This past week we witnessed the inauguration of our 44th president Barack Obama. With the new administration we have an opportunity to make real progress in the labor movement. The president believes that to make America’s economy strong we need to have a solid middle class; people with good jobs and benefits, people who can afford to purchase goods and services. President Obama knows that the way to a solid middle class is through organized labor.

Two days after the inauguration the New Hampshire Building Trades had a meeting with the General Secretary Treasurer of the National Building Trades, Sean McGarvey. Sean reported on the changes he has seen in Washington since the November elections. For eight solid years the Building Trades had been ignored. The ABC and AGC had the ear of the Bush administration. As the transition team was assembled, the Building Trades have taken part in policy discussions and have had a voice in the proposed stimulus package. The Building Trades has been working with the administration to see that Davis Bacon wage protections are part of the stimulus and that jobs with Project Labor Agreements have priority. Sean also reported that the President has chosen January 30th as the day he will sign an executive order repealing the Bush ban on federal project labor agreements. This is a big step in the right direction for organized labor.

Work in the area has slowed down considerably with the completion of work at Bow, Budweiser, and Dartmouth College. Work on the road is not available at this time. We have members on the road in MA, MD, MO, NV, SC, NJ, AZ, WI, and WA.

We currently have:
* 127 working for local contractors
* 19 working locally for out of town contractors
* 47 working on the road
* 55 out of work

With work being slow, now is the time to sign up and attend training courses that we offer through our training department. Med-Gas certifications (2/10/09) will be needed for the Hospital work that we are chasing. UA Weld Certifications (2/7/09) are needed locally and abroad. UA Valve Re-certification (2/18/09) will help with the October Seabrook Station Outage and all the nuclear outages throughout the UA. You may request any course the UA has to offer and with the participation of 8 or more members we will schedule the classes promptly.

Work over the past month has only produced 5 welder jobs at BMS in Devens MA and 1 fitter & 1 welder job on the road in GA.

Locally we dispatched 6 members to UNH with their NH Gas Fitters license to work on some Gas mains in the boiler house. If you have not yet applied for the NH Gas Fitters License you have until the end of January to do so in person at the Fire Marshalls Office in Concord at 33 Hazen Drive. Please do not delay as this is a critical license our members need to have to perform any work with gas.
Apprenticeship & Training
Kim Trisciani / Training Coordinator

Congratulations to Brian Gentile, recipient of a NASA Space Grant/PSNH Scholarship from the Community College System of NH.

This $1500 scholarship is awarded to full or part-time students who are enrolled in associate degree or certificate programs in science, mathematics, math/science teacher education, engineering, or technology.

The UA has several educational opportunities for all members. Supplementing our skills with additional education is what will take us to the TOP of the construction industry! Congratulations to those members who are taking advantage of these educational opportunities!

Information can be obtained from the UA website, www.ua.org or from our Local Training Office.

Confined Space Training:
There is still some confusion regarding “confined space” work areas. In an effort to provide a safe work environment for our members and contractors we will be holding a CONFINED SPACE TRAINING, March 18th 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM. This training is mandatory for apprentices and strongly encouraged for our entire membership. We are looking forward to YOUR participation in this important training event.

Plumbing Seminars 2009:
February 9, May 4, August 10 and November 9. IPC 2006 Plumbing Code Book is required. Registration: 5:30 Class: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Membership dues must be paid current to date.

Welders & Medical Gas Installers...
Please remember to complete your continuity requirements in a timely manner!

- TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH -
  Physical and Fiscal

Well, I guess it’s official. We’re in a recession. Things are tight for everyone. We’re all looking for places to pinch pennies and trim expenses. Sometimes it’s cutting back on unnecessary spending, like those double shot mocha lattes from Starbucks. Sometimes it’s making necessary spending go farther, like shopping the sales fliers for groceries and clipping coupons. And of course there’s recycling! Reuse envelopes and sales coupons for note paper. Buy furniture and household items at thrift stores to save money and keep those items out of the landfill. Cut up paper bags to wrap boxes for the mail rather than buy brown wrapping paper. Look around and you’ll see lots of easy ways to save.

However, it’s not as easy to see how spending money now can save you money later. Continuing to do those oil changes on your car can keep that car running longer and put off the need to buy a new one for a year or two. Avoiding a $200 a month car loan payment for two years can sure offset $40 twice a year in oil changes. Caulking around the windows saves heating costs. If you can cut $200 off you heating bill in a year, it’s worth $20 in caulk and a little of your time. And of course, paying your dues on time avoids those expensive reinstatement fines.

