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ASBESTOS UNION ESTABLISHES PERMANENT WHITE LUNG FUND

A permanent fund to pursue research and legislation on asbestosis, "white lung" disease afflicting workers in the asbestos industry, has been set up by the 22nd convention of Asbestos Workers Union in Las Vegas, Nev. Fund will be financed by an assessment of 1¢ per member per hour worked. Three previous funds, some of which had some limited employer contributions, were abolished when the new fund was created by the convention.

Union President Andrew T. Haas said major goal of union's new health fund would be to enact a bill similar to the "black lung" legislation setting protective standards for coal miners. Union is already involved in several legal actions against lack of protection and enforcement of OSHA for asbestos workers, Haas said.