I would like to thank Jim Griffin, Sam Eames, Mark Aslanian, John Cashin, Gary Travis, Cliff Moberg, Joe Lachance and Steve Lachance for all their work with the local outing. With any luck next year we will have better weather and get the softball game going.

On May 30th the local ratified a three-year agreement with the New Hampshire Association of Mechanical Contractors. The three-year deal increases wages and benefits by $5.20 over the span of the contract. Annual increases are $1.60 the first year, $1.70 the second year and $1.90 in the final year. Wage and Benefit distributions have been made for the first year with $0.50 going to Health & Welfare and $0.10 going to the local pension. $1.00 will go in the paycheck from June through December. January 1, 2007 we will deduct $.45 from wages to increase our contribution to the UA Pension by 25%. This contribution will make us eligible for the 2007 benefit increase and all future increases. Credit for 2007 will go from the current $14.49 per year of service to $43.67 for a year of service. The wage and benefit distributions for June 2007 and June 2008 will be made at the April meeting in the respective years. Thanks to all the members who took the time to attend all the contract meetings and take part in the process.

Work in the area has picked up with almost all of the activity happening in Hanover, Keene and Lebanon. Work in New England has also picked up in the Springfield, Massachusetts area. They need members with either a Massachusetts Fitters License or a current plumbing license ASAP.

We currently have:
* 148 members working for Local Contractors
* 72 working locally for OOT Contractors
* 6 members working on the road
* 45 members out of work

Grodski has landed the Crotched Mountain Rehab underground steam job in Greenfield. They should be looking for help over the next few weeks.

Shambaugh & Sons landed a demo job at J. A. Wright in Keene and will be hiring 8 to 12 members over the next few weeks.

B-G believes they may have the new Athletic Facility at Dartmouth College and should run through the next year with 6 to 8 members.

Our HVAC Service Contractors are all looking for more Service Journeymen. We are currently advertising in the Foster’s Daily and the Union Leader. If anyone knows of a good candidate please have him/her get their resume to us as soon as possible.
All members are encouraged to access the UA website www.ua.org. There is a bundle of exciting information available in the “members only” section.

**Training courses on the agenda for September 2006:** Medical Gas Installer, Valve Repair, Foreman/Leadership Training, Orbital Welding and UA Weld Test Events. Interested members are encouraged to register!

**2006 Plumbing Seminars:**
All Seminars begin at 6 pm!
August 7th & November 6th.

Current State of NH Plumbing License and UA Membership Card with dues paid through the current month are required for seminar registration.

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CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO:
Patrick Fall
Al L'Heureux
Ken Lurvey

**2005/2006 Apprentice of the Year:**
Has been awarded to fourth year Apprentice Jeremy St. Amour. Jeremy completed the academic year with a 95% average and ZERO absents/tardy. Congratulations Jeremy!

REMINDER TO ALL UA CERTIFIED WELDERS AND MEDICAL GAS INSTALLERS...
CONTINUITY IS REQUIRED EVERY SIX (6) MONTHS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SATISFY THIS REQUIREMENT ON THE JOB, YOU MAY DO SO HERE AT THE HALL!

If you happen to see the governor of New Hampshire, John Lynch, thank him for vetoing Senate Bill 249. This bill, if it had passed, would have increased the apprenticeship ratio from 1 apprentice to every journeyman to 2 apprentices for every journeyman in the electrical field. I had met several times with the governor and his staff along with the electricians’ BM and gave them information as to why this proposed increase would hurt the industry and our training programs. One of the interesting facts we found was that there are over 700 registered 1st year apprentices in the electrical field and only about 180 4th year apprentices. It seems that contractors only want 1st year apprentices because of their low wages. We still have to get enough votes in the State Senate and House of Representatives to uphold his veto. If you know of anyone who serves in either one, please ask him or her to uphold the governor’s veto of SB 249.

I have also been researching non-union service companies in all three states and looking at potential companies to organize. I have found 39 non-union companies in Maine, 90 non-union companies in New Hampshire, and 26 in Vermont. With so many non-union companies for our signatory contractors to compete against you can begin to understand why training is so important. We have to be better and faster in our ability to do service work if we want to gain ground in this area. If you know of GOOD service people please pass their names along to each local or to me at the District Council office in Hooksett, NH. We have to be the best at what we do, whether it is in service or construction. Our labor and skills are the only things we have to offer contractors, which is why we have to be the very best. If there are training courses being offered by your locals to further help you with your skills in our trade, by all means take them. A skilled workforce is a productive workforce.

Faithfully yours,
Dennis
What time is the plumbing seminar tonight?
I'm coming down from Berlin. Is there still a retiree's meeting tomorrow morning?
I'm at my doctor's office right now and I need the insurance company phone number.

These are all examples of messages that have been left in my voice mail after I have left for the day. And these are all legitimate questions that need immediate answers. If you call in the afternoon, I won't get the message until 7:00am the next morning. And I probably wouldn't return calls until 9:00am. Not everyone gets up at the crack of dawn like I do!

Let me assure all of you that I do my best to answer all the messages I do get as quickly as possible. If you have a question and no one is available to answer the phone, please do leave a message. But if it is after 1:00pm and you need a speedy response, PLEASE listen through the recorded message and select voice mail for either David (ext. 12) or Steve (ext. 11). They will be able to reply to you sooner than I could and they do NOT get the messages left in my voice mail.

Again, let me express apologies to anyone who may feel that they have been slighted or ignored by me. I certainly want to answer all your questions, but I simply can't get the message if I'm not there.