

InRegister

The Newsletter of the
Amalgamated Lithographers of America

GCC/IBT Local One-L
Winter 2005



STRIKERS VICTORIOUS

Health Benefits Saved on the Strike Line.

It took solidarity, leadership, patience and determination. The pay-off came on the evening of Sunday, October 30th, when members working in Metropolitan Lithographers Association (MLA) shops unanimously ratified a new master contract. The new agreement saves Sickness and Accident benefits at no additional cost to members, preserves retiree health benefits and includes raises with no reductions in manning.

Nearly 500 Local One-L members working at eight MLA shops will directly benefit from the new contract. Another 400 members working at independent shops can expect similar agreements in the months ahead which will maintain our local union's high contract standards.

Members Do Their Part and Demand Same.

In the past few years, the skyrocketing costs of healthcare have negatively impacted funds across the country. Local One-L's Sickness and Accident fund is no exception. We took action last year to stabilize the fund and ensure that it provides members with health coverage far into the future. To close a *seven million dollar* yearly deficit, the union agreed to change providers and pay more out-of-pocket expenses. These actions made up half the shortfall (3.5 million dollars) at no additional costs to the bosses.

Having made the sacrifices with the belief that employers would agree to make up most of the other half of the S&A deficit in 2005 contract negotiations, members looked forward to a fair

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Members of GCC/IBT Local One-L
Amalgamated Lithographers of America
113 University Place; New York, NY 10003
Website: www.litho.org Email: ala@litho.org

Patrick LoPresti, *President*
Anthony Caifano, *Secretary-Treasurer*
Gene Kreis, *First Vice President*
Tony Scotto, *Vice President*
Anthony Paretti, *Vice President*
Dan Brush, *Vice President*

Questions or comments should be directed to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Winter 2005 Retirees

Nicholas Evangelista	Paginator
James Cafone	Operator
John Tyrrell	Pressman
Robert Able	Pressman
Ernest Manigo	Pressman
Robert Manfra	Pressman
Salvatore Gatto	Pressman
Carl Phillip	Press Tender
Thomas Ciafardoni	Pressman
Ferdinand Alongi	Pressman
Joel Barkan	Stripper
Harvey Handman	Pressman
Richard Gonnelli	Pressman
Peter D'Amelio	Pressman
Gary Golod	Stripper
Joseph Schiralli	General Worker
Anthony Rotoli, Jr	Stripper
Daniel Colletti	Operator
Peter Kelleher	Stripper
Thomas Armondo	Stripper
George Timoshok	Operator
John Adamo	Operator
Arto Sevajian	Stripper

Strikers Victorious cont. from pg.1

agreement. However, from the start the employers showed they had no intention of contributing more money to the S&A fund. Instead they attempted to have members pay even more, while proposing the elimination of health benefits for retirees aged 62-65 as well as laid off members, and getting rid of the union's training and unemployment funds.

No Givebacks! No Way!

After numerous meetings between the Association and the Union's negotiation committee, it was clear that the employers had dug in their heels. In addition to asking members to foot the entire cost of the funds, they sought to take away a wage increase won in the last contract, eliminate a holiday and take away manning guarantees. While the bosses cried poverty; presses were running at full capacity. There was no recognition that the record sales at the shops was directly linked to the dedication and skills of the Local One union workforce. Angry at the lack of respect; the union fought back. Hundreds of members signed petitions demanding "MLA-Your turn to pay, our health plan is here to stay." Still the MLA refused to budge.

Solidarity and a Plan.

With just a few weeks left before the expiration of the MLA contract on June 30th, Local One-L members unanimously voted to authorize a strike if necessary, and they did so not once, but twice. First only members working at MLA shops voted and then, in an act of solidarity, the entire membership of Local One-L voted yes. Both our members and the employers knew that this was no idle threat.

The union officers and delegates spent the next two months preparing for a successful strike,



Special Negotiations Update meeting where members unanimously authorized a strike if necessary

as they had in 1997. Labor leaders throughout the Tri-State area were contacted, Local One-L members were briefed and the union's negotiating committee planned strategic work actions. By mid-October, after a cooling off period and more than a dozen unsuccessful bargaining sessions, it was clear that in order to win a fair contract it would be necessary to call a strike.

On October 12th, President LoPresti and the Local One-L Officers visited members on each shift at four key shops. Morale was high and members reaffirmed that they were ready to take the necessary steps. The 84 members at Pictorial Offset in Carlstadt, NJ would be the first to go on strike.



The strike begins in Carlstadt, N.J. when the members set up the first picket line at Pictorial Offset

Sticking with the Union.

At 6 A.M. on October 17th, workers hit the picket line at Pictorial whose owner, Gary Samuels, was the chair of the MLA's Employer Committee. They were joined by Local One-L members, working at nearby shops and other area labor leaders and union members in their round-the-clock picket. Teamsters Joint Council 73 brought out their mobile strike center, and sent the message that workers would remain on strike until a fair contract was reached. When the Joint Council's Motor Home was needed elsewhere the Local rented a 34 foot R.V. for the duration of the strike.

