



PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL UNION 131

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2016

The Corner Office

David A. Pelletier / Business Manager

First I would like to congratulate the 2 members who were nominated and unopposed for Executive Board, George Stitt and Finance Board, Dean MacDonald. At the February meeting we also had nominations for delegates to the 39th UA Convention in San Diego August 1st thru the 5th. We had 6 members nominated, elections will be held March 9th at the union meeting. The top two vote getters will be delegates with the remainder being alternates in descending order. We also will have nominations in March for Inside Guard as George Stitt resigned that position to run for executive board. Please make every effort to attend the March meeting and vote for your delegates.

The primary is finally over here in New Hampshire the phone calls and commercials have ended but before you know it we will be right back in the middle of it again. New Hampshire will be heavily targeted in November; we have a US Senate race between Maggie Hassan and Kelly Ayotte that could determine control of the senate. We will be in the middle of a presidential race, governor's race, US congressional races NH House and Senate. We will be reaching out to members to help our friends get elected. I would like to thank the members who volunteered their time to help out canvassing and at the polls for the Hillary campaign during the primary. The UA had sent staff to NH to work the campaign and appreciates our efforts in the primary. At the end of the nominating cycle we will be united behind a candidate that will work for working people in this country.

The legislative session is in full swing in Concord. There are a number of bills that we have been involved with, HB 1641 is a prevailing wage bill for state construction. At the hearing for the bill we had 3 to 1 testimony in favor of the bill.

Ultimately the House Labor Committee recommended ITL on a party line vote. We were able to get house democratic leaders to make the bill a priority and call for a roll call vote on the floor. The bill failed 138-181 but we had every democrat and 4 republicans vote in favor. Although the bill failed in the house it is a major first step in getting prevailing wage back in NH. We were able to educate the entire democratic caucus and get their support as well as 4 republicans. If we work to change the make-up of the house we should be able to pass the bill in the future. We also have testified on an Anti PLA bill and a new Right to work bill. Both of these bills are still in committee. The PLA bill would make it against the law for any government entity to enter into a project labor agreement of any kind in the state. The right to work bill is a new twist on the same concept of not having to support the union but being able to reap all the benefits of a negotiated contract, retirement and health insurance.

Manpower Hour

Steven D. Lachance / Business Agent

Work in the local is starting to pick up with jobs at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Novo Nordisk beginning to get underway. Work on the road has picked up as well with the Outage cycle taking some of our members across the country. We currently have members working on the road in MA, NY, SC, KY, GA, FL, WI and MN.

We currently have;

- * 100 working for local contractors
- * 39 working locally for out of town contractors
- * 21 working on the road
- * 48 members out of work

Dynamic System Inc. (DSI) has the project at Novo Nordisk in West Lebanon with 10 members working there to date. I believe they will be hiring at least another 10 members to work that project. It is currently scheduled to be completed by September with many other projects yet to be awarded and DSI poised to secure them with our help in supplying them qualified pipefitters to work in the pharmaceutical industry.

ORBIS was awarded the 3 month contract to supply all the labor to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to work with the Shipyard Fitters on the subs. I have a call for 15 fitters for Monday 2/29/16. You are required to do a 10 year background with the Federal Government to be eligible to work on this project and it is good for 15 years once approved by the Department of Defense. I am still able to have ORBIS process members that are interested in working at the PNSY through the end of the month. They have a 3 year contract that is supposed to be awarded in April that will employ 20 pipefitters for the duration. So I would ask that all members who are interested in working at the PNSY please contact me to get the paperwork to do the background check as it will be on file for the next 15 years for opportunities that come up at the yard.

Federal Piping has picked up some work in Osippee and Conway and has hired some plumbers to help with his extra work load over the next few months.

NPI & RTH are status quo right now as they get through the slow winter months with work at the PNSY and Budweiser.

Footprint Power (Salem Power Plant MA) looks like it will not be ready to hire until late May or June and will be looking for welders with UA certs first then fitters a few months later. LU12 and LU537 has assured me we will get members on this project this year.

Apprenticeship & Training

Jesse Torosian / Training Coordinator

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season. We are currently at the tail end of the first semester of classes, and I would like to thank our apprentices and instructors for all of their continued hard work. Next semester we will be focusing on plumbing and welding classes.

