I would like to help everyone understand what our Political Action Committee (PAC) Fund is all about. We each make a voluntary contribution of $1.00 per week per person to this fund. This donation is used for political purposes. All contributions made to politicians have to be reported to the States of ME and NH by our Local. Your PAC Committee disburses the funds towards actions and/or candidates that support working families and our related issues (regardless of party affiliation, i.e. Republican, Democratic, or Libertarian, etc.) One such issue is the Right to Work law, which is being pushed here in NH. “Right to Work” is a direct attack on our Unions! In NH we have 400 State Representatives; approx. 100 are Democrats and 300 are Republicans. The vote in the House on “Right to Work” is very close because we have friends in both parties who support us in opposing this legislation. I have stated several times at our union meetings that one of the biggest surprises and challenges that I have faced since I was elected nine years ago was the role that politicians play in our everyday lives.

(continued)

With spring and warmer weather upon us, the outlook for work this year is looking good throughout the region. Locally we continue to have sporadic calls for manpower with NPI at Cheshire Medical, Nashua High School and Budweiser. We still need Stainless Steel Tig Welders at Budweiser. Laframboise has started manning up their project at Bud, presently there are only three people on site.

NGS has put on a few people for the outage at Merrimack Station in Bow. The outage has been pushed back to April 1, 2003. There may be a call for more help at Bow as we get closer to the outage and the scope of work is finalized.

The Newington Co-Gen will be having a scheduled ten-day outage on March 29, 2003. Marley and CCB will be hiring at that site. CCB will be performing outage work for ten days, and Marley will be reworking Mods in the cooling tower, possibly until late spring. The final presentations have been made at UNH on the chilled water /Co-Gen facility.

(continued)
Plumbing Seminars for 2003:
May 12, August 11 and November 10.
All seminars start promptly at 6:30 PM.
The 2000 International Plumbing Code books are required and are available for $48 each.

Congratulations go out to:
- The 13 Member’s who recently passed the UA Medical Gas Installer’s Exam.
- The 41 Member’s who successfully completed the OSHA 10 Hour Safety Training on March 8th.

Valve Repair:
Arrangements are underway for the UA Valve Repair class. The tentative start date is April 21st.

Medical Gas:
The next Medical Gas Installer’s class is scheduled to begin September 6, 2003.

OSHA 10 Hour Safety Training:
Future OSHA safety training is scheduled for September and November of 2003.

Welding:
Stainless Steel heli-arc training has been postponed until Instructor scheduling and equipment requirements can be arranged.

Every member, Active or Retired, has something to offer...
If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and special skills please contact the Local Union Office!

What is HB 821 ‘RIGHT TO WORK’?
A “right to work” law is a state law that prohibits employers and employees from negotiating a ‘union security clause’ requiring all workers who receive the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement to pay their share of the costs of the union representing them.

By federal law, non-union members in contract-covered jobs are already guaranteed the same wages and benefits of union members. By federal law, they cannot be forced to join any union or pay union dues. HOWEVER, currently, under federal law, non-union employees are required to pay for their share of collective bargaining expenses when a union security clause is in force. HB 821 would prohibit the unions right to negotiate such a clause and thus force the dues paying union members to pay the price, while nonmembers reap the benefits at no cost to them!

The Labor Committee, which has jurisdiction of this issue, voted on Wed. March 19th to send this bill to the full house as “inexpedient to legislate” (in layman terms, “to kill it”). Hopefully, the legislature accepts the committee recommendation.

So, I express my appreciation to all those that chose to participate. The post cards, phone calls, letters to your legislators, the hearings and meetings, were all a necessary part of the battle, and it will be through your efforts that we triumph once again. THANK YOU

...IN OTHER NEWS...
Cianbro, in Berlin, claims to be willing to entertain sub-contractor bids. Our contractors have been notified and contacts have been established in an attempt to bid and hopefully win some of this work.

‘GRUMBLING IN HANOVER’
I have contacted employees of Bell Mechanical. I am told there is grumbling by the plumbers and pipefitters working at the hospital. Meetings are in the very early stages, but we will attempt to bring Union representation to those that want it.
I need your help!

When you make your dues payments through the mail or when you stop by the office or drop them in the deposit slot, I can handle them in a timely manner during the business day. But guys! On union meeting night, I really need your help. If you’re planning to pay dues at my desk that night, could you please come a bit early, like at 6:30? Some nights it’s like they dropped off a bus at 2 minutes to 7:00 and I can’t get you all into the meeting in time. Plus, that’s when errors are most likely to happen, when I’m rushing to get you through. After a year of straightening out the dues mess, the last thing I want is to make mistakes in tracking your dues and cause anyone any problems. Thanks Bunches!!

UNION MEETING:
THIRD Wednesday of April
4/16/2003  7:00 PM

Just as a reminder, due to the anti-union conduct of these companies, we ask that you not shop at Wal-Mart or Sam’s Club. The AFL-CIO has placed them on their boycott list for all Union Members.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, June 14, 2003  Summer Outing at Bear Brook  /  Tickets $5.00 - available now
Saturday, October 4, 2003  Apprentice Graduation & Service Award Banquet

Before I was elected BA, I never paid close attention to state politics. I didn’t believe it affected my life all that much. But I came to realize that politicians introduce and pass laws about wages, health care, pensions, taxes, licensing and labor laws. Today we have our 40-hour workweek, paid overtime, public schools, OSHA programs, etc. because we sponsored certain politicians. Today, your contribution to the PAC Fund goes a long way in protecting our rights and labor laws so we can have a respectable living wage and benefits. One dollar a week ($52 per year) is not too much to ask to help protect and promote our rights.

A decision should be out by mid-April as to who is awarded the project.

We are still intently watching the Manchester Riverfront, Manchester Schools and Manchester Water Works projects. We have contractors interested in securing work on both the Riverfront and Water Works project. At this time we do not know in what direction the school projects will go.

As for work outside of the local, hiring has been slow throughout the country, with only a few welder calls from time to time. Local 51 is taking applications for the outage at Plymouth Nuclear Station; it is a thirty-day outage beginning on April 17th.