At the February union meeting a motion was made to have a notified meeting on March 9, 2005 to review the current By-laws. As many of you know we have not had a By-Laws book printed since 1997. At the notified meeting we would like to review the current By-Laws before we send them to the printer. We will have copies of the By-Laws for the members to review at the meeting. You may pick up a copy at the hall or they will also be available before the meeting.

According to the By-Laws no other business may be conducted at a notified meeting other than the business for which the meeting was called. We will start the notified meeting at 7:00 pm. Once the By-Laws have been reviewed the notified meeting will be adjourned and we will start our regular meeting. We will also be having elections for Health and Welfare, Pension and Annuity trustee. The polls will be open at 7:00pm and close at 8:00pm.

As I wrote about last month, we are trying to clear up all outstanding issues with the dues. There seems to be a lot of confusion as to the dues for retiree’s. Any member retired prior to February 1, 2005 will remain at $28.00 until the age of 65 or until they receive social security disability. Any member retiring after February 1, 2005 will pay the $30.00 rate until age 65 or until they receive social security disability. (continued page 3)
Congratulations to Apprentice Graduates:
Eric Berry, David Girouard and Mike Jarrard.

OSHA 10-hour training:
Two Saturday’s March 12th and 19th, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Please Sign up by March 4th.

UA Welding and Medical Gas Continuity sessions:
Held the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Please sign up in advance so that adequate support staff can be on hand.

UA Star Mastery Exams: HVAC, Pipefitter and Plumber.
Study guides are available and the next exam date will be in May!

State of Connecticut Licensing: Plumbers and Pipefitters. Study guides are available and testing is done in Springfield, MA.

College on Demand and Online courses are available to all members. Check it out at uanet.org or call for more information.

We are always looking to increase our Training Staff!
All interested members are encouraged to participate.

Well, after a month of updating the software, we’ve finally converted everything to reflect the UA per capita increases.

Just a reminder: the new rates go into effect February 1, 2005. So January is still at the old rate. If you have not yet received your new 2005/2006 membership card, it is most likely because you have not paid any dues in 2005. Don’t wait too much longer! Falling over 3 months past due costs you an extra $50.00 fine. When you do send payment on 2005, remember to pay January at the old rate and February forward at the new rate.

For retirees:
Any member retired prior to February 1, 2005 will remain at $28.00 until the age of 65 or until they receive social security disability.
Any member retiring after February 1, 2005 will pay the $30.00 rate until age 65 or until they receive social security disability.
The next meeting is a notified meeting:

Item One
Review of Local Union 131 By-Laws

Item Two
Trustee Election

Again this month I have sent letters to members in danger of a reinstatement fee on March 1, 2005. Remember, if you are in suspension, you lose your right to vote for 1 year from the time your reinstatement fee is paid. Also you must pay through the current month plus the $50.00 “R” fee for us to accept your dues.

The New Hampshire Building Trades held an open house for members of the New Hampshire House and Senate on February 15th at the new IBEW Hall in Concord. The night was a chance for members of the House and Senate as well as the Governor to see what the Building Trades is all about. It was a great success.

Other work in the area has been slow to hire due to weather, General Contractors moving slow and spring start up dates. Maroney has hired some plumbers for Southern New Hampshire Medical Center and will be looking for a few more plumbers with Med Gas certs. B & G Mechanical has some work at Dartmouth Collage but will not be hiring until spring sometime. Local contractors have been maintaining their manpower throughout the winter with no new hire projections until spring.

I have called all around the country and spring seems to be the time for all Locals to start clearing their benches and late spring hiring Travel cards.

There is some 40-hour work in Alabama, Nevada and California.

Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if Labor had not first existed. Labor is superior to capital, and deserves much the higher consideration.

Abraham Lincoln