The year 2008 started off filled with promise, rumors of new work, the hiring of new employee, potential improvements in our Apprentice program and the design intern and school-to-career programs re-established. Unforeseen at the start of the year were the numerous changes our local would undergo in its leadership.

JANUARY

William Louis was elected as Treasurer.

Two officers attended the Political Action Training program January 3 thru January 9, 2008 in Nashua, NH.

FEBRUARY

The company hired BUDCO to survey employee’s requiring members to verify dependent eligibility.

The union office renovations were completed and under budget. The interior included painting, upgrading the electrical services and new floor coverings. The building exterior and fence were painted.

The union signed an MOA for the Performance Award Program for 2008.

MARCH

The Trustees completed the semi-annual audit for July through December 2007 and the appropriate paperwork was filed with the International.

MDA-UAW members, along with salaried employees, sorted and moved 40,000 lbs / 20 tons of food items, that can be passed out in our community to those in need, at Foxwoods Resorts and Casinos for the Gemma Moran Food Bank.

The 3rd Annual Recognition Reception was held at the Groton Inn and Suites to recognize recipients for their time (off the clock) and effort on behalf of Local 571.

The company and the union approved the new EB/MDA Apprenticeship Associates Degree Program.

 APRIL

The company sponsored “lets get physical” program raffle had sixteen members winning prizes.

The union signed a MOA for members participating in the Lean Six Sigma program.

The AFL-CIO Worker’s Memorial Ceremony was held at Washington Park in Groton, CT on April 28, 2008.

Dee Hill replaced Hedy Woods as Secretary at the Union Office due to Hedy’s well-earned retirement.

MAY

President John Worobey resigned as President of MDA-UAW Local 571. 1st Vice President Robert Canova assumed the office of President.

2nd Vice President William Giustini reigned from the 2nd Vice Presidents office to run for the vacated office of 1st Vice President.

The Day of Caring was held on Saturday May 10, 2008 for a current Electric Boat employee called up for Active duty. Volunteers showed up to spruce up the landscaping and complete some staining.

JUNE

At the General Membership meeting nominations were opened for the office of 1st and 2nd Vice President. William Giustini ran unopposed and assumed the office 1st Vice President.

The Eastern Seaboard Apprentice Conference (ESAC) met at the MGM Grand Hotel at Foxwood Resort. The Executive Board members attended one day of the conference along with Electric Boat and gave a joint presentation. The Solidarity Magazine did a layout story about the ESAC Conference, the General Dynamics Electric Boat and MDA-UAW Local 571 Apprenticeship/Degree Program and the on going UAW Foxwoods Recognition Issues.

The 39th annual UAW Region 9A Golf Tournament was held June 21st, 2008 at the Stanley Golf Course in New Britain CT. Local 571 had three winners; James Fletcher, Frank Scussel, Paul Bourque.

The Local awarded six 2008 John F. Saffomilla and E. Roy Colville Scholarships. Winners are Zachary Garceau, son of member Alfred Garceau, Gina Edwards, daughter of member William Edwards, Stephanie Karavolis, daughter of member Steven Karavolis, Kayla Mineau, daughter of member Guy Mineau, Kathryn Lanzarotto, daughter of member David Lanzarotto and Allison Bessette, daughter of member Michael Bessette.

Joanne Basile and Judi Page attended the 32nd Annual International UAW Women’s Conference at the UAW Family Education Center Black Lake in Onaway, Michigan.

For the 19th consecutive year, Flag Day buttons were distributed to the membership.

President Bob Canova and councilor Jack Bond graduated from the Union Community Activist Network (UCAN) training program at the United Way of Southeastern CT, Gales Ferry, CT.

Union members participated in the demonstration at FOXWOOD’S MGM Grand opening. Upwards of 300 people were in attendance.

The Union, Electric Boat and State of CT signed the revised Apprentice Standards and Memo of Agreement.

 JULY

Tracy Nickerson was elected by majority vote to the office of 2nd Vice President.

The Executive Board approved the purchase a new much needed office copier with the ability of storing documents electronically.

The 2008 Family Day Picnic at Lake Compounce was a sellout, the biggest turnout ever.

The School-to-Career program was kicked off with the 13 high school students, their mentors, and the company and union officers meeting to give an overview and explain expectations of the program..

AUGUST

The Retirees held their annual summer picnic luncheon at the Groton ELKS Club.

The Trustees completed the semi annual audit for January – June 2008 and filed the appropriate paper work with the International.

MDA-UAW Local 571members, along with salaried employees, sorted and moved 40,000 lbs / 20 tons of food items at Foxwoods Resorts and Casinos for the Gemma Moran Food Bank that can be passed out in our community to those in need.

The union signed a MOA allowing Design Techs to remain in Design and opened the door for future opportunities. 7.

SEPTEMBER

Joe Courtney (D-CT), Gene Taylor (D-MS) and Phil Hare (D-IL) visited EB On September 12, 2008 for a presentation of the Virginia Class Submarine Program including a tour of the shipyard with EB management and union leadership.

President Robert Canova had a triple by-pass and 1st Vice President William Giustini filled in while President Canova was convalescing.

The United Way Day of Caring was held at Riverfront Children's Center Groton, Ct. to provide landscaping and painting.

Two officers attended the UAW Financial Conference in Detroit, Michigan.

Four officers attended the UAW Region 9A Leadership Conference in Hyannis, MA. Financial Secretary Wayne Burgess received a twenty-year recognition award from Region 9A Director Bob Madore.

Veterans Committee Chairman Dave Bliven and Committee member Al Wagner attended the 2008 UAW Veterans Conference at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center in Black Lake, Michigan.

 OCTOBER

The 15th annual Pete Johnson Golf Day was held at Cedar Ridge Golf Course.

The revised Apprentice curriculum was approved and signed by the MDA-UAW, the State of Connecticut and Electric Boat management and Three Rivers Community College.

The company, MDA-UAW and MTC sponsored on site voter registration.

Veterans Committee Chairman Dave Bliven and Alan Wagner visited with some of our wounded solders at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

NOVEMBER

The 11th Annual Region 9A Veterans Dinner Dance was held at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Kisco, NY.

President Robert Canova returned to work after a full recovery from his by-pass surgery.

DECEMBER

The Annual MDA-UAW Local 571 Holiday Dinner Dance was held at the Groton Motor Inn on December 6, 2008.

Turkeys were distributed at the plant to all employees. All unclaimed turkeys were donated to the Gemma E. Moran United Way/ Labor Food Center.

The MDA-UAW Local 571 Retiree Holiday luncheon was held at the Groton Inn & Suites, Groton, CT.