

THE LECET LETTER

Ohio Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust

The "Highway Guy" Points the Way to Construction Careers

In 2006 Ohio LECET formed an important partnership with the Ohio Contractors Association to create a Mobile Classroom to travel across Ohio to promote the Highway Construction Industry and talk about how to enter our trade through the Laborers' Heavy-Highway Apprenticeship program.

The idea's originator, Dave Finley, is the operator and manager of the truck and has taken on the persona of the "Highway Guy," answering all kinds of questions about our industry posed by high school students, guidance counselors, legislators, county fair goers and career day participants young and old.

In conjunction with the Ohio Laborers' Statewide Apprentice Coordinator, John Hughes, and our main, as well as satellite Training Centers, the message of the Laborers and what the Union and a construction career offers long-



term, has become a part of the Industry's promotion and education. In addition, the Highway Guy promotes understanding about highway funding in Ohio, the importance of competitive bidding, the role of the gas tax, vehicle registration and driver license fees.

The Mobile Unit, put on the road in 2007, was created with distinctive branding to define the



Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust
Richard C. Murray, Director • 152 Dorchester Square
Suite 100 • Westerville, Ohio 43081 • 614-523-3800 office
614-523-3810 fax



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partnership with the Ohio Contractors Association, the Ohio Laborers and the Operating Engineers. The truck is a focal point of activity wherever it parks, and due to careful planning and preparation, what goes on inside the classroom is a huge success too.

Through the program's first nine months, the Highway Guy's contact record is exemplary: over 240 high school guidance counselors visited and career information distributed to over 3100 students at more than 75 schools. The Mobile Truck has been part of career days, festivals, fairs and parades.

In just a few short months, the demand for the Highway Guy is growing. Ohio LECET is accomplishing the mission of both educating the public and partnership with our contractors, and the Laborers are now on the radar screen of hundreds of high school students looking for a lifetime career in construction.

Ohio LECET's Fair Contracting Team Works to Level Playing Field for Laborers and Contractors

Ohio LECET'S six-member Fair Contracting Team works hard across Ohio to make sure contractors comply with the local, state, and federal prevailing wage laws meant to create a fair contracting environment across the state. "Our fair contracting team is a powerful weapon in the fight for fairness in public construction projects," said Laborers' District Council of Ohio Business Manager Ralph Cole.

Prevailing wage laws ensure workers on public construction projects are paid mandated, fair wages and benefits. In 2005, Ohio LECET built a team of five Laborers taken out of the field, trained them in contracting regulations, and dispatched them to check compliance with these laws. Using the latest information technology, team members visit work sites, pull and review

prevailing wage certified payrolls, spot violations, and report findings immediately to appropriate state and federal enforcement agencies. Team members also build relationships with public officials who write and enforce fair contracting statutes to win allies in our fight for fairness.

Our biggest win in 2007 was the Ashtabula River Project. Laborers' Local Union #245 and Business Manager Randall Bates, supported by the Fair Contracting Team, alleged violations of Ohio's Prevailing Wage Law on the \$50 million dollar project. This led to a fifteen month investigation by the Attorney General and Commerce Department that found **nineteen** sub-contractors not paying workers the prevailing wage.

Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann threatened to file suit against these contractors on behalf of the 117 employees not paid prevailing wages. This resulted in a settlement agreement to pay the workers \$452,855.51 in back wages. In addition, penalties totaling \$113,755.10 were also levied, for a grand total of \$566,610.61 these contractors will pay for violating the law.

The Fair Contracting program gives Laborers and their signatory contractors a fair shot at millions of dollars worth of public construction projects. In just over 18 months, Ohio LECET alerted state authorities to more than 150 prevailing wage violations in 2007, leading to investigations that have already yielded rulings of back pay and fines against offending contractors.



LECET Fair Contracting Staff, from left: Carmen Roach, Laborers' Local #265; Rich Murray, LECET Director, Laborers' Local #423; Mark Lynsky, Laborers' Local #423; Kevin Lewis, Laborers' Local #83; Steve Gould, Laborers' Local #530; Tom Underwood, Laborers' Local #894; Chad Leach, Laborers' Local #1216.

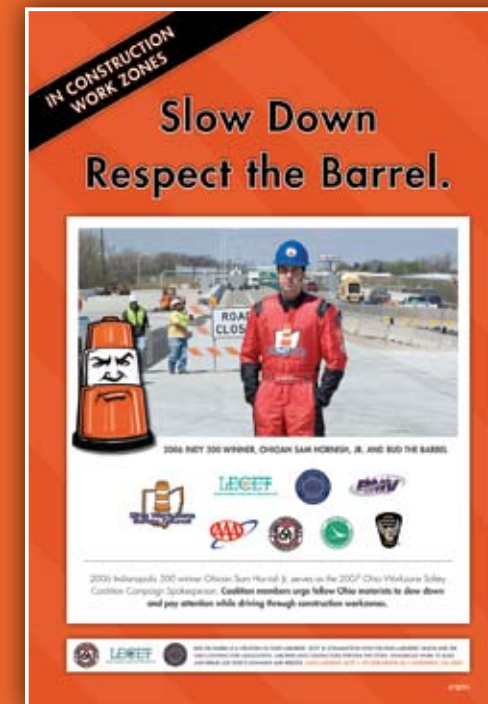
Work Zone Safety for 2007

Ohio LECET was once more the lead sponsor for the 2007 safety campaign by the Ohio Work Zone Safety Coalition.

IndyCar Champion Ohioan Sam Hornish Jr. returned as our spokesperson in an expanded campaign reaching every Ohio media market with a message to slow down in work zones.

Other coalition members include the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio AAA, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Ohio Contractors Association, and the Laborers' International Union of North America.

And Good Luck to Sam on his move to NASCAR!



ABOVE: Sam Hornish Jr. pictured on the bridge approach to the recently completed Veterans Skyway Bridge in Toledo.



ABOVE: Bud the Barrel is making friends, pictured here with Ohio Governor Ted Strickland at an Ohio Laborers' District Council Retreat held at Shawnee State Lodge in Portsmouth, Ohio.

About LECET

In 1995, the Laborers' District Council of Ohio and the Ohio Contractors Association laid the groundwork for Ohio LECET. The concept was one of cooperation — Laborers and Union Contractors working together to promote the highway construction industry and the role played by Union contractors and Union Laborers.

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