With the New Year comes a new legislative session and this one has already started out with a call to members to attend the “Right to Work” hearing. As in past years the National Right to Work Organization has tried to push their agenda again in NH. The hearing was well attended with those opposing the bill far outnumbering the supporters. Following the hearing, the bill was killed in committee by a vote of 12-1. Again, thank you to the members who came out on short notice. When we turn out, we can make a difference. I also want to thank everyone that turned out for the Building Trades Rally in Manchester. As cold a day as it was, the turnout was great and we got some good press out of it.

At a recent New England Pipe Trades meeting International Rep. Bill Turner announced he will be retiring June 1, 2010. General President Hite has appointed Local 537 Business Manager Dan Watts to the position. Dan will take over for Bill Turner effective June 1st.

The UA legislative office has been working with the Obama administration to get the kinks worked out with Federal PLAs. At this time we have still not heard what the fate is of the Manchester Job Corps Center. We are being told that once the PLA language is drafted then the job will be put back out to bid, but have had no confirmation from the Federal Dept. of Labor. Both our Representatives and Senator Shaheen are watching the process. The UA has submitted briefings and other documentation that the departments could model PLA language after.

We will be meeting with the mayor of Berlin in the next week to discuss the Laidlaw Energy Project. Mayor Grenier has expressed interest in getting the project going as soon as possible. In Manchester Ted Gatsas resigned his Senate seat upon winning the mayors race. Jeff Goley is running for the seat, he has a record of supporting labor in the house where he chairs the labor committee. We will be contacting members living in District 16 to vote Feb 16th.

The 2010 calendar year has started off without any substantial work demands for the local area until the CAP Project in Bow starts in May or June. Our Local contractors are just trying to hang on to their own through the winter. Work on the road is slow with high unemployment throughout the country. We currently have members on the road in CT, NY, GA, WI, IL and AZ.

We currently have:
* 115 working for local contractors
* 18 working locally for out of town contractors
* 28 working on the road
* 69 members out of work

RTH has work at the PNSY that has been delayed due to contaminated soil, paperwork and materials. They have had a reduction in force and hope to hire back in 4-8 weeks because the completion date of June will not change.

NPI has ongoing work at Claremont Regional Hospital, Dartmouth College, and it looks like they have been awarded another chunk of work at Bow that should start in May-June on the process piping.

Sterling Boiler has 3 members working for them right now on their portion of the scrubber project which includes receiving and setting of equipment and piping penetrations on the absorber. I believe at this time they plan on subbing out the entire mechanical package.

Keystone has been awarded some conveyor work at Bow that will include some fitter work on air, water and instruments that run along the conveyor system. This work is scheduled for May-June.

O’Connor has a 30 day outage at Schiller in late February and another scheduled for mid April at Bow. No manpower scope available at this time.

Williams at Seabrook Station has a plan to hire 1 fitter and 1 welder in mid February and 3 fitters in March for work that is scheduled to be completed sometime in April.
One of my many jobs here at the union is maintaining the website and disseminating information/notices via e-mail. Based on the number and type of inquiries I receive by phone, I surmise that many folks don’t know just how much information is actually available on the website. Not that I don’t love talking to you all when you call, but there are lots of times when you can’t reach someone here by phone. The website address is www.ualu131.org please include your license expiration date so we may schedule future sessions accordingly. Two vendor sessions have been held and more are to be scheduled.

All training session notifications are posted on the Local’s webpage, in the newsletter, via e-mails and announced at monthly meetings!

Apprentice Applications: We are currently accepting apprentice applications. They are available on the Local website and in the main office. Interviews will be held in the spring.

Medical Gas Installers: Congratulations to the recent members achieving UA Certification for Medical Gas Installer/Brazer: Chad Baril, Joshua Carlson, Travis Cooper, Greg Denoncourt, Richard Mazzaglia, Mark McLaughlin & Jesse Michalides.

Gas Fitter Licensing: Several training sessions for NFPA 54 Fuel Gas Code have been completed. Any member who still needs CODE training is encouraged to notify via the Local’s website; www.ualu131.org please include your license expiration date so we may schedule future sessions accordingly. Two vendor sessions have been held and more are to be scheduled.

To access ALL the great stuff on the website, you need to register on the site. And that’s EASY! When you go to the site, the first page you see will tell you to go to the “HOME” page. Just click the “HOME” button in the upper left corner. At the top of the left column there is a box to register. Just pick a user name and a password. The website immediately sends me an e-mail that someone has registered. I log on, check the info and click OK! That’s it. You get an e-mail telling you that you now have access! It generally takes less than 24 hours to be activated.

Across the top of the home page are links with helpful information: local union contractors, industry contacts, website links (including the UA and Insurance Programmers!) and more.

The right column is filled with national news relating to unions and labor. This news updates daily. But the left column is the best source of information. Our newsletters going back over 6 years are there. The current dues rates are there. The current wage rates are there. A general description of the benefits package is there. The entire current contract is there. The UA Constitution and the Local 131 By-Laws. They’re all there! There’s even a calendar listing all the activities happening at the union hall.

I encourage everyone to get registered to the local website and take advantage of all the information available there. It’s really quite easy!
“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as ‘right-to-work.’ It provides no ‘rights’ and no ‘works.’ Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining . . . We demand this fraud be stopped.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

(spokening on right-to-work laws in 1961)

If a fire hydrant has H2O inside, what does it have on the outside?

Member News

Condolences to family and friends of:

Expressions of Sympathy may be sent to:
William J. Denis
170 Old Sanford Rd.
Berwick, ME 03901

Brother David LaFleur who passed away Jan 10, 2010
Expressions of Sympathy may be sent to:
Linda LaFleur
33 Back River Road
Bedford, NH 03110

Recycling: By the Numbers

544,000: Trees saved if every household in the United States replaced just one roll of virgin fiber paper towels (70 sheets) with a roll of 100 percent recycled ones.

20 million: Tons of electronic waste thrown away each year. One ton of scrap from discarded computers contains more gold than can be produced from 17 tons of gold ore.

$160 billion: Value of the global recycling industry that employs over 1.5 million people.

79 million: Number of tons of waste diverted away from disposal in a year through recycling and composting.

5 percent: Fraction of the energy it takes to recycle aluminum versus mining and refining new aluminum.

98 percent: Percentage of glass bottles in Denmark that are refillable. 98 % of those are returned by consumers for reuse.

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Attendance at January Retirees Meeting


The Moxy Man presentation was once again a very good show.

We also had a speaker from the NH Alliance for Retired Americans. From their flier: - As New Hampshire ages, the state will have more retirees than workers. Families caring for aging relatives need programs like Medicare, Social Security, and union pensions to live a middle class life. But these programs are under constant attack. We can’t afford to lose them. This is why the NH Alliance was founded: to make it possible for more retirees to live a middle class life.

This seems like a worthwhile organization working for us, the retired work force of New Hampshire. For more information about this group, check out their national website: www.RetiredAmericans.org Or call 1-800-333-7212