

ROOFERtoROOFER

by International President Kinsey M. Robinson

The Elections Are Over...Now What?

The national elections are now over, and President Obama has been returned to the White House for a second term. The process of selecting presidential candidates and finally electing a President was a long, drawn-out and sometimes exasperating experience. But in the end, our democratic system worked and the citizens cast their votes for the person who pledged to help middle-class families and families that are working hard to attain the middle class.

President Obama demonstrated in his first term that he was willing to stand by working families by steadfastly supporting project labor agreements, insisting on the inclusion of the Davis-Bacon Act on all federally financed construction and pushing for legislation that would rebuild America's infrastructure. But now it is time for the President and a divided Congress to do more in order to pull the country out of the Great Recession and provide badly needed jobs for millions seeking work and a better way of life.

We all know that tax revenues need to be raised and that the nation's mushrooming debt needs to be tamed. As some in Congress seem to believe, it can't be done on the backs of the middle class that is currently striving to keep their heads above water. Politicians need to reduce a three-decades-long wave of rising income inequality that has meant greater prosperity for a few Americans, while more and more other Americans struggle to simply get by.

We look to the President to use the powers of his office to shrink the growing gap between the wealthiest Americans and everyone else. We need a tax code that benefits the middle class, a safety net that protects Americans in time of need, and we need job creation—especially construction projects that rebuild our country and put construction contractors and tens of thousands of building tradesmen and women back to work.

The vast majority of American workers believe that no matter who you are, hard work pays off and responsibility is rewarded. To support those beliefs, workers need from their

government a commitment to promote opportunity and mobility, and JOBS!

New Manual Puts Our Union at the Forefront of Green Roof Training

In this issue the Research and Education Department announces the availability of the new Green Roofing & Waterproofing Manual for use by all Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committees. This new training manual covers a broad range of green-roofing technologies, from vegetative roofs and gray water storage to new applications of traditional roofing and waterproofing products.

I refer you to page 10, where you will read about how the training manual builds on the existing skills of our apprentices and journeymen, helping them *skill up* for work on the many types of green-roofing and waterproofing jobs. The manual is another indispensable tool in allowing union roofers and waterproofers to remain the best-trained and most efficient workforce in our industry.

Signatory Contractor Named Contractor of the Year

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Bob and Barbara Dalsin, as well as all the staff and hard-working members of Local 96 at John A. Dalsin & Son for being selected as *Roofing Contractor's* 2012 Commercial Roofing Contractor of the Year. John A. Dalsin & Son has been a family owned and operated roofing firm for over 100 years, and I thank them for providing employment to over 100 union roofers and waterproofers.

As your International President and on behalf of International Secretary-Treasurer Bob Danley and the International Executive Board and staff, I wish you all a Merry Christmas Season and a very Happy New Year. ■

