The May meeting will be a notified meeting for the disbursement of the June 1 increase of $1.60. An increase to the Labor Management Fund is already committed at $0.15, leaving $1.45 to split up. As reported at the April meeting the actuary for the Health & Welfare and Pension Funds reported that the funds are doing well and he does not feel we need any increase to fund our current benefit level at this time.

The Trustees on the other hand feel a modest increase to both funds will insure they are solvent and to avoid large funding increases and benefit cuts in the future.

Also, as many of you know, we have been paying the per capita to the District Council from the general fund. Through a combination of many things the general fund has been losing money over the last couple years. Our current dues structure cannot support the $0.20 per man-hour payment to the Council as well as support the local without drawing money from the general fund monthly. I have been in contact with the General President and Administrative Assistant to the GP over funding of the council and, although they listened to my concerns they have made it clear we will fund the council at the full $0.20 per man-hour rate. This leaves us very few options. I have spoken to the finance committee and we will be proposing a 1% increase to the working dues assessment at the May meeting. Please make every attempt to attend.

Work in the area continues to be slow, with the exception of the Seabrook Station Outage, which is fully staffed and two weeks away from completion. There are currently 76 members on the out-of-work list, with 9 of them on travel cards. Work on the road is in Alabama, California and Utah and almost all calls are for welders.

J.C. Cannistraro will be looking for two plumbers in a couple of weeks for Liberty Mutual. O’Connor has the outage at Bow scheduled for 30 days starting May 2.

Maroney will be hiring 2 plumbers with Med. Gas certs. for SNHMC in Nashua.

American Refrigeration is scheduled to start the AG freezer plant in Pembroke June 1st.

Ouellette P&H is going to start in mid May at Dartmouth on the dorms they were awarded.

J.C. Higgins will be hiring 10 at the end of April for the UNH power plant.

I would like to ask everyone who gets laid-off or is out of work in 2005 to come by the hall and fill out a referral questionnaire so I can update my files on job skills and qualifications.

We are still looking for licensed plumbers to work under the residential agreement. Anyone interested or if you know someone who is interested please contact the hall as soon as possible for an interview.
Many of you may not be aware of a passion of mine: live theater. I produce plays, direct, act, sing, build sets and basically live and breathe live theater. Recently I had the opportunity to go see a friend of mine in a production of a true American classic: “The Grapes of Wrath.” It is based on the John Steinbeck novel of the same name. It is a story about honest American farmers that have been driven off their land in the great plains of this country and how they suffer the plight of living as migrant workers as they travel across the country in search of the promise of a better life in California. They are forced to endure horrible working conditions and to labor for starvation wages. My friend’s character, Jim Casey, tries to organize these abused workers and is killed for his efforts. It is a disturbing story.

As I watched the retelling of this tale, I could not help but think of the benefits that we, as union brothers and sisters, enjoy. And I remembered the people that came before us that fought, sometimes at great cost, to win us these rights and privileges.

As I chatted with my friend after the show, he pulled out a recent newspaper article that he had clipped and saved. It was a report on the end of a four-year battle that had been waged by immigrant farm hands against their employers, large tomato farms that supplied Taco Bell. These workers had been toiling for horrendously low pay. So they organized. And after four long years, a settlement had been reached. The result for the laborers - a 100% increase in their wages! The cost to Taco Bell - a one cent increase in the price of tomatoes!
2005 Scholarship Applications
Now available at the union office.

2005 Summer Outing
June 11 / SAT - 11:00am
Bear Brook State Park

Refreshments All Day
Food served at 1:00

Includes 1 Lobster, Steamers and
All-You-Can-Eat Pig Roast!
Tickets
$5.00 Active Members.
Retirees and Apprentices Free.
Limit 1 ticket per member.

>> Union Meeting <<
SPECIAL NOTIFIED MEETING
Wed. May 11, 2005

* TOPICS *

Disbursement of June Wage Increase

Nominations
Terms expiring June 2005

Executive Board 1 seat
Finance Committee 1 seat
Plumbing Exam. Board 1 seat
Fitters Exam. Board 1 seat
Scholarship Committee 2 seats

The Bulletin Board

MEMBER NEWS

Dave Chalbeck returned to work in January after a long battle with esophageal cancer. He is currently in remission and feeling great!

Brother John Trayner passed away in his sleep April 17.
A graveside memorial service will be held at North Branch Cemetery, Antrim, NH May 6, 2005 at 10AM
His son, Jay is searching for a Local 131 member or relative of a member that plays the bagpipes. He wishes to have a piper at his father’s services. If you know anyone, please contact Jay at 603-456-3418

STARTING IN MAY

For access to the "MEMBERS ONLY" section of the UA website, you will use your membership card number. Once there, you will be able to create your own password.

SMILE!

"It's a reality show about a non-union shop."