Congratulations go out to Kevin Schumacher for completing his apprenticeship. Kevin has worked hard and we wish him much success as a journeyman.

I would like to get some input in putting together some journeyman classes: orbital, rigging, valves. If anybody has any input on this I advise you to please let me know as soon as possible. I talk about this every meeting, with very little feedback, so I'm asking for assistance from the body to keep moving forward.

Any questions or concerns please contact me through email or by cell. Thank you and work safe!

jatc@ualu131.org

603-315-2269

Office Bits & Bytes

Mo Demers / Office Administrator

-An Ode to America -

Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs.

On 9/11, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the Army, or the Secret Service that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about. Instead the Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand.

After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing. On every occasion, they started singing: 'God Bless America!'

I watched the live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player, who gave his life fighting with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundreds or thousands of people.

How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being? Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put into collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit, which no money can buy. What on earth unites the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their history? Their economic Power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace, I thought things over, I reached but only one conclusion... Only freedom can work such miracles.

It took a person on the outside - looking in - to see what we take for granted!

We rarely get a chance to see another country's editorial about the USA. Read this excerpt from a Romanian Newspaper. The article was written by Mr. Cornel Nistorescu and published under the title 'C'ntarea Americii, (meaning 'Ode To America ') in the Romanian newspaper Evenimentulzilei ('The Daily Event')

Local Union 131
Retirees Association

Jimmy Griffin / President

>> **RETIRES' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS** <<
Every Second Tuesday - 10:00 am, Local 131 Union Hall, Hooksett NH

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING
March 8, 2015



The Bulletin Board

Quarterly Notified Union Meeting

March 9, 2016

Elections - March 9 Meeting

Unopposed Nominees:
Finance Committee – Dean MacDonald
Executive Committee – George Stitt

UA Convention Delegates * August 2016

Two (2) delegates shall be elected. All other nominees shall remain on "Alternate" list, in descending vote order.

NOMINEES (in alphabetical order)

Bill Acheson Pete Boisvert Dan Coffey
Mark Grant Tom Harvey Jeff Welch

In the event of a tie, a run-off vote will be held at the April 13 Union Meeting

Due to a recent resignation, nominations will be solicited at this meeting for the position of Inside Guard. Elections for this position will be held at the April 13 Union Meeting.

It doesn't hurt to take a hard look at yourself from time to time. This little test should help you get started.

During a visit to a mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criteria is that defines if a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub. Then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup, and a bucket to the patient and ask the patient to empty the bathtub."

Okay, here's your test:

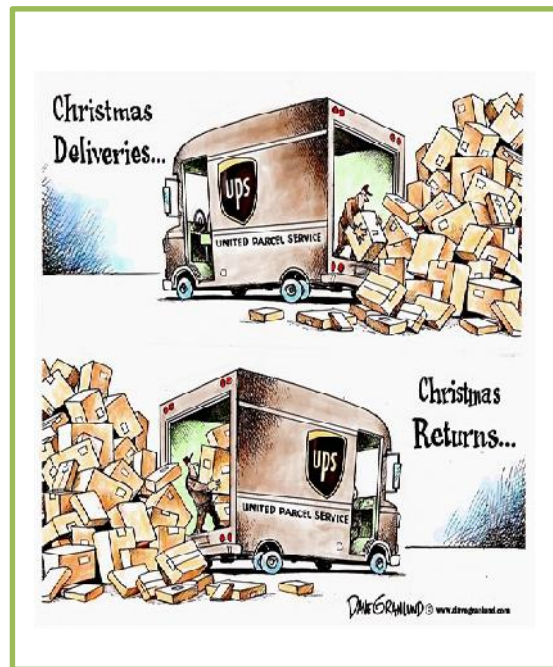
1. Would you use the spoon?
2. Would you use the teacup?
3. Would you use the bucket?

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would choose the bucket, as it is larger than the spoon."

What was the director's response?



The Local 131
Apprenticeship Food Drive
delivered 253 lbs. of food products to the
NH Food Kitchen!
Thank you to everyone
who donated.



"No," answered the Director. "A normal person would pull the plug."