The Senate ED&A committee heard testimony on March 7th on SB-210, the gasfitter legislation. The turnout for the hearing on both sides of the issue was very impressive, with the majority of people signing up in favor of SB-210. The committee heard a number of convincing arguments, both for this bill and for leaving the gasfitters licensing as it presently is. At the conclusion of the hearings and after many discussions about the pros and cons of the current and proposed legislation, the committee felt that although they believe the current legislation needs to be changed, due to the time restraints, moving SB-210 this session could not be done. At this time SB-210 has been re-referred back to committee and will be addressed in the next legislative session in January 2008. By re-referring SB-210 back to committee the senate has given the Fire Marshal time to get his proposed licensing rules written and try to get them through legislative rule making. We will be following the Fire Marshals proposed rules as they go to public hearing and legislative review. When and if the rules receive final approval we will work with the Department of Safety to ensure our members receive the appropriate licenses. At the same time we will continue to work with the ED&A Committee to propose changes to the current legislation.

Committee meetings are wrapping up in both the House and Senate as bills go to the floor for vote before they cross over and the process begins again in the opposite chamber. The AFL-CIO and Building Trades are seeing real progress in pro-worker legislation this year and look forward to continued success as bills work their way through the entire process.

Work in the area continues to be slow with only a few members going to work locally. Work on the road is still strong with the start of the outage cycles. Welders and Med-Gas installers are in high demand all over the country. We currently have members on the road in NV, AZ, UT, MN, WA, NE, RI, PA, MA, IA, IL, DC, FL and TX.

We currently have:
- 134 working for local contractors
- 19 working locally for out of town contractors
- 46 working on the road
- 43 out of work

Federal Piping of Freedom NH is looking to hire an estimator with experience to expand his business opportunities. Anyone who would like an interview should contact the owner Dave Boyd at (603) 539-5826.

NPI has landed the Tuck Living and Learning Center at Dartmouth College scheduled to start as early as May. They also have been successful in acquiring work at CMC Hospital in Manchester.

RTH is in full swing at Conway Memorial Hospital and needs a good performance on that project to be able to compete on future hospital work throughout the state. They are also starting projects at Pease and the Shipyard.

HVAC Unlimited has put on another HVAC Service Journeyman helping their company now grow to three full-time HVAC Service Journeyman.

Johnson Controls has hired 1 HVAC Service Journeymen and 1 Apprentice to maintain their service Department.

I would like to thank Bob Townes for his time and equipment in helping us put up our new sign, Mike Cousins and Fred Ulmer for their time and effort at the CMC rally on 2/27, and Rich Larkin, Bob Drew and Les Reed for their time at the State House on the Gasfitters bill on 3/7. Thanks again!
2007 Plumbing Seminars:

May 7 * August 6 * November 5

All seminars begin at 6 pm. Current NH Plumbing License and UA Membership card required for registration.

Applications to enter the Local Union 131 Apprenticeship Program are currently being accepted. Please inform anyone you know who may be interested to stop by the union hall office and pick up the required paperwork.

CONGRATULATIONS to our most recently initiated apprentices:

James L. Burton, III
Jason R. Conrad
Nelson Cotto
Philip I Mark
Getsemani Velez
William Zurek

REMINDER TO ALL UA CERTIFIED WELDERS AND MEDICAL GAS INSTALLERS…
CONTINUITY IS REQUIRED EVERY SIX (6) MONTHS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SATISFY THIS REQUIREMENT ON THE JOB, YOU MAY DO SO HERE AT THE HALL!

All members are encouraged to visit and register on the NEW Local Union 131 website - www.ualu131.org
Once registered, you will have access to a training sign-up page.

At present, this page is still in the design stages. Not all classes listed are presently available. However, your input will help us design a new curriculum. Please take a few moments to submit a sign-up sheet indicating your interests. And check back frequently as we modify the form to reflect changes in the training being offered.

Also being developed on the website:

- A training Calendar that will show dates and times for all scheduled courses.
- An “Apprentices” page for information on class requirements, course expectations and other useful news specific to the apprentices.

Office Bits & Bytes
Mo Demers / Office Administrator

writing my column, longing to get back out on the trail, and blowing my nose so hard I’m amazed I haven’t seen gray matter in my tissue. Yep, I’m one of those sad-sacks that dutifully got my flu shot in the fall and caught the flu anyway. It’s been over 20 years since I’ve had the flu. I forgot how miserable it is. I’m just thankful I gave up smoking over 25 years ago. My husband, who smokes, also has the flu and believe me, he’s suffering a LOT more than I am. Needless to say, I’ve gone through a half a bottle of disinfectant spray, swabbing down everything I’ve touched in the office again and again and again to keep from passing it on to the boys! I sure do touch that phone a lot! And I’ve been forbidden to bring in the mail for all the other tenants.

But hope springs eternal, and I hope to be up to getting back on the treadmill in a few days. Yeah, it’s boring but I only have 2 months to get the ole legs back in condition to hit the trail with my sister in May. We’re off for a week on the Ouachita Trail that runs east-west across Arkansas into Oklahoma, which is where my sister lives. We figure we should be able to cover 50 miles of beautiful National Forest land with “• our knapsacks on our backs. •” Now there’s someplace you don’t want to be when the flu strikes. Yikes!
Well, here we are: Our first column in the main newsletter. Thanks to Dave and Steve for giving us the space. Let’s make good use of it. If anyone has any news they want to see get out to the rest of us retirees, here is the place to get it in print! Just call me at my number (printed on the outside cover) or call Mo at the union hall office.

In our last newsletter, I commented to the Phone Tree Captains. Well, it has come to my attention that we have a gap in the tree. We are in need of one more volunteer captain to cover the snowbirds. We have a dozen or so members in Florida, Arizona and a few other warm, dry places. Anyone who could take on a few calls a year to keep them connected would be greatly appreciated.

Brother Bob Bellew spent a short stay at the hospital but is now home recuperating. Calls and letters are always welcome.

If you have computer access, go check out the new website. And please register. If you have e-mail, you’ll get on their mailing list. And if our meeting ever gets cancelled, it’ll be posted on the site, in case you can’t reach me.