The April meeting is a notified meeting for disbursement of the June 2008 increase. We have an increase of $1.90 June 1. We are getting numbers from our actuary as to the amount needed to maintain the health and welfare benefit as well as funding plan to get the pension to the required funding level (above 80%). It is important that you attend the meeting and have a voice in where the money is allocated. The majority at the meeting will decide where to allocate the funds so make every effort to be here.

I recently visited the Welding Technology Program at Manchester Community College. It was good to see a full class after years of declining enrollment in the program. I spoke about career opportunities in the Pipe Trades and the opportunity for placement in the apprenticeship program. As we all know the numbers of skilled trades workers has been on the decline with the retirements of the baby boomers. Interest in the skilled trades has been minimal as students are pushed to college from a very early age. President Hite has made it one of his priorities to attract the students in trade schools and offer them advanced placement in apprenticeship programs before they become our competition. I urge every member to actively recruit both candidates for apprenticeship and skilled unorganized workers for the benefit of our organization and the industry.

I want to recognize 2 of our members who are currently enrolled in the UA Welder Training program at Local 51. Sean Ruhl and Paul Taylor have each taken their own time to attend the 16 week course to learn a skill that will increase their marketability. Good luck to both.

Work in the area is booming right now with Seabrook Station fully manned for their 30 day outage on 4/1 with over 120 UA members on site. Merrimack Station in Bow has about a dozen members on site between O’Connor and Power Piping and projects to put on at least another 18 members when the outage starts on April 1st for the six-week duration.

We currently have:
* 171 working for Local Contractors
* 53 working locally for out of town contractors
* 29 members on the road
* 20 members out of work

We placed an ad in the Union Leader for Pipefitters and Welders in preparation of projected manpower shortages for Seabrook, Bow, Schiller and Local contractors with some of the welders coming here to test with very little success with our weld processes.

It appears the scrubber project at Bow is in motion with early activity in the bidding of the building that will house the project. This is good because it was originally scheduled for April 09.

We are also fielding a lot of calls from contractors looking to bid work at Bow.

I was able to tour some of the projects that are ongoing and upcoming in our Local Jurisdiction and would like to remind everyone that they are absolutely going to need the Gas Fitters License and the UA Med-Gas Certification ASAP. Please contact us at the hall for the forms and training to get yourself set for this work. The Gas Fitters License is going to be enforced over the next few months and all the Hospital work on the horizon will require Med-Gas Certifications.
We NEED your current e-mail addresses. It is by far the quickest way to disseminate important information. So please either send us your address or confirm that the one we do have is accurate!

Even if we already have your e-mail address, some firewalls and spam blockers require you to give your computer permission to accept mail from specific addresses. So please check and make sure you won’t be blocking any of these union e-mails:

- info@ualu131.org
- admin@ualu131.org
- modemers@ualu131.org
- JATC@ualu131.org
- pelletierd@ualu131.org
- slachance@ualu131.org

DO NOT give the union office phone number as your “contact number” to doctors, schools, banks, etc... Please. We know that this industry forces you to move from job to job and you can’t keep changing your number with all these people every time you move to a different employer. HOWEVER, we cannot and will not give out your personal information to anyone that calls asking for it. We also cannot serve as an answering service and deliver messages reminding you of your next doctor appointment or telling you that you’re late on your car payment. Using the union office number can have very serious repercussions. We recently had a very scary incident caused by this practice. Apparently a member gave the office number to their child’s school. On a day when the weather was snowy but not calling for a blizzard, this school decided to give their students early release. In this automated world, they recorded an announcement and had their phone system call every number in their database. Well, don’t you think I wasn’t surprised when I answered the phone in the union office and heard this school’s taped message telling me they were closing at noon and I should come get my child! Then I became worried, because there was no way I could know who that message was meant for and I realized that someone’s child was going to be stranded at school waiting for a ride that wasn’t coming! Please, it is EXTREMELY important that you give everyone that may need to reach you your home number or the number of a relative where they can leave a message. Or better yet, a cell phone number so they can reach you directly. Sure, you may not want to take that call from the bank, but you definitely don’t want to miss that call from your child in trouble.
The retirees want to extend an invitation to ALL members of Local 131 to attend our meetings. You may not be retired YET, but come see what we have to offer and you have to look forward to! Coffee and snacks are always served. Any comments welcome, too.

The Summer Outing at Bear Brook State Park is only a few months away. If you can’t get there by yourself, the person that drives you is welcome to join you for the day. When you reserve your ticket, just let the office know that you will need a ticket for your driver. If you don’t have someone to give you a ride, call me and I’ll make arrangements to get you there!

There are only two meetings left, April & May, before we break for the summer. Annual dues will be due upon our return in September. Dues are only $10 for the whole year.

At the May meeting, **UA International Representative Bill Turner** will be our Guest Speaker. He will present a "State of the Union" address. Let’s show him our solidarity and strength with a great turnout!! Not only do we want to make a good impression, but this will be the last time we get together before summer break. Let’s all come out for this one!

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- George Burns

**MEMBER NEWS**

**Condolences**
- OJ Maheux (passed away Feb 6th)
- Richard “Pelch” Pelchat (passed away Feb 18th)

**Illnesses**
- Frank Fudala has been admitted to Concord Hospice. His battle with mesothelioma is nearing an end. Calls and visits would be greatly appreciated.

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

- May 20
- July 29

2008 Local 131 Scholarship Forms
Now Available
Check [www.ualu131.org](http://www.ualu131.org) for rules and application forms.

**Local Union 131**
**Retirees Association**
**Jimmy Griffin / President**

- The next Retirees meeting will be
  **Tuesday, April 8, 10:00 am** at the Union Hall.
- The monthly breakfast gathering will be
  **Monday, April 07 am** at City Side Grill / Concord

“The healthiest part of a donut is the hole. Unfortunately, you have to eat through the donut to get to it.”

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