The members of the local voted on a new contract recently. We got a $1.50 increase effective June 1, 2004. The members then voted to put $1.00 into Health & Welfare, $0.25 into the National Pension, $0.15 into the Target Fund, and $0.10 into the Local Pension. On June 1, 2005 we will get a $1.60 increase and the members will decide where to allocate the money at that time.

It was a very difficult negotiating process this time due to the current economy and recent healthcare crisis. The contractors’ offer had to include $0.15 per hour in the first year and $0.15 per hour in the second year for the target fund to be used solely for targeting jobs. They did say that Local 131 could administer it and decide which jobs to target and how much. Most of the jobs currently going on in the local right now are targeted jobs. With the economy being so bad there is more and more non-union competition on all the jobs being bid.

These are some very difficult times that we are all in right now. We need to pull together as a local and determine our best course of action to get more work for all our members. The best way for the healthcare crisis to get better is to have all our members working and contributing to the fund. We also need our members to stay healthy.

(continued)
Congratulations to Apprentice Graduates:
Steve Treadwell - April 4, 2004
Henry Holton - May 21, 2004
John Wawrzyniak - July 5, 2004
Brian Matthews - September 27, 2004

Congratulations to Pipe Tradesmen Graduates:
John Henderson - January 2004
Kevin Stackpole - February 2004
Mark Van Schoor - February 2004
Lucien Morneau - March 2004
Ed O’Hara - May 2004
Steve Kirschner - May 2004

Apprentice of the Year:
1st: Kevin Morse (98% avg., 0 absences)
2nd: Tony Boutin (97.25% avg., 1 early release)
3rd: Jeremy St. Amour (96% avg., 1 absence)

Continuity for UA Welding or Medical Gas Certification will be held on Wednesday, July 21st, at 6:00 pm. Please call in advance so I can schedule adequate support staff.

The next UA weld test will take place Saturday, July 24th.

Next Plumbing Seminar:
Monday, August 9th at 6:30 pm.

Local News

It was great to see everyone at the outing. On behalf of the kitchen staff, it was our pleasure. Hopefully, we see more of you next year.

On the Organizing front, the Pizzagalli Campaign is going as planned, and things will heat up very shortly.

With the New England Regional Organizer taking the lead, a comprehensive campaign to attract contractors from the service industry is forming.

The Manchester Central Labor Council

The Manchester CLC is working to beat three candidates from Manchester in both city and state elections.

The NH Building Trades

The Canvas to Beat Bush went very well. I hear we had a good turnout. I would again like to thank our Political Action Committee for all of their hard work.

News from the AFL-CIO

The AFL-CIO is in full swing for the November election. In my opinion George W. must go.

Don’t forget Union night at Gill Stadium is June 27th. The ticket price includes all you can eat BBQ. Call Jessica at the AFL-CIO office for tickets.

623-7302 ext. 10.
Notice:

Bob Drew has stepped down as the president of the Retirees’ Association. Dave Robeck has taken the post. If you need to contact him, he can be reached by phone at 603-664-7743 or by e-mail at dwrobeck@msn.com

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications must be received in the Local Union office no later than June 30, 2004

Office Odds & Ends

Mo Demers

It is at times like these that I am forced to remind ALL the membership of the IMPORTANCE of informing Local Union 131 of changes in your personal data. This applies not only to address and phone number information, but most importantly, to the death of a member. It is crucial that you inform your families that they must contact this office to report your passing. For everything to go smoothly and for ALL your benefits to be processed correctly for your loved ones, it must be handled by us. Many beneficiaries have tried to contact the numerous pensions and other offices themselves. The result is that things get missed and payments are either delayed or overlooked altogether. I recently processed a claim for a widow whose husband had passed over 2 years ago! I got her the $2500 death benefit that she was entitled to, but what a regrettable shame that she waited so long!

Please. You don’t want your loved ones to suffer the same. Make sure that your families know what to do. At the most difficult, saddest hour, the last thing they need is to be lost in a mess of business details. One phone call to Local Union 131 is all they need to do. That’s why we’re here - to serve our members AND their families.

The Bulletin Board

Union Meeting – July 14, 2004

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The Corner Office (continued)

On a brighter note, the outing at Bear Brook State Park was another success. We had about 200 members attend. Many, many thanks go to the kitchen crew and the cleanup crew.

Let’s hope for a better summer this year for our members to get to work.

Manpower Hour (continued)

NPI is currently at their lowest manpower level with fewer than 50 people currently employed. Amari has been doing a few small jobs in the area but is down to 2 people. RTH has a few jobs going at the Portsmouth Naval Yard and a small job at St. Paul’s School in Concord with 19 members working.

“Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower