

Operating Engineers #701 re-elects slate of officers

Members of Gladstone-headquartered Operating Engineers Local 701 returned incumbents to all union offices when mail ballots were counted Aug. 2.

Business manager Mark Holliday ran unopposed for re-election, after a challenger was found not qualified.

President Jim Anderson, who also works on staff as an organizer, fended off a challenge from John Groffy.

Treasurer Nelda Wilson, also on staff as assistant business manager, outpolled challenger Robin Wicklander.

All other candidates ran unopposed and were declared elected: Kevin Miller, vice president; Stephen Bradley, recording corresponding secretary; Nolan David Carter, conductor; Melvin "Butch" Sarina, guard; Michael Thun, District I rep; Harold



MARK HOLLIDAY

Chevrier, District II rep; and Kenneth Humbert, Frank Botts and Mark Schnetzky, auditors.

The officers will be installed Sept. 7. All terms are for three years.

Illinois enacts law to stop use of independent contractor scam

CHICAGO (PAI) — In what construction union leaders and state officials say could be a precedent for the entire country, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (D) signed legislation Aug. 6 outlawing construction industry use of the "independent contractor."

The Illinois law declares a construction worker — or any other worker — is an employee covered by labor law unless the worker is "free from employer control," "providing a service outside the usual course of business" for the employer and is "engaged in an independently established trade."

Hundreds of contractors misclassify workers as independent contractors to avoid paying workers' compensation and employment taxes, such as Social Security, and dodge other labor laws. These unscrupulous contractors can submit low bids for construction work, leaving bonafide contractors on an unlevel playing field.

Right now, thousands of construction workers, including one of every

12 in Illinois, are illegally declared independent contractors.

Ohio's statewide body that oversees school construction recently declared that all contracts under their control must be with contractors that do not misclassify their workers. Ohio carries out \$2 billion worth of school construction yearly.

The two-and-a-half-year fight to enact the law had to overcome strong opposition from Republicans, nonunion contractors and trucking associations, said State Senate Majority Leader Debbie Halverson (D).

The trucking group was particularly concerned because they feared their thousands of owner-drivers, now called "independent contractors," could suddenly be named workers. That has been a key issue between the Teamsters and the Port of Los Angeles-Long Beach, the nation's largest port.

Gov. Blagojevich and national AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said the new Illinois law could be a model for the entire country.



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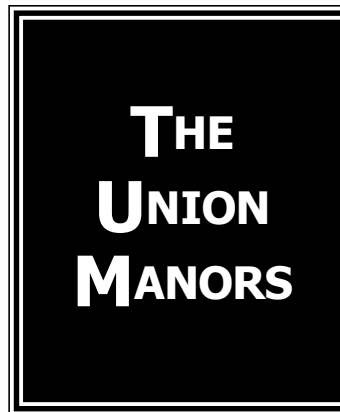
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On behalf of all Teamster members and our affiliated Local Unions, we are proud and committed to being America's strongest Union.