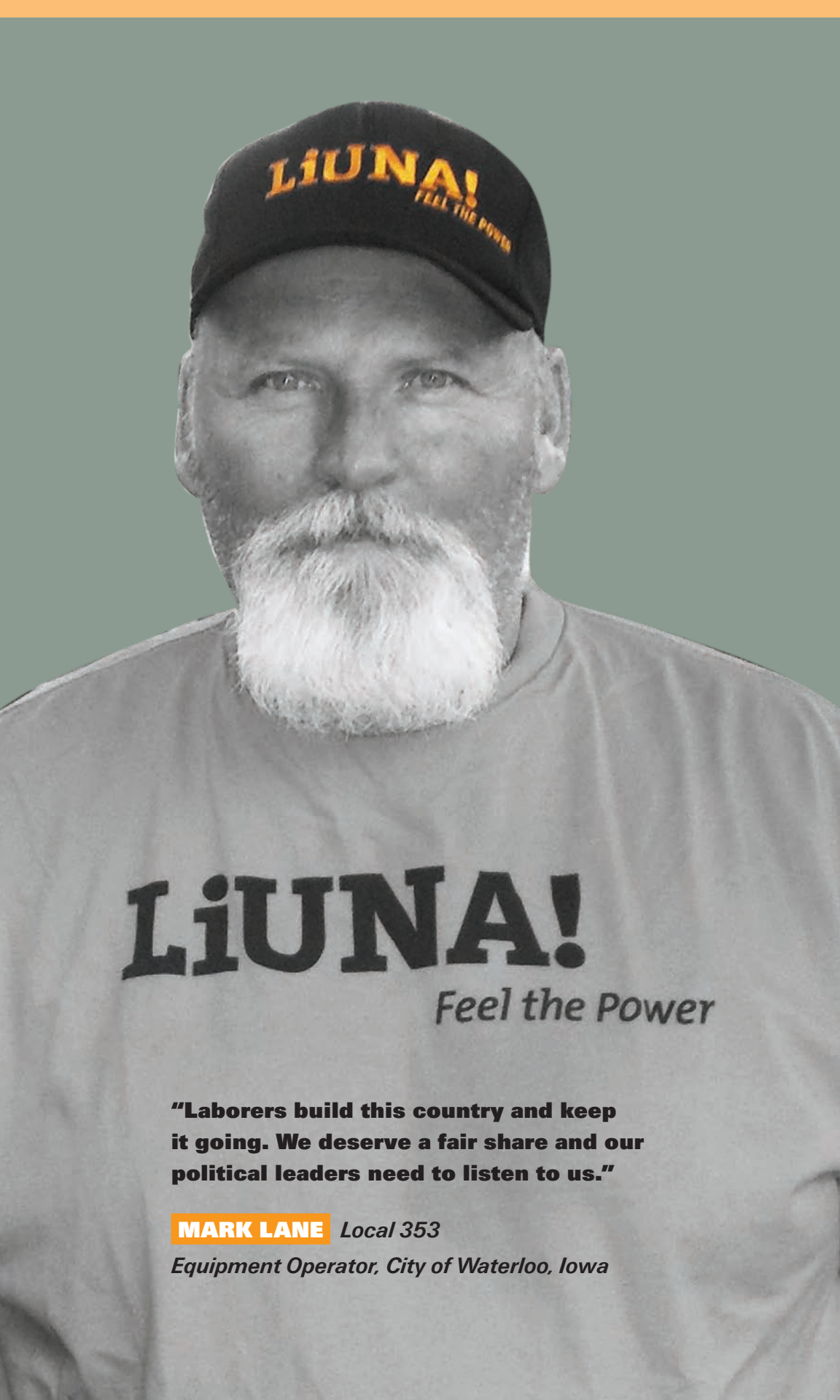
Once a nation that put a man on the moon, we can no longer be assured of crossing the Mississippi River safely, of protecting our citizens from failing dams or levees or of providing a transportation infrastructure that works.

- Americans spend 3.5 billion hours a year stuck in traffic on our highways due to years of neglect.
- At least 26 percent of our country's bridges are structurally deficient.
- Classrooms in our public schools are falling apart.
- Across America there are 3,500 unsafe dams.

Tell politicians that for the sake of America's competitive place in the world, for our economy, good jobs and our future, they must rebuild America by taking care of the basics.