The next target was Sandy Alexander, in nearby Clifton. On October 24th, just days before a big order was coming in, a picket line was formed by the 72 members working at that shop. Other members, union leaders and union staff also joined them. Among the retired and active union members walking the picket line were Teamsters, Sheet Metal Workers, Pipe Fitters and Health Care Professionals to name just a few. A second Motor



Members at Sandy Alexander are pulled out on strike one week after the Pictorial line was put into action.

Home was rented and driven up from Branchburg, N.J. to help hold the line and maintain the high morale at Sandy Alexander.

It was the third strike line that finally knocked out the MLA. The final target was Litho Art whose workers went on strike on October 25th. Those 40 members walked the picket line on Varick Street in Lower Manhattan. Our strike line stretched around the corner until the police penned us all in with barricades.

That Thursday our morale was lifted by supporters who staged a huge rally along with our members in front of the Pictorial Offset plant. The rally was originally scheduled for Tuesday but had to be pushed back due to hurricane force winds and rain. Even with that last minute rescheduling the turnout was most impressive.

Once again, Joint Council 73 came through for us in a big way. This time they brought the Mobile Command Center Motor Home in addition to their newly painted fifty three foot Teamsters Tractor-Trailer. It was impossible to miss us with that massive presence on the street. Also, the amount of top labor leaders that spoke on our



Litho Art sets up their picket line in front of 175 Varick Street in downtown Manhattan



Pictorial apprentice operator Izzy Blass fires up the barbecue grill on the bed of his pickup truck.

behalf in support of the strikers sent a powerful message that we were here to stay until justice prevailed. Two days later, when President LoPresti convinced the employers to withdraw all concessions and double their medical contributions, all three strike lines were taken down.

Throughout this trying ordeal the members stood tall. Not a single union worker crossed the picket line, effectively shutting down operations at each shop. One MLA employer tried to provoke non-striking members by illegally reducing their pay—but the members ignored the bosses and stuck to the union’s strategic plan. In the first week alone, non-striking members donated almost \$3,500 from their own pockets to support their striking Brothers and Sisters. Local One-L members proved that you win when you stick together.

Standing Up for All Members.

The Local One-L Negotiating Committee was steadfast in rejecting any proposals that would have unfairly impacted any one group of workers.



All three strike lines were maintained 24 four hours a day 7 days a week

Building a strong union requires that every worker, whether they are future members, retirees or those currently working, be respected and protected.

The MLA contract provides for all members and for the future of the union. No worker will pay more for health coverage, regardless of when they were hired and unemployed and retired members will keep their coverage. In order for the employers to fully fund their share of the health benefits, the union agreed to take over their payments to the training and unemployment funds. This will ensure that our training and unemployment programs are available to members when they need them, now and far into the future.



President LoPresti gives a rousing speech to the members and thanks the areas labor leaders for their strong showing of support

In addition to preserving current manning requirements, the MLA contract creates a new job title, General Floor Helper, an entry-level position that will give work to young people. With the help of the Local One-L training, they can then go on to rewarding careers in the industry, as well as life long union membership.

In closing we can only repeat our slogan which was heard on the strike lines every day—

UNITY
EQUALS
VICTORY

The President's Letter



UNITY
AND
DIGNITY
PREVAIL
AGAIN

With the ratification of the MLA Master Contract, Local One-L members showed our employers that solidarity remains our most potent weapon. The dedication and unity that members demonstrated on our strike lines and at our union meetings guaranteed a strong agreement with the Metropolitan Lithographers Association. Over the next few months we will seek similar agreements from independent shops outside the association.

Union victories like ours are too rare today. While American workers are under siege by the “*Walmartization*” of the American economy, skyrocketing healthcare costs, and attacks on pensions, Local One members continue to earn the fair wages, benefits and working conditions that their skills rightfully deserve and that our union has fought to win for over a century.

The members of our union and the support we received from the labor community give me faith in our future for Local One as well as the entire labor movement. While the past year has been difficult and challenging to me both personally and as a labor leader, I drew strength and comfort from the members, staff and officers of this great union. You have provided me with hope and inspiration, and for that I will always be thankful.

We enter the New Year in a position of strength, ready to build on our great contract victory. In addition to keeping a close watch on our Pensions and Sickness and Accident Benefit Funds, it is essential that we strengthen our union through growth. Our only choice is to raise the standards for other workers in the printing industry. If not, we will allow our own standards to be weakened by non-union competition and outsourcing.

It's not much of a choice. Every worker deserves a strong union contract and the dignity and respect that come with union membership. By organizing new members and ensuring that we have the ability to learn new technologies and improve our skills through our training facility, we will keep our union strong for current members as well as for the next generation.

