



# ...from the Hall

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A newsletter by and for the members of *PACE* Local 8-237  
Tacoma, Washington

[www.local8-0237.com](http://www.local8-0237.com)

## The President's Corner

—by Chuck Whitt

I woke up the morning of November 3<sup>rd</sup> appalled at what had just happened – the chickens had voted for Colonel Sanders.

I had just spent the last couple of months working to get our union members to fire President Bush for his poor work performance, only to be let down by my brothers and sisters in Ohio. While Washington and Oregon union households, my areas of responsibility, voted overwhelmingly to fire Bush, my Ohio brethren didn't.

What were they thinking!?

Were they thinking that our unions will be stronger after another four years of Bush? Or were they thinking that after four years of rising medical costs, escalating deficits, increased threats of terrorism, and closing manufacturing plants, that Bush would suddenly come to grips on what he's doing to the struggling working class with his policies? If so, November 3<sup>rd</sup> should have been an eye-opener for them. For on that date, Bush declared under his self-described "mandate" that he would work to eliminate overtime pay and the forty hour work week, undermine Social Security, negotiate free trade agreements to escalate the decline of American manufacturing, make \$5000 medical deductibles the norm, and eviscerate the labor movement in America. But hey, at least we won't have any of those pesky gay marriages.

But what's done is done. At least while I type this, America is still a democracy. That means we work within the system to try and control the damage that is sure to come. So we'll ask our members to stay involved, fight back when these proposals come down the line and work together as a union is supposed to do to protect our interests. Stay tuned... the next few years are bound to be real interesting.

I came back to work in the mill on November 6<sup>th</sup>, day shift in the recaust department. Since I had left on July 12<sup>th</sup>, the position of kiln operator had been eliminated and the recaust operator was moved from upstairs to down in from of the kilns. The rate of pay was increased by \$1/hour per hour in the elimination of the \$21/hour lime kiln job. The local is grieving the implemented wage, arguing that the duties of the job far surpass "just" a \$1/hour wage adjustment. That grievance is currently moving through the process.

The Company had held a class to train the former kiln operators as recaust operators, as well as a some

new blood to fill in as reliefs. So when I came back to work, I was immediately put in the position of training someone in a new way of running things (talk about the blind leading the blind!). This has kept an extra helper available in the kiln for most of the time, therefore masking whether the job can regularly be done by one person. When that extra person leaves, we'll watch carefully that the job elimination has not in fact become a transfer of work outside the bargaining unit (i.e., that the foreman picks up the slack where an extra union employee would have helped). That would be a violation of the labor agreement as well as the negotiated settlement of the department change. Such violations will be dealt with severely when identified.

Elections are coming up during the second week of December. This will be a full slate of officers as occurs every two years. There are many contested elections this year, so be sure to check out the article on who's running and when and where the vote will take place later in this newsletter.

We had planned on voting on 12 hour shifts at the same time, in order to save the local some money on election costs, but that vote have been delayed by a motion on the floor at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> union meeting.

When we negotiated the contract last year, we negotiated a letter of agreement to allow us to try a 12 hour shift schedule—first in the paper mill, then a year later in the pulp mill and boilers.

That agreement stipulated that 70% of eligible employees agree to the shift schedule change. Eligible was defined by the agreement as employees who spend 50% of their on shift. This means day workers do not vote.

This was the end result of three days of discussion on this subject in negotiations last year. Both us and the Company had different expectations when the negotiations began on 12 hour shifts. But as you would expect in negotiations, we both came off our original positions. This agreement was the result.

The letter of understanding was presented to the membership and approved by majority vote, just as the rest of the agreement was.

At a recent union meeting, a motion was made to change the agreement to allow everyone to vote. I ruled that motion out of order, as you can not change

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Vice Presidents Corner

— by Bob Jones

### Yassar Arafat: One man's opinion

You're probably wondering why article such as this should appear in our Union News Letter? I believe as Americans first, Union and non- Union members second, that we stay informed. If we don't learn from history, than history will re-visit us in the future.

