

# ROOFERtoROOFER

by International President Kinsey M. Robinson

## Make Your Vote Count On November 4th

**I**t has been a struggle for working families in the building and construction trades over the past eight years. Working men and women in our country have lost ground economically and have seen the very pillars of a civilized society eroded. The record is clear; the values we hold dear have been under constant attack by the Bush Administration and those in Congress who have supported the barrage of misguided actions, crippling workers. This administration has been hell-bent to undermine and impede unionized construction workers when it comes to our most important issues – Project Labor Agreements, the Davis-Bacon Act, the right to organize, the right to good wages, health care, retirement benefits and the right to a safer workplace.

It isn't only building tradesmen under attack, it's all workers. Almost daily we hear of plant closings and with them good paying union jobs eliminated or shipped overseas. We have an energy crisis, with skyrocketing fuel prices stifling our economy. We are facing an increasingly unstable world. We have a failed immigration policy and our borders continue to be porous. Our middle class continues to lose ground rapidly, while billions in tax breaks go to only the wealthiest in our society. American working men and women are disenchanted, if not totally disgusted, with our current government and are looking for better leadership in the White House and in Congress. They want a government that protects hard-working Americans and an administration that cares about the future of our children. They want a President who places a high value on labor, on what we bring not only to the job, but to the economy and to our communities. They want a President who knows **"as the middle class goes – so goes America."** They want a President who wants to resurrect the American dream where hard work and fair play is rewarded with decent wages and a secure future for your family.

It is time for a change! I know I can count on my Brother and Sister Roofers and Waterproofers

to cast their vote on November 4th for change and a better way of life for working families. I urge you to study the candidates carefully. Make sure that those who

are seeking your vote stand for what you believe in and that they have a track record to back it up. Look carefully at each individual candidate. There is too much at stake to simply vote along party lines. It does not matter whether the candidate is a Democrat or a Republican. What matters is what that candidate stands for. Make certain that they stand for working American families. Examine the candidates and determine for yourself if he or she has earned your vote.

If you are not registered to vote, do so. It is critically important to you and your family. Register and study the issues. Then you will be ready to participate in the unique process of selecting our government by casting your vote for good jobs and the rights of all working Americans. How you cast your vote is a personal decision. It's a personal freedom – just like where you choose to live...your career path...or your religious beliefs. The concept of one person, one vote, is the cornerstone of the American way of life.

Do not underestimate the impact of your vote. Your vote is a powerful tool allowing you to join with millions of other union members from different backgrounds and different occupations in a concerted effort to bring change to the nation, for the common good of all our citizens. It is no different than when building tradesmen from fifteen different crafts band together on a project and use their individual skills and tools to get the job done. **On November 4th I'm confident that together we will get the job done.**

