



**President Steve Lomax**

## **Healthcare Reform: Restoring the American Dream**

**On behalf of our Executive Board and staff,** I want to wish all of our members a happy and safe holiday season.

We are grateful that our union members have good jobs. Most of you have healthcare and retirement benefits. However, in these difficult times, many of you are bearing the burden of a recession economy. Family and friends may still lack healthcare, a good job, and a place to live.

**Restoring the American dream** Local 1996 joins workers throughout America as we look toward 2010. Of the two legislative efforts which will go far in restoring the American dream, one passed the House in November: **Healthcare reform.** The other is the **Employee Free Choice Act.**

Insurance companies are spending \$1.4 million per day to oppose healthcare reform. We struggle to secure our members'

benefits. But health insurance CEOs took home \$690 million, while health insurance premiums have been going up four times faster than wages.

**Our country is the only industrialized nation which does not have universal health coverage for its citizens.**

I know there are many rumors and scare tactics to get you to oppose healthcare reform. I urge you: get the facts! Ask your Union Representative for information, call the union office, or check out the website, [healthcareforAmericanow.org](http://healthcareforAmericanow.org) to be "in the know."

If your Congressional representative voted for healthcare reform, thank him or her! If reform has not passed by December, seize the opportunity to let your U.S. Senator know: To restore the American dream, we must have healthcare reform, **NOW!**