### **If we don't fight for America, who will?**

Sources: American Society of Civil Engineers, U.S. Department of Transportation, Texas Transportation Institute



**LIUNA!**  
FEEL THE POWER

**LIUNA!**

*Feel the Power*

**“Laborers build this country and keep it going. We deserve a fair share and our political leaders need to listen to us.”**

**MARK LANE** *Local 353*

*Equipment Operator, City of Waterloo, Iowa*

## **Fight for your country. Take the 2nd step:**

### **Take a Walk to Build America.**

Get off the sidelines and onto the frontlines by helping to elect a Build America president. All you need is your faith in America and your union, and a Saturday afternoon and you can join thousands of LIUNA members helping to elect Build America candidate Senator Barack Obama. Go to your personal webpage to enlist and receive a free t-shirt.

**For details and upcoming dates, email [communications@liuna.org](mailto:communications@liuna.org) or call 202-942-2246.**



**“The candidates need to understand the problems facing the American people—like the cost of milk. I have two small girls. What am I supposed to do?”**

**MARY HAMPTON**

*Local 386, Housekeeper, Vanderbilt University,  
Nashville, Tennessee*



**"As a Laborer, I feel that it is important for us to support candidates who share the same values and ideals of today's working families in America."**

**KEVIN PAIVA** *Local 151*

*Cambridge, Massachusetts, Lead Safety Officer*

**LIUNA!**

## **Fight for your country. Take the 3rd step:**

### **Get in the trenches.**

- Be a living symbol of LIUNA and building America by wearing LIUNA gear. You can order at [www.TheLiunaLook.org](http://www.TheLiunaLook.org).
- Contact your Local Union or District Council to find out how you can help.
- Join Mobile Action LiUNA! to get up-to-the-minute and urgent alerts by mobile text message. To join, text LIUNA08 to the mobile number 69866.
- Make sure you go to [www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org](http://www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org) to sign the Petition to Build America.
- Help make sure the men and women who Build America have the resources needed to fight for our country by voluntarily contributing at least 3 cents an hour to political efforts—\$1.25 a week in a 40 hour work week. Ask your Local Union how.

# A brief look at the stands of

	<b>BARACK OBAMA</b>	<b>JOHN McCAIN</b>
<b>JOBS AND THE ECONOMY</b>	<p><b>Create Jobs, Build America</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports creating jobs by investing in America's backbone: its basic infrastructure, its manufacturing base, and training for green collar jobs.</li> <li>• Supports the federal highway and transit program, which provides resources to states for road and bridge construction.</li> <li>• Voted for the largest investment in Illinois basics in history, improving schools, airports, bridges and highways.</li> <li>• Supports a tax cut for working families and repeal of the Bush tax breaks for the wealthy.</li> <li>• Wants to fix trade agreements to improve labor and environmental protections, and encourage more exports of U.S. goods.</li> <li>• For a universal mortgage tax credit, crackdown on subprime mortgage industry, and a fund to help homeowners stay in their homes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Same, Tired Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has repeatedly opposed investment to build America's roadways and dams, which would create 5 million good jobs.</li> <li>• Voted against family-supporting prevailing wages for green construction jobs.</li> <li>• Voted against the federal highway and transit bill SAFTEA-LU, which is the backbone of investment in our nation's highways, bridges and transit system.</li> <li>• Voted against the family-supporting Davis-Bacon Act at least 15 times and supported the creation of an underclass of workers called "helpers," who would be underpaid.</li> <li>• Wants to make the Bush tax breaks for the wealthy permanent.</li> <li>• Favors continuing the unfair trade policies of NAFTA and the Central American Free Trade Agreement.</li> </ul>
<b>YOUR RIGHTS</b>	<p><b>Strengthen Workers' Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports workers' rights to join a union and promises to sign the Employee Free Choice Act into law. The Act helps workers trying to organize with stronger penalties for employers who try to intimidate or coerce workers and allows workers to freely form a union if a majority sign-up.</li> <li>• Opposes recent NLRB rules stripping workers of their freedom to join a union.</li> <li>• Supports the right of workers to strike and bargain collectively.</li> <li>• Pledges to repeal Bush Administration's ban on Project Labor Agreements and allow federal contractors to use family-supporting PLAs.</li> <li>• Voted against privatization of federal jobs and against privatization of the Postal Service.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaken Workers' Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposes the Employee Free Choice Act and co-sponsored the Republican opposition bill which bans workers from forming a union by freely signing union cards.</li> <li>• Voted to disqualify 10 million workers from minimum wage, overtime and equal pay protections.</li> <li>• Voted against collective bargaining rights for federal employees.</li> <li>• Supports the Bush Administration's Executive Order banning family-supporting Project Labor Agreements on federal projects.</li> <li>• Voted in favor of privatization of federal employee jobs.</li> <li>• Voted to weaken rules governing state apprenticeship programs, opening the door for programs run by unscrupulous contractors.</li> </ul>

