As I write this months’ article we are less than 2 weeks from the November elections. This election is as important to labor and working families as any in recent history. On the federal level we currently have an administration in Washington that is for the first time in recent years has been reaching out to the AFL-CIO, Building Trades and our own General President Bill Hite to make a difference in the lives of working men and women in this country. The president, Senator Shaheen and Congressman Hodes and Shea-Porter know that a strong and vibrant economy starts with a strong middle class. They know that good wages and benefits build the middle class and fuel the economy. On the other hand there are candidates running for office that feel, tax breaks to the wealthy, and a roll back of pro-worker legislation is the direction we should take.

On the state level we have a Governor and State Senate that have demonstrated their commitment to working families. They have supported and passed legislation that cracks down on employers classifying employees as independent contractors. The Governor recently signed an executive order that created a task force to ensure violators are caught. They have also passed procurement legislation that will directly benefit the building trades. For the first time the state will be able to consider things like livable wages, health insurance, apprenticeship training programs and retirement benefits when considering bids on public construction projects. The legislation allows for 5 pilot projects to be started in order to study the benefit of these considerations over the current low bid requirement.

We believe this election will make the difference between organized labor and working families moving forward with wages and benefits or a return to destructive low bid policies of the past. Please take a look at our endorsed candidates, look at their stand on labor issues, and remember to vote on Nov. 2.

Our endorsed candidates are posted on the website.

Work in the Local over the past month has exploded with full employment and even some travelers working for us. Work on the road is slow with the exception of a nuke outage in Alabama (Browns Ferry) hiring now. We currently have members working in NY, IL, TN, and AZ. We currently have:
* 157 working for local contractors
* 38 working locally for out of town contractors
* 26 members working on the road
* 19 members out of work

O’Connor’s Outage at Bow is winding down with an on-line date of October 19th. They may keep 2 - 6 members for ongoing work at Bow and an outage at Newington on November 1st.

CPS at Newington Energy has an ongoing outage with 11 members that should go through the end of the month.

Corporate Mechanical at Fidelity in Merrimack has the potential to hire 1 or 2 more members on nightshift 7pm – 3am that should go to the end of November.

NPI has hired 3 plumbers for Dartmouth College in Hanover to start on finish and fixture setting now that painting and drywall is complete.

RTH has hired 4 members for nightshift on school work in Berwick that will go through the end of the month.

CCB is currently working at Newington Energy in Portsmouth and Comerford Dam in Monroe through the month of October.

Johnson Controls is in the market for a HVACR Technician. Please get me a current resume ASAP.

Honeywell is in the market for a HVACR Technician. Please get me a current resume ASAP.

MJ Electric has postponed hiring 2 instrument fitters until sometime in November when they will have the correct drawings and pricing for the work at Merrimack Station in Bow Clean Air Project.

Have a Happy & Safe Halloween to all!
Apprenticeship & Training
Kim Trisciani / Training Coordinator

Apprentice Training:

The 2010/2011 Academic year has begun and we are looking forward to another successful year! All members are encouraged to participate in the on-the-job training of our apprentices. Encourage them to learn new skills that will make them efficient and marketable.

Each apprentice is encouraged to utilize the resources available to become successful in the pipe trades.

We are looking for apprentices to participate in the New England UA Apprentice Competition that will be held in June 2011. An apprentice from each discipline can compete in the competition. (HVAC, Plumbing & Welding/Pipefitting).

Gas Training: Looking to schedule an 8 hour code class...Interested members please register, include your expiration date so we may schedule accordingly.

UA Weld Test Event:

Weld tests will be held quarterly. NPI, RTH and HVAC Unlimited have committed to participate in the quarterly test events as contractor representatives. Interested members are encouraged to register via the Local’s website, www.ualu131.org so appropriate arrangements can be made.

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.

Plumbing Seminars 2010:

November 1
Registration begins at 5:30 PM. Class starts promptly at 6:00 PM! IPC 2009 codebooks are required. Current NH Plumbing license and UA Membership card with dues paid current are required.