But one place that is even harder to see the savings is in our health care. Health costs are sky-rocketing. Anything we can do to avoid illness in the first place is just physically and fiscally smart. It’s a complete win-win situation! Not only do you save major costs of surgeries, physical therapies, expensive prescriptions and the like, but you gain better health, which feels great!

One of the biggest things you can do to improve your health is quit smoking. And that doesn’t cost anything! In fact, you’ll actually keep a bunch of money in your pocket that you won’t be spending on cigarettes. That’s a really big win-win. A carton a week ($40) X 52 weeks = $2080 a year!! Wow. This followed by less breathing distress; fewer work days missed from chest colds, pneumonia; fewer doctor visits, less chance of lung disease requiring astronomical medical care. A big savings, indeed.

I recently had my 50th birthday (ugh!) So I went in for my check-up. I had blood work (my grandfather had diabetes), a stress test (my father has heart disease) a colonoscopy (I’m 50, they told me to) and a flu shot. Luckily, all is well. But had they found anything, it would be much cheaper for me to catch it early and fix it now than it would be to manage it when it came to a state of being incurable. Long term maintenance of a chronic condition could bankrupt me.

And there are lots of other contributions to your health and well-being that cost very little to do now and can save bundles later. Go for a walk every day (free!). Take a daily vitamin (pennies a day). Cut back on alcohol (now... I said cut back, not quit!). Cut out some of those desserts. Use one spoon of sugar in the coffee instead of 2 or 3. Try to cook at home more and eat out less, (you save money at the restaurant and have better portion control at home). Buy more veggies and fruits (a bit more money than Twinkies but you see where I’m going here...). And lastly, laugh! A Lot! It’s good for the heart and the lungs. AND it will make it a lot less painful get through this recession!
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the extreme circumstances of the country’s economic downturn, measures have been implemented by the Local to reduce costs and increase income. In recent months, many operational expenditures have been reduced or eliminated.

On January 27th, a Special Notified Meeting was called to address two proposals that required membership vote to put into place. The changes below are effective January 2009.

1) By a vote exceeding a 2/3rd majority of the attending membership, motion carried to increase membership dues, as follows:
   - Journeyman - $35.00 a month
   - Apprentices - $22.00 a month
   - Tradesman - $22.00 a month

2) By a majority vote of the attending membership, motion carried to reclassify the Scholarship Fund as a “Student/Senior” fund and reallocate contributions to the Scholarship Fund as follows:
   - Each month, an amount equal to the total per capita expenditure paid to the UA on the behalf of all Local Carry members (disabled & over 65) to be transferred to the general operating fund. All remaining collected contributions to remain in the Scholarship Fund for scholarship awards.

Notice will be sent to all effected members regarding balances due on Dues paid in advance at the old rates.

“Jumping at several small opportunities may get us there more quickly than waiting for one big one to come along.”
- Hugh Allen

Find 17 creatures in this narrative:
Kneel in the kayak grasping the boat, but don't wrench the bullion or scowl at the chart. Behind the taped and sealed planter is a benevolent collier. The foxglove is in the bath.

“The Timing Is Everything”

Member News

Condolences to family and friends of Brother Edward “Kenny” Prunier who passed away Jan. 12th.

Condolences to Retiree Brother Bertrand Baron on the loss of his wife, Yvette.
The next Retiree’s monthly breakfast is **Monday, FEB 02, 9:00 am at the Windmill**, Concord

The next Retiree’s monthly meeting is **Tuesday, FEB 10, 10:00 am** at the Union Hall, Hooksett

**Attendance at January Retirees Meeting**


All in attendance greatly enjoyed the talk given by Colonel Bob Fortnam. We were very happy to see a few new faces come out for this enjoyable presentation.

The February meeting, we have TWO speakers!

If you haven’t been to a meeting in a while, this is the one to make!!

- **Kathy Clements.** Kathy is a financial advisor. She will speak on the changes to Social Security. She will also answer questions from the floor. She is very knowledgeable in financial matters.
- **Merrill Lewis.** Merrill is from the Moxie Fan Club and will talk about the old bottling building. (see below)

The retiree meetings are a great way to stay connected to old friends and keep informed of issues and people that affect US. We hope, as the weather improves, more and more of you can join us!

**“How Moxie Helped Win WWII”**

Presentation by Merrill Lewis, president of the New England Moxie Congress, at the UA Local 131 Retirees Association meeting, 10:00 am Tuesday, February 10th at Plumbers & Steamfitters Union Hall, 161 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett, New Hampshire

This presentation highlights the rich history and recent resurgence of a distinctively different soda, now produced locally in Londonderry, New Hampshire, plus the ongoing saga of the fabled Moxie Bottle House, once a Manchester landmark close to Grenier Field. The influence of Moxie during the 1939 – 1945 war years is also featured.