



KICKIN' BACK

FOR AND ABOUT ACTIVE RETIREES

FALL 2005

YOU MAY RETIRE FROM THE JOB, BUT YOU NEVER RETIRE FROM YOUR UNION

GROUNDBREAKING FOR SENIOR HOUSING IN CLEVELAND - WILLIAM W. WINPISINGER APARTMENTS



The IAM took part in a groundbreaking ceremony on August 25, 2005 for the rehabilitation of an office building in Shaker Heights, Ohio that will be converted into 42 units of safe and secure housing with support services for seniors. When the year-long renovation is completed, the property will be named for former IAM President William W. Winpisinger, who was dedicated to making sure that working families and seniors had safe and affordable housing.

IAM President Tom Buffenbarger and Retired IAM President George Kourpias, current President of the Alliance for Retired Americans, attended this event, as well as me, several IAM members and other invited dignitaries from the Ohio area.

FOLLOWING ARE MY REMARKS....

As a proud member of the Executive Board for the Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation (EHDOC), I have witnessed the contentment and delight of seniors who are able to live independently in their own homes. I have witnessed the caring and giving of the EHDOC providers. This is one of the reasons why I am so deeply grateful to be part of this dedication today.

I am also very honored to have been involved in naming this 42-unit residence for William W. Winpisinger, one of the most progressive, dynamic and innovative labor leaders of our time. Wimpy's leadership abilities were very apparent to everyone because of the various positions he occupied throughout his life.

But I would like to look at the more personal and emotional sides of this great man. Wimpy was a compassionate person who cared for and diligently worked to protect the social fiber of our society. He was truly the champion of workers, families and seniors and never forgot his own roots right here in his beloved Cleveland. I think he would be so pleased and intensely humbled to see his name on the future home of many seniors. This building will create the environment that seniors so critically need, and richly deserve.

At this moment, I really don't know who would be more proud - Wimpy for being honored with his name on this building - or me for being part of this great moment.

I want to thank you, Steve*, and EHDOC, so much for making this a reality.

*Steve Protulis, Executive Director of EHDOC

IN MEMORY OF...

WILLIAM H. LAYMAN

York, Maine - William H. "Bill" "Bigfoot" Layman, 77, died July 16, 2005, at his home.

Bill was a long-time activist in the Democratic Party and the labor movement, serving for 53 years as a negotiator and arbitrator for the IAM&AW representing IUD and Federal employees. He also was a strong supporter, long-time member of the IAM Retirees Department, and vice president and treasurer of the Maine Council of Senior Citizens. Charter member of the Alliance for Retired Americans.

"Bigfoot" was involved from the inception of this department. Ideas, designs, plans, suggestions, Bill was at the table offering his support. The Strategy Team of the IAM Retirees Department will miss you Bill.

SOCIAL SECURITY: THE TRUE STORY

Privatization—even partial privatization—would change the Social Security system from a social insurance program, which guarantees and inflation-proofs pension for a worker and spouse’s entire retirement lives, as well as a disability benefit and a benefit for survivors of workers who die prematurely, into an investment program for pensions—particularly jeopardizing disability and survivor benefits. Pension benefits would depend precariously on the ups and downs of the stock market, and also would be depleted by costly administrative and transition expenses paid for by current and future workers/taxpayers.

...Let’s look at the facts...

The Bush Administration and its privatization allies:

- The Alliance for Worker Retirement Security (AWRS, a front for the National Association of Manufacturers, which plans to round up about 40 business groups for lobbying in Washington),*
- The Coalition for the Modernization and Protection of America’s Social Security (COMPASS, targeting the public through media and mailings. AWRS and COMPASS, ostensibly separate groups, share executive director Derrick Max),*
- The Cato Institute
- The Heritage Foundation
- The Club for Growth
- The Free Enterprise Fund
- Americans for Tax Reform
- And, the entire Republican noise machine – are spending over \$50 million, blanketing the country with their propaganda.

Their message:

- Social Security faces a crisis **(IT DOESN’T)**
- Social Security is broken **(IT ISN’T)**
- Social Security won’t be there for young workers **(YES, IT WILL)**
- Social Security is a lousy investment **(FAR FROM IT)**

They are even conscripting civil servants at the Social Security Administration to peddle their scare propaganda** - a legally questionable use of taxpayers’ money to promote a political agenda.