The news media will not tell you Yassar Arafat's real legacy, of terrorism, murder and blackmail. And why so many Western leaders, as well as like-minded soul mates in the UN and even the United States, have so resolutely allied themselves with Arafat and his terrorist ways is a mystery to me. Maybe I am the one out of touch? Now that the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is dead, no one it speaking the truth about Arafat, and his legacy Terrorist activities.

The following information you will not see on TV:

\*Born Mohammed Yassar Abdul-Ra'ouf Qudwa Al-Husseini in Jerusalem Aug. 29, 1929, he moved on to attend King Fuad University in Egypt, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Engineering in 1951.

\*In 1958 Arafat left Egypt and moved to Kuwait, where he worked as an engineer. During this period, he met with Khalil El-Wazir (a.k.a. Abu Jihad; 1935-1988), where the two founded "Al-Fatah," or the Palestine National Liberation Movement, a terrorist organization dedicated to the eradication of Israel. Hitler would have loved Arafat.

\*To shore up support for this new movement, Arafat returned to "Palestine," where he met with Palestinian activists. There, he eventually founded the Fatah Movement, formally the PLO, in 1965.

\*After emerging as leader of the PLO around 1969, the group's first notable act of terrorism was to kidnap eleven Israeli athletes at the Olympic games in Munich, Germany, in 1972. When that act of terrorism was all over, all eleven Israelis were killed, along with five of the Palestinian terrorists and a pair of German police officers.

\*Throughout the 1970s, a number of terrorist organizations associated with the PLO carried out attacks around the world. From Israel to Jordan, Lebanon to Germany, the Sudan to Greece, the attacks and the murders by PLO-connected factions continued.

\*Do not forget when the Al-Fatah faction members kidnapped (March 2, 1973) and murdered

Cleo A. Noel, Jr., U.S. ambassador to Sudan, and George C. Moore, also a U.S. diplomat, at the American Embassy in Khartoum. I think Arafat drew first blood with the USA at that point.

\*Arafat served as the actual commander of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, which has taken a leading role in shooting and bombing attacks against Israel. \*By the mid-1970s, under international pressure, the PLO claimed it would restrict attacks to only Israel and the occupied territories. Boy, isn't that nice of them! Arafat decided he would cut everyone a brake, but Israel.

\*A year after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Israel defeated the combined armies of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and more than a half-dozen other Arab nations, Arafat managed to weasel his way into an appearance at the United Nations, pistol strapped to his hip. And, just 14 months later, a representative of the PLO was given a non-voting observer status in a meeting of the U.N. Security Council. That's the good old UN for you! Don't hurt us and you will be rewarded.

\*By the early 1980s, Lebanon was embroiled in another Arafat orchestrated civil war. One of Arafat's lifetime goals was the creation of a Palestinian state. Interestingly, Jordan's population is estimated to be anywhere from 60 percent to 80 percent Palestinian, which would have represented the best chance so far of Arafat being able to govern a "Palestinian state. However, when Arafat was offered a deal to co-rule Lebanon, he turned it down.

\*Arafat authorized attacks by terror groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Islamic Jihad remember was responsible for the bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon in the early 1980s, which killed a number of U.S. Marines, CIA operatives and other U.S. officials.

\*Arafat provided funding for countless Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel (as did Saddam Hussein), resulting in, as one Israeli writer put it, Arafat's becoming "a mass murderer of Jews." Now that he is dead, he's being treated like a king. What's the difference between Hitler killing Jews and Arafat?

\*A PLO faction hijacked the Achille Lauro, an Italian passenger liner, Oct. 7, 1985. Before surrendering, they killed wheelchair-bound Jewish-American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, and dumped his body overboard. The man who commanded the operation, Mohammad Abbas, was eventually captured by U.S. military forces in Iraq. He died in U.S. custody March 4, 2004.

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

\*In 1988, perhaps sensing the need for a change in tactics, Arafat did something unexpected. Arafat publicly renounced terrorism as a means to achieving a Palestinian state. Was this the end of the reign of terror? Hardly. Arafat's proclamation was little more than a public relations stunt.

Terrorism and murder continued, especially against Israelis. In most cases, these attacks could be traced back to Arafat and his various militant PLO factions.

\*The fight against Israel was more important to Arafat. With the current "intifada" being waged against the Jewish state, which was never renounced by Arafat himself, is proof of his unwillingness to observe agreements which, could have led to peace and saved countless lives.

