August is a busy month with both the UA Convention in Las Vegas and the UA Instructor Training taking place in Ann Arbor, Michigan. At the convention, the delegates will be casting ballots for the General President, and all UA Officers. They also will be setting the course for the UA for the next 5 years. Members can read the daily proceedings of the convention by going to www.ua.org and clicking on the 2006 convention link.

The week following the convention the UA will be holding the instructor-training program at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This is an excellent opportunity for the instructors of Local 131 to improve their teaching skills as well as meet with instructors from around the country. It is also a great time to exchange ideas on teaching Apprentice and Journeyman. The commitment the instructors show by attending a full week of training as well as the time spent preparing for and teaching classes is something we should all be thankful for. As the new school year begins it is essential that we train the best trades people in the business. The UA and Local 131 are in the business of supplying the most qualified and productive workforce available. It is our responsibility to see that we are constantly training to keep abreast of the changes in the industry. Apprenticeship training is only the beginning of a career of learning new skills.

Work in the area has started to slow down with all of the college and school work nearly at completion. Work in the New England area is also slow with Springfield and Worcester, Massachusetts possibly looking for plumbers and fitters with Mass. Licenses.

The next big push for us is Seabrook Station’s Refueling Outage scheduled to hire all through the month of September. The Outage is scheduled to start October 1st and be down for 30 days working at least 6-10s. Anyone interested in going must pick up a Personal History Questionnaire at the hall and mail it to Seabrook Station ASAP. FPL is also offering a $400 bonus for our members who take the Nantel training on the computer prior to being hired. The website is https://www.nantel.org Kim Trisciani or I will be able to give you a student ID and password to access the training modules. You may do the training at home or at the hall but the exams must be taken at the hall with Kim or I as a Proctor. Nantel is a web-based training portal designed and maintained by INPO that is accepted at all nuclear power plants in the United States. So once you have completed the training it will be good for a year at all plants throughout the country. Please contact Kim or me for hours of availability for training or testing here at the hall.

Merrimack Station is scheduled to have a 3 week Outage in September that usually hires between 6-12 members working at least 6-10s for O’Connor Constructors.
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.

**UA CERTIFIED WELDERS AND MEDICAL GAS INSTALLERS...**
Continuity is required every 6 months. If you are unable to satisfy this requirement on the job, you may do so here at the hall!

**Apprentice Training:**
Will begin Tuesday, September 5th, 6 PM in the meeting hall.

**OSHA 10 Safety Training:** Will be held two Saturday’s, October 21 & 28, 8 AM to 2 PM. Attendance is required BOTH days.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**
* Paul Daigle, Charles “Buzz” Harte, Brian Johnson and John Wawrzyniak for successful completion of the OSHA 500 Construction Outreach Training Course.
* Chris Croswell for successfully completing the Apprentice Training program July 1, 2006.

**NNE District Council 10**

- Brothers and Sisters,

As I reported last month, the Governor of New Hampshire, John Lynch, had vetoed an electrical apprenticeship bill, that if passed, would have increased the ratio of apprentices from the current 1 apprentice : 1 journeyman to 2 apprentices : 1 journeyman. This would have increased the number of unskilled craftsmen without proper guidance and instruction in the workplace, creating safety issues, quality issues and a problem for our contractors to compete. We were successful in getting the Senate to sustain the Governors veto. We were able to get one Republican Senator to join our Democratic Senators to accomplish this. We are also currently pursuing changes in the State of New Hampshire’s’ procurement policies. We are meeting 2 and 3 times a month with a study committee to try and work something out. We are proposing that contractors and subcontractors carry workers compensation. Right now the state only requires it of the General Contractor. We are also proposing health care as a policy for getting state work. This is in an effort to help level the playing field for our contractors who must pay health insurance.

I have been assigned by General President Bill Hite and General Secretary/Treasurer Pat Perno to work the UA Convention this year. I look forward to seeing our delegates at the convention and hopefully we can get together out there.

Faithfully yours,
Dennis
I've been busy working on scheduling the summer agenda: weddings, BBQs, hiking, etc... The calendar fills up fast. I didn't make it to the LU131 BBQ because I was still on my hike in the White Mountains. And what a hike it was. Day 1, my sister took a spill and clipped me in the temple with a hiking pole. I spent the next 2 weeks with the worst shiner you ever saw. Day 3, the visibility dropped to about 300 feet and the temp dropped to about 40°F. We spent that whole day in the tent. By 3:00 pm it's raining and the tent springs a leak. The forecast called for thunderstorms the next two days, so we decided to not risk the planned ridgeline trails. We turned around and went back the way we came. It was raining so hard we decided to push on past our planned campsite and trekked all the way out (13+ miles). Halfway through, I tripped and sprained my ankle. I had high-top boots on, which gave my ankle good support, so I managed to stumble the next 7½ miles to the car. It was a good thing we didn't camp one more night. If I had taken off my boots that night I never would have gotten them back on the next morning, the ankle swelled up so badly. Needless to say, I was quite the sight when I returned home to my worried husband. He may never let me out of the house again. (Good thing I didn't tell him about the bear!)

So now it's back to business. I'm hobbling around the office in big, floppy sandals until the swelling goes down. But I don't use my toes to type, so I'm still hard at work. I'd like to remind everyone that this newsletter is for everyone. Not only to read but to submit items as well. If you have something for sale (a used tent, maybe?) or something you want to voice an opinion on; a request for help or a joke you want to share - send it to the office. You can mail it in or send it via e-mail or fax. All the addresses and phone numbers are on the outside of this letter. Go ahead and look. They're there every month. See how useful this newsletter is? I'll bet with a little seasoning it would even make a decent meal out on the trail.