I would like to thank all the members who volunteered their time and energy to make the local outing a success. I especially would like to thank Jim Griffin for organizing and working at the event. Thanks to the kitchen staff: Steve Labore, John Cashin, Mark Aslanian, Joe Lachance, Eric Purington, Gary Travis, Dennis Soucy, Paul Daigle and Cliff Moberg. Also thanks to Tim Nerat, Lane Reil, Alphe Lachance and Tim Poulin for their help.

Steve and I recently attended a rally to support the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The BRAC Commission has placed the yard on the closure list for the second time. The turn out in support of keeping the yard open was very impressive. We were joined by members of the community, shipyard workers, politicians and members of Local 131 employed by RTH. Local 131 has a long history of working at the yard.

Closure would be a huge blow to the local economies of both Maine and New Hampshire. With over 4000 people employed, the hardships to their families and the communities would be devastating. The Mayor of Portsmouth is asking people to write letters addressed to President Bush emphasizing the performance of the shipyard and the effect closure will have on the families employed there. The letters will be presented to the President in bulk to show support for keeping the yard open. You can also e-mail letters to: pnsfamilies1@comcast.net.

Work in the area continues to be slow with no major hiring taking place at this time. There are 118 members on the out-of-work list with only 4 on travel cards.

Work on the road is becoming extremely difficult to find and if I do find any it requires one or all of the following: UA Weld Certs, OSHA 10 Card, UA Medical Gas Certs, or a Plumbing License. The calls out West are now just replacing guys that are leaving. This requires you to be in the area to get the replacement call. At this point in time, there is no road work in the New England area.

The work we have in the Hanover area has once again been delayed, now due to engineering issues on both projects at Dartmouth College. RTH has some dorm renovations that still appear to be on schedule and will be hiring soon after students leave the campus.

Maroney has work in the Manchester schools and should be hiring once the students leave and the asbestos abatement is completed.

American Refrigeration will mobilize to the AG freezer plant in Pembroke on June 20 and will possibly start to hire in July.

There have been a total of 32 members hired between the May 11th and June 8th union meetings, which consisted of 14 welders, 8 plumbers, 7 fitters and 3 apprentices.
UA Valve Certifications:
All UA Certified Valve Technicians are required to recertify every Three (3) years. In order to recertify you must complete a 10-hour recertification refresher course and exam. All certified members must recertify by March 1, 2006. Members are encouraged to sign up for the refresher course so classes can be arranged.

Plumbing Seminars:
August 8, 2005 at 6 pm. UA membership card with dues paid through current month and current NH Plumbing license are required at seminar registration.

UA Weld Test Event:
Looking for welders to complete UA weld test certifications in order to provide certified welders for upcoming projects!

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VARIOUS TRAINING PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THIS LOCAL AND THE UNITED ASSOCIATION TRAINING DEPARTMENT!

Well, another summer outing has come and gone. After a dismal May, the day of sweltering heat was a welcomed change. Those of you who attended have now learned of another passion of mine. Hiking.

I arrived at the outing in attire a tad different from what you usually see me wearing around the office. My garb included hiking boots, wool socks, nylon shorts and a t-shirt. After a few hours socializing and eating, I grabbed my backpack out of my trunk and headed off into the hills out in back of the pavilion at Bear Brook.

My interest in hiking began on my 25th wedding anniversary, when Art and I headed on vacation to the Grand Canyon. Upon my first glimpse of that grandeur, I told Art “I have to go down there.” Within a year I had bought enough gear to bivouac a small army and last year I hiked for 6 days solo in the Grand Canyon.

Although the sight of the Grand Canyon is what inspired me to get out on the trail, I had other motives for getting up off my butt and starting this new hobby. Several years ago my mother passed away as a direct result of osteoporosis. She was only 65. I have known for years that I ran the risk of following that path and had been thinking that I needed to get some physical activity into my life. Weight-bearing exercise is what doctors recommend to maintain bone density for both women AND men (you can get osteoporosis too, guys!) The thought of getting up an hour earlier every day (ugh!) to get on a treadmill (yuck!) and lift weights (groan!) was unappealing, to say the least. I was seriously considering handing out hard-earned cash for a membership in a work-out gym but I just never seemed to find the time. Why? Because it all felt like work; drudgery; an obligation. But now I’ve found something that I absolutely love to do. The beauty and serenity of the trails are awesome. The chance sighting of a moose or the discovery of wild blueberries make it worth the exertion of climbing the rocks and carrying the pack. And now I can actually get motivated to hop on my treadmill on a regular basis because it keeps me ready for that next hike! My next goal is to climb all 48 of the 4000 ft. mountain peaks in the state of New Hampshire. Last summer I got through 12 of them, so I’m well on my way!

Look out, Mt Washington, here I come!
The Bulletin Board

>> Union Meeting <<<
Wed. July 13, 2005

Labor Leader

A child comes upon this our planet.
His life - his elders, they try to plan it
Not knowing what fate has in store.
As time goes by he learns more and more.

As a young man, fate still in control,
He tries many different ways to go
But keeps turning back until it is clear
There is just one direction, and without fear,

Because he despises industrial oppression,
Helping workers live better, becomes an obsession.
He then seeks to find some role he can play.
Joining with others in a Union is the way.

He now knows this must be his goal.
The way is rough and time takes its toll.
Working for people, occasionally your patience on trial.
Then there are friendships that make it worthwhile.

Where have life and fate taken him?
To a place not enough people have been,
Where brotherhood is ever the key greeting
At each and every trade union meeting.

And so he spends his life without regret
Helping workers everywhere, their rights to get
From the company, the law, and politicians, too.
Then trains our youth so they may carry on through.

Time goes by and all too soon he must
Retire; his work was good and the cause just.
His memories reflect the pleasant and the bad.
Holding his head high, what a wonderful life he’s had.

By: Charles A. Guensch
Retired Education Director
Region 9, UAW

---President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954---

“Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes that you can do these things. Among them are a few Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid."

---President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954---

MEMBER NEWS

John Sullivan, Sr. continues his battle with cancer. The bone marrow treatments were not completely successful and he has begun another round of chemotherapy.

Congratulations to
Brother John Wawrzyniak
On the birth of his new son Joseph!

I'm going south for the winter.. actually.. some parts of me are headed there already!

---By: Charles A. Guensch, Retired Education Director Region 9, UAW 09/28/1974---