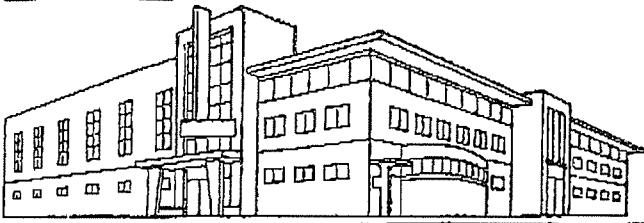


Affiliated with The United
Brotherhood of Carpenters
and Joiners of America

Carpenters' District Council of Greater Saint Louis and Vicinity



Carpenters' Building
1401 Hampton Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63139-3199
314-644-4800

January 6, 2010

Terry Nelson
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

TO: ALL SIGNATORY CONTRACTORS

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from GERALD T. FELDHAUS (Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the St. Louis Building and Construction Trades Council) to all of the General Presidents of the unions affiliated with the Building Trades, asking for their help in setting up a "national carpenters union" to thwart the innovative and creative efforts of our local Carpenters Union.

Several aspects of this letter are less than truthful. I would appreciate it if our contractors would respond to GERALD T. FELDHAUS'S letter, telling him your opinion of what you think is wrong with the construction industry in St. Louis.

I would also appreciate it if you would copy my General President at the address below.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

TERRY NELSON,
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Doug McCarron, General President
UBCJA
6801 Placid Ave.
Las Vegas, Nev. 89119

Gerald T. Feldhaus, EST
St. Louis Building Trades Council
2300 Hampton Ave., Suite B
St. Louis, Mo. 63139



Building and Construction Trades Council of St. Louis, AFL-CIO

2300 Hampton Ave., Suite B
Phone: (314) 647-0628

St. Louis, MO 63139
Fax: (314) 647-0631

AFFILIATED WITH THE
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION
TRADES DEPARTMENT
AFL-CIO.



GERALD T. FELDBAUM
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

MICHAEL MAHLER
President
JON BROWN
Vice President

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Boilermakers
Bricklayers
Cement Masons
Decorators and Display
Awning and Trim Workers
Electrical Workers
Elevator Construction
Glaziers
Heating Engineers
Insulators and Asbestos Workers
Iron Workers
Laborers
Painters
Plasterers
Plumbers and Pipefitters
United Union of Roofers,
Waterproofers, & Allied
Workers
Sheet Metal Workers—
Cabinets & Res.
Sheet Metal Workers—
Kitchen Equipment Shopmen
Sprinkler Fitters
Tearmeters
Terrazzo Finishers
Tile-Marble Setters & Finishers
Mosaic & Terrazzo Workers

December 3, 2009

Mark H. Ayers
President

Sean McGarvey
Secretary-Treasurer

Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO
815 16th Street, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Ayers, Secretary-Treasurer McGarvey:

We need your help, and we need it now! And not only in St. Louis, but
around the nation.

I am referring to the continued, and expanding efforts by the Carpenters' Union to want to WRECK the AFL-CIO building trades here in St. Louis and, with only a few exceptions, around the nation based on conversations I've had with my counterparts elsewhere.

But let me address the St. Louis situation, which is getting more serious, literally by the day. Here, the St. Louis Carpenters' District Council, which after their merger with Southern Illinois locals, has over 20,000 members and a large treasury, has:

- Unilaterally abrogated agreements with our various trades, agreements that have been in effect for decades and provided a working, harmonious relationship on jobsites;

- Created a electricians local with non-union contractors and has undercut the wages and conditions of our affiliate, IBEW Local 1. To date, they have eight non-union electrical firms signed up, offering them special conditions so that they can undercut costs and steal work from our IBEW affiliate;