Many of these groups are fiercely anti-government;

- they oppose the entire concept of Social Security because it’s a government program that has worked superbly for 70 years.

- Others stand to profit directly from privatization. Like the president, they pitch phony numbers alleging astronomical cost -- \$10.4 trillion - over an *infinite* horizon, a misleading figure, according to the American Academy of Actuaries***.

In contrast, Social Security actuaries have always calculated “just” 75 years in the future, the approximate lifetime of a baby born today. Of course, projections that far in the future are highly speculative based on assumptions about factors such as: economic growth, wage growth, longevity, immigration, and birth rates. The actuaries admit they can be very wrong. Economists tend to be a way off just estimating next year’s revenue and deficit.

What we know for certain is that Social Security has worked well for 70 years, paying all benefits on time. Periodically Congress has made adjustments, as necessary, and it should continue to do so.

FOOTNOTES

* AWRS and COMPASS now include such companies as *Boeing, Pfizer* and two of Pfizer’s lobbying fronts (60 Plus and United Seniors), *Fidelity, GE, The National Restaurant Assn., The Securities Industry Assn., the National Federation of Independent Business, Hewlett-Packard, UBS Financial Services (formerly Paine Webber) and the Financial Services Forum.*

• According to Heidi Przybyla, “Companies to Spend \$5 million to Back Bush on Social Security,” *Bloomberg News*, January 20, 2005, AWRS alone is spending \$5 million. Others have estimated that these groups will spend \$35 million on advertising and lobbying.

• Several businesses have reconsidered and have dropped out the coalition.

** Robert Pear, “Social Security Enlisted to push its own Revisions,” *The New York Times*, January 16, 2005.

*** Letter from the American Academy of Actuaries to the Trustees of the Social Security System, December 19, 2003.

If you add up all that Bush has said, he is the prime flip-flopper on Social Security. Having proposed his privatization scheme in order to get elected the first time, Bush shamelessly told the GOP convention—and the national television audience—that “President George W. Bush will keep the promise of Social Security. No changes, no way” (*Washington Post*, August 26, 2000)

Noting that people did not like the smell of privatization, he kept quiet during his first term. Then in his reelection campaign he repackaged his program as part of the “Ownership Society”, though he supplied no details. ...Whatever the name, it dismantles Social Security as we know it and adds some \$5 trillion to the out-of-sight debt he already had generated with his tax cuts for the wealthy.

Source: *Americans for Democratic Action: www.adaction.org*

2006 RETIREES CONFERENCE

November 14, 2006—November 16, 2006 at Bally's in Las Vegas

ROOM RATE: \$89+tax per night for single or double occupancy

Continental Breakfast on Wednesday and Thursday

Buffet Lunch on Wednesday and Banquet Thursday night

Other surprises

To help defray the cost of conference events, a registration fee of \$10 will be charged. If you are bringing a spouse or guest there is no additional registration fee.

A Call Letter and registration form will be mailed in the spring of next year.

...2006 will be significant for IAM seniors in North America to unite, network and continue gaining the strength and political leverage that we need for our voices to be heard. If you need additional information or have any questions, please call 1-800-961-4745

SPEAKING OUT

To the Times-Tribune

Editor:

Senator Rick Santorum is a classic case of a legislator being out of touch with reality. In a state that has been devastated with job losses, he has voted against Amtrak funding, which is a major job provider. He supports the Central American Free Trade Agreement, which, like NAFTA, will cost us thousands of jobs.

As a senator for the second largest state of retirees, he opposes strengthening Social Security and favors the risky, White House proposal for privatization. That's a financial affront to senior citizens.

He blames the citizens of Boston for the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. That's bizarre.

And in his new book, he opposes working women, claiming that "radical feminism" is the reason they want to work. What planet is Rick talking about? Most American women work because they need to supplement their family income. If Mr. Santorum supported legislation that saved jobs and increased wages and benefits, maybe American families could thrive on one family member's income. But the realities of high cost education and medical care during times of falling wages and benefits just doesn't make that a possibility.

Is there a family value any more important than a decent job with benefits? Is there a family value more important than knowing that, should illness or injury befall your family, you don't have to worry about going bankrupt? Mr. Santorum is out of touch. We should retire him and let him write fiction full time.

Robert J. Kalaski

Lakeville, Wayne County (*Pennsylvania*)

"You Got to Listen to All of Us"

Brother Frank D'Erasmus's reflections of the 1930's. A Retired member from IAM Local 1894...

...When I was just a young boy living in the Bronx, I accompanied my parents to a parade and demonstration in New York City (Broadway, 5th Avenue and Times Square area). Veterans from World War 1, the American Legion and Veterans for Foreign Wars came from all parts of the country to demonstrate with one common goal in mind.

The Veterans marched for 17 hours continuously with their families and children shouting **"You Got To Listen To All Of Us"**. Their mantra went on for hours and hours and you could tell that they were not going to stop until they were heard. The leaders of the government were made aware of the mantra and began to listen to the Veterans and their families. After the demonstration such programs were instituted: Social Security, Veterans Benefits, Right to Unionize and the 40-hour workweek. Programs such as NRA (National Recovery Act) and many other government acts for the people were reborn. From that day on in my young life I saw many changes and improvements taking place, and my father would explain them to me.

I believe this was a golden time in history when people all across America united for one cause—"the love of fellow workers". It seems to me there are people in government who are trying to destroy what our ancestors started years ago.

One of Many Good Americans and a Good Soldier,

Frank D'Erasmus

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Retirees Department**

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We are on the web:
goiam.org

Click [IAM Headquarters](#)
Click on [Departments](#)
Scroll down to [Community
Services/Retirees](#) and
click

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TO ALL LODGE RECORDING SECRETARIES

I am writing to you about members who have recently retired or are nearing retirement and the importance of IAM retirees maintaining their membership in our union. We have a saying in the Machinists Union, and it goes like this, "You may retire from your job, but you never retire from your union". Today we are stressing the importance of lifelong unionism. It is in the best interest of both our working members and our retired members that we keep our retirees active in our union. We all can be a tremendous help to each other and, as you know, there is strength in numbers.

In this regard, we have made it reasonable and easy for a retiree

LIFELONG UNIONISM

to maintain lifelong membership in the Machinists Union. I refer you to Article H, Section 1 of the IAM Constitution, which starts on page 105 and reads, in part:

"Members who have retired from active employment, either with or without pension, may be issued a retirement card at a cost of \$10 at the time of retirement. Such retirement card shall cover all succeeding years..."

The importance of this is that as long as a Machinists retiree maintains his/her membership in the union, it enables us to communicate with that member and enroll that member in the Alliance for Retired Americans without any cost to the retired member.

Being an IAM retired member and a member of the Alliance for Retired Americans does not cost; it pays.

I am asking that your lodge set up and institute a program to ensure that every retiree has this opportunity to maintain the membership in our union.

Some lodges feel that it is so important to keep retirees as members that the lodge pays for the \$10 retirement card for the retiring member.

Thanks to you, our IAM Retirees structure has grown and is an absolute success.

In solidarity,



PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM

A special program has been developed in alliance with the Pequot Pharmaceutical Network (PRxN) through a Mail Service Prescription drug discount program exclusively for IAM&AW members and their families. You and your family may be able to realize significant savings. Both brand name and generic products, as well as diabetic supplies, are available. There is no fee to join, and no monthly premium or fee. **Call PRxN at 1-800-342-5779** for any questions about the program, cost of specific medications, or to enroll over the phone by giving your name, address, phone number and date of birth. Please be assured that PRxN is HIPAA compliant and protects your privacy. **Brochures are available from the IAM Community Services Department (301) 967-3433.**

DO YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR NEED TO REMOVE A NAME FROM OUR MAILING LIST?

Call our 800 number: 1-800-961-4745

If the mailing label has a number above the name, include that number in your message.

For change of address:

- Spell your name
- State your old address
- State your new address and your phone number.

To remove someone from the mailing list:

- Spell the person's name
- State the address where the mailing was sent
- Please leave your name and phone number

Attachment: Retirement Security