Hoping you and your family had a Joyous Holiday and looking forward to working with you to build an ever stronger union in 2006.

Fraternally,

Patrick LoPresti
President

In Memorium

06208	George Schlauch	Pressman	11-21-04	1P	Frank Reynolds	Photoengraver	07-03-05
00525	William Rifkin	Platemaker	11-23-04	06195	Fred Spina	Pressman	07-05-05
09734	Henry Hassan	Paper Handler	12-01-04	07648	Louis George	Platemaker	07-24-05
15155	Lucy Puglisi	Finishing Dept.	12-06-04	1P	Peter Ciotti	Photoengraver	07-30-05
04829	Hubert Doerr	Operator	12-09-04	09039	Joseph Smith	Pressman	07-31-05
1P	Fred Schuster	Photoengraver	12-09-04	07067	Frank Paul	Pressman	08-07-05
1P	Charles Tatarian	Photoengraver	12-10-04	09495	Charles Walters	Stripper	08-12-05
01308	Gilbert Guilery	Dot Etcher	12-12-04	05743	Helen Donadio	General Worker	08-13-05
08074	Solomon Cohen	Stripper	12-15-04	12706	Thomas Leonard	Platemaker	08-15-05
1P	John Spina	Photoengraver	12-15-04	07643	Louis Bernstein	Operator	08-18-05
11889	Alfonso Duarte	Pressman	12-30-04	08709	Raymond Wujick, Jr.	Pressman	08-21-05
02272	Ralph Gerardis	Dot Etcher	01-01-05	07081	Charles Siegel	General Worker	08-24-05
1P	Augustin Powers	Photoengraver	01-03-05	06288	Robert Heaslip	Platemaker	08-24-05
08863	Harry Monkarsch	Photographer	01-07-05	10631	Joseph Gibson	Operator	08-25-05
1P	Frank DiDio	Photoengraver	01-07-05	40001	Arthur McCullough	LI Vice President	03-31-05
1P	Harry Melidonian	Photoengraver	01-08-05	03472	Charles Ketigan	Pressman	07-22-05
1P	Joseph Carey	Photoengraver	01-08-05	1P	Vartan Sarkisian	Photoengraver	08-22-05
11143	Anthony Piazza	Pressman	01-11-05	1P	Terrence O'Brien	Photoengraver	08-23-05
1P	John Ozanian	Photoengraver	04-12-05	1P	Edward Barberino	Photoengraver	09-01-05
12172	Joseph Amato	Paper Handler	04-20-05	10453	Francesco Stella	General Worker	09-04-05
1P	Hugh Yeldejian	Photoengraver	04-24-05	12858	Joseph Blankenship	Pressman	09-05-05
1P	Robert Levy	Photoengraver	04-29-05	17943	Robert Sanford, Jr.	General Worker	09-09-05
1P	Allen Schwartz	Photoengraver	04-29-05	01491	Robert Goodman	Photoengraver	09-20-05
1P	William Parker	Photoengraver	05-30-05	03382	John DeFranco	Pressman	09-22-05
09574	Arthur Glueckert	Pressman	05-10-05	11304	Melvin Weinerman	Stripper	09-25-05
14858	Frank Christiano	General Worker	05-18-05	10984	Irvin Karpel	Stripper	09-26-05
1P	Carl Ernst	Photoengraver	05-27-05	12384	William Engelhardt	Stripper	09-28-05
1P	James Reece	Photoengraver	06-03-05	05301	Alfred DiFrancesco	Pressman	10-04-05
1P	William Scheimeister	Photoengraver	06-03-05	S0145	Harry Carmosin	Local One Staff	10-12-05
1P	Charles Kleinert	Photoengraver	06-08-05	06444	Samuel Tolchin	Pressman	10-17-05
1P	John Weir	Photoengraver	06-09-05	17698	John Donigan	Photographer	09-12-05
14010	Robert Gloddy	Stripper	06-10-05	11839	Luigi DiGiacomo	General Worker	10-15-05
15969	Louis Basso	Operator	06-15-05	03477	Henry Schepiga	Stripper	10-18-05
03310	Alfred Roeck	Stripper	06-15-05	09169	Leonard Mazza	Operator	10-21-05
11222	Mary Desilva	General Worker	06-18-05	11761	Frank Selvaggi	Operator	10-26-05
09280	Claude Sanders	Pressman	06-22-05	09997	Ettore Zain	Operator	10-27-05
11772	Robert Carroll	Platemaker	06-22-05	10358	Marvin Marks	Photographer	10-30-05
08830	Donald Landkammer	Pressman	06-27-05	10416	Raymond Lederle	Photographer	11-02-05
				05424	Joseph Delguidice	Stripper	11-09-05

Union Meetings for 2006

Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

Tuesday, November 28, 2006