This being the first newsletter of 2008 I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. This year promises to be an exciting time for the country and New Hampshire. We have weathered the media storm that has become the New Hampshire Primary, I hope everyone took the time to meet the candidates and ask them the questions that need to be addressed in regards to healthcare, the economy and jobs. We are very fortunate here to have the ability to shape the discussion and set priorities for the candidates to address long after New Hampshire has voted,

We also have a full slate of State races, ranging from the Governor to the State Senate to the House of Representatives along with the US Senate race and the 2 Congressional Races this year. The New Hampshire AFL-CIO has been having Coordinators meetings here at the hall for members interested in getting involved in the political process. The next meeting is Monday February 18th at 5:30 pm. We are looking for a few local members who would be willing to attend and help with the races that effect us most. If you are interested give me a call.

We attended a city council meeting last month in Berlin along with about thirty members of the NH Building Trades in support of a lot line adjustment on the paper mill property. The lot line adjustment was approved and is the first step in the proposed development of the existing boiler into a bio-mass power plant. Laidlaw has proposed the plant, financed a study of the boiler and contracted with B&W to retro fit the boiler upon getting the state and local permits. At this point the project is a long way from construction.

The northcountry suffered another blow with the closure of the Wausau mill in Groveton. If any member know of workers laid off from the mill that have pipefitting and welding skills and may be interested in traveling to work in the southern part of the state, have them contact Steve or me at the hall. During the spring outage season we may be able to help them out.

Work in the area is projected to be very good over the next few months with the Outages at Seabrook Station, Bow, and Schiller Station and all are expecting to go down in late March or early April. Work in New England is slow with all the action happening in the Mid-West working at least 5-10s. Our members on the road are working in MA, CT, NY, VA, SC, OH, NE, IO, IL, WI, NV, CO, NM, AZ, CA and TX.

We currently have:
- 153 working for local contractors
- 9 working locally for out of town contractors
- 31 members on the road
- 81 members out of work

Seabrook Station is offering a $500 bonus for doing the required NANTeL computer based training prior to being hired. This can be done here at the hall by contacting either Kim or I to make arrangements. Most of the training can be done on your home computer with the exams to be proctored here at the hall. Hire dates start 2/11/08 and expectations are 100 members for Williams and Ames Valve combined. If you are interested in going to Seabrook Station please contact me ASAP for pre-hire paperwork.

Bow has awarded the turbine work to Power Piping out of PA. They are projecting a 6 week outage for 12 members to run 24/7. Hire dates are mid March.

O’Connor has the balance of plant work at Bow and projects a mid March hire date. They also have a nine week outage scheduled at Schiller to begin on 3/22/08. Manpower numbers are unknown at this time.

All Local Contractors are holding their own with no big manpower spikes in the near future in either direction.

Once again I would like to remind everyone we have new Referral Questionnaires that list your Skills, Certifications, and Licenses on the Out-of-Work list. Please fill one out next time you’re at the hall or go online to our website (www.ualu131.org) and fill one out at least once a year or anytime you are out of work.
Best wishes to all for a wonderful 2008!

Our apprentices gathered 300 pounds of food and collected $100 in cash for their second annual holiday food drive! Thank you to all who were able to participate. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

We have begun our second UA Orbital certification class which will run through February 16th. This will bring a total of 16 members who have participated.

Apprentice classes are progressing well and your continued support with on-the-job training in the field is important! If there are any comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to let me know…

NH Gas Fitters Licensing: The State of NH will begin license enforcement July 2008. If you need help completing the forms, I will gladly assist you!

Well, the bells are all rung out, the carolers are all sung out and I’m all strung out!! Gosh, the holidays are wonderful, but they sure can be exhausting. And it certainly doesn’t end at Christmas Day.

If you’re the lucky home that hosted the big day, there’s all the cleanup of the wrapping paper and ribbons all over the place. Then there’s washing dishes and wrapping up all the leftovers. That’s followed by a few days of visiting friends and relatives who didn’t make it on the 25th. Next comes running all over town to a dozen stores (as if you didn’t get enough of that BEFORE Christmas!) to return all those thoughtful gifts you gave that were the wrong (check all that apply) size □ color □ style □ brand □ flavor □ length □ person. And then you have to deliver all those exchanges (cross your fingers you got it right this time.)

