

Welcome

Tom Santone

Toms started his career 40 years ago in Philadelphia, PA working for Crown, Cork & Seal Company as an industrial pipefitter and initiated into the Machinists Union. Sadly, in 1995 Crown, Cork & Seal Company announced that they were closing the Philadelphia Plant. This was a terrible blow to many families in the area. The company employed thousands of workers from many different unions (Machinists, Sheet Metal Workers, Teamsters and Graphic Arts). Tom saw firsthand what a travesty a plant closing really is to the employees.

Over the years he was elected into many union shop positions starting with Union Steward, Chief Steward and contract/grievance committees. Realizing the need to sharpen his skills Tom started taking evening classes and graduated from the Union Leadership Academy at Penn State.

As time went on, Tom was encouraged by a man he highly respected - Norman Loudenslager, the Directing Business Representative - to become more involved at the local and district level. Thereafter, he was elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer of IAM Local 159 and also became their Organizer. He was then elected to the positions of Secretary-Treasurer and President of District 1.

Tom met Thomas Boger at a Staff Conference in Albany, New York. After attending many Pa State Council of Machinists Conventions together, their friendship and respect for each other grew. It was in 1996 Tom Boger asked Tom if he would be willing to relocate to York, PA and take the job as Organizer for District 98. According to Tom it was the best move of his career. Tom became a Business Rep and then the ADBR of District 98 before taking over as Directing Business Rep.

After twenty years with District 98, Tom is retiring. Tom is a true unionist in every sense of the word; he currently holds the following positions: Directing Business Representative of District 98, President of the York-Adams County Central Labor Council, Vice President of the Central Pennsylvania Area Labor Federation and Member of the Seaway Task force representing Pennsylvania.

Tom isn't one to take credit or accept recognition for his accomplishments, Tom always passes the credit on to others. Sorry Tom tonight you are going to have to accept some recognition. I'll keep this as short as possible.

Since Tom became DBR of District 98 in April of 2009 his lists of accomplishments are far too many to list, but I would like to touch on a few.

Tom was instrumental in starting the District's retiree action group. The Retiree action group has become a great asset to this District. They are extremely active politically and provide speakers and invaluable information to their many members.

Tom was able to recruit a large group of these retirees and use them for organizing campaigns throughout the District creating an invaluable resource to this district. By the way Tom - expect some phone calls to come your way now that you're retired.

In my eyes the greatest achievement under Tom's leadership was paying off the property we are currently in and the district becoming debt free. This is a great accomplishment that everyone in this District should be proud of. On behalf of all the business reps, I want to thank you for your friendship and guidance along the way because I do not believe we would be debt free right now if it wasn't for your leadership.

On behalf of the District 98 I would like to thank Tom for his many years of dedication to this District! I would like to thank Tom's wife Cindy and their family for sharing Tom with us and for the sacrifices they have made along the way by not having Tom home as much as they wanted.

We wish you a long happy retirement with your lovely wife Cindy and your family.

Opening remarks by current Assistant Directing Business Representative Bob Miller. (ADBR Miller will become the Directing Business Representative upon Tom's retirement July 1, 2016)