At our May union meeting we disbursed the June increase as follows:

- $0.20 Health and Welfare
- $0.10 Local Pension
- $0.10 Annuity
- $0.15 Labor Management Fund
- $1.05 Wages

We also increased the Working Dues Assessment from 2.5% to 3.5%. As was explained at the meeting, we have been holding expenses to a minimum and still find it difficult to pay our bills without taking money from investments. The additional 1% will generate the money required to fund the district council, with an excess of eight cents per hour going to the local.

The last Health and Welfare report came back on a positive note. We are currently at 3.7 months in reserve. We are in a far better position than we have seen in quite a while. We are hopeful that the added discounts we are receiving from the Blue Cross Network will allow the fund to continue to build reserves throughout the coming year.

As many of you know the UA Residential Agreement is being utilized by many of our contractors. The scope of work includes both residential and light commercial. The intent of the agreement is to recapture these markets, not to undercut the commercial agreement. If you know of anyone working in this market that would be an asset to the local, let us know.

Work in the area continues to be slow and the work we do have on the books seems to be delayed for one reason or another until late June to early July.

We currently have 130 members on the out-of-work list with 8 on travel cards. Work throughout the country is slow with none of the roadwork on overtime, with the exception of some spotty overtime in Utah, Phoenix and California. There is no roadwork in New England at this point in time.

I would like to thank all the members who have taken the time to come by the hall and fill out their referral questionnaires. It has helped me capture skills that were not listed for them. I would like to ask anyone who has not yet filled one out to stop by and do so, especially if you are on the out-of-work list. The contractors are always asking to see the list before they hire and your skills are clearly marked next to your name. Any time you get laid off or sign the out-of-work book would be the best opportunity for you to update your referral questionnaire.

I would like to ask anyone who is interested in working under the Residential Agreement or if you know of someone outside of the local that is interested in joining the local under the Residential Agreement, please contact me for an interview appointment.
Well, I’ve been sending out these newsletters for a few years now. When we first changed the format, everyone in the office was assigned a column that they were responsible for filling every month. At first I thought, “What in the world do I know about this? What the heck am I going to say?” I guess I’ve finally got the hang of it. I hope that this column, as well as the whole newsletter, has become something of interest to you. It is a great opportunity to keep you all informed and up to date on what’s happening with the union, the membership, the people in the office, etc . . .

If you’ve come to look forward to the monthly newsletter, that’s great. It means we’re doing it right. I hope you’ve noticed that we are trying to post news about your fellow members. Sometimes it’s good news; sometimes not so good. This is YOUR newsletter. If you know of anything that you think the rest of the membership would like to know or you want to post some bit of news, just contact me or the guys at the office.

(NOTE: all the important phone numbers are on the outside of this newsletter every month.)

We are continually trying to improve things here at the office. It is a constant struggle to stay on top of address changes and new phone numbers. We are also trying to streamline procedures. Steve is currently updating skills and certs in the database by having members fill out a new “Referral Questionnaire.” And I am working on combining several membership lists all into one that can be used for most everything. One thing you may notice is the look of the address labels. Our mailing list is now being generated through UNET, the software that tracks dues and the out-of-work list. From now on, all mailings will go out ONLY to members “in good standing.” This means that any member that has been charged an R-Fee for going beyond 3 months late on dues is automatically dropped from the mailing list. Once you pay the fine and the owed dues, you are returned to the mailing list. Just one more very important reason to stay current on those dues.
The Bulletin Board

>> Union Meeting <<

SPECIAL NOTIFIED MEETING
Wed. June 8, 2005

>> Elections <<

2005 Scholarship Applications
Now available at the union office.

The Local Union 131 Scholarship is a “reimbursement” plan. This means an award is a payback of funds you have already spent. Students must provide proof of payment of tuition and documentation of passing grades to submit an application.

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.

The purpose of “right-to-work” is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining.  

Martin Luther King

MEMBER NEWS

Brother Eric Moberg is actively seeking a bass guitar player for a working band in the southern NH area. Anyone interested or wanting more information can contact Eric at 603-670-5269

Brother John Sullivan, Sr. has recently been diagnosed with cancer. He is presently in the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA receiving chemotherapy. Future treatment will require blood transfusions. His son, Sully, has asked for concerned members to donate blood. Members can go to ANY Red Cross donation center and donate in John Sullivan’s name. All blood types will be accepted and used to replace pints of the proper type (A pos) that will be transferred to the Lahey Clinic for John when the time comes.

Anyone wanting to read the complete NY Times article on the Taco Bell boycott mentioned in last month’s newsletter, check this website:

www.ciw-online.org

“Don’t step on it… it makes you cry.”