So you’ve finished up with the food and gifts. Now you can relax. Ooops, no. It’s New Years Eve. Get dressed up and try to make it to every party you’ve been invited to. Of course you have to pick which one is highest on the friends list, where you’ll actually be at midnight. Which means you just got scratched off a few people’s Christmas lists for next year. (Hmmm . . . maybe that’s a good thing.) You survive the night, make it home in one piece and sleep all day. What bliss, you finally can relax.

Oh wait, what about all the decorations? Dang, we can’t leave those up ‘til spring (tempting as that sounds right about now) so you drag out the boxes and bags and start packing it all up. Of course when you were putting all the outdoors stuff up, you could pick a warm afternoon to schlep out there. But now it’s January. There ARE no warm afternoons now. (Spring is sounding better and better all the time!) But no, you dress up in 7 layers, grab the ladder praying you won’t slide on any ice and break your neck, drag it all back inside, covered in snow of course, which tracks all over the carpet, the floor, the basement. So once again you have to do a major house-cleaning.

But finally it’s really over. You can sit down, kick your boots off, fix a hot drink, put your feet up, grab the remote and watch the football game. Wait . . . what do ya mean, that was yesterday? Oh well, there’s always the Christmas DVDs you didn’t have time to watch before Christmas!

“Happy (they’re over) Holidays!” I think I’ll go check out all those “After Christmas” sales.
The next Retirees meeting will be Tuesday, February 12, 10:00 am at the Union Hall.

The monthly breakfast gathering will be Monday, February 04 am at City Side Grill / Concord (13 Manchester Street – near Carlson’s Chrysler Dealership)

Member News

Condolences to:

Robert Fortin on the loss of his mother.

Family & Friends of Daniel Kroska who passed away shortly after Christmas.

Nominations were accepted at the December union meeting for the opening on the Board of Trustees. Congratulations to Dan Coffey who was unopposed for the position.

The Bulletin Board

- Union Meeting - Wednesday - Feb 13, 2008

“Just as there are no little people or unimportant lives, there is no insignificant work.”

– Elena Bonner

Local Union 131 Pocket Multi-Tool with UA logo

Just $15!

Local Union 131 Retirees Association

Jimmy Griffin / President

- The next Retirees meeting will be
  Tuesday, February 12, 10:00 am at the Union Hall.

- The monthly breakfast gathering will be
  Monday, February 04 am at City Side Grill / Concord
  (13 Manchester Street – near Carlson’s Chrysler Dealership)

♦ We had 30 people at the December meeting and only 8 in January. Of course the low attendance in January could have been because it was the day of the Primary Election! We really hope that number is up in February. We extend a welcome to anyone who wants to join us. Please! Bring you wife, your husband, your neighbor, your cribbage partner, the mailman! Snacks and coffee are a good bribe!

♦ The Christmas Party was a success again. Thanks to Dave, Steve and Mo in the office for helping organize. Thanks to Cliff Moberg (aka Santa!) and all the elves who handed out gifts, blew up balloons, did face-painting or otherwise contributed to making it a fun afternoon.

♦ Dave and Steve spoke at the January meeting. They wished everyone a Happy New Year and Steve spoke about the anticipated increase in work this spring and summer because of two scheduled shut-downs. We retirees all benefit from the strength of our union. Our working brothers and sisters must be employed so that contractors continue to contribute to our benefits package.

♦ We had Dennis Adams at the January meeting. He spoke about the importance of the Primary. He also spoke about the AFL-CIO Health Care Campaign. Signature support cards were passed out at the meeting and are available at the union hall. You can also get info and add your support with a signature at www aflcio.org/healthcare

♦ I have asked Dennis if he could arrange for our UA Regional Representative, Bill Turner, to come speak at our April meeting. We should know by the February meeting. Watch this newsletter.