

## **LOCAL 546M ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**PURPOSE:** To record and retain historical information regarding GCIU Local 546M and previous organizations (6L, 24P, 56C, 36-124B, etc.), its members and shops. This information would be used to create a historical record of the Local.

### **WHAT IS NEEDED?**

Information about the Union such:

- Strikes
- Organizing campaigns
- Internal life (ie. Union politics, elections, contract negotiations, issues, mergers, significant social events, etc.)
- Union personalities (ie. Past officers, Board members and others who contributed significantly to the Union)

Information about Shops such as:

- Significant shops that have disappeared
- Interesting facts about shops in the local
- Interesting facts about the type of work performed in various shops
- Interesting personalities in the shops

### **OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION**

- Old photos (pre 1980) of meetings, shops, members, etc.
- Old union newspapers and magazines (ie. *Amalgamated Lithographer*, *American Pressman* and local union newsletters)
- Old newspaper articles about the union, shops or members.
- Old union flyers or other documents

## **SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

- When and where (shop, city, local) did you first join the Union?
- What shops did you worked at? (ask for approximate dates)
- What craft did you work in? (If changed craft, ask when and why)
- Did anyone else in your family work in the trade before (or after) you?
- Who were the officers of the Union when you first joined?
- What do you remember about first joining the Union?
- Did you ever hold any position with the Union? (steward, negotiating committee, Executive Board, officer, convention delegate, other committees, etc.) Describe any interesting experiences you had while serving in a union function.
- What is the best thing you remember about the Union? What is the worst?
- What is the best thing you remember about the shops you worked at? What is the worst?
- What interesting things do you remember about union meetings?
- What significant things do you remember about contract negotiations?
- Were you ever on strike? Describe what happened.
- What were relations like between your employer and the Union? Describe any interesting occurrences.
- What did you like the most about your job? What did you like the least?
- Who was your best employer, and why? Who was your worst employer, and why?

Feel free to add to any of these questions.