# the Presidential candidates.

	<b>BARACK OBAMA</b>	<b>JOHN McCAIN</b>
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>	<p><b>Health Care for All</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His plan provides health care for every American.</li> <li>• Would make available a new national health plan to all Americans, including the self-employed and small businesses, to buy affordable health coverage that is similar to the plan available to members of Congress.</li> <li>• Voted in favor of expanding the Children’s Health Insurance Program to cover more uninsured children.</li> <li>• Favors allowing Medicare to negotiate for fair drug prices.</li> </ul>	<p><b>“On Your Own” Health Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a vague plan relying on a “free-market” system of health care, which would actually raise taxes for workers with employer-paid health care, including thousands of LIUNA members.</li> <li>• Would force workers without employer-paid health care to get their own health care plans from insurance companies.</li> <li>• Voted against expanding the Children’s Health Insurance Program.</li> <li>• Opposed allowing Medicare to negotiate for fair drug prices.</li> </ul>
<b>RETIREMENT SECURITY</b>	<p><b>Strengthen the Social Safety Net</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposes privatizing Social Security.</li> <li>• Supports workplace pension guarantees and the disclosure of company pension plan investments.</li> <li>• Rejects deep cuts of benefits in any Social Security plan.</li> <li>• Supports reforming bankruptcy laws to protect workers and retirees when employers go bankrupt.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaken Workers’ Safety Net</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favors privatizing Social Security.</li> <li>• Voted to siphon money from the Social Security fund to offset a deficit from tax breaks for the wealthy.</li> <li>• Voted against strengthening Medicare and expanding coverage.</li> <li>• Supports shifting away from more secure employer-provided pension benefits towards worker-paid 401(k)s.</li> </ul>
<b>VETERANS ISSUES</b>	<p><b>Strong Support for Veterans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kept his word to support America’s homeless veterans by helping pass legislation in the Senate to provide affordable housing options and rehabilitation services for veterans.</li> <li>• Fought to ensure that injured veterans do not have to pay for their meals while receiving inpatient or outpatient services at military facilities.</li> <li>• Fought to add Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) to the list of post deployment physical and mental health screenings for soldiers returning home from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.</li> <li>• Is committed to reform that creates a 21st Century Department of Veterans’ Affairs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Just Lip Service for Veterans?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voted against a bill that would expand disability aid and benefits to Iraqi veterans, even though as a veteran he receives similar benefits.</li> <li>• Was one of only 13 Senators to vote against adequate funding for the Department of Veteran Affairs for medical services.</li> <li>• Voted against increasing veterans medical services funding by \$1.5 billion, which would be paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.</li> <li>• Opposed better healthcare for families of the National Guard and Reserves.</li> <li>• Voted to outsource jobs for workers at the Veterans Administration, many of whom are blue-collar veterans.</li> </ul>

## **Fight for your country.** **YOU can make a difference.**

Check the back cover of this booklet to find your personal webpage address. Visit your page to:

- Register to vote.
- Sign up to Take a Walk to Build America—our effort to elect a Build America president.
- Sign up for updates from LIUNA by email and text message.



**“We have to make sure that the next president represents working families.”**

**DONNA BANDEEN**

*Local 483, Waste Water Treatment Operator, Portland, Oregon*

## Be One in a Million: Sign the Petition to Build America

A generation ago America put a man on the moon—but today we can no longer be assured of crossing bridges safely or being safe from failing dams or levees. Sign the Petition to Build America to let elected officials know that taking care of the basics belongs at the top of our nation's agenda. Build America so America works!

## Take a Walk to Build America

Get off the sidelines and onto the frontlines by helping to elect a Build America president. You can make a difference on a Saturday afternoon by helping to elect Senator Barack Obama president.

## Personal Web Page

Visit your personal webpage now and get involved.



**"Like those before us, we must fight for our country. We must be the spark that lights the flame of a workers revolt to take back America for those who build America."**

**TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN**

*LUNA General President*

# LUNA!

905 16th Street NW | Washington, D.C. 20006