The Fire Marshal's office has been continuing to work on their proposed rules for the gasfitters licensing regulation. I attended a meeting of the heating advisory council on April 9th where the committee gave the impression they were in the process of changing the rules currently approved by the Department of Safety Attorney. At the same meeting, two pre-public hearings were scheduled for April 19th at 9am and 1:30pm as well as one on April 20th at 9am. These meetings were scheduled to get information out to the public regarding the licensing rules. Questions were asked as to what rules would go to public hearing if the committee saw fit to change the proposed rules again at this meeting on April 9th. Concerns were also raised about the times the meetings had been scheduled. There was a lot of discussion as to what the committee could do with the rules now that a series of hearings had been scheduled. We left the meeting not knowing what would be presented to the public or if the pre-public hearings would fulfill state law requirements.

I attended the first of the pre-public hearings April 19th at the Keene Fire Station. Only 11 people were present other than the 2 Deputy Fire Marshals and the Dept. of Safety Attorney. We were informed from the attorney that although this hearing would not satisfy the statute for public hearing it would be conducted as a public hearing and comment would be taken. Few of the people present had seen the proposed rules before and many had questions. We were also informed that the period for public comment was open and would extend until June 4, 2007. At this point the attorney informed us that the actual public meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2007 at the Fire Academy in Concord at 10am.

I urge all our members to visit the Fire Marshal’s web site. You can link there from the State of New Hampshire web page. You can get to the state website from the Local 131 website, under “LINKS” at the top of the home page. Once on the state website, go to “Government,” then “State Agencies” and finally “Fire Safety.” From the Division of Fire Safety Page you can download the proposed rules and read the notice for public comment.   

Manpower Hour
Steven D. Lachance / Business Agent

Work in the area continues to be slow with only a few short outage calls coming in at this time. Work on the road is still strong with all the outages that are ongoing. Welders are still the demand right now on the road. We have members on the road in NV, AZ, UT, RI, MA, IL, FL, TX, MN, CT, & NE.

We currently have
  138 working for local contractors
  33 working locally for out of town contractors
  51 working on the road
  26 out of work

Pilgrim Nuclear Plant is at full capacity for their outage in Plymouth Massachusetts. We have 20 members there and work should last through the month of April.

APCom Power took the Shiller Station plant away from Cianbro and is self performing a one-week outage on the week of the 16th. With a good performance we may well be back on the preferred contractors list for all work at Shiller Station.

O’Connor at Merrimack Station in Bow has 12 members working there for their outage that started on the 18th and should run for about one month. The Boilermakers have offered to hire and reciprocate the benefits for all the welders we can give them for that same outage.

HVAC Unlimited has expanded again with the hiring of a Project Manager/Estimator and a Lead Foreman to start their Mechanical Installation Division. This is to go along with their already booming Service Division. Congratulations and good luck to this new signatory contractor.

Seabrook Station has hired 1 welder for the FIN-Team and has 2 more welders and 1 fitter on the books for sometime in May.

Over the past month we have dispatched to contractors working locally, 7 plumbers, 11 fitters, 11 welders, 1 HVAC and 2 apprentices.
Dennis Adams will be the guest speaker at the May meeting. Some changes have been made to the management of the District Council. Dennis will discuss those changes, including his new position as Regional Organizer.

At the April meeting, Steve Lachance gave a presentation on the state of LU131 labor in the area. Jessica Clark, from the NH AFL-CIO spoke requesting retirees of LU131 to fill out post cards that will be sent to our legislators here in NH regarding the right to organize. The next post card mailing is supporting the Employee Free Choice Act. Every signature counts. If you can help, contact the LU131 union office, the AFL-CIO at 603-623-7302 or visit www.EmployeeFreeChoiceAct.org

The date for the Summer Outing is Saturday June 9th at Bear Brook State Park. The park is now requiring liability insurance. This new expense and the ever-rising cost of food have really increased the cost of this event. Many of our retirees look forward to this gathering every year. The retirees in attendance at the April meeting voted to make a contribution of $190.00 toward the insurance (half the price of the one-day rider). If anyone is in need of transportation that day, please call the union office or Jimmy Griffin and we’ll make SURE you have a chance to come enjoy the fun and food at this event. Phone numbers are on the outside of this newsletter.
“The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dreams shall never die.” — Edward Kennedy

### SPECIAL NOTIFIED MEETING

**Wednesday - May 9, 2007 - 7:00 PM**

**Topic:** Nominations for committee seats with terms that expire in June 2007 and new positions opening up.

#### TERMS EXPIRING:

- **Executive Board**
  - (1 position) Paul Daigle

- **Finance Committee**
  - (1 position) Dana Wentworth

- **Plumbers Exam Board**
  - (1 position) Jim Rowan

- **Scholarship Committee**
  - (2 positions) Paul Daigle, Mark Grant

- **Scholarship Committee**
  - (2 positions) Paul Daigle, Mark Grant

- **T**
  - (1 position) Jeff Welch

- **Trustees**
  - (1 position) Jeff Welch

- **Plumbers Exam Board**
  - (1 position) Jim Rowan

- **Fitters Exam Board**
  - (1 position) Steve Beauregard

- **Local Union 131**
  - **Negotiating Committee** (1 position)
  - **District Council 10 Deleg**
    - (1 position)

#### NEW OPENINGS:

- **2007 Summer Outing**
  - June 9
  - Bear Brook
  - State Park

#### Local Union 131

**Scholarship Applications for 2007**

Are now available!

- Call the union hall or visit the website and print out form and instructions.

#### REMINDER

Postage Stamps are going up!

- May 15: The cost of a first class stamp will be **41¢**

#### Condolences

To Brother Mitch Gardner, who lost his son to an auto accident in California.

---

### Office Bits & Bytes

**Mo Demers / Office Administrator**

So my husband and I are desperately hooked on “Lost.” And I’ve become a big fan of a couple of shows on the Discovery Channel: “Survivorman” and “Man vs. Wild.” With my passion for the outdoors, I soak up these shows like a sponge. I’ve learned so much that I’m very confident in my ability to keep myself alive in an emergency situation in the wilderness. Now, my husband loves “Lost” because there’s a really intriguing story, but he just rolls his eyes when I’m glued to the set for the other two shows. No story: no interest. But if the story is good . . . So you can imagine how hard it was for him the night we watched “Cast Away” with Tom Hamks, the movie about a guy in a plane crash who ends up spending 4 years on a deserted island. Through the whole flick, I’m yakking away at the tube –

- “Oh damn, he lost his shoes! You’re feet are THE most important.” . . .
- “Don’t lose the raft!! DON’T LOSE THE RAFT!!” You’ll need it for shelter!!” . . .
- “You have the shoelaces from the skates – make a bow to spin the stick! You’ll kill your hands trying to make a fire like THAT. Weren’t you ever a Boy Scout?!”

My poor husband didn’t get to enjoy much of the movie. Too bad. It was a great story.