The first storm of 2011 just happened to coincide with our scheduled January meeting; as a result the meeting was canceled due to weather. February’s meeting is a notified meeting for nomination of delegates to the 38th UA Convention which will take place August 8 - 12 in Las Vegas Nevada.

The new Legislative session has begun in Concord; there have been over 200 bills filed that have been identified by the New Hampshire AFL-CIO as labor related legislation. This year as in the past “Right to Work” legislation has been filed with a number of State Senators and Reps signing on as sponsors. We will be reaching out to the membership to contact your reps and ask that they not support this legislation. The AFL and affiliated unions are holding District Meetings throughout the state to meet with legislators and explain why Right to Work is wrong for NH. The first of the meetings have been scheduled for Hooksett at the public library 6pm Tuesday, January 18th. There are currently 2 meetings scheduled for Manchester, the first is Jan, 20th at the City Library 6pm for residents of wards 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12. The next Manchester meeting will be held Jan, 27th at the Elks Club 290 Granite Street, 6pm for residents of wards 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

I am urging all members to attend the meeting in their district. The meetings will be a chance for union members of all affiliates to let there reps know what issues are important to working families in the state. As more meetings are scheduled throughout the state we will be posting them on our website.

Other legislation of interest to the Building Trades include; bills dealing with the relicensing of Nuclear Power Plants, Enabling state and local official to issue citations for violations of the fire code, gas fitting, and electrical codes, Repealing the licensure of fuel gas fitters, and Dealing with the workers comp requirement for independent contractors. We will keep you updated on legislation that will affect us and will be reaching out for your help.

Happy New Year

Work in the area and New England continues to be slow. No new contracts have been awarded to our contractors yet in 2011. Work on the road is still limited with the exception of TN, IN, and IL. The outage cycle for Nukes and Refineries is almost upon us so that will open some opportunities for our members. We currently have members working on the road in VT, CT, NY, TN, IN, IL, and AZ.

We currently have;
* 155 working for local contractors
* 11 working locally for out of town contractors
* 26 working on the road
* 39 members out of work

Seabrook Station has their 30 day ORO14 Outage scheduled for 4/1 with hire dates for Williams Plant Services on 1/17 through 3/14 and Ames Valve on 3/21 and 3/28. Williams plans to hire approximately 100 members and Ames plans to hire 14 valve techs. Both companies wish for half of their calls to be filled with welders. We are working out the details for pre-hire Nantel training here at the hall and how much compensation money they will pay for doing so. Last outage it was $600 in wages & benefits if you completed it prior to your hire date. I do have the PHQ’s available at the hall for Williams Plant Services if members are planning to go to the outage.

MJ Electric is still waiting on approved drawings for the I&C work at Merrimack Station that should hire 2-4 instrument fitters once approved.

O’Connor has a spring outage in April at Merrimack Station that was supposed to be postponed until fall. I believe they are on track to do some of the scrubber tie-ins and general maintenance work with 6-12 members.

With the New Year upon us it is always a good time to update our Referral Questionnaire here on file at the hall. You may do so here at the hall or on our website where you will be required to fill it out and print it along with mailing it in to us.

Have a Safe, Prosperous and Happy New Year!
Apprentice Training:

The 2010/2011 Academic year has begun and we are looking forward to another successful year! All members are encouraged to participate in the on-the-job training of our apprentices. Encourage them to learn new skills that will make them efficient and marketable.

Each apprentice is encouraged to utilize the resources available to become successful in the pipe trades.

We are looking for apprentices to participate in the New England UA Apprentice Competition that will be held in June 2011. An apprentice from each discipline can compete in the competition. (HVAC, Plumbing & Welding/Pipefitting).

Tis the season for New Year’s Resolutions. Yuch!

Did you know that most resolutions are busted within the first 30 days! It’s such a hard time to make these promises. There’s so much pressure to fix ourselves, better ourselves, change ourselves.

Obviously, some resolutions should be attempted; if not now, then when the time is right for you. Maybe lose a few pounds or eat a little healthier or quit smoking. Maybe walk a mile a day or drink one less beer or start recycling. Sadly, these resolutions all require conviction, determination and will power. They can certainly be done, but it takes work and concentration. You think about it all the time until it eventually becomes a new good habit. But that time can seem like an eternity.

I will probably attempt one of the old stand-bys. I’ll try to lose a few pounds. Or maybe I’ll try to get more exercise. But several years back I made two resolutions that I have never broken.

The first resolution I only had to make once. I never think about it any more. I didn’t hide it from my family for fear of having to admit failure. In fact it was absolutely essential that they all know about it! It didn’t cost anything and I didn’t have to give up anything. Well...at least not at the time I made the resolution. Over 30 years ago I committed to become an organ donor. So yes, eventually I will have to give up something, but when I do, it won’t hurt a bit! Until then, I’m so proud of myself I feel like a million bucks! It is a life-changing (possibly life-saving) gift that costs nothing! When the time comes that I can fulfill the promise and donate my organs, I won’t need them anymore.

The second resolution I DO have to think about and I DO have to consistently commit to. But it’s easy! I don’t have to resist certain foods. In fact, I’m encouraged to eat! I don’t have to walk or jog or run. I’m actually asked to lie down, put my feet up and relax. I’m waited on, applauded, and always begged to come back. Several times a year! I donate blood. I am presently working on my 9th gallon!! Imagine 9 milk jugs lined up on the table. That’s a lot of blood!

I’d like to be able to say that this is all the result of some momentous event in my past: a parent saved by a kidney transplant or a friend surviving a near fatal accident because of blood transfusions or a neighbor regaining sight after years of blindness. But I can’t. All I can say is that, should I ever face death for want of a kidney or need of blood due to an accident or disease, my life may hang in the balance that someone else made the same resolution. If I want these things available for me, it only seems right that I should give too.

Happy New Year, everyone!
“Let the workers organize. Let the toilers assemble... Let all thoughtful citizens sustain them, for the future of Labor is the future of America.”

- John L. Lewis

Fun Trivia
The only food known to man that doesn’t spoil is honey. Jars of honey excavated from tombs in Egypt, over 2000 years old, were still edible. Hard to believe, since bacteria love sugar, but the unique chemical composition of a low water content and a relatively high acidic level creates a low pH environment that makes honey very unfavorable for bacteria or other micro-organism to grow.

A long time ago - before airplanes were invented, a suspension bridge was being built to span the gorge near Niagara Falls. However, there was no way a boat could carry the necessary suspension cables across the violent water, and the bridge could not be built until the cables spanned the river.

In desperation, the bridge builders staged a contest, open to the public, as a last hope way to solve their problem.

The contest was won by a young boy. Soon afterwards, the cables spanned the water. What did the boy do to win the contest?

Items of Interest / Upcoming Meetings

February 8 * Guest Speaker – Bob Fortman / Topic: World War II
March 8 * Guest Speaker – Hooksett Police / Topic: Be Safe At Home

Retiree membership dues (just $10! for the year) are due. These funds are used to benefit our own retirees. Please be sure to get your dues in ASAP! (Additional donations always gratefully accepted!)

No one attending our meetings is under any obligation to do anything other than see a few friends, eat a few snacks and have a good time! If you want to see something in the newsletter, let me know. - Jimmy Griffin 603-736-4626