



**LIUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER
AND NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL MANAGER**

ARMAND E. SABITONI



Action Creates Opportunity

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Action was the key word for us this year as the New England Region prepared for the upcoming construction season. The spring thaw certainly illuminated the growing problem of our degrading infrastructure. Potholes have become sinkholes, hundreds of bridges are eroding and the situation is only getting worse.

For many years now, LIUNA has emphasized the true cost of delaying important infrastructure projects. According to the American Society for Civil Engineers, the U.S. will now need \$3.2 trillion in infrastructure investment to overhaul our existing infrastructure. After that we need to also consider the additional cost of introducing emerging technological advances and expanding our infrastructure platform.

While we continue to push for Washington to act on key infrastructure bills, New England is moving forward. LIUNA has been diligently working with our state governors, legislators and signatory Contractors for some time now to find new and creative ways to finance important infrastructure projects. These collective and bi-partisan efforts are putting more Laborers to work and improving our economy as well as solving some major infrastructure deficits. "Building America" is our goal here and we certainly hope that Washington will take note and take action as well.

In this issue of the New England Update we focus on those positive actions and the many other accomplishments of our members, our leadership and our signatory contractors across the region. We are proud to welcome premier contractor SPS New England to our New England Laborers' family, as well as two new bargaining units, one in Kennebec, Maine and one in Lincoln, Rhode Island!

Work opportunities are increasing in western Massachusetts with the advent of the new Springfield Renaissance and the potential for the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline project proposed by Kinder-Morgan. Our staff and members are out on the road this summer promoting the advantage of energy independence in addition to the creation of jobs for our skilled craftsmen.

We introduce in this issue, the Market Expansion Program 5, which the International's Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust developed. It is designed to assist contractors in researching projects of interest coming up for bid. Also, we take a look at our collaboration with the Building Trades Employers Association to hold a symposium for contractors showcasing the work of our region's labor-management funds as well as new opportunities for work in and around the Boston metropolitan area.

Finally, in addition to important events taking place around the region, we will profile a number of outstanding New England Laborers who are truly making a difference in their communities and on the job. I hope you enjoy this issue and I look forward to seeing you out on all the roads, bridges and projects LIUNA members will be working on this summer.

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Fraternally Yours,

Armand E. Sabitoni
General Secretary-Treasurer and
New England Regional Manager