- Has threatened other affiliates with the same approach: "Complain about our stealing your work and we'll start a local to compete with you, undercut your wages, and put you out of business." That is almost an exact quote!
- Has refused to sign Project Labor Agreements designed to keep a jobsite all union and protect everyone's jurisdiction. Interestingly enough, the carpenter signs PLAs in Southern Illinois but refuses to sign the exact same agreement here in St. Louis;
- As a result of the jobsite conflict the carpenter has created, the owners and our good union contractors are getting very anxious because of the growing jobsite jurisdictional disputes, which until this carpenter job theft had almost vanished from working relationships among our unions;
- Tragically because of this rising jurisdictional issue, the very existence of our PRIDE Labor-Management organization, now 37 years old and used as an example of how labor and management cooperation should work, is threatened because our good union contractors are caught in the middle. They can't do without carpenters and yet they face a jurisdictional conflict, so many who are lifelong union contractors are beginning to question whether or not they should end that relationship and just let the carpenter -- or other non-union firms -- do all the work. And owners, who are faced with difficult economic conditions today, are growing frustrated. They could well begin demanding that the contractors start using non-union firms, and then all hell will break loose!

St. Louis is a great union town. AFL-CIO unions do 85 percent of all commercial construction and 75 to 80 percent of homebuilding. It has been that way for decades; that is now all threatened because of the willingness of the carpenter to say "To hell with everyone I want all the work, regardless." Traditional and negotiated jurisdictions mean nothing to them anymore.

Unless the Building Trades Department and affiliated International Unions (and their local union affiliates) take a united, decisive and immediate stand against this effort by the carpenter, we are going to see the complete destruction of the AFL-CIO building trades in our country. It's no secret that union construction is now overshadowed by non-union across America. We have few union strongholds like St. Louis left. Unless there is unified action by the building trades unions across America, the carpenter will be successful and ultimately will be the ONLY building trades union left.

There has been talk of starting a competing carpenters union under the AFL-CIO banner. We have heard from many local rank-and-file carpenters that they don't like what is happening but they have no way to fight it; the carpenter's organizational structure prohibits rank-and-filers from protesting. The head of the local district council, and others across the nation, are shielded from democratic elections where members could protest by challenging existing leadership as a protest. We have union carpenters who have relatives in the other trades and it hurts them to be stealing a brother, brother-in-law or uncle's work. But they have no choice at the moment.

We believe that strong action is needed, NOW:

1. A new Carpenters Division or Union within the AFL-CIO Building Trades Department needs to be created quickly, initially funded by the other International Unions.
2. This new division needs substantial advertising and marketing funds to take the issue directly to the local union members in our major cities to let them know there is an alternative available to them. An adequate marketing budget should be included in any funding effort.
3. A health and welfare plan needs to be negotiated by the BCTD with a national provider like Blue Cross/Blue Shield so that carpenters unhappy with the current situation can change and know this critical service will be available to them.
4. There needs to be a process established so that other benefits like a pension plan can also be available to the newcomers, especially the younger carpenters who are not yet vested. Frankly, the vast majority of carpenters will undoubtedly be vested in their current plan but a new one needs to be available both for the younger members as well as the older ones who can see a second pension in their future.

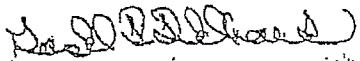
Brother Ayers, Brother McGarvey, I know this is not an easy thing to launch. But unless something is done quickly, union towns like St. Louis will continue to lose work and market share to the point we become irrelevant and ineffective.

Even AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka recognized the need at the most recent AFL-CIO Convention, where he said, "That to truly succeed, we need an AFL-CIO that speaks for all union members - a movement that's both united in name - and united in purpose."

I can appreciate that the Change To Win split within the AFL-CIO was his main focus. He is trying to unite all of Labor for our common good. Certainly, the Building Trades would be better off if the United Brotherhood of Carpenters decided to re-affiliate and act like the true trade union it used to be. But I believe the BCTD already tried that and was cold-shoulder by the UBC. If that's the case, then enough is enough! We need action to counter their efforts to destroy ALL OF US, and we need it NOW.

On behalf of the 35,000 members we represent, we are calling on the Department and all BCTD affiliated International Unions to step up and take unified action; make a final effort to get the UBC back into the House of Labor and if they refuse, have a plan in hand to immediately launch an AFL-CIO Carpenters Union. We will support that effort in the field, not only in St. Louis, but around the nation! We cannot afford to wait any longer.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Gerald T. Feldhaus
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

GTF/gk

CC: All General Presidents