In the January / February edition of the UA Journal the 2008 Scholarship Award winners were announced. Of the 68 awards given, 3 went to daughters of Local 131 members. Congratulations to Nicole Bradstreet, daughter of Gordon Bradstreet, Jennifer Cayea, daughter of Lorne Cayea and Sara Lachance, daughter of Joe Lachance. The applications for upcoming scholarship awards are available on line at ua.org.

In last months newsletter I mentioned that we would be looking for skilled workers who had been laid off from the Groveton paper mill. As we get closer to the outages at Merrimack Station and Seabrook Station we are coming up short on welders for both jobs. We are currently looking at all avenues to fill these manpower calls. If you know of any welders capable of passing a pipe test please have them contact us at the hall.

Monday February 18th the NH AFL-CIO held a political coordinators meeting at the hall. The event was very well attended with 70 union people in attendance. The meeting was also attended by Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter. Congresswomen Shea-Porter discussed her work on the House Education and Labor Committee as well as the work she is doing to fight for middle- and working- class families. This Monday February 25th the AFL-CIO is hosting a conversation with US Senate Candidate Jeanne Shaheen. We will be posting events on our website as they come up. These events are a good opportunity for our members to meet candidates, and ask their positions on issues that effect working families. Thursday March 20th, 5:30 pm will be the kickoff meeting for the Labor 2008 campaign. We are hoping to have a good turn out of Local 131 members.

I have been attending the meetings of the Heating Advisory Committee. They are an advisory committee to the Fire Marshal regarding the Gas Fitters licensing program. As of the last meeting, February 21st, there are 2000 licensed gas fitters in the state. The Fire Marshal’s office has hired two inspectors to begin enforcing the licensing law. The penalty phase of the law goes into effect July 19, 2008. The penalty phase of the law basically reads that anyone who violates the rules by performing gas fitting without having obtained a license shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Anyone performing gas fitting that results in bodily injury or death shall be guilty of a felony. All of us need to be aware that we are required to have this license. If you need assistance filling out the application or have any questions, contact us at the hall.

Work in the area is very good at this time due to the Seabrook Station Outage scheduled for April 1st. As of 2/11/08 all local members that are out of work have been contacted and we are now sending travelers for the remaining calls which consist of about 30 welders. We also have the outage at Merrimack Station in Bow that is projecting about 15 fitters and 15 welders that will hire the end of March.

We currently have:
* 161 working for Local Contractors
* 11 working locally for out of town Contractors
* 25 working on the road
* 64 out of work

Williams Plant Services at Seabrook Station is the contractor that is doing all the early hiring for the Outage with calls every Monday through March 10th working 40 hours until April 1st and then will work 6-12s for the month of April.

Ames Valve will begin hiring 6 welders on 3/17/08 and 14 UA Certified Valve Techs on 3/24/08 for their part of the Seabrook Station Outage and is scheduled to work 6-12s starting April 1st.

O’Connor will have all the boiler work at Merrimack Station in Bow and Schiller Station in Newington and should begin to hire the last week of March for both projects.

Power Piping out of Pennsylvania has the Turbine replacement work at Merrimack Station in Bow for Siemens and is scheduled to meet with us by the end of February for more details on when and how many members the will be hiring for the April 1st Outage.

Work for Local contractors continues to be status quo with manpower projections to continue at the current level through June. Weather may dictate when the spring projects will be able to start but will not effect current staffing levels.

Over the past month we have had 23 fitters and 11 welders finish up projects while we have dispatched 36 fitters and 22 welders to Seabrook Station.
had, for all these years, completely ignored his own. It was during this time that we learned that he had no
directorial documents to address an unexpected illness or sudden death. After jumping through hoops with
lawyers to get this done for him AFTER illness had hit, we realized how glad we both were that we had done
this for ourselves long ago. It is not only important to protect the ones you leave behind but also critical to put
down EXACTLY what you do or do not want for health care in the event of traumatic or prolonged illness.
And this needs to be done while you are healthy and cognizant of what you’re doing. If they are not in place
when the time comes that you actually NEED them, it could be too late. Here are 3 documents that everyone
should have and a couple more to consider.