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2010
The State of New Hampshire is now using the 2009 IPC Building, Mechanical & Plumbing Codes!

As many of you have noticed, the back of your membership card is getting full. The UA will be sending out new cards for 2011/2012 some time in November.

We want to take this time to remind you of the importance of keeping current on your dues. Although remembering to pay your dues can be a hassle, going over 3 months late and being charged a $50 fine is expensive! With many of you on the road and away from home, it’s even more important to be sure you stay current. And it’s often harder to remember!!

Many of you have asked about paying your dues with a credit card. We regret that we cannot accept credit cards. Credit Card providers (like VISA and Master Card) charge the recipient (Local 131) a service fee of up to 8% of each transaction. That could be as much as $2.80 per month per member! We would end up being forced to pass that expense on to the membership. Therefore, we have no plans in the near future to set up for credit card payments.

However, did you know that you CAN pay your dues through on-line banking with your own bank? Even though Local 131 is not set up to receive Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs), you can still instruct your bank, via on-line banking, to send us a payment. They will simply send us a paper check written against your account. You can even set it up with your bank to have that payment repeat every month. No more worrying about forgetting to pay your dues. The bank will send it each month on the day of your choosing. AND most banks don’t charge a fee to use on-line banking. All you have to do is register. It is all set up with your personal bank.

On-line payments do not require EFT capability. You can pay anyone via your own bank’s on-line bill pay service. Anyone you want to pay who isn’t set up for EFTs simply gets a paper check from your bank. No problem! Think about it.

Office Bits & Bytes
Mo Demers / Office Administrator
The Bulletin Board

NEXT Union Meeting
The November Meeting has been CHANGED to the 1st Wed, Nov 3, 2010

Last week I was driving the local school bus. At my first stop 12 kids got on. At the next stop, 5 got off and 7 got on. At the next stop, 10 got on and 1 got off. At the last stop 3 kids got off and 9 more got on. When we finally arrived at school, how many were on the bus?

Talent hits a target no one else can hit; Genius hits a target no one else can see.

- Arthur Schopenhauer

General Election Day – NOV 2, 2010
Be sure to vote!!

“In return for an increase in my allowance, I can offer you free unlimited in-home computer tech support.”

>> RETIREES’ BREAKFASTS <<
every first Monday – 9:00 am Windmill Restaurant, Loudon Rd, Concord

>> RETIREES’ ASSOCIATION MEETINGS <<
Every Second Tuesday – 10:00 am, Local 131 Union Hall, Hooksett NH

Attendance at the October Meeting: Bob Drew, Steve Labore, Al Plourde, John Trisciani, Gloria Bouchard, Al & Yvette Pelletier, Alphe & Jeanne Lachance, Bill & Doris Mulvey, Jimmy Griffin

The next meeting will be November 9th, 10:00 am.

We want to remind ALL members of Local 131 that anyone is welcome to attend.
No obligation.
And we ENCOURAGE family and friends to join us.

Items of Interest  / Upcoming Meetings

November 9
• Short films on WWII (provided by Brother Bob Drew)
• Door Prize Raffle for a $ 10.00 Gift Card from Shaw’s Grocery. (MUST be present to win)

December 14
Guest Speaker - an insurance advisor (to be determined)

Retiree membership dues (just $10! for the year) are due. These funds are used to benefit our own retirees (flowers and cards for the ill – donations to those in hardship – etc -)
Please be sure to get your dues in ASAP! (Additional donations always gratefully accepted!)

Beginning in December, 2010, the Retirees Association will start a trial run of printing our own separate monthly newsletter again. We are hoping that we can keep our members more informed and encourage greater participation. No one attending our meetings is under any obligation to do anything other than see a few friends, eat a few snacks and have a good time! If you want to see something in the newsletter, let me know. - Jimmy Griffin 603-736-4626