Carpenters, Lathers Sign Agreement of Affiliation

Building Trades Unions Now Await Final Vote by Lather Members

The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union have signed an Agreement of Affiliation which has the potential for bringing the lathers’ organization into the Carpenters as a full-fledged subdivision of the Carpenters.

Culminating months of intensive negotiations, officials of the two traditional AFL-CIO building trades unions placed their signatures on the Agreement in mid-April. The next step will be submission of the affiliation proposal to the members of the Lathers’ union for their approval or disapproval.

Under the provisions of the Lathers’ constitution, a proposal of this character and magnitude must be submitted to the entire Lather membership for a 90-day period for discussion, review and comment prior to the necessary referendum vote.

If ratified by the membership, the affiliation would take place immediately.

Signing the Agreement for the Carpenters were: William Sidell, General President; William Konyha, First General Vice President; Patrick J. Campbell, Second General Vice President; John S. Rogers, General Secretary, and Charles E. Nichols, General Treasurer.

Signing the Agreement for the Lathers were: Charles L. Brodeur, General President; Michael J. Brennan, General Secretary-Treasurer; and the seven vice presidents who comprise the Lathers’ Executive Council.

The Agreement which is expected to be put to a Lathers’ membership vote in July at the termination of the 90-day discussion period — provides for the Lathers’ General President to assume the title of Assistant to the General President of the Carpenters. His principle duties will be to supervise activities of the Lathing Subdivision.

The General Secretary-Treasurer will become an assistant to the General President and his duties may also include a capacity within the training/apprentice department of the Carpenters.

The three international representatives of the Lathers will be, the Agreement says, “...integrated into the international staff of the Carpenters and their primary duties and assignments shall be in the service of the Lathing Subdivision of the Carpenters.”

Lathers Secretary-Treasurer Brennan on April 16 sent a letter along with a copy of the Agreement to all the secretaries of the Lathers’ local unions, notifying them of the signing of the Agreement and outlining the procedures for the referendum.

For three consecutive editions in the Lather union magazine, THE LATHER — May, June and July — the Letter of Agreement will be published in its entirety. Each individual member in good standing in the Lathers will be entitled to vote in the referendum in his local union.

At the end of the three month period — which began April 27, 1979 — the vote will be taken. Lathers General President Brodeur has not announced a date yet for the actual vote, but it is expected to be in July.

Each Lathers local will conduct its own voting on the same date.

Statement by iaWCC/GDCI Executive Committee

Here is the official statement approved by the iaWCC/GDCI Executive Committee in response to the announcement of the signing of the Agreement of Affiliation between the Carpenters and Lathers Unions:

“A successful—and workable—resolution to this vital matter is of paramount importance to contractors. The officers of these two great unions are to be congratulated for their work, their determination, and their sense of industry responsibility as exemplified in the Agreement of Affiliation.

“Because the issue must still be approved by the Lather membership, it would be inappropriate to comment at this time. But Mr. Sidell and Mr. Brodeur have certainly demonstrated a commendable capability to accommodate to changed conditions in a manner that serves the interest of their unions, the members of those unions, the contractors, and the construction buying public.”

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