1. **A Will.** This covers your possessions. Yes, even if you think you have nothing to bequeath, this
document saves your family from dealing with probate court, which will keep a large part of what little
you do have. This is also the place you can put directions for your final arrangements. Do you want to be
cremated or buried: where do you want your remains to go: any special religious requests, etc…?

2. **A Living Will.** This covers your person. The medical field is restricted by laws what they can and cannot
do if you become permanently ill or injured. YOU must give permission/direction in writing what you
want and don’t want if your condition is deemed terminal. Do you want food, drugs, or other techniques
to prolong your life? Like it or not, you WILL get all of those things if you don’t direct otherwise in a
living will.

3. **Power-of-Attorney for Health Care.** This gives someone of your choosing the power to make health
care decisions for you if you are unable to make those decisions for yourself, due to illness or injury.
When you were a child, this power was automatically held by your parent or guardian. But as an adult,
you must give that power to someone. The POAHC is enforced and rescinded as needed. If you are in an
accident and are unconscious, this person can speak for you in regard to treatment. Once you reach a state
where you are once again able to make your own choices, the power is yours again. It is important that the
person you choose knows your position on items like religious beliefs, drugs, amputations, etc…

4. **“Do Not Resuscitate” Order (DNR).** This dictates to emergency personnel that you do not want extreme
valiant efforts to save you in an emergency. You would carry a card copy of this document at all times.
Perhaps you feel that the potential injury caused by such efforts would be worse than death. Someone well
on in age might suffer terribly from aggressive CPR after a heart attack or stroke. Maybe you fear
paralysis or prolonged coma. Your reasons are your own. But without this card, emergency personnel are
REQUIRED to do all they can to save you.

5. **Power-of-Attorney.** This gives someone of your choosing access and control of your finances. Although
you don’t need someone to do this now, you should be prepared to execute a POA should the need arise.
Talk to a lawyer on this one.

Many of these are available as simple “fill-in-the-blank” forms. The State of NH has created a simple
version that meets all the legal requirements of NH. Many of these are available at nursing homes and
healthcare facilities throughout the state. I will be investigating whether or not I can get these forms here in the
office for you as well.

All of these documents require notarization and/or witness signatures. Dave, Steve and I are all available
to serve in this capacity to get these documents executed for you. However we cannot advise you to the
content. You should discuss this with your family and/or a lawyer.

Once completed, make numerous copies and distribute them to all your healthcare providers and to the
people you have named in the documents. Be sure to attach a note regarding the safe/secure location of the
originals, which will be needed in time of emergency. It’s also a very good idea to carry a note with you at all
times that lists the documents you have executed and where emergency personnel can get a copy quickly.
The union donated some items for us to raffle off at our meetings. 2 T-shirts, a multi-tool and a one-o-a-kind UA hat. Thank You, guys. We raffled all but the two shirts. Come to the March meeting and buy a chance!

We want everyone to know that all our gifts and cards to our brothers and sisters in need are greatly appreciated. We receive many, many thank you cards and read them at each meeting.

Remember – there are only 3 meetings left before we break for summer! We will be trying to get speakers and have Dave and Steve report at each of them. Also, watch the Bulletin Board for a schedule of dates when Insurance Programmers will have reps at the hall for questions from any and all members.

Insurance Programmers representatives will be available at the Union Hall for private conference from 10:00am to 11:30am on the following dates:

- Tues - March 18
- Tues - May 20
- Tues - July 29

We would like to ENCOURAGE all members to obtain their NH Gas Fitters License! Enforcement will begin July 1, 2008. Many towns already require the license to perform gas piping and equipment installations! The application process is EASY just give Kim a call and she will assist you with the forms.

The following books are available:
- NH Plumbing Code Books: IPC 2006 - $65
- NFPA 54 Fuel Gas Code Books: $50
- Checks payable to: NH Plumbers & Pipefitters

**2008 Plumbing Seminars**

May 12th, August 11th and November 3rd

All seminars are from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

NH Plumbing Board requires 2008 seminars to be a minimum of three (3) hours in length!

- Current NH Plumbing License and UA Membership card required for registration.
- MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE PAID FOR THE CURRENT MONTH OF THE SEMINAR

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