\*The U.S. government formally considered the PLO, under Arafat, a terrorist group, but that changed in September 1993 under President Clinton. Then, Arafat, in letters to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst committed the PLO to cease all violence and terrorism. On Sept. 13, 1993, a Declaration of Principles between Israelis and Palestinians was signed, supposedly ending violence between the two. The killing rages on today.

\*Arafat scored a legitimization coup de grace in 1994, being named as a co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. In that instance, one of the prize committee's three members, Kare Kristiansen, so objected to the honor being given to the PLO leader, whom he described as "too tainted by violence, terror and torture," that he quit in protest, the first such incidence of a

board member resigning in protest of an award.

\*Arafat's terrorism was legitimized when, astonishingly, he was invited to visit the White House for "peace talks" by President Clinton on several occasions. Clinton, to his credit, put a lot of effort into a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, but eventually had his efforts thrown back in his face when, following a November 2000 meeting at the White House, Arafat angrily denounced Israel.

\*As late as September 2003, Israeli intelligence said orders for terrorist attacks were still emanating from Arafat's compound in Ramallah. So, Yassar Arafat had a problem with Israel. He wanted to destroy the only Jewish state in the world. He could have been a diplomat like Gondie and maybe one day have his Palestine and learn to get along with Israel. He had several chances. However, hate is a strong motivational force and Arafat decided to be a terrorist instead. I will venture to call Yassar Arafat the father of modern terrorism. There is absolutely no difference between Arafat and the other terrorist the United States of America have been fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq

today.

It seems everyone bent over backwards to appease Yassar Arafat. He died a very rich man with money from the UN, Nobel Prize and his supporters like Saddam Hussein. Didn't Arafat even get to sleep in the Lincoln room in the White House? Regardless, Yassar Arafat made out big, but what about Yassar Arafat's people he supposedly served? Why can't the news media see that Yassar Arafat's Palestinian people have nothing but a third world legacy of war and poverty and no state to call their own because of his terrorist ways. Yassar Arafat should not be praised by the media, but denounced for what he was, a cold blooded killer who gave nothing and took all he could for himself. Just a thought, I wonder if Yassar Arafat realized in the end that he could not take any of his worldly power or riches to where he was going.

President Bush announced to the press yesterday, "God bless Yassar Arafat."

I voted for President Bush and I try to understand where he is coming from, but I say God Bless all the people Yassar Arafat had killed and all the people who will continue to die as long as the News media continues to be irresponsible in their reporting of the facts.

— Bob Jones

(Continued from page 1)

in a union meeting was you agreed to in negotiation. But I did entertain a motion to not ask to work 12 hours shifts unless the language is changed to allow everyone to vote. This seemed to be in agreement with the letter of understanding, so it was allowed. The motion was seconded and carried on a majority voice vote.

I'm not sure that motion was correct either, as I reflect upon the agreement. It seems as though the vote itself is the method for asking the Company for twelves. Nonetheless, there was no harm in postponing the vote. We had scheduled the 12 hour shift vote to coincide with officer elections this month in order to economize our elections. We can reschedule it in pretty short order, and should, as this is an issue we need to resolve.

Twelve hour shifts have been hanging over this mill for quite some time. We've been back and forth on this issue, sometimes in less than a civil manner. This is our opportunity to put it to rest, once and for all. We shouldn't pass it up.

— Chuck Whitt



# Local Elections

December 9th and 10th, 2004

Time Alley

Dec. 9 — 6:30am - 8:30am

— 2:30pm - 4:15pm

Dec. 10— 7:00am - 8:15am

The Candidates (in the order they were nominated):

President: Chuck Whitt  
Terry Harper  
Mark Konopik

Vice President: Bob Jones  
John Clough

Treasurer: Larry Coleman  
Larry Brehm

Financial Secretary: Chuck Gierke

Recording Secretary: Robert Summers

Standing Committee: Terry Harper  
John Clough

Trustees: Fred White

Attendance Clerk: Robert Summers  
(vote for two) Paul Iha  
John Chishom

The vote on 12 hour shifts has been postponed.  
(See the President's Corner for more information)