Plumbers & Steamfitters
Local Union 131

Newsletter
June 2009

The Corner Office
David A. Pelletier / Business Manager

Our summer outing was held June 6th and I would like to thank Jim Griffin and all the members who continue to volunteer their time to make it a great success.

We are working with our contractors and various project developers to try to land work in the area. At the present time the only job moving forward is the scrubber project at Merrimack Station. Financing for other projects continues to be hard to come by, causing delays and cancellations of work. On a number of projects our contractors have been up against as many as fifteen bidders, many who have no experience doing the proposed work but undercut us and are awarded the job. Unfortunately, in this economy everyone is hungry for work and trying to land whatever they can to keep busy.

The New Hampshire Building Trades has been working with Congressmen Paul Hodes, Carol Shea – Porter and Senator Jeanne Shaheen to secure a Federal Project Labor Agreement on the Federal Job Corps Center being built in Manchester. We have heard from their offices that the project is on course to be a PLA. At this time Federal PLA Language has not been finalized. We are continuing our discussions with Dick Anagnost on the River’s Edge Project. This is another project that has had trouble securing financing. The Building Trades is also still talking to the Laidlaw group in regard to the Berlin Bio-mass Plant. There has been a new curve thrown at the project with the approval of the Coos Wind Farm Project. The wind farm is a 99 mega-watt project and there is concern that when the wind farm is producing at full capacity there may not be enough capacity left on the Northern Loop to accept the power from the Laidlaw Plant. ISO New England and Laidlaw are currently doing studies on the available capacity and the ability of redirecting the power from the wind farm over the northern sections while directing power from Berlin to the South.

Manpower Hour
Steven D. Lachance / Business Agent

Work in the area for much of the last month has been status quo. It is still a very tough environment with not that many jobs for bid and lots of bidders.

Work on the road has employed mostly welders over the past month in Missouri. We currently have members on the road in MA, MD, SC, WI, MO, IL, AZ, and WA.

We currently have:
* 121 working for local contractors
* 12 working locally for out of town contractors
* 25 working on the road
* 88 members out of work

The Merrimack Station Scrubber Project is underway with the stack pours starting on 6/4/09. Everything seems to be on schedule so far.

RTH has their service division up and running with 3 full time service journeymen on staff.

HVAC Unlimited hired 1 Apprentice to work in both service and construction for them. Work has been steady and strong in service.

Amari Plumbing has been getting some renovation work on Wal-Marts and has hired 2 plumbers and 1 apprentice to help with those projects in NH.

NPI has 3 members in Greece installing some skids they fabricated for a manufacturer over there. The installation is going very well and they hope to land more world wide fabrication in the future.

Federal Piping has been holding their own in the North Country regardless of the economy.

Johnson Controls has been trying to hire some extra help in the form of an HVAC Journeyman or apprentice but their corporate has been slow to approve.

Williams at Seabrook Station has a meeting set for 6/24 with us to discuss the 10/1 Outage schedule, training, and manpower projections.
UA Weld Test: To be arranged for a Saturday pending participation of a contractor for the required third party inspection.

UA Foreman Training: 40 hour course. OSHA 10 & understanding of Blueprint reading is required. Classes will be scheduled during the week, evenings 5 – 8 PM.

OSHA 30: 30 hour course. Classes will be scheduled during the week, (10) evenings 5 – 8 PM. If there is an interest for currently unemployed members this class can be held during the day over (6) days 8 AM – 1 PM.

NFPA -54 Fuel Gas Code: 8 hours required for NH Gas Fitter License renewal. Classes will be held in two (2) four (4) hour sessions. Dates and times will be arranged depending on participation.

UA Medical Gas Installer: Dates and times to be arranged depending on participation.

Plumbing Seminar: August 10 6 – 9 PM
Registration begins at 5:30 PM. IPC 2006 code books are required. Current NH Plumbing license and UA Membership card with dues paid current also required.

UA Welding and UA Medical Gas Installer Continuity requirements are required every six (6) months….please check your credentials and submit your continuity documents accordingly.

LOOKING FOR INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:
Interested members are encouraged to sign up for training sessions on-line at the Local 131 website www.ualu131.org so arrangements can be made for classrooms, books, etc.

