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LIUNA Members “Make a Call to Build America” and Find Strong Enthusiasm for Senator Barack Obama

In a Record-Setting Member-to-Member Phone Bank, Members Call More than 18,000 Fellow Members in One Night, Recruit 4,000-Plus New Volunteers to Elect Obama

Massive Member Outreach is Part of “Build America so America Works” Effort to Make Taking Care of the Basics Working People Depend on Everyday a Priority

Washington, D.C. (August 8, 2008) – Last night LIUNA members contacted more than 18,000 fellow members in *Make a Call to Build America*, the union’s third coast-to-coast voter registration and volunteer recruitment phone banking night.

In just one night, more than 4,000 LIUNA members volunteered to help elect Senator Barack Obama by participating in various grass-roots activities throughout the general election campaign. The 22% rank-and-file volunteer rate shows that Senator Obama has made significant inroads with the working men and women who are the backbone of America and whose support is critical.

“A lot has been said about Senator Obama’s need to connect with working class voters,” LIUNA General President Terence M. O’Sullivan said. “The willingness of members to become activists for Senator Obama is a strong demonstration that they are inspired by his message of hope and change in Washington, his commitment to good jobs, universal healthcare, retirement security and laws that make it easier for workers to express their voice on the job site. Our members clearly want a President who understands the importance of building America.”

Last night’s new volunteers are from across the U.S., with significant numbers in the battleground states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, Indiana, Nevada and Iowa.

In total, LIUNA’s three *Make a Call to Build America* nights have resulted in nearly 50,000 member-to-member contacts with as many as 13,200 of those members expected to be newly registered voters. The member mobilization effort will continue through the election with further calls for activists and new voters. The next scheduled events are Make a Call nights on August 20 and September 4, and *Take a Walk to Build America* – LIUNA members spending an afternoon with their local Obama campaigns – the first of which is on August 16 with more to follow.

Using groundbreaking predictive dialing technology, thousands of LIUNA members made calls from their homes while others participated in events held at 30 Local Union halls across the country. The new outreach techniques utilized by LIUNA allow busy members, who otherwise might not be able to attend phone banking events, to get involved from their homes.

Polls of LIUNA members conducted earlier this year show that economic issues are by far the top concern of working men and women heading into November's elections. LIUNA endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President in June, calling him a build America candidate committed to improving the lives of working people.

"LIUNA members go to work every day building America and over the last eight years they have gotten a raw deal," said O'Sullivan.

Make a Call to Build America and *Take a Walk to Build America* are key parts of LIUNA's "Build America so America Works" campaign, a long-term effort to make taking care of America's basics which working people depend on everyday – our highways, bridges, dams, schoolhouses and energy systems – a national priority, in part by electing Build America candidates. The effort also includes ongoing targeted advertising outreach, the new website www.LiunaBuildsAmerica.org and *The Petition to Build America*, with a goal of 1 million voices telling Congress and the country's next president to "build America so America works."

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The members of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of 10 million workers who are proud to build America.

For information on LIUNA voter registration and member outreach in your local area, please call or email Jacob Hay at (202) 942-2285, (202) 445-4788 or jhay@liuna.org