Office Bits & Bytes
Mo Demers / Office Administrator

More and more people are taking what the press has taken to calling “STAYcations” – vacations where you stay close to home rather than travel. Well some of us have known this little secret for a long time. And we in New Hampshire have some of the greatest adventures right in our own back yards! If you like water and leisure, take a ride on the Mt Washington on Lake Winnipesaukee, eating and dancing to local bands. Prefer the ocean? A short drive takes you to our coastline where you can play in the surf or take a cruise out to the Isle of Shoals. Enjoy culture and the arts? The newly expanded Currier Museum of Art in Manchester has a fine world class collection. It even boasts an original Picasso! They also host events presenting local musicians, poets and other artists. More inclined to performing arts? This state is home to more than 20 professional and over 50! community theater companies, presenting all types of shows for every taste.

New Hampshire also offers a vast array of opportunities at the more grassroots, low cost level. The geography is so varied and all within short driving distance. Where else can you find ocean shore, lakes, mountains, marshes and big cities all within a few hours distance? There are campgrounds and parks all over (private, state and national) that range from just a clear spot in the trees to pitch a tent to trailer parks with showers, swimming pools and evening entertainment. Hiking here can be done by anyone at any level; on groomed, level trails that can accommodate a wheelchair to scrambling up a mountainside with a 4-day backpack.

Although it can be fun and exciting to travel to far away, exotic places, there’s a lot of fun and excitement right here in lil ol’ New Hampshire. We all work hard the rest of the year to have a bit of time off to enjoy life. You don’t HAVE to go far away or spend a lot. Life is good . . .right here! Enjoy your summer!

Enjoy the summer!

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!
A woman gave birth to two sons who were born on the same hour of the same day of the same year but were not twins. How is this possible?

Think like a man of action. Act like a man of thought.  
-unknown

There is NO UNION MEETING in July. The next meeting will be August 12, 2009 7:00 pm

Member News

**CONDOLENCES**
To family and friends of Brother Sherward Ingerson who passed away June 26, 2009.

**CONGRATULATIONS**
Bob Drew, who, on behalf of his daughter, collected almost $900.00 in donations for the 2009 Epilepsy Walk-A-Thon. Debra’s team had the second highest total donations collected of over 800 participants! Thank You to all LU131 members who contributed!

**Movie Trivia**
❖ The Jazz Singer, (1927) starring Al Jolson, is generally considered the first talking picture ever made. Jolson's prophetic opening lines, "Wait a minute! Wait a minute! You ain't heard nothin' yet!" were the first words spoken by a movie actor in a widely distributed film.

❖ Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937) was the first full-length animated feature film to come out of the United States. The first ever was Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed (1926), a German film which clocks in at 65 minutes, and was animated entirely in silhouette.
Reduce ✨ Reuse ✨ Recycle

_all three_ of these are equally important in the campaign to protect and conserve our limited resources. And the current economy demands frugality.

**REDUCE:** This not only means reduce what you use, but also reduce the waste you generate. If you pack a lunch to work, it’s very tempting to buy those individual serving snack products. But look at how much packaging there is in that purchase that is NOT consumable, but just goes straight to the trash can. Often, the weight of the packaging _exceeds_ the weight of the food product! Don’t buy all that trash in the first place!! Buy crackers in bulk. Buy cheese in slices that are not individually wrapped. ✨ Reduce the amount of paper you use. Online banking saves paper checks, paper envelopes, paper stamps. Have your bank send your statements via e-mail. ✨ Instead of buying bottled water, buy a water bottle. Steel bottles are safe and the tap water in most municipalities is as good as or _better_ than the spring water sold at the store! Buy ONE bottle and refill it.

**REUSE:** In your lunch box (not bag) pack up your cheese and crackers in plastic wrap or bags you’ve salvaged from elsewhere, like the zipper bag you get shredded cheese in. Then reuse that same bag all week. Yes you can wash and reuse baggies; especially if you will be putting the same food item in it over and over again. ✨ Keep the envelopes from bills and junk mail for notes, grocery lists, saving coupons. Shred junk mail and use for packing material instead of Styrofoam peanuts. The Sunday comics make colorful wrapping paper for gifts. Used drier sheets can be reused on your Swiffer floor mop!

**RECYCLE:** ‘Cycle” is the root of this word. So don’t break the cycle. Not only must we recycle things we’ve used and are done with, but we must “buy” recycled items. This supports the economy of the system. Products made from recycled materials are everywhere. Recycled copy paper for your computer is available at Staples. Marcal makes a great, truly soft, 2-ply toilet paper from recycled paper. I recently purchased a new backpack that is made entirely of recycled materials (mostly plastic bottles!). ✨ And it isn’t limited to recycled “waste.” Donate to and buy from charities like Goodwill and the Salvation Army. Used cars stay on the road and out of the junk stream. Vintage clothing is in vogue. Craigslist is a great source for used items. Anything bought “used” is a recycled item!

For more tips:  
_http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/recycling/top-